

The Generator

Issue 521
April 2025



Palmerston Model Engineering Club
www.pnmec.net.nz - pnmec@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 24th April

Club Night
Annual General Meeting
The Board Room Palmerston North Hospital
Plus Slot Cars and HO Trains

Thursday 22nd May

Club Night
Boilers, Safety Valves and Metal Finishes

Marriner Reserve Railway

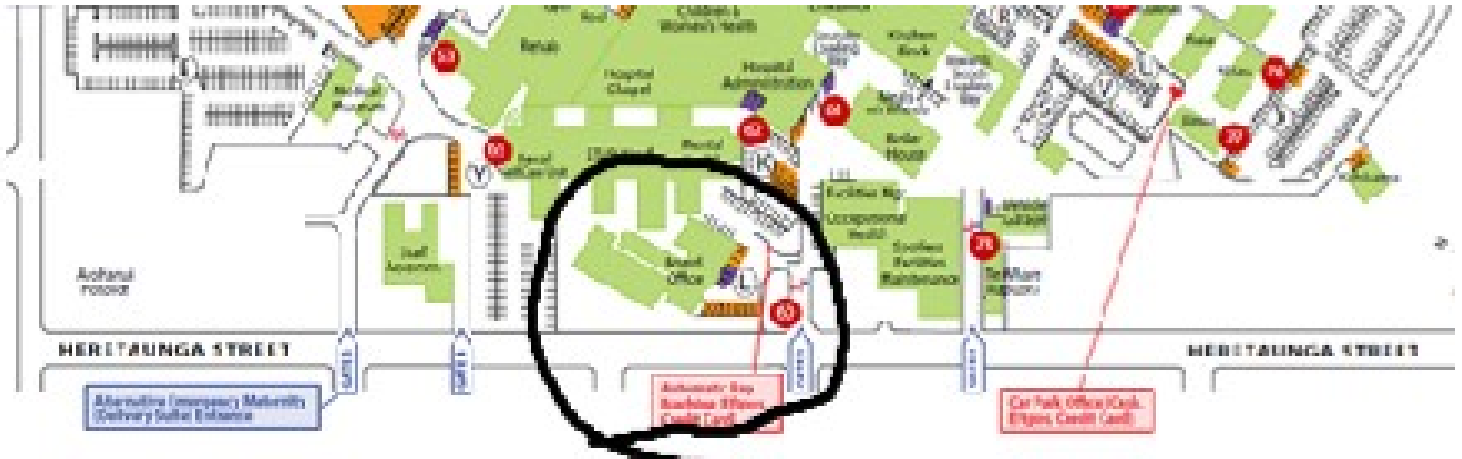
Sunday 4th May & Sunday 18th May

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)

The Annual General Meeting of the Palmerston North Model Engineering Club will be held on Thursday the 24th of April 2025 in the Board Room at the Palmerston North Hospital starting at 7.30pm. Gate 2 Heretaunga Street, Palmerston North.



Plus bring along your HO scale trains if you have one and also your slot cars likewise.
AGM agenda.

1. Minutes of 2024 AGM
2. Reports from club office holders
3. Election of club office holders and committee.

It was hoped that our new constitution would be finalised and ready for a formal vote of approval at the forthcoming AGM but we have run out of time for this to happen. A Special General Meeting will be held with the purpose of approving a new constitution in June or July of this year. Shortly a draft constitution will be emailed to club members for you to digest and to provide feedback to the club committee and to which any recommended amendments will be made before any acceptance vote takes place.

It's getting to that time of year when some mid week shed visits could be arranged as the couple that were held last year went down well with those club members who took part whether hosting one or as a attendee.

If you would like to host a mid week shed visit either again or for the first time over the winter period give Richard Lockett a call 06 3230948 or email at rockett@inspire.net.nz and we'll put a program together.

March Shed Visit Report

Saturday the 29th of March saw a good turnout of club members gather in Bill Krippner's garage to peruse his locomotive fleet and his workshop set up. Bill likes to have a few projects on the go at any time and currently has a Foster Traction Engine under construction as well as a 7.25 inch gauge Climax bush logging Locomotive part of a batch being constructed by some fellow model engineers from various parts of New Zealand.

