

The Generator

Issue 534
June 2026



Palmerston Model Engineering Club

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C/- 1582 Rongotea Rd, Palmerston North, 4475.

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 25th June

Club Night

Model Engineering Quiz Night

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th July

RailX

Baber Hall, Waldegrave Street, Palmerston North

Thursday 23rd July

Club Night.

Refresher MRR Operations Manual

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 19th July

Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve

Trains in operation from 1pm to 3pm

Weather permitting (Richard Lockett 027 2541059)

Thursdays

Railway operations for club members

Subject to ongoing track maintenance and weather

Contact track manager (Richard Lockett 027 2541059)

Club Notices

Club Night 25th June.

The theme for this months club night is a quiz designed to be a fun event to test our shared knowledge on matters pertaining to engineering history, the people, the machinery and the models of which we make!

There may be a prize in it for the winner!

As per usual bring along an item of interest, current project or not to share with your fellow club members.



RailX 2026

One of the aims and objectives of the Palmerston North Model Engineering Club is to exhibit our members creative work i.e. your models, tools and equipment which we make in our workshops. The club hasn't held an exhibition for a number of years now and having been invited to exhibit at this years RailX along with other non model railway group/societies the PNMEC have accepted and will be set up in the Bell Hall along with other allied hobby groups.

This is a excellent opportunity showcase our hobby to the large numbers of the public who attend this popular show. We were allocated a set area amongst the model rail layouts but are now in the Bell Hall. We may be able to spread our wrings so to speak but won't know until the Friday set up as to how much resource's we have to work with, tables etc. Set up is from midday Friday the 3rd July. We do have a plan and some of you have offered to display items and some of you have been asked to bring along items to display!

A staffing roster has been developed and if you can contribute further to this please give Jon Mason (021 940634) a call or if you intend to visit RailX anyway come and spend some time on our stand and make it a good social occasion for the PNMEC.

RAILX 2026 MODEL RAILWAY SHOW

Saturday 4th & 5th July 2026

Barber Hall, Waldegrave Street

Palmerston North

10.00am to 4.00pm Daily

Radio Control
& Radio Control
Truck Display in Bell
Hall!



Over Twenty Train Layouts, huge Radio-controlled truck display, working Meccano and Lego exhibits, modelling demonstrations and a wide range of trade stands.

Adults \$10.00, Children (4 -14 years) \$5.00,

Family Pass (2 adults & up to 4 children) \$30.00.

EFTPOS OR CASH ONLY.

Subscriptions are now over due if you have not already paid them!

Membership subscriptions of \$40.00 as set at the Annual General Meeting are now due.

Please pay Club Treasurer Lawrence Brooshooft at a club night or preferable pay direct into the clubs bank account via internet banking. **Account number 06-0996-0831663-00**

Please remember to use your name as the reference.

It would be appreciated if you could action this payment promptly so that the treasurer doesn't have to spent time chasing you up!

The TR Project.

Richard Lockett

Some of you may be aware of the Sack Barrow that I motorised using a 24 volt power tool battery to power a motor, gearbox unit via a speed controller for a relative of mine who is transporting 25kgs of drum kit around the streets of Wellington at all hours and needed a bit of power assist on the hills. That project had got me thinking!

At the current time we have a number of young club members (10 to 12 years old) who have made the transition from being a customer of our Marriner Reserve Railway on a Sunday afternoon to wanting to built and operate their own locomotive, hence their joining of our club. As we know the building of any of our model projects requires a lot of resources, time, money, shed space and a machine shop at hand just to name a few. Hence it has been difficult as a club to facilitate the transition of a young person from a railway passenger to a locomotive/model builder and generally a few more years have to go bye before they are able to garnish some financial resources and a great deal of patience together before being able to purchase a second hand locomotive running or as a project to be finished.

So we need a locomotive build project that requires minimal resources to enable a successful journey through to completion!

- My thinking is a 5inch 127mm Gauge 0-4-0 shunting locomotive (TR) Tractor. Five examples of which are local, Feilding Steam Rail has TR13 a Drewry built loco from 1936 with Steam Rail Whanganui having 4 examples, Drewry and A and G Price (Thames) to choose from or just a total freelance design.
Local loco's easy to photograph and measure from.
- To be built mainly from plywood. Can be made using cheap hand tools.
- Has to be able to be lifted from the boot of a car, hence 127mm gauge.
- Utilise a MY1016Z 24 volt dc motor/gearbox 300rpm output with 100mm diameter wheels to give a speed of 6kph max speed. (AliExpress)
- Use 24 volt 4amh power tool battery (Greenworks, Trade Tested).
- Motor speed controller (Emax).
- Cast alloy wheels with steel tyres.
- Four wheel drivers ride truck, loco has only to pull the drivers weight around track.

That still adds up to a fair chunk of dollars. This could be a very worth while project for our younger club members. Any additional thoughts that you may have on this project or offers of help would be appreciated.

Pictured below a couple of Whanganui Steam Rail's TR locomotives.

