

The Generator

Issue 515
September 2024



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
The Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North.

Thursday 26 September

Quiz Night

Plus a short Health and Safety discussion around electrical safety
around the use of power tools!

Thursday 24 October

Club Night

We have a presentation lined up for this night but are keeping quite
about it until we get confirmation from the presenter.

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 6 October & Sunday 20 October

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

September Club night

Lawrence Brooshooft has put together a short quiz to challenge your knowledge or lack of on the subject of modelling or engineering or anything else he can think of. Should be a bit of fun! As part of the requirements of retaining our miniature railways ADR (Amusement Device Regulations) certification our railway has to audited every two years and as part of this process the club has to demonstrate that some form of ongoing health and safety training has taken place. To this end a true cautionary tale will be told by Richard Lockett and Chris Morton about the use of a power tool in an outdoor environment.

Club Constitution

The PNMEC Inc like all other incorporated societies have to reapply for their incorporated status under the new incorporated societies act. For a small society such as the PNMEC that doesn't turn over vast sums of money there is not too much of a change to our existing constitution except for the mandatory provision of a process for the resolution of internal disputes amongst the membership. Your committee has decided that a review of the entire constitution is desirable as it was written back in 1977 and times have changed. Making it a gender neutral document is one of our aims. As part of the review and towards this end a team has been formed and we plan to have it completed and ready in time for the April 2025 AGM . The review team currently is Jon Mason, David Bell and Richard Lockett. If you feel that you have skills or knowledge in this area and would like to be part of the review team please contact Jon Mason.

Midwinter Shed Meet

At short notice a shed meet was organised on the 7th of September to assist John Tweedie in cleaning out his shed due to his relocation to smaller premises. John would like to thank those of you who attended and purchased items that were not being relocated to the new premises. John admitted afterwards that it was quite an emotional day for him seeing his tools, equipment, materials and the fruits of those tools leave his care going off to the care of new owners. It would seem that we had done a good job of it as there wasn't much left afterwards, John's shed looking clean, tidy and somewhat empty!

Club Name Badges

We are looking to get a batch of PNMEC name badges made for new members or to replace one you may have misplaced. The cost would be approximately \$18.00 each so if you would like one please contact Lawrence Brooshooft at the next club night or on 021 837078 to place your order.



August Club Night Report

Club president Jonathan Mason has spent the majority of his working life in the power transmission industry, starting out in the early 1980's with the NZ Electricity Department and recently retiring from Transpower.

Starting out as an engineering cadet on the construction of the Stratford to Huntly transmission line and being off a farm and enjoying working in the outdoors Jon was very comfortable working in the rugged and steep country around Whangamomona with the line roughly following the line of the rail corridor where it suited.

Surveying the positions for each transmission pylon formed part of Jon's job, working out the best positions to satisfy the technical requirements of a transmission line in very challenging terrain, a straight line being the shortest and hence cheapest to build.

Although surveying had moved on from using a gunter's chain only to the extent of using a Theodolite and steel tape of the same length, being 66 feet in the imperial system or 20.116 metres to you and I. Electronics made an early appearance on this project in the form of a device that sent a beam of light that was reflected back from the ranging rod and which then calculated the distance. Although bulky and delicate to cart around they speeded the survey process up.

Moving on to the 2000's and this work is undertaken using a helicopter and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) flying along at 70kms/hr with the device firing beams of light towards the ground which are reflected back and the distance measured i.e. lots and lots of data, so much that software is used to make any sense of it before it can be inputted into specialised CAD software used in the design of say a power transmission line or a road etc. This work (LIDAR) until early 2020 was undertaken by a Russian company. Jon is also a bit of a collector as are most of us and has a passion for fine surveying instruments and has assembled a great range of these. A selection was on display for us to view. Thanks Jonathan.



Jon Mason asking the assembled club members for a volunteer to be the chain man! Chris Morton stood up at the wrong time!
Photo Editor



Gunter's Chain, a steel tape, very early theodolite in wooden case and the major upgrade to a light beam admitting orange box.
Photo Editor

The Fergie 35 as modelled by Bruce Geange complete with transport tray which Bruce had brought along for us to view.



Photo B Geange

The Generator

A Look Back in Time

David Bell sent your editor a selection of images that he had downloaded from the Manawatu Heritage web site depicting various scenes of the former railway yards along Main Street in Palmerston North for possible inclusion in a future Generator.

In the process of choosing which images to use I had to visit the Manawatu Heritage website to ascertain the providence of the photographer for the purpose of credit which is of importance when using images for ongoing publication.

