

The Generator

Issue 486
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Palmerston Model Engineering Club
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Managers of the Marriner Reserve Railway - Marriner Street - Palmerston North
c/- 119 Ruapehu Drive - Palmerston North 4410

The Palmerston North Model Engineering Club

Upcoming Club Events

Club Nights typically start at 7.30pm and are usually held at the Hearing Association Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North.

24 February

Club nights cancelled
until further notice

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 27 February

Members only Track Run
1pm to 4pm
(Richard Lockett 06 3230948)

Thursdays

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With Covid changing the way NZ society operates, it is necessary for the club to modify the way we operate also. In addition to this, the committee recognises that we have an ageing membership and that we have a responsibility to protect those members where we can. After considerable discussion the committee decided to adopt the Covid Policy enclosed in the back of this issue. In summary.

Monthly Meetings:

Although it would be possible for us to continue with regular monthly meetings under "Condition Red" the restrictions imposed on us would be counterproductive if we had to enforce them. The committee reluctantly agreed that it was in the best interest of everybody if regular club meetings under "Condition Red" were cancelled. However, the committee will monitor the situation and special monthly meetings will be arranged if these can be held safely (example: A site visit or an outdoor venue). Any suggestions from club members would be welcome.

Public Running Days:

The committee also decided that uncontrolled public access to Marriner Reserve during Public Running Days posed a risk that is difficult to mitigate. As a consequence, Public Running Days will be cancelled under "Condition Red". Instead, the club will host one or two MEMBERS ONLY RUNNING DAYS each month where members can meet, test their locomotives, and generally enjoy fellowship with like-minded people.

Because upcoming events may be hosted at irregular times watch the Generator for notifications.

For General Interest:

During a recent visit to the Christchurch Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Track in Halswell, I spent an afternoon with the new owner of this locomotive. This 5 inch gauge locomotive ran particularly well while burning the owner's coal, but later in the day had difficulty coping when its diet was changed. According to local folklore this locomotive named "Belton Manor" was built in Palmerston North, was then sold to an enthusiast in Kapiti, and was then sold to a member of the Marlborough Club who ran it until age forced his retirement. The current owner (also a member of the Marlborough club) has just taken ownership and is still sorting out the kinks in it. I am sure somebody out there can provide more history on this. (Yep sure can, a future article for sure).

Keep Healthy and Keep Building
David Bell

The 5 inch gauge Great Western Railway Locomotive "Belton Manor" not built in Palmerston North but in Titahi Bay, Porirua by Bob Walters and a regular visitor to our Marriner Reserve Railway over the years.

Photo David Bell



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Christchurch Clubs Open Days

Following the postponement of CanMod, the Christchurch Society of Model and Experimental Engineers, Halswell and the Christchurch Live Steamers, McLeans Island held open days for the benefit of the Model Engineers who had booked travel and accommodation to Christchurch for the event. I took advantage of these open days and along with the many others that attended (if I may quote the phrase of the 60's) "we had a blast". These open days were attended by a great bunch of members from across New Zealand and we all had a great time in the sun. I would like to thank both of these clubs for the hospitality extended to us during our visits.

The photographs highlight some of the models on display and the activities arranged over these three days:

A Rio Grande and Southern Galloping Goose Mail delivery rail truck probably built by Canterbury's Rob Wilson.



A nice example of the 7.25 inch gauge Phantom class 2-6-0 American style Locomotive designed by Manukau Live steamers Dave Giles of which dozens of examples have been built and are in operation around the world!

A 5" inch gauge Dukedog 4-4-0 Great Western Railway Locomotive on the Canterbury raised track



Photo's David Bell

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Two examples of the 7.25 inch gauge Wato Locomotive Works, Western Australia 2-6-0 Mogul locomotive awaiting water and fire at McLeans Island, Christchurch Live Steamers.

