

The Generator

Issue 480
July 2021



Palmerston Model Engineering Club
www.pnmec.org.nz - pnmec@trains.net.nz

Managers of the Marriner Reserve Railway - Marriner Street - Palmerston North
PO Box 4132 - Manawatu Mail Centre - Palmerston North 4442

The Palmerston North Model Engineering Club **Upcoming Club Events**

Club nights held at the Hearing Association Hall 435 Church Street,
Palmerston North 7.30pm

Saturday 24 July

Club visit to Fieldair Engineering Ltd
Milson Airport (See Notices for details)

Thursday 26 August

Club Night
Project Progress

Bring along your current or not so current project and ventilate over it.

Marriner Reserve Railway

1 August & 15 August

Railway operations at the Mariner Reserve
Trains in operation from 1pm to 3pm
Weather permitting (Kerry Puklowski 06 353 6189)

Thursdays

Railway operations for club members
Subject to ongoing track maintenance and weather
Contact track manager (Richard Lockett 06 323 0948)

Club Notices

Visit to Fieldair Engineering, Saturday 24th of July

Meet in the staff car park of Fieldair Engineering at **10am**, located opposite the main Airport car park entrance, plenty of car parking available here if the staff car park is full!
Please notify Richard Lockett if you wish to attend as we are limited in the number of people that we can bring on this visit at this time.

Club Library Relocation

Club Librarian Merv George has relocated and your library now resides at Merv's new address 163 Mount Taylor Drive, Feilding.

Merv's contact phone number is 021 081 69930

There is a wealth of information contained in your library which can be perused via the club website or simply visit Merv and peruse the shelves.

What did you get on your seventh birthday?

If you're like me you properly can't quite remember, but Robert Edwards grandson may well remember when he's your age as his mother got him an Xbox race car simulator and Robert was tasked with making something special with all of the required components, TV screen, seat, steering wheel, pedal box, gaming console etc. I think he did a good job of it!



MEMBERS PROJECT REPORT

There is a point where artistic flare, functionality, and personal skills meet, and when these aspects are managed correctly what can be achieved is truly spectacular. Hidden away in a Wanganui Workshop these facets have been honed to perfection, and resulted in the production of some very high quality steam locomotives, steam models, and now vintage motorcycles.

EDDIE BLEACKLEY AND HIS STEAM PROJECTS

Any visit to Eddie Bleackley's house is an inspirational experience. Upon entering the lounge you are faced with tables supporting a variety of exceptionally well made steam engines all set against a backdrop of a magnificent 5 inch gauge Britannia Steam Locomotive mounted on its own cabinet adjacent to the entrance into the lounge.

