

# The Generator

Issue 519  
February 2025



**Palmerston Model Engineering Club**  
[www.pnmech.net.nz](http://www.pnmech.net.nz) - [pnmech@trains.net.nz](mailto: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.

### **Thursday 27th February**

Club Night

Project Progress plus a discussion on model safety valves.

### **Thursday 27 March**

To be advised

## **Marriner Reserve Railway**

### **Sunday 2nd March & 16th March**

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

### **Club Night 27 February**

Our first club night of the year back at The Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North. So bring along your current project or more likely a part of it and relate the journey so far to the assembled membership. The clubs boiler inspectors will give an overview of the design requirements for model safety valves as used on our model steam boilers.

### **Manawatu Vintage AG Expo 22nd & 23rd February**

If you have an interest in the 1 to 1 scale models that some of us collect, get along to this event held at Manfeild Park over in Feilding this weekend and catch up with one or two of our club members who like bigger models to play with and they will be! Celebrating 100 years of the Caterpillar!



### **Mangahao Power Station Open Day 8th March**

The club committee has been trying to organise an out of hours (evening or weekend) visit to the Mangahao Power Station over the summer period but hadn't got much in the way of a response from the operators of the station so far.

All is not lost as there is an open day being arranged for the 8th of March as a fund raiser for the Shannon school which will cater for any interest of a visit by members of the PNMEC!

If you wish to take part in the open day you will need to purchase a ticket from the organisers which gets you onto a bus leaving from the school and a guided tour of the power house and museum, cost \$5.00 a head.

Tickets are to be purchased from via the eventfinder website

As this is being written morning tours are sold out! Get your tickets quick ASAP.



## Steam N' Steel 2025

### New Zealand's Model Engineering Convention

The Palmerston North club was well represented at the New Zealand model Engineering convention hosted by the Hamilton model Engineering Club with ten of our members in attendance over the five days between the 8th and 13th of January. Chris Saunders and myself travelled up together. With all the road works it was a slow, but thankfully uneventful trip.

It was a lovely, laid-back convention. A combination of driving and riding the trains, sitting and chatting with the model engineering fraternity from around the country and visitors from overseas. Generally having a good old catch up.

A very large number of diverse locomotives were in attendance. Alongside the regulars were some impressive new and interesting models. Chris Saunders took lots of photos some of which you can see on these pages. Take a look and get a feel for the event.



The steaming busy bays at the Hamilton Model engineering Club's Minogue Park Miniature Railway. Photo Chris Saunders

A new model of interest was a 7¼" American 4-4-0 engine named Tinkerbell. Despite looking and sounding like a steam loco, it was in fact 100% electric. Powered by lithium batteries which were still almost fully charged at the end of a days running. Excellent sound effects and smoke coming out of the chimney. Tinkerbell is a good piece of fun joining our community. It won the prize for the Best Electric Vehicle.

Bill Krippner's Evening Star locomotive won the prize for Best small Steam Locomotive. Over time a number of people have contributed to the construction of this locomotive whose construction was started by the late Roy Hood and finished off by Doug Chambers and Bill Krippner.



A glimpse of the future a fully electric steam locomotive. "Tinkerbell". Does it come with a Govt subsidy or carbon credits? Once we run out of Welsh steam coal this might be what us steamers have to use!

Photo  
Chris Saunders



A Catapult being readied for a shot at the target across the lake.

Bill Krippner and the British Railways 9F "Evening Star" in 3.5 inch gauge.

Photo's Chris Saunders



The Les Moore Challenge, which was to build a catapult type device operated by a compressed air cylinder to hurl a ball at a target was this year won by the Tauranga Marine and Model Engineering Club.

The Convention Dinner was a top-notch affair with an impressive number of diverse dishes on the buffet tables. There were three different guest speakers who gave short presentations each on very different topics.

The MEANZ-BGM ran smoothly with dignified discussions on some thorny issues. Everything was amicably resolved. Alex Cordell from the Christchurch Society of Model Engineering was elected as our MEANZ president for the next term with Lester Watchorn (New Plymouth) as vice president. Heather Wilson remains as the secretary/treasurer with Nigel Gibbs (Nelson) and Rex Toms (Rotorua) as the South and North Island representatives.

Well done Hamilton for putting together an excellent convention in a short period of time.

*Cynthia Cooper*



## Presidents Barbeque

Hosted by Jonathon and Donna Mason at their James Line home on what turned out to be a beautiful hot summers afternoon the PNMEC took the opportunity of a not very flammable surface in the form of Jonathon's concrete floored sheds to get our spirit fuelled steamers out of the closet and have a mini steam up as these models don't get out often and less so collectively. A good line up of brands turned up for battle ranging from Auld, Bing, Meccano, Mamod and Wilesco with the German made Bing and Wilesco manufactured to a higher spec than the others with proper slide valve engines as against the oscillators used on the UK and NZ product. Graeme Hall brought the Bentley Aero engine over from Whanganui and put on a show for everyone.



Highlight for many, Graeme and the Bentley.

Photo Jon Mason

For your editor it was the first time I had seen a Wilesco Old Smokey steam roller in steam and two of them to boot, wishing that I had one of them as a young feller many years ago to complement the Mamod Traction Engine which turned up one Christmas!

No one seemed to be in a hurry to light the barbeque but it did happen with a couple of beers or wines with dinner and a few yarns. Brodie Jarvis's G gauge steam locomotive was lit up and had a run around Jonathon's G gauge track positioned handily right next to the barbeque.

Thanks Jonathon and Donna for a great afternoon!





A couple of young feller's avoiding being squashed flat by an Wilesco Old Smokey steam roller.

Photo's Jonathon Mason



Bruce and Merv preparing an engine obscured by Graeme's Offenhauser engine, Mamods and Bing's and Wilesco on display.

| Date and Time |               |            | Activity   |
|---------------|---------------|------------|--|
| Thursday      | 27th February | 7.30pm     | Club Night<br>Project Progress<br>Plus Safety Valves   |
| Sunday        | 2nd March     | 1pm to 4pm | Marriner Reserve Railway<br>Committee Meeting<br>Marriner Reserve Railway<br>Club Night TBA                    |
| Thursday      | 6th March     | 7.30pm     |  |
| Sunday        | 16th March    | 1pm to 4pm |  |
| Thursday      | 27th March    | 7.30pm     |  |
| Thursday      | 3rd April     | 7.30pm     | Committee Meeting<br>Marriner Reserve Railway<br>Marriner Reserve Railway<br>Club Night Annual General Meeting |
| Sunday        | 6th April     | 1pm to 4pm |  |
| Sunday        | 20th April    | 1pm to 4pm |  |
| Thursday      | 24th April    | 7.30 pm    |  |

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