

The Generator

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November 2023



Palmerston Model Engineering Club
www.pnmecc.net.nz - pnmecc@trains.net.nz

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.

Saturday 25 November

End of year Gathering in Whanganui
Hawtree's Radio Museum and Axiam Metals

Saturday 27 January 2024

Club barbeque
Location to be advised

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 3 December & Sunday 17 December

Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve
Trains in operation from 1pm to 4pm
Weather permitting (Richard Lockett 06 323 0948)

Thursdays

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

Club Notices

End of year gathering in Whanganui Saturday 25th November.

If you are intending to join your fellow club members and their partners on this occasion please contact **Fin Mason 06 3567849 or 027 6422264** so that numbers attending can be ascertained and those of you who wish to car pool can be accommodated.

We will meet at **10 am** at the Hawtree's Museum which will mean leaving Palmy at 9am!

The museum is located at **50 Fox Road**, Springvale. After crossing the Cobham bridge over the Whanganui River go straight ahead at the roundabout until reaching the five way roundabout at the Sports Stadiums. Head down Fitzherbert Ave second exit off the roundabout with Fox Ave being the 3rd road off to the right. Gold coin admission to the museum and another for tea and biscuit if desired! Please refer to the October Generator for details of the contents of this Museum.

Barracks Sports Bar has been recommended as our lunch destination and is located at **170 St Hill Street** in the block between Guyton and Ingestre Streets.

Around 1.45pm we will then head up river out to Axiom Metals in **50 Kelvin Street** which is off Kaikokopu Road left off the Somme Parade just before the Aramoho Railway Bridge where club member Ewen Pound will guide us through the Axiom Metals Die Casting Plant.

Afterwards you have been invited by Graeme and Janice Hall for a cuppa at their **Kings Avenue** home if you wish before you head home.

Club Barbeque 27th January 2024

Yep another year is about to past and so on to the next. Venue to be advised but hopefully with a shed of interesting items attached which should simulate a few good yarns amongst us.

Club Night Report

The words health and safety can be used to cover a vast range of subjects and situations and as a club that operates a miniature railway we have obligations around not placing our customers in any hazardous situations and to have procedures in place so as to not place our own membership in any harm whilst engaging in that side of the Model Engineering Hobby. Also any time that you are actually awake you as a citizen have a duty of care to your fellow citizens to offer assistance to any situation you may come across, not doing so may get you into a spot of bother.

At the Marriner Reserve we have a First Aid Box which contains all sorts of stuff and is to be used for any situation that may arise in the surrounding area not just potential railway first aid. In the box is a list of club members who have had some training in first aid at some point and they may be present or not on the occasion when you may need to use said First Aid Box.

Further to all of this the club thought that some CPR training may come in handy for you and Chris Morton came across a St John employee who needed to log up some hours talking to community groups for her own professional development who was keen to visit us on a Thursday evening, thanks Chris. The young St John lady didn't seem to need any extra training as she sorted out those PNMEC members present and had them all pumping away on the mannequins. Also we got to train with a AED defibrillator which insured that no one fell asleep during the evening!

So this is important, the nearest publicly available AED defibrillator handy to the Marriner Reserve is located at the Z Energy Station across and along Pioneer Highway heading back towards the city centre 350 metres away. Available 24/7.

Now you all know and its location is mentioned in the First Aid Box.

[A SLOW TRIP HOME](#)

When storms struck the East Coast earlier this year the only rail route out of Napier was damaged, isolating the area. Unfortunately this event coincided with a visit the Pahiatua Railcar Society was making to the city and left one of their railcars stranded at the Napier Station. After being marooned for a little over a month an opportunity arose to retrieve the railcar when KiwiRail was doing some heavy lifting in the immediate vicinity. With the cooperation and goodwill between a number of parties in both Palmerston North and Napier a plan was formulated and the railcar was lifted, loaded, and piggybacked on an overnight trip back to Pahiatua. This lift and load exercise happened earlier this year but did not receive the publicity it perhaps deserved. These photos showing the loading in Napier and the unloading in Pahiatua were uplifted from the society's Facebook page. David Bell



1938 Standard Railcar RM31 being lifted at the Napier Rail yards and about to be placed onto a Kenworth articulated low loader truck in preparation for a road trip back to Pahiatua.

Below. Arrival back in the Pahiatua's Railcar Societies' yard.

