

# The Generator

Issue 488  
April 2022



**Palmerston Model Engineering Club**  
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Managers of the Marriner Reserve Railway - Marriner Street - Palmerston North  
PNMEC 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.

#### Thursday 28 April

No Club Night

#### Thursday 26 May

Club Night  
Annual General Meeting  
and document show and tell

#### Thursday 23 June

Club Night  
Project progress

### Marriner Reserve Railway

#### Sunday 1 May

Members only Track Run  
Weather permitting (Richard Lockett 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

The easing of the Covid Restrictions is making it possible for us to once again hold regular club meetings. We are currently planning our first Club Meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. On behalf of the Organising Committee **“Welcome Back”**.

The first meeting will be the AGM. I recognise that hosting an AGM is not the preferred way to start a new season, but this is overdue, and we need to get this out of the way as soon as possible. To inject some fun and interest into the remainder of the evening we will follow this with a “Document Night” where members can bring along any historical documents, photographs, or pictures of interest for show and discussion. Documents presented in the past have included historical family items through to members apprenticeship papers.

In April the first direct issue of the club's newsletter appears to have gone off without a hitch. Emailing the publication directly to members was the first step towards getting the message out to current and prospective members. The next step in this progression is to include a club calendar in each issue. This inclusion will list upcoming events and provide the particulars in more detail than is possible with the current web-based system. The first issue of the calendar is on the last page of this edition. The development is still a work in progress. Members feedback is welcome.

Now on a more serious note. The PNMEC has a committee that meets independently of the club nights to manage the club's affairs. They do the work associated with running the club, keeping it away from club nights so those meetings are more interesting. However, the numbers on this committee have dwindled over the years and membership is now at a constitutional minimum. This is limiting our ability to do the work required. With retirements looming at the end of the next club year we are looking down the barrel of a significant problem. As things currently stand, we are facing a situation that is going to require a quantum shift in the way we run the club. Simplistically we can either get more members onto this committee so it can function less stressfully, or we incorporate the business management into our regular club nights. This matter will be introduced at the AGM with further discussions to follow at an ensuing meeting. The situation is going to have to be addressed, and it is time to start giving this some very serious consideration.

The fellowship role the club plays in members lives was on display at the club running days recently hosted at Marriner Reserve which were very well attended. This was pleasing to see. The commencement of regular club meetings will create more opportunities to meet old friends and people with similar interests. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Keep healthy and keep building  
David Bell



Photo D Bell

The ex Chalk family locomotive “Britannia” now owned and restored to first class condition by Eddie Bleackley and here displayed in the living room of Eddie’s Whanganui Home. This is the same “Britannia” referred to on page 6 thirty eight years later, built to last

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution, I am hereby advising that the Annual General Meeting of the Palmerston North Model Engineering Club Inc will be convened at the Hearing Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North at 7:30 pm on Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>. Please note the following:

- 1) Club members wishing to submit remits, must deliver these to the Club Secretary, Fin Mason in writing not less than two weeks before this date. Submissions can be in either written or electronic format, and must be received no later than 12 May 2022. Club address: c/- 119 Ruapehu Drive, Palmerston North 4410. Email: PNMEC-Secretary@trains.net.nz
- 2) The AGM will include the election of Officers for the following positions:
  - a) President: position currently held by D Bell
  - b) Vice-President: position currently held by C Cooper
  - c) Secretary: position currently held by F Mason
  - d) Treasurer: position currently held by L Brooshooft
  - e) Safety & Welfare: position currently held by C Morton
  - f) General Committee: R Lockett

The club Constitution allows for up to five General Committee members. We therefore currently have potential for three more General Committee members.

- 3) The AGM will also include the election of Club Officials
  - a) Track Custodian: position currently held by R Lockett
  - b) Newsletter Editor: position currently held by R Lockett
  - c) Librarian: position currently held by M George

## Club Notices

The PNMEC **no longer** have a PO Box as its mailing address. Please address all posted correspondence to PNMEC c/- 119 Ruapehu Drive, Palmerston North, 4410.

Francis Stapp brought along his rocket projects to the last members run at the Marriner Reserve for us to peruse. All plastic parts are 3D printed with the tubes made from cardboard tubing and the fins from corflute sheeting. A more detailed article from Francis is promised for a future Generator.

