

The Generator

Issue 518
January 2025



Palmerston Model Engineering Club
www.pnmech.net.nz - pnmech@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.

Sunday 9th February

Presidents Barbeque
Jonathon and Donna Mason
150 James Line, Palmerston North.
BYO food and beverage.
Mamod steam up! Full details page 2.

Thursday 27th February

Club Night
Project Progress

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 19 January 2nd & 16 February

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

Presidents Barbeque

We're starting off the new year with a barbeque and steam up at Jonathon and Donna Mason's James line property. There's always plenty of interesting mechanical apparatus in Jon's sheds to keep us entertained for hours and as a bonus Jon tells us that he has been spending a few hours tending to the estates gardens as an additional attraction and Jon and Donna would like to see a good turn out of club members and their extended families for the occasion!

As Jon's sheds afford us the opportunity to run methylated spirit fired steam engines without the risk of setting fire to the furnishings please bring along those Mamod, Ord, Schools etc Stationary, Traction engines that you have hidden away in cupboards and give them a run. As Jon also has a G gauge rail track layout any railway locomotives that you may also have please bring along and give them a run as well!

Please remember to also bring along your picnic hamper stocked with your personalised requirements for food and beverage along with the required cutlery. Barbeque supplied.

When

Sunday 9th of February

Where

150 James Line , Palmerston North.

Time

2pm onwards

If you have one of these or similar remember to place in your picnic hamper and give it a run on the 9th of February.



Photo Web

[Pahiatua Railcar Society](#)

Sunday the 24th November saw members of the PNMEC gather at the premises of the Pahiatua Railcar Society (PRS) for a guided tour of their NZR railcar restoration projects. Currently the PRS is home to four types of ex NZR railcars, the 1936 Wairarapa railcar (Tin Hare), the 1938 Standard Railcar both of which are restored but undergoing maintenance work at present. The Societies three 1972 Silver Fern railcars are no longer operational as long standing issues with corrosion of the steel framework are having to be addressed which will involve the complete strip down of the cars. If that seemed like a enough work for a small band of keen men the main project being undertaken is the building up of a 1955 Twin Unit railcar. As none of this class survived NZR service intact this is a full ground up build using bits and pieces found around the countryside along with new manufacture .

New flat six turbocharged diesel engine/transmission units ex British Rail have been sourced to power them, this in itself will involve high level engineering approval to make this upgrade from the original Fiat diesel engines of which none remain and they were very unreliable when in service from new.

A massive undertaking for a small keen band of volunteers and they need support as this is New Zealand Heritage that they are keeping alive, so when the PRS run a railcar excursion book a seat as having a heritage railcar on the rails carrying fare paying customers is their reward for the thousands of hours of work to make that happen!

Thanks go to Bernard and Don of PRS for hosting the PNMEC.



The 6 cylinder Leyland engine/transmission bogie from the PRS 1938 Standard Railcar out from under the frame to have a new head gasket fitted along with a host of smaller jobs while out.

Photo Editor

Fin Mason checking out the interior of the 1936 Wairarapa Railcar Mahuhu or Tin Hare as the locals called it back in the day built to travel over the Remutaka incline. On a previous visit to the PRS many years ago by the PNMEC this railcar was just a steel frame atop the chassis and to see the finished restoration and attention to detail was impressive. Photo Editor



Lunch at Pahiatua

Photo Editor

The Thermette Challenge

A half dozen or so Thermette's were lit up in the yard at the Pahiatua Railcar Societies premises ranging from brand new examples to ex NZR specials for brewing enough tea for the whole bus load of gangers. Pat Perkins was appointed to the position of judge for the occasion and was soon sampling the tea on offer. First to present a cupper for Pat was Richard Lockett but Pat did not find the brew very appealing at all, something about a metallic taste, possibly residual solder flux maybe! Pat found the second cupper brewed by Chris Saunders most satisfactory and this and a cupper brewed by Micheal and Brody Jarvis using Chris Morton's Thermette to be joint winners of the challenge. Well done. Most Thermettes were fuelled with dried sticks of wood but Richard used wooden sticks soaked in Kero which did not go down well with some entrants and their were calls for his disqualification from the event but all in good fun. Lighting fires, making smoke having a good chat its what we like doing so a very present day out . Thanks to all.



Lit Thermette's brewing tea Pahiatua Railway Yard

Photo Jon Mason

Other Happenings

The later half of 2024 saw Owen Mudgeway's Peterbuilt truck restoration project completed with the tractor unit passing a COF and has been to a couple of old truckers charity fundraiser events. Bruce Geange thought all his birthdays had come at once when the Peterbuilt showed up at his place and took him for a spin.

Photo Owen Mudgeway



The Generator

Wren class Locomotive “Robyn” making a welcome return to the Marriner Reserve after many years confined to its home rails. Now thirty years old builder Doug Chambers took the opportunity for a couple of laps of the track to see how she steamed.



Photo's Owen Mudgeway



The Master and his Apprentice. Doug and Kyle silver soldering the barrel seam on the new copper boiler for the locomotive “Tasha” replacing the steel briggs boiler. An important part of the hobby passing down the skills of the trade!

| Date and Time | | | Activity |
|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | 19th January | 1pm to 4pm | Marriner Reserve Railway |
| Sunday | 2nd February | 1pm to 4pm | Marriner Reserve Railway |
| Wednesday | 5th February | 7.30pm | Committee Meeting |
| Sunday | 16th February | 1pm to 4pm | Marriner Reserve Railway |
| Thursday | 27th February | 7.30pm | Club Night Project Progress |
| Sunday | 2nd March | 1pm to 4pm | Marriner Reserve Railway |
| Thursday | 6th March | 7.30pm | Committee Meeting |
| Sunday | 16th March | 1pm to 4pm | Marriner Reserve Railway |

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.