Photo's Whanganui Steam Rail



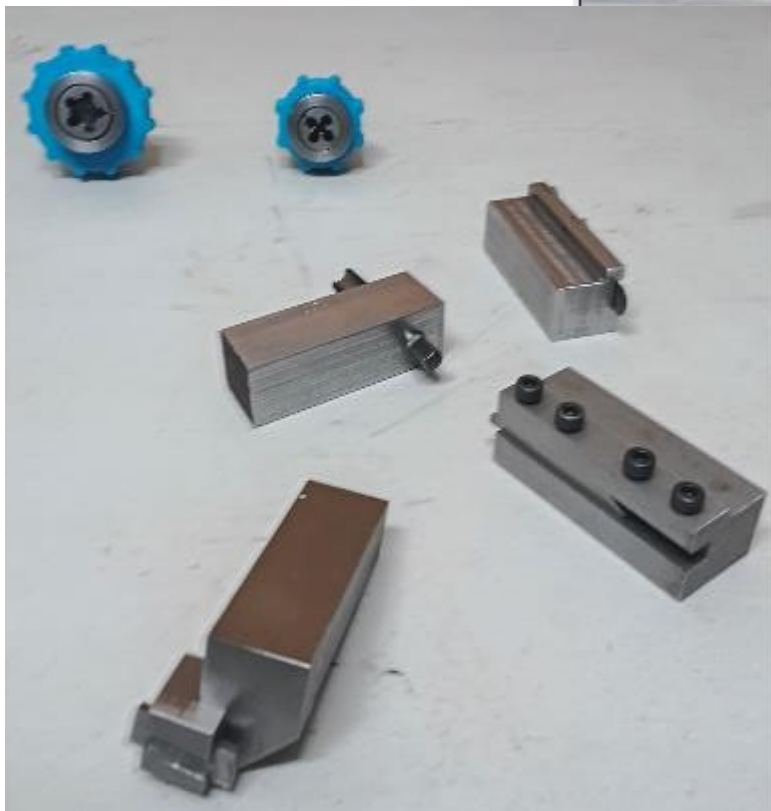
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May Club Night Report

John Neal gave a enthralling talk on his stint in coastal Labrador, Canada as a young man newly married looking for a challenge and adventure, something different from his up bringing in Marlborough, New Zealand. John's work involved the pastoral care of the citizens from these remote communities. Yep births, deaths, marriages and all that happens in-between along with a very challenging environment in which John had to perform these duties. A coast line built on rock, no roads, and a long winter covered in snow. John's mode of transport were the snowmobile and a Cessna 180 which was on floats or ski's depending on the season. Keeping internal combustion engines usable in the winter months required ongoing effort every time they were used, putting a tea cosy around the Cessna's engine when parked up, warming up the carburettors so the fuel would flow, diluting the lubricating oil with fuel after use so that the engine could be turned over before starting next time. Nothing was easy, thinking and ordering ahead, provisions and fuel for the airplane to get you through the winter months. One of the main concern's with living in this environment for an extended period of time was keeping free from the effects of the "Cabin Fever" which was a condition that befell individuals from time to time. John having the Cessna at his disposal having to uplift affected colleague's on occasion at short notice and remove them south back to a more populous environment. Looking in the mirror one morning John decided to remove himself and family out of that environment and back to New Zealand before someone was sent in to do it for him!

A Cessna 180/185 on ski's landing on a snow airstrip.

Photo Web



David Bell spoke about the use of small taps and dies when cutting fine threads. All taps and dies are not equal in quality and some are not worth buying in the first place if you desire accurate threads. Taps can come with burrs which produce over size threads, split dies need to be used with a floating die holder if used on a lathe. Just a few of the issues that David had identified with their use. Also a selection of screw cutting tools for the production of 40tpi M.E threads were displayed. These were upside down when in use so that the screw cutting operation was done away from the lathe chuck instead of the normal towards which allowed for starting in a narrow runout groove.

Photo editor



Bruce Geange has been quietly working away on his Whanganui Tram Museum's No 12 tramcar, scaled to run on Hornby 0 gauge track. Built from wood and brass with construction well on the way to completion.

Photo editor

Regan Olivecrona had taken delivery of a set of firing tools from a Australian supplier. These came in a neat wooden box with a drawing of his locomotive on the lid.



Photos editor



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Marriner Reserve Railway

A few years ago track inspections revealed corrosion to the underside of the rail track through the Karuka Curve section of our railway with the thought that the rail will need to be replaced some time in the future. The trouble with future is that it does at some stage become now! Yep 12 metres of rail track scrapped and replaced with new steel. The sad fact was that the same guys, now some what older who fabricated that section of track 36 years ago were back on the job this time although they did pass some knowledge onto some younger club members whilst doing the job. Thanks go to all involved.

Photo Owen Mudgeway



The bench seat beside our operations shed received a severe beating overnight a couple of week ago making it unserviceable. A couple of newly sawn Macrocarpa seat planks were machined up by Alex Mudgeway and fastened in place by Alex and Owen ready for use on the following Sunday track run. Thanks Alex and Owen.

Date and Time			Activity
Thursday	25th June	7.30pm	Club Night Model Engineering Quiz
Thursday	2nd July	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Saturday	4th July	10am to 4pm	RailX
Sunday	5th July	10am to 4 pm	RailX
Sunday	19th July	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday	23rd July	7.30pm	Club Night Refresher MRR Operations
Sunday	2nd August	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday	6th August	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Sunday	16th August	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday	27th August	7.30 pm	Club Night 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 pnmeinc@gmail.com with “**Generator Please**” in the subject line.