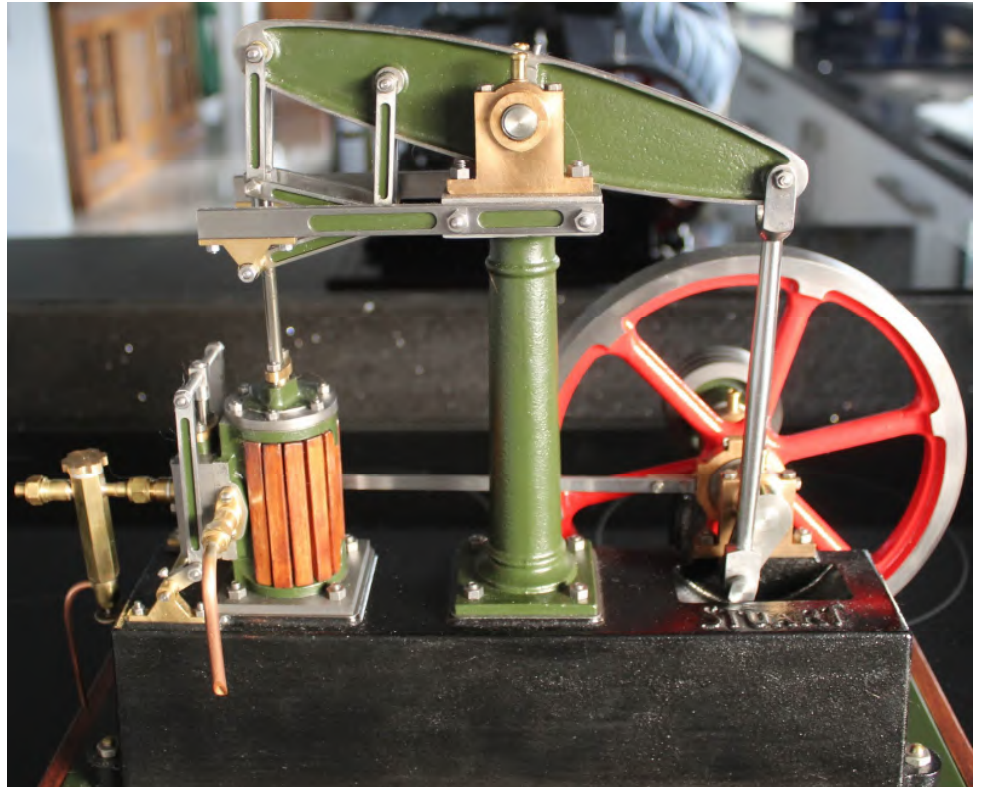


This Britannia was built in the early 1960's and was one of four constructed using commercially made copper boilers produced by an Auckland Company. Upon completion the locomotive was owned by multiple generations of the one family and eventually found its way to a branch of the family living in Palmerston North. The locomotive had been used extensively and overhauled many times but over the years its condition had deteriorated and when advertised for sale it was at the point of being unserviceable. Eddie purchased the locomotive and set about stripping the locomotive back to its basic components, and reconditioning them to bring the locomotive back to a better than original condition. The boiler fire box and shell were found to be in good condition, but the super heater tubes were damaged beyond repair and required replacement. When inspected, the mechanicals displayed some heavy wear and were generally in need of some very intense TLC. The rebuild took many years and upon completion the locomotive is once again capable of reliable running. The story about how this locomotive transformed from being a runner to being on display is one Eddie recites with a broad smile, but this locomotive now deservedly sits on show, and is a testament to the skills of the man that restored it.

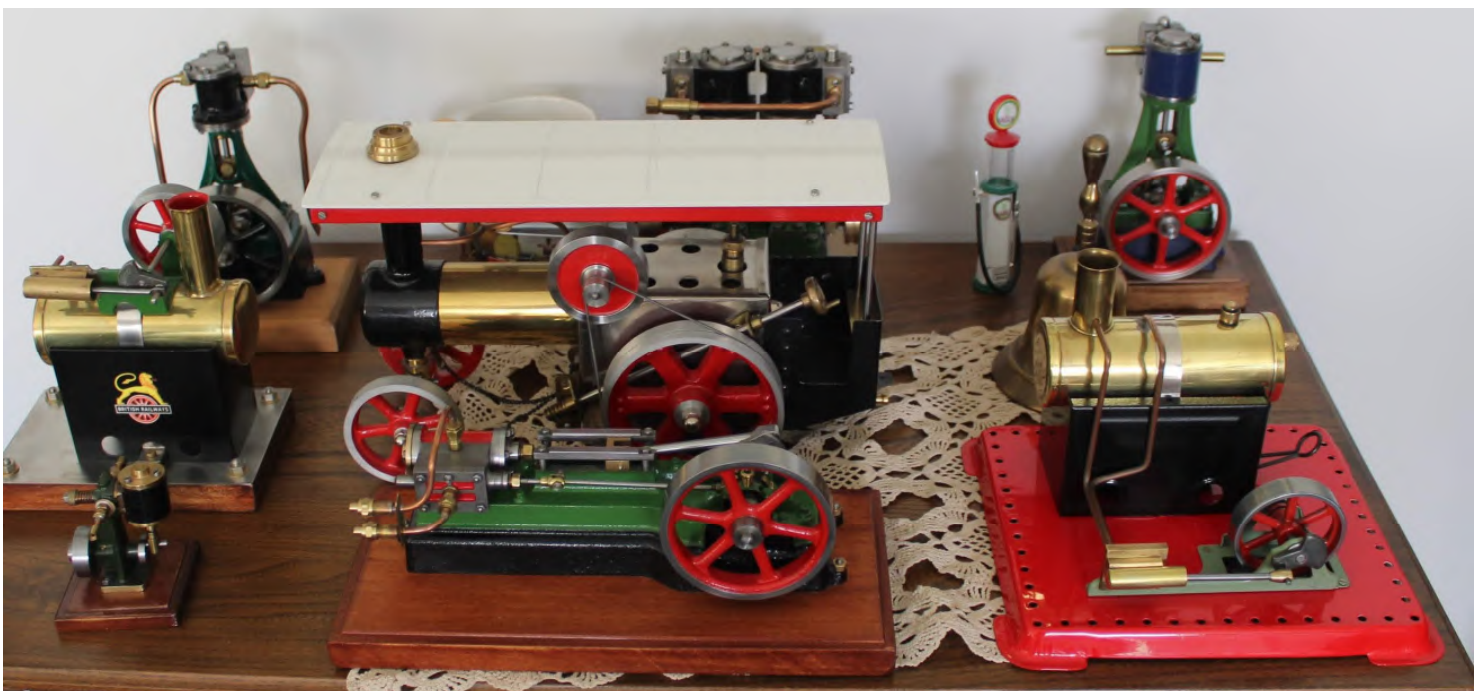
The Britannia is not the only steam locomotive Eddie has completed. Any visit to his workshop must include a viewing of his two other working steam locomotives. His Sweet Pea now complete with tender, and his restored British Rail 4MT Tank Engine, both in 5 inch gauge.