Photo's PRS



The D6 9U

Kyle Mudgeway came home from school expecting to get in a couple of hours of seat time helping out his father Owen on the Caterpillar D6 harrowing a paddock before dinner only to find that some old guy had beaten him to it and was not keen to hand over to him!



The D6 9U in action.

Photo Kyle Mudgeway Story Editor

Some of you may recognise the driver, one Doug Chambers who has previous experience of a D6 9U having driven one as a Saturday job whilst working in Melbourne, Australia back in the 1970's at the Blue Metal Quarry stripping the top soil to access rock for crushing. Dating from the mid 1950's this particular D6 has local history starting out its working life at a contracting business in the Wairarapa before shifting over the hill and working on a runway extension at the Palmerston North City Airport before moving down to the bottom of Albert Street for a spell as the slack line winch at Childs metal extraction plant. When this business was brought out by Higgins it once more became a bulldozer this time on a RNZAF Ohakea runway extension. This was to be its last job before being parked up on the Higgins rotten row. Owen's father Rua had worked on this machine when as a diesel mechanic for Gough, Gough and Hamer back when they were based in Rangitikei Street hence it being gifted to Rua to add to his growing collection of historic Caterpillar machinery by Bernard Higgins. Restored to operational condition and used on the odd occasion for farm use and on the pictured occasion pulling two sets of harrows Doug said that the exhaust from the six cylinder diesel gave a good bark!

A LIGHT HEARTED CHRISTMAS STEAM BOAT STORY

A sight to warm the cockles of a steam boat enthusiasts heart. A steam boat complete with stereophonic music, wine refrigerator filled with wine (the white panel on the far side of the boat), overhead pixie lights, a navigation beacon, and pirate flag so there is no doubt about the captains intent, but alas things are not quite as they seem.



The Steam Boat

Story and Photo's David Bell

I discovered a fleet of these boats for hire at the boating marina at a lake side town in Switzerland. They are owned and operated by a Dutch Company and are not boats in the sense you may think. They are in fact floating spa pools. The funnel at the bow is the chimney for a wood burning water heater, that burns cedar to give the aroma associated with a typical swiss sauna. As for the propulsion it is not steam powered at all, a battery powered outboard motor is attached to the tiller at the stern. When you hire one of these vessels the company fills the tub with hot water with plenty of soap to give a good lather, lights the water heater to keep the water hot, and with good wine and music sends you out for a good afternoon on the bay, under the afternoon sun.

I was intrigued by this whole operation and the franchise owner, a young German man was a real character. During the time we were talking he was making all manner of offers to potential patrons to get as many boats out into the bay as he could. Jean and I were booked on the afternoon ferry sailing back to Interlaken boarding from the ferry wharf next to his operation, but the franchise operator was quite insistent "Don't hurry, you must wait here on the wharf till the ferry comes in".

So here we were standing on a wharf watching a bay full of happy revellers enjoying the wine, and a private spa under the sun when a paddle steamer comes into view. Now these steamers are very quiet and surprisingly quick setting the stage for a event that is widely known by the locals but kept secret from the tourists. Now for reasons steeped in swiss maritime history the afternoon ferry takes an unusually wide turn when it comes into the bay and aligns with the wharf. This path takes it through the middle of the spa pool fleet. Watching from the shore like many others who came from the bars and restaurants to witness this spectacle, I can verify that it is almost impossible for a patron, to stand up in a rocking soap filled spa boat, get some resemblance of clothes back on, untangle yourself from the overhead pixi lights, and steer your slow moving spa pool out of the way of a ferry that is loaded by many camera snapping passengers enjoying this hilarious spectacle.

If you are in the spa with only two people you can almost manage this feat, but if you are in the spa with three or more people you don't stand a chance. Having navigated this hazard these budding sea farers then have to navigate the wake caused by the ferry an event that is almost as spectacular.

So with no human casualties, no animals harmed, and little permanent damage to the environment life quickly returns to normal with the bars and restaurants refilled with patrons amused by this spectacle. This performance is a boom for the bars and restaurants that surround the lake. I can now understand why this franchise has been granted a licence to operate in this location for quite some time.

Date and Time	Activity
Saturday 25th November 10am	End of Year Gathering Hawtree Museum and Axiam Metals
Sunday 3rd December 1pm to 4pm Thursday 7th December 7.30pm Sunday 17th December 1pm to 4pm	Marriner Reserve Railway Committee Meeting Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday 21st January 1pm to 4pm Saturday 27th January 2pm	Marriner Reserve Railway Club Barbeque Venue TBA

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