

The Generator

Issue 509
March 2024



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.

Thursday 28th March

Aviation Night
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Thursday 25th April

Annual General Meeting
Plus bring along your favourite 0 Gauge loco or rolling stock

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 7 April & Sunday 21 April

Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve
Trains in operation from 1pm to 3pm
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

Club Night 28th March 2024

Aviation Night . So its back to the Hearing Association Hall for the first time this year. As it is believed that all of the members of the PNMEC are experienced aviators either by having built model aircraft that flew or by having worked on full size aircraft that flew or by having travelled in aircraft that got off the ground even if only briefly. That should have you all covered and so to put that experience to the test a set of challenges have been arranged for the evening, simple stuff just turn up! No tools required.



90 hp Piper Cub, a 1957 tail dragger rigged up for take offs and landings on rough ground.

Photo Editor

Club Night 25th April 2024.

Annual General Meeting. Notice is here by given that the Annual General Meeting of the Palmerston North Model Engineering Club will be held on the 25th of April at the Hearing Association Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North, Starting at 7.30 pm.

The Annual General Meeting is to be followed by the erection of an oval layout of 0 gauge railway track to which club members are invited to show off and run their favourite locomotive and or rolling stock either a Hornby or other brand or their own scratch built locomotives or rolling stock.



Bruce Geange's 0 gauge model of the NZR Craven steam breakdown crane may make an appearance following on from the Annual General Meeting.

Photo Editor

February Club Night Report

A healthy number of club members made the trip down to Tokomaru to visit Bernard Watson and his collection of New Zealand Railway memorabilia. Bernard has spent a lifetime building up his collection and this hasn't stopped as it's engrained deep within himself but is now having to think about the future of his collection.



The striking entrance to Bernard's collection with ex Waipukurau rail yard Semaphore signal giving the PNMEC the "road" in.
Photo B Geange

When dealing with NZR history, in this case physical items, its very entwined with the history of our nation and how the country was developed good or bad. Hence there are good learning opportunities to be had from these collections and from the memories that are awakened from within our members present on the evening and shared around.

In this country we don't dig holes looking for Roman coins but if digging anywhere near railway infrastructure there's a good chance of finding a NZR branded cup or saucer or two, you just have to dig deep enough! These cups and saucers are very collectable and Bernard has the full set. At one stage the NZR numbered their tearooms with all the cups and saucers also numbered to tie them to their tearooms so as to be returned to that tearoom for reuse. The question is how well did that work in practice? These numbered cups and saucers are very collectable due to their scarcity which probably means they weren't in use for long. Here's a question, what number was the Palmerston North Railway Stations Tearoom number?

On first entering onto Bernard's property I encountered a large cast iron bracket propped up against a wall and my initial thought was where does this belong in the NZR system as I hadn't seen one of these brackets ever before on all my travels around the countries preserved railway groups. Half an hour later my query was answered upon looking up at the large semaphore signal on the road frontage and the penny dropped. It was the pivot bracket that the semaphore signal blade rotates on. As they say you learn something every day whether you set out to or not!

Included also in Bernard's collection were some NZR vehicles ranging from a jigger for travel on the rail to a delivery push bike and a platform tractor or tug used to passengers luggage or small goods along the platforms of larger stations.

Another enjoyable summer evening club night to start off the new year, catching up with fellow members with a good amount of banter and even one or two laughs.

Thank you Bernard Watson for your hosting of the PNMEC.

The Bracket

Photo's
Left Editor
Right B Geange



New Zealand Railway's delivery bicycle.

Photo Editor



A severe case of wheel slip must generate some heat!

Photo Editor



Bernard and his Jigger.

Photo B Geange

Marriner Reserve Railway

At a recent track running occasion at the Marriner Reserve Railway the opportunity arose to take this photo of not the first British steam locomotive to be built and not the last British steam locomotive to be built but pretty dam close to it with Stephenson's Rocket of 1825 and a British Railways class 7 "Britannia" from 1951 both in 3.5 inch gauge. The Rocket is a Hornby live steam model spirit fired hot parts metal the rest is plastic. The class 7 is an LBSC designed model which was visiting the Marriner Reserve Railway from the Kapiti coast The Britannia seemed to like our track as it performed very well. The Rocket is confined to the back shunt in operation but makes for an interesting additional attraction to our Sunday afternoon track runs.



The Rocket and BR class 7 awaiting the road.

Photo Editor

Date and Time			Activity
Thursday	28th March	7.30pm	Club Night Aviation Night
Thursday	4th April	7.30pm	Committee Meeting Marriner Reserve Railway Marriner Reserve Railway Club Night AGM plus
Sunday	7th April	1pm to 3pm	
Sunday	21st April	1pm to 3pm	
Thursday	25th April	7.30pm	
Thursday	2nd May	7.30pm	Committee Meeting Marriner Reserve Railway Marriner Reserve Railway Club Night Mosquito's and Merlin's
Sunday	5th May	1pm to 3pm	
Sunday	19th May	1pm to 3pm	
Thursday	23rd May	7.30pm	

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