Photo Editor



## Levin Bridge deck replacement

March the 28th saw a team consisting of Doug, Dave, Chris, Richard and Kyle replace the other half of the Levin Bridge deck, a project that had been started the previous year. The new deck consisted of 32 x 90 decking timber which would have cost the club approximately seven hundred dollars to buy but as I was presenting this to the clubs committee for approval, David Bell said "hang on a minute I've got a builder coming on Monday to replace and extend the deck around my house, how much wood do you want!" The deal was done. Half of David's deck was under cover so the timber was in as new condition and came with a stained finish, a good score. I gave David a hand to lift this part of the deck, denailed the timber and then we cut the required number 64 into 1.5 metre lengths. The existing bridge decking timber were 25 x 150 planking laid on the top of the RHS steel cross members length ways along the bridge. The new decking timber was to be inlaid between the RHS cross members across the bridge as this was what we had done when replacing the deck on our Hapuwhenua Viaduct and this looked really effective although time consuming to achieve.



To ensure that the bridge was not left in a unsafe state at any time the job was done in two stages with there being a good days work to remove the old deck and supporting metal brackets, grind flush all of the old welds and any rusty area's, prep the RHS where the new brackets were to be welded in place, position and weld in the 30 new brackets, paint new brackets and surrounding bridge structure, rusty area's and wait for the paint to dry along with a few tea breaks and discussion on the problems of the world!

The new timbers were then slid into position making the bridge safe to walk on with half of the team returning the next morning to accurately position the timbers and to secure them in place with lots of screws driven in from underneath. Job done with many hands making light work. Thanks to all those of you involved with this project, good to get it done as this deck replacement was a requirement for the Marriner Reserve Railways Safety Audit later in the year.

Photo's and story editor

## Club Track runs

So far this year the only railway operations at the Mariner Reserve have been on the two organised members only track runs held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February and the 27<sup>th</sup> of March with the next one set down for the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

Although the railway has seen little use since September last year the maintenance of the grounds and of our infrastructure has to carry on because the wear and tear is caused by the environment not buy a few trains running on the track! To keep the motivation up of those of us you undertake the maintenance, locomotives built by model engineers need to be in operation on our track and the best way to check that things are still working as intended is to use it, hence members only track runs while we progress through this pandemic.

These members track runs have been well attended by club members more so for the social contact with each other in a safe outdoor environment on a fine day. Editor



Alex Mudgway looking suitably unimpressed with the operational state of the Beaver Lumber Company's 2-6-0 locomotive as handed over to him by older brother Kyle

Photo L Brooshooft

The editor enquiring from those seated out of shot beside the Mariner Reserve Railway's operations shed as to how you operate one of these things after a few months out of service!

Photo L Brooshooft



**The Generator**

## Blast from the past

A couple of photographs have recently surfaced via a facebook post of Caleb Scott a Hutt Valley ME Club member. These are of interest to us as they relate to the participation PNMEC members in the Model Engineering Convention held in 1984 hosted by the Rotorua ME Club at their railway at Holdens Bay next to the Historic Museum. The photographs were taken by Bruce Fordyce from the Hawkes Bay ME Club.



Stan Compton driving his 7.25 inch gauge locomotive "King George the Fifth" on a portable track as the Rotorua track at that time was only 3.5 and 5 inch gauge. This loco followed Stan back to the UK after Stan left NZ having passed through various owners turning up in West Germany then sold to a UK model engineer!



Laurie Chalk's 5 inch gauge locomotive "Britannia" but that's not Laurie driving it. Who is it? The editor's eyesight is not what it used to be and I can't read the name on the drivers name badge on his cap.

## PNMEC Calendar

Date and Time	Activity
May 1st 1pm to 3pm May 5th 7.30pm May 15th 1pm to 3pm May 26th 7.30pm	Marriner Reserve Railway Committee Meeting Marriner Reserve Railway Club night AGM plus
June 2nd 7.30 pm June 5th 1pm to 3pm June 19th 1pm to 3pm June 23rd 7.30pm	Committee Meeting Marriner Reserve Railway Marriner Reserve Railway Club Night Project Progress
July 3rd 1pm to 3pm July 7th 7.30pm July 17th 1pm to 3pm July 28th 7.30 pm	Marriner Reserve Railway Committee Meeting Marriner Reserve Railway Club Night Health and Safety

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](mailto:pnmec@trains.net.nz) with "**Generator Please**" in the subject line.