Photo's David Bell



Presumably David has placed the local feral Road Cone in the shot so that you can accurately gauge the size of this 7.25 inch gauge narrow gauge Baldwin 2-6-2 Locomotive awaiting its day work at the Christchurch Live Steamers McLeans Island Railway!

[The President's Barbecue 2022](#)

A small group of club members gathered at the Mudgway family property on January 30th for our first club get together for the new year. Being a warmish day, this saw us sheltering inside the museum shed viewing the assembled Caterpillar crawlers and dozers which span many decades of development by the Caterpillar Tractor Company. After a leisurely lunch and extended natter Owen was keen to get us outside for the firing up of the Caterpillar D397 650HP V12 engine. Dating from the 1950's this Diesel engine which was used to power an Australian locomotive class before being shipped to New Zealand to be used as the power source on a massive wood chipper. 650 HP was found to be insufficient for the job! A D2 crawler ably driven by Kyle Mudgway was backed up to the engine and used as the starter motor.

Next up for Sunday afternoon entertainment was challenge in crane operation for those keen to give it a go. The crane being a 1968 RB10 Ruston Bucyrus with a load of scrap metal on the hook which we had to lift and place within the confines of some road cones set up for the purpose. All of us newbie's to crane operation were pleasantly surprised by the smooth operation of the controls on what is an old mechanical driven machine, very impressive. With another round of coffees and a demonstration of Graeme Hall's latest Hot Air engine which will feature in the next edition, and as the afternoon was in danger of becoming the evening we said our goodbyes. Many thanks to the Mudgway family and to Owen's brother Keith for grabbing a barbecue from across the road and saving lunch!

Kyle backing up the D2 crawler to act as the starter motor for the Caterpillar D397 engine.



Starter Motor engaged the V12 turns over awaiting compression induced heat to ignite the diesel fuel and lift off!

Bill Krippner weight training in the Ruston Bucyrus RB10 crane.



Photo's Editor

PNMEC Covid 19 Policy 24/1/22

Activity	Under Green conditions	Under Amber Conditions	Under Red Conditions
Club Meeting Indoor Venue	No restrictions Roll Call to record attendee's	No restrictions if vaccinated Unvaccinated cannot attend meeting Roll Call to record attendee's	Club meetings will not be held Special Meetings may be arranged
Visitors to Club Meetings		Visitors must be vaccinated Roll Call to record attendee's	
Club Meeting Outdoor Venue		No restrictions if vaccinated If not numbers attending <50 & no socialising / coffee Roll Call to record attendee's	
Marriner Reserve Maintenance	No restrictions	No restrictions if everybody vaccinated If not no socializing / coffee & public health restrictions apply	No restrictions if everybody vaccinated If not no socialising / coffee & public health restrictions apply
Private Running Days		No restrictions if vaccinated If no numbers attending <50 no socializing / coffee & public health restrictions apply	Attendee's must be Vaccinated Numbers attending < 25 Public health restrictions apply
Public Running Days	No restrictions At the discretion of the Track Convener	At the discretion of the Track Convener Limit patrons in station area Public health restrictions apply	No public running

[The Generator Digitalisation Project](#)

The PNMEC committee has decided that now is the time to place all paper based back editions of “**The Generator**” into the digital format while there are still some complete full repositories in the private ownership of some club members.

The PNMEC committee is seeking a person who would be keen to take on the task of scanning back editions of **The Generator** and placing them into digital storage. This need not involve reading them all! The equipment required to undertake this task can be supplied by the club if need be.

Also of note is that **The Generator** is nearing its five hundredth edition which is a significant achievement and worthy of a special edition to celebrate the occasion which should be the May 2023 edition!

If you are interested in taking on this project please contact **Fin Mason** at fmason@inspire.net.nz or Ph 06 356 7849 Mob 027 642 2264

If you would like to be notified when this newsletter is published, send us an email with your **Name, Club** and **Email** address to pnmec@trains.net.nz with “**Generator Please**” in the subject line.