Smaller 3.5 inch gauge steam locomotives have recently become a passion of Bill's as with their smaller size can be placed in the boot of a small car without the need to tow trailers around the country side which free you up to do other activities while attending our model engineering meets. Bill spoke about his career in electrical engineering and involvement in our hobby, primarily on the steam locomotive/railway side of the hobby. Obviously tiring of talking Bill, in an act of spontaneity passed the baton on to the person standing closest to him and so on it went with everyone speaking to how it was that they found themselves here on the day in Bill's shed examining some miniature steam locomotive's! We all got to know each other that wee bit better. Thanks Bill!



Graeme Hall made the trip down from Whanganui and like us all had to explain his journey so far as regards to model engineering. Photo Jonathan Mason

A reluctant departure from Bill's garage saw most of us head down the hill for a look over the operation of The Victoria Esplanade Scenic Railway. A miniature railway but of a bigger gauge to our Marriner Reserve Railway, 12.5inch gauge verses 7.25inch gauge. Things get very heavy at this gauge so everything stays on site and gets serviced on site hence a big shed to accommodate the 3 locomotive and carriage sets, work train and service pit as well and workshop equipment and offices. The day was capped off with a trip around the rails behind one of their diesel hydraulic locomotive hauled trains along with a picnic lunch and a chat. Thanks Bill Krippner and the Victoria Esplanade Scenic Railway crew.



John Neal and Lawrence Brooshooft deep in conversation possibly nothing to do with the two locomotives or the traction engine that they are squatted beside! Photo Jonathan Mason

Marriner Reserve Railway Happenings

From time to time we have visitors from other model engineering societies turn up during our regular track running and we do our best to make their visit a positive one.

March saw young Toby from Manukau Live Steamers pay us a visit as he was down in the Manawatu for the Steam Traction Societies steam fair at Maewa in Feilding. Toby had brought along the paper work (Drivers Licence) to show us that he had experience in the operation of a steam locomotive and was promptly up on the footplate of the Kerr Stuart Wren class locomotive "Robyn" and impressed us with his ability operating the locomotive.

We were informed that Toby had also visited the Esplanade Scenic Railway, Feilding Steam Rail

and the Tokomaru Steam Museum all in the 2 days while in the Manawatu. We were impressed with this effort and thought that all his birthdays must have come at once or that he has a very special mum! Our early April track saw visitor Jack still with his NZR Da and a couple from the Christchurch Society of Model Engineers pay us a visit while in the Manawatu for an Airforce Reunion.



Marriner Reserve Railway visitor Toby on the footplate of the “Wren” with loco owner Jon Mason supervising with Toby’s aunty and mum along for the ride. Photo Editor



The first track run in April saw a visiting locomotive turn up, a 3.5 inch gauge NZR DA class owned by Jack Still and built by Grant Alexander up in the Waikato during the covid lockdowns. Powered by four 12 volt batteries and 24 volt motor from a battery lawnmower. One way of getting out of mowing the lawns I suppose. Photo Kyle Mudgeway

Using a Fixed Steady

I had occasion to use my lathes 3 point Fixed Steady the other day and thought to myself, haven't used that for a while maybe twice in 30 years. Some of you may never have used one. So when do you need to use one? Basically when you need to machine into the end of a bar or tube which is of a diameter which will not fit down the bore of the lathe's headstock spindle. As shown in the photo the 3 contact points are adjustable to suit different diameters and hence need to be set up for those diameters and also to be in alignment with the lathe bed ways and tailstock so that tool centre height is maintained and that you don't unintentionally start turning tapered surfaces. So for bar stock use a short piece of stock and chuck close to the chuck and set the steadies bottom 2 points on this before moving the steady along the lathe bed to the required position ready to accept the to be machined bar stock. For tube etc use a revolving pipe centre held in the tailstock to support the tube end and then machine the outer surface sufficient in width to allow the 3 contact points to be engaged and run true with the bore before positioning the steady and adjusting and locking in place as shown in photo. The top adjustable point is adjusted and locked to provide a running clearance and if they are made of bronze these must be lubricated with oil. Some lathe steady contact points use ball bearing as the contact surface but most are bronze.

Photo Editor



Date and Time			Activity
Thursday 24th April	7.30pm		Club Night AGM Plus Slot Cars and HO Trains
Thursday 1st May	7.30pm		Committee Meeting
Sunday 4th May	1pm to 3pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday 18th May	1pm to 3pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 22nd May	7.30pm		Club Night Boilers, Safety Valves and Machined Metal Finishes
Sunday 1st June	1pm to 3pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 5th June	7.30pm		Committee Meeting
Sunday 15th June	1pm to 3pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 26th June	7.30 pm		Club Night Project Progress

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pnmec@trains.net.nz with **“Generator Please”** in the subject line.