To my surprise the images which I had chosen to use were taken by a founding member of the PNMEC, one Roland Penhall (Roly) . Roly was also the editor of the Generator during the 1980's and also a keen amateur photographer and has his own collection within Manawatu Heritage. Roly was employed by the Railways Department as a young feller as a locomotive assistant which involved cleaning, oiling, coaling and fuelling and lighting up steam locomotives in the Palmerston North yards and with his camera (colour) took many a photo of shiney new loco's or rolling stock which passed through the yards as well the untoward which occurred during his tenure there. One such photo captures a young Terry Jowett stoking the boiler of the clam shell crane used to load coal into locomotive tenders which he called the coal grabber! Terry also a founding member of the PNMEC also starting out with the Railway Department as a loco assistant during this time from 1963 to 1964. The following photo's are from www.manawatuheritage.pncc.govt.nz, Roland Penhall Collection.

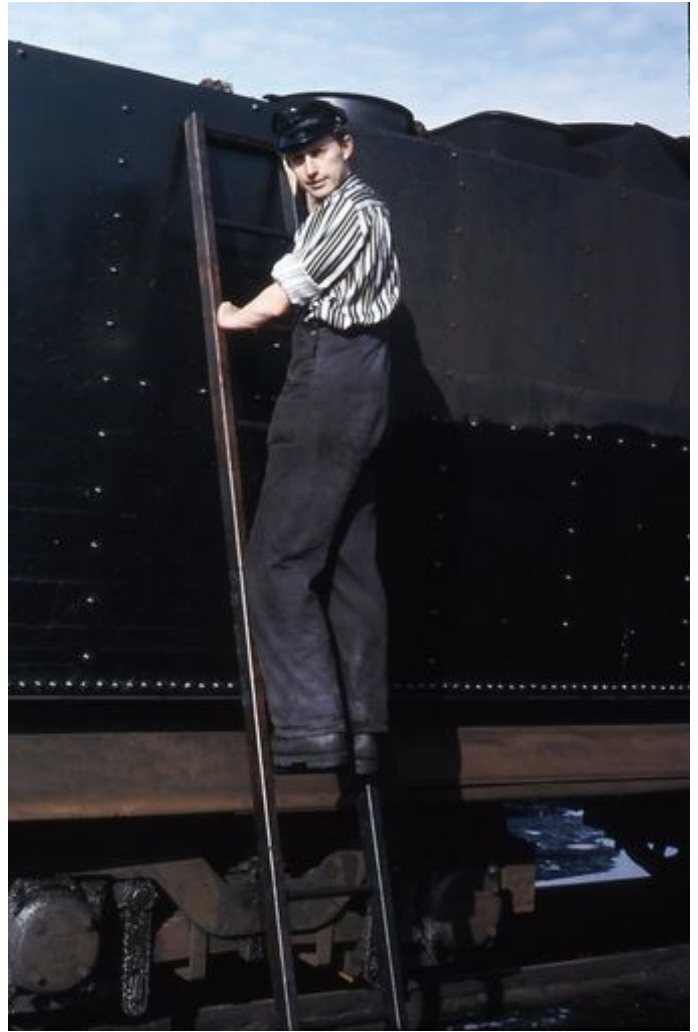


A view looking west showing Roly's work place in 1963 the present site of the Warehouse showing the loco shed's, turntable and the coal grabber. Of note in the foreground top right the large green field open space, present site of Monrad Intermediate School, Monrad Park and the Marriner Reserve Railway. Roly must have climbed a lighting tower to gain this photo, possibly to change a bulb!
Photo Roland Penhall



Young Terry Jowett stoking the fire of the coal Gabber. September 1963.

Photo Roland Penhall



Roly Penhall at work checking the water level in the tender of a KA class locomotive perhaps.

Photo Roland Penhall

Date and Time	Activity
Thursday 26th September 7.30pm	Club Night Quiz plus Electrical Safety
Thursday 3rd October 7.30pm Sunday 6th October 1pm to 4pm Sunday 20th October 1pm to 3pm Thursday 24th October 7.30pm	Committee Meeting Marriner Reserve Railway Marriner Reserve Railway Club Night TBA
Sunday 3rd November 1pm to 4pm Thursday 7th November 7.30pm Sunday 17th November 1pm to 4pm Saturday 30th November TBC	Marriner Reserve Railway Committee Meeting Marriner Reserve Railway Club end of year visit TBA

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.