

The Generator

Issue 537
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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 24th September

Club Night
Cool Tools

Thursday 22nd October

Club Night.
Fin's Photographic Achieve

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 4th & Sunday 18th October

Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve
Trains in operation from 1pm to 4pm
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 24th September

The theme for this month's club meeting is Cool Tools. We all have our favourite workshop tool. Either the one we use the most and is always on the bench, a special one still in its original packaging and stored away in a safe place, or the one that cost a small fortune back in the day, you get the drift! Not forgetting the tool that cost a small fortune and is still in its original packaging, stored in a safe place, that you have never used and probably don't know how to!

With items that we treasure there's always a back story to them so bring along your Cool Tool and speak to its back story,



One of your editor's favourite Cool Tools a 8inch Dial Caliper purchased while working in the UK in the early 1980's. The greasy finger prints would indicate that it has been used at some stage! Why is it a favourite? Find out at September's club night!

End of Year Gathering

Keep the date of Saturday November the 28th free as the PNMEC will be visiting Mainline Steams Plimmerton depot in the morning and also a mystery destination which will feature an extensive garden along with other items of interest to PNMEC members.



Two of Mainline Steam's Locomotive's K^A 942 and J^A 1275 on excursion, Feilding 9th October 2010.
Photo Editor

August Club Night Report

With a couple of our older membership just having a wee rearrangement of the workshops to create more space some item's became available for rehousing and hence a bring, buy, sell or exchange club night. A selection of Model Engineering Magazine volumes and a couple of 2.5 inch gauge part built live steam locomotives dating from mid last century at a guess were the feature item's awaiting new owners. The Model Engineering Mag's found new homes but the loco's look to have remained with their current custodians. Not many of us seem to carry any cash around with us anymore which mitigates that impulse buy reaction that we have ingrained deep inside us which left a few other items unsold.



A 2.5 inch gauge Great Western Railway 4-8-2 locomotive looking for a new good home. Contact Lawrence Brooshooft. Ph 027837078 Photo Editor

The above pictured Great Western Railway (GWR) Locomotive. What class of their locomotive fleet would this have been? The editor can't make out the script in the blue prints title box.

A few items of project progress were also on display. Bill Krippner brought along an item which is causing ongoing frustration in the form of the lubricator off his Burrell Traction Engine. A typical engineering problem, the smallest piece or item not working as it should stopping the whole machine in its tracks! A purchased item, the lubricator is unable to pump lubrication oil (the good oil) into the steam chest reliably. Not having an engineering drawing (specifications) of the lubricator as supplied is a further hindrance to being able to find the fault that lies within the lubricator.

Bill's lubricator which continues to pump out copious amounts of frustration.

Photo editor

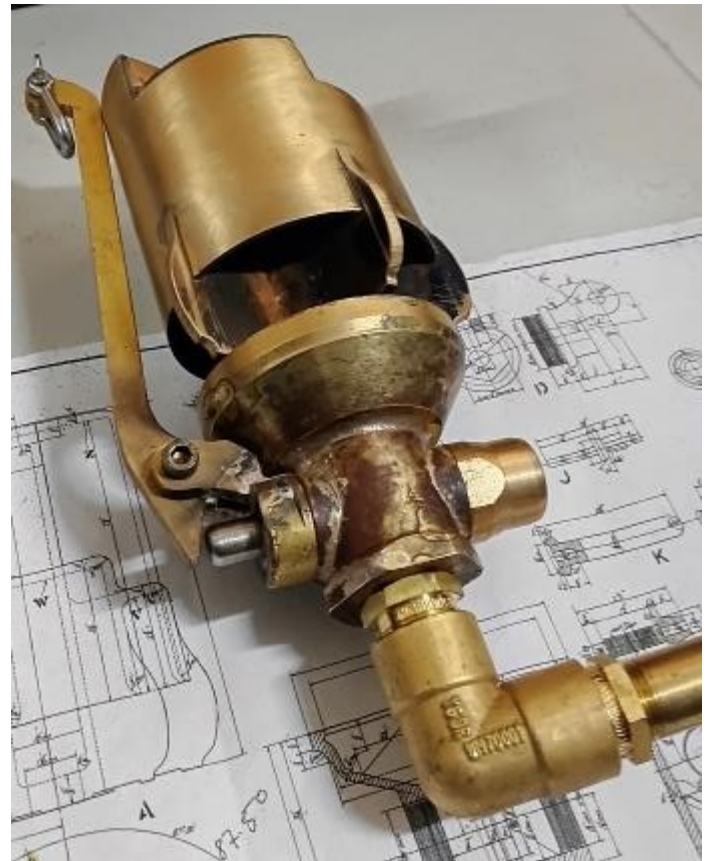


Stuart Anderson had finished off the whistle for his Wato Mogul based locomotive. A scaled down NZR chime whistle, but not by much looking at the picture, a case of loud and proud. Just requiring a dunk in the acid and a polish which Stuart will have to get used to doing after every steaming of the loco.

