

The Generator

Issue 530
February 2026



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
The Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North.

Thursday 26th February

Club Night
Project Progress

Thursday 26th March

Club Night.
3D Printing

Marriner Reserve Railway

Due to recent weather events and the resulting remedial work to
the reserve and our infrastructure, there will be no railway
operations until further notice.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

Pioneer Bank rail track rebuild 9.30am to 1pm
Precision physical hard labour with learning attached.
Contact track manager (Richard Lockett 027 2541059)

Club Notices

Club Night 26th February Project Progress

With the very average weather we've been having so far this summer to say the least, there's the possibility that a few of you will have progressed the work with a few of your projects! I know that I have got a bit more done over the summer so far than is the normal. So bring along an item of your work and speak about it, or anything that you think may be of interest to fellow club members!

Club Constitution

The constitution of the Palmerston North Model Engineering Club Inc has been recognised by the NZ companies office as of the 24th of November 2025.

Our certificate of incorporation number is **50247472**

Our NZ business number is **NZBN 9429053284075**

A big shout out to all of you who assisted with this process of reregistering our society under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Special thanks go to David Bell who lead the process of reregistration on your behalf and dealt with the fish hooks that appeared during the process.

Annual General Meeting 23rd April

This is not the formal notice of the AGM but notice of what is to follow the AGM.

Most of us would have had the use of a construction toy during our formative years, maybe briefly or what would turn out to be a lifetime hobby. We're talking of Lego, Meccano, Buz, Technics, Junior Engineer, Vex Robotics to name a few common products but there's possibly a few I don't know of or have forgotten about.

If you still model with your construction toy build a model and bring it along, hence the early notice.

If you are a collector of construction toy sets, vintage or new etc bring some along or if you have something that is new and exciting bring it along and speak to it. Have just done a quick internet search and there's a lot of options out there and I learn something! Steam is not only water heated to above 100 degrees Celsius but also is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM).



Above A current Meccano Erector set

Left The editor started out on his engineering journey with a Junior Engineer set, some would also state that this was where his engineering journey should have finished!
Images Web

New Year Fire Up



Saturday the 31st of January saw club members and their families enjoying conversation, food and beverage, and the burning of some of our favourite fossil fuels in some of our models both large and small in one of the Mudgeway family sheds. This shed being the workshop where models and full size machinery gets worked on, components machined, stories told and YouTube content created.

The gathering kicked off at 2pm and the last of us left at about 7pm with the time going somewhat fast with Bruce's Burrell traction engine in steam for the duration and more! A couple of big diesel's were fired up by Owen for our entertainment, the large engine from an Australian Locomotive and the D2 Caterpillar crawler used to spin the bigger diesel over to start it.

Stirling (Hot Air) engines in operation
Photo Jon Mason

A big thanks goes to Owen, Natasha, Kyle and Alex Mudgeway for hosting us all for the afternoon, a great venue for those of us who like to mess around, model, tinker, operate, restore or just touch new out of the box or old with history and patina machinery!

David and Jean Bell's grandchildren Lucas and Alex Chalmers let loose with a Traction Engine, in this case a 55 year old Mamod T E 1A with original paint and a OME replacement whistle.

Photo Jon Mason



Marriner Reserve Railway

The 2025/2026 summer so far has been decidedly below our expectations and if you like to operate your model locomotive around the club's railway at the Marriner Reserve your summer has been frustrating to say the least!

A planned track rebuild of 42 metres of rail from the end of the viaduct to the start of the curve leading onto the Compton Crossing (The Pioneer Bank) was due to commence sometime in Mid March 2026 which may have taken the track out of action for a month. As events have unfolded since late December 2025 we may lose 3 months of track running due to weather events that have impacted the reserve as well as our planned rebuild which still needs to happen.

At the conclusion to the December 21st track run it was brought to the clubs attention that the large willow tree in the middle of the reserve had a crack in the vee between its two trunks. As this tree overhangs the railway line this presented a hazard to railway operations as well as to any other users of the reserve and PNCC were notified the next morning. The council's chief arborist visited and advised that the willow was to go asap and that two of the three large elm trees were also to go as they were also in a dangerous condition! Before contractors turned up to remove the willow strong winds in mid January dropped a large bowel from a elm tree which landed across a section of track on the down grade of the Levin bridge, doing a bit of damage to the track in the process.

Council contractors quickly had this tidied up but in doing so damaged a lot of our rails around the reserve and returned the following week to tackle the willow tree. This time club members were on hand to look after the rails as best we could! This now left the 2 elm trees to be removed and as these were in close proximity to the power lines running along Duff Crescent Powerco approved contractors were to do the job which they started in the first week of February. Club members were on hand to look after the rails as best they could but more damage was done with branches dropping from height!

This then just left the stumps to be ground out, more heavy equipment being driven on the reserve but again we were there to look after the rails and with last weekends storm event and the resulting



The start of the MRR's summer of unplanned events, the Willow and its crack which opened and closed in the breeze and had to go! A great sword hanging over the rail.



Photo Editor

work load for tree surgeons the last stump may not be ground away for some time yet.

These tree's have been of concern to the club for a number of years, waiting for them to blow over so to have them removed all at once is a positive outcome for us.

Overnight on the 21st of January Strong winds dropped this onto the rail with resulting damage to the track to the left of the rail beside tree trunk and sealed the fate of the elm tree. That suited us just fine!



Photo Stephen Drummond



PNCC contractors dropped the Willow on the 26th of January, mulched the branches, ground the stump leaving the sliced up trunk for the club to disposed of to avoid the other heavy machinery having to be deployed into the middle of our rail track.

Arriving in force Powerco high voltage approved contractors dropping the two elm trees on the first week of February. Two high platform trucks, a dump truck with excavator, mulcher and truck, Ute with signage trailer and barbeque.



Photo Editor

The Generator

We model engineers were unimpressed by the calibre of the contractors stump grinder which made very hard work of the elm tree stump frustrating the operators and onlookers alike! They will return hopefully as there's one more stump to go?

Photo Editor



As you can see a wee bit of work is being undertaken to repair the rail track to a useable state. Once the repairs are complete the track gang will proceed straight into the planned late summer rebuild project along the "Pioneer Bank".

Photo Editor

Date and Time			Activity
Thursday	26th February	7.30pm	Club Night Project Progress
Thursday	5th March	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Thursday	26th March	7.30pm	Club Night 3D printing
Thursday	2nd April	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Sunday	5th April	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday	19th April	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday	23rd April	7.30 pm	Annual General Meeting

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.