Many other steam models and steam toys also adorn the coffee tables around the lounge. All these steam models are in working condition and display the exceptional workmanship and attention to detail that is the hall mark of his work. The beam engine photographed is the last engine Eddie built.

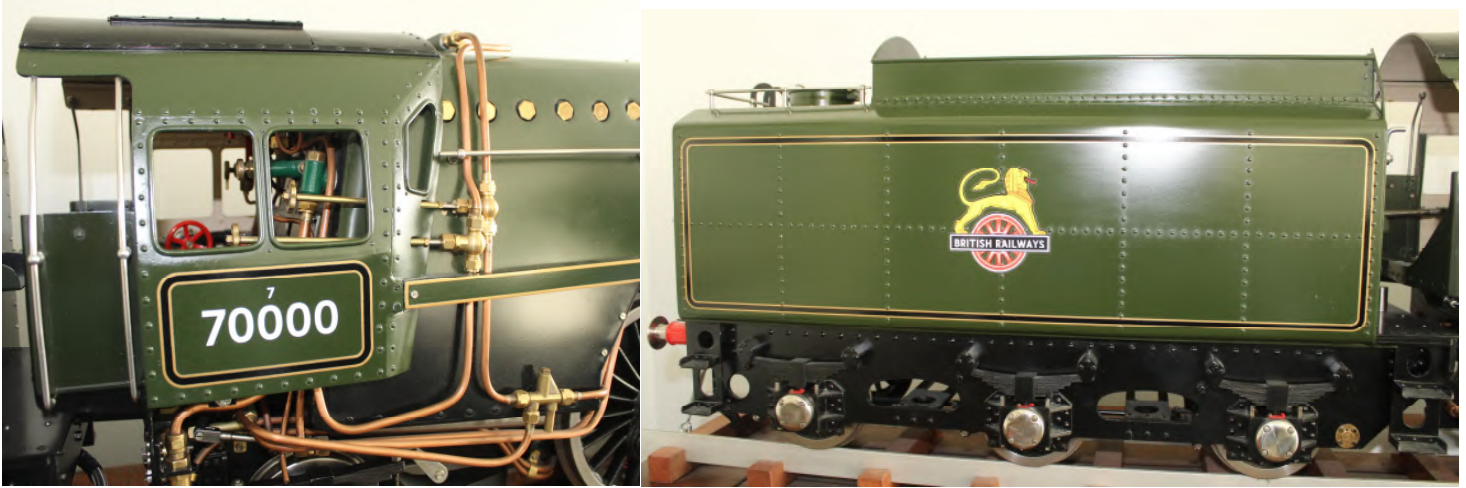
The Stuart Beam Engine
Constructed by Eddie



Adorning a coffee table in the lounge a collection of stationary steam engines, along with one of the many examples of the School's Traction Engine built by PNMEC members. This example incorporating some Bruce Geange refinements into the design



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Details of Eddie's restored Britannia class Locomotive

Since moving to central Wanganui Eddie has expanded his interests to include the restoration of vintage motor cycles. His first motor cycle restoration project is now complete, a 1961 BMW model R27, a 250 cc single engine machine, one of only four imported into NZ. The finish on this rare machine is world class, complete with pin striping and an overall finish that is far superior to the original. Yes the bike has been ridden, one victory lap around the street before being locked away in its carpeted garage.



Eddie's 1961
250cc R27
BMW Mo-
torcycle

Following this success, Eddie is now undertaking another motor cycle restoration project, a 1971 BMW model R60/5, a 600 cc flat opposed twin cylinder machine. This restoration project is currently in its infancy with a long way to go, but this is a project I will be following with interest.

What was originally planned as an hour long visit turned into a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon! By the time I got back to Palmerston North the sun had well and truly set. I would like to thank Eddie for his hospitality and for taking the time to show me his current and completed projects. Thank you very much.

Article and photographs David Bell

Club Night Report

Richard Lockett gave a presentation of the South Island leg of his Tour Aotearoa bike packing adventure with a focus on some of the historic sites that he passed through . These included the Nelson Railway which now forms the basis of an extensive network of cycle trails around the region. Reefton-Big River quartz gold mines, Waiuta gold mines and various historic bush tramways on the West Coast before a journey across Lake Wakatipu on the SS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station and the final push over the Von Hill Road to Bluff!



The Nelson Railway's Spooners Hill Tunnel a 1.4 km long black hole that is part of the Tour Aotearoa route from Nelson to Tapawera.

Photo's Bruce Geange and Richard Lockett



Graeme Hall brought along a recently completed 1/4 scale model of an American Fuller and Johnson farm water pumping engine from 1909. This pump was designed to replace windmills and was driven by an IC engine and hence could pump water when the wind could not! More details of this interesting pump will follow in a later edition. Bill Krippner salvaged a model wind mill from a local garden. Being of Dutch ancestry Bill thought that with a little work it would look good in his garden. As we all know, a little work there is no such thing!



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