Alex Mudgeway had been investigating Radial Aircraft Engines and was able to source some code for an interesting 3D printer project in the form of a cut away 9 cylinder version, the pistons moved up and down in their cylinders when the prop was rotated.



The 3D Radial Aero Engine



NZR Chime Whistle

Photo's Editor

Sheridan Creek Revisited

I can't remember when my first visit up Sheridan Creek was but it would have been in the early 2000's. Why would you bother I hear you ask, your going to get wet to well above the knee all going well if not maybe totally wet having to cross the Wiaotauru River twice and walk up and down sections of Sheridan Creek itself, not to mention a few scratches or worse if not careful! Some of us like to visit these back country places because its good fun on a nice day, its challenging, you and I own it and there's an item of interest to people like us up the creek in the form of a logging tramway and a Vulcan Foundry Steam Hauler.

Sheridan Creek is part of the Otaki River catchment and drains the valley which lies between the Rae and Judd Ridges on the western side of the Tararua Range between Otaki and Waikanae before discharging its flow into the Wiaotauru River which then flows into the Otaki River at the Otaki Forks confluence.

We drove to the Otaki Forks campsite which is located on a terrace above the Wiaotauru River and set off in bright sunshine along the Wiaotauru track which heads south on the true left of the river to an old saw milling site complete with boiler, horizontal steam engine and the front wheel assembly off a Marshall portable engine, the remains of which are laying in the Wiaotauru River slowly being pushed down stream with each flood event. At this point we crossed the river, first accessing the depth and flow and picking the best spot to cross, knee deep before back tracking on the true right to pick up the creek.

My memory was that the tramway was on the true left of the creek but Blair liked the look of the other side and found himself on the tramway so we changed sides and set off along the tram. The terrace on which the tram sits has been washed away in places so you are in and out of the creek before crossing to the other side and negotiating a slippery rock face complete with a handy installed rope to lower yourself down into the creek again and onto the tram before the final climb to the hauler site. A tramway up these creeks were always prone to being destroyed by the next flood and is properly why this one was abandoned in 1936 with the prevailing economic conditions of the day making repairs prohibitive. The Vulcan hauler was still resting under its protective canopy built by the Dept of Conservation back in 2005 along sections of the remaining steel rails being reattached to new sleepers to replicate a section of tramway. Club member Chris Saunders volunteered his time to assist with this project back then and had the task bushing onto the Vulcan hauler Ennis oil to help preserve the steel components of the hauler from the harsh bush environment. This tramway supplied logs to the Tararua Timber Company's mill from 1929 to 1936 and locomotive power was a Wellington built Natrass rail tractor based around a Fordson F tractor. After a look over the hauler with discussion about its inner workings and operation we retraced our journey back down the creek stopping for lunch on a sunny terrace and then following newish orange triangle track markers back to the Wiaotauru River which seemed to be deeper than before (snow melt?) but just doable and up to the camp. Lovely trip!

Natrass Rail Tractor photographed on Campbell's Akatarawa tramway in 1925

Photo Howard Natrass collection



The Generator

The Vulcan Foundry Hauler as preserved at Sheridan Creek well worth a visit.

Martin, Anne and Blair standing on the tramway remains having a morning tea snack always up for a good bush bash.

Photo's Editor



Date and Time			Activity
Thursday 24th September	7.30pm		Club Night Cool Tools
Thursday 1st October	7.30pm		Committee Meeting
Sunday 4th October	1pm to 4pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday 18th October	1pm to 4pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 22nd October	7.30pm		Club Night Fin's Photographic Archive
Sunday 1st November	1pm to 4pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 5th November	7.30pm		Committee Meeting
Sunday 15th November	1pm to 4pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Saturday 28th November	10am		End of Year Gathering, Plimmerton Visit

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.