# The Generator

Issue 539
November 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.

### Saturday 21st November

End of Year Gathering. Meet at 10am
Mainline Steam and Welch Miniature Railway.

### Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th January

Club 50th Birthday Celebration
Marriner Reserve Railway

## Marriner Reserve Railway

### Sunday 6th & Sunday 20th December

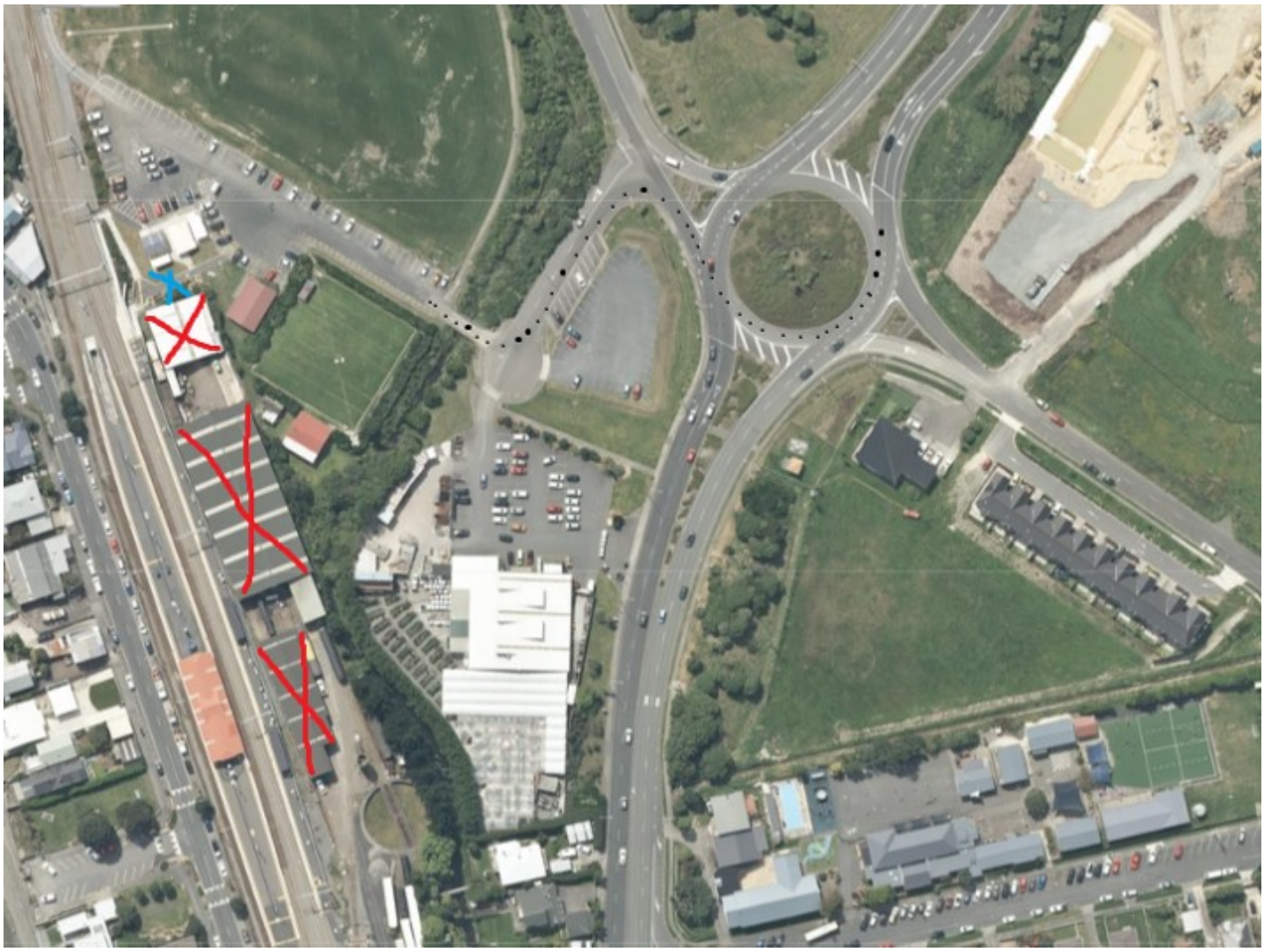
Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve
Trains in operation from 1pm to 4pm
Weather permitting (Richard Lockett 027 2541059)

### Thursdays

Railway operations for club members
Subject to ongoing track maintenance and weather
Contact track manager (Richard Lockett 027 2541059)

# Club Notices

**Saturday 21st November.**
**End of year gathering at Mainline Steam Trust Plimmerton. 10am**
Getting to Mainline Steams Plimmerton Depot.
There is just one slight change to the directions from last months Generator, there is no rear entrance so please ignore the blue cross as on the map below!
Getting into the depot from the north is difficult so we are to meet up at the park and ride carpark on Douglass Close and walk the short distance to their entrance on SH59.
First of all you need to turn off the Kapit expressway at the Paekakariki exit (SH59) and proceed along the foreshore and over the hill at Pukerua Bay. From Pukerua Bay head downhill until you arrive at a large roundabout, turn right and exit onto Ulric Street (Third exit). Immediately turn left into Douglass Close. Turn right over a small bridge and park where you can along here. (follow the black dots)
**Please all meet in the car park at 10am.**
Mainline Steam's Depot are marked with the red cross's on map.



There are various options close by for you to lunch at including the adjacent Palmers Garden Centre, various cafes on Steyne Ave via the pedestrian subway under the railway lines or a short drive down to the shopping centre along to the Mana Esplanade.
At approximately 1.30pm we will depart to a private resident located on the Pauatahanui side of the Porirua Harbour via Grays Rd where we will be made welcome whist viewing the hosts extensive gardens which contain a 7.25 inch gauge miniature railway and associated railway infrastructure. Exact location will be provided on the day.
If you are intending to attend the mainline steam trust visit let Richard know if you haven't already done so! **ph 027 2541059**

**Palmerston North Model Engineering Club 50th Birthday "Locomotion Weekend" 23rd and 24th January 2027.** .

This locomotion will be to host fellow model engineers and their locomotives at our railway **without** the pressure of public passenger hauling but more to enjoy the social side to our hobby and to bring out the smaller gauge locomotives and their owners that don't get the opportunity to run on our rails too often. A small registration fee will be requested from visitors to cover the cost of an evening meal etc.

# October Club Night Report

The evening started off with old film footage of the construction of Rolly Penhall's first 5 inch gauge railway in Feilding in the early 1970's perhaps the first private model engineering gauge miniature railway in the Manawatu.

It wasn't known by those members present if Rolly finished his Feilding railway before moving to a New Zealand Railways staff house in Carlisle Street in Palmerston North where construction of a 5 inch gauge railway recommenced with zeal and with the help of his and wife Shirley's 3 children soon had an operational track. Then came the perhaps more difficult task of building up some rolling stock and motive power with just a drill press and hand tools!

This railway formed the nucleus which developed into the PNMEC as we know it today.

Also from Rolly's movie camera was the construction of our railway at Marriner Reserve during the year 1980. The steaming up of the first steam locomotives to operate on the track before any sidings or steaming bays were added, the loco's being lifted off trailers directly onto the track and steamed up. I have always wanted to know what was the first locomotive to steam around our track and here was the evidence, Owen Handley with his 5 inch gauge NZR F class closely followed by Stan Compton with George the Fifth in 7.25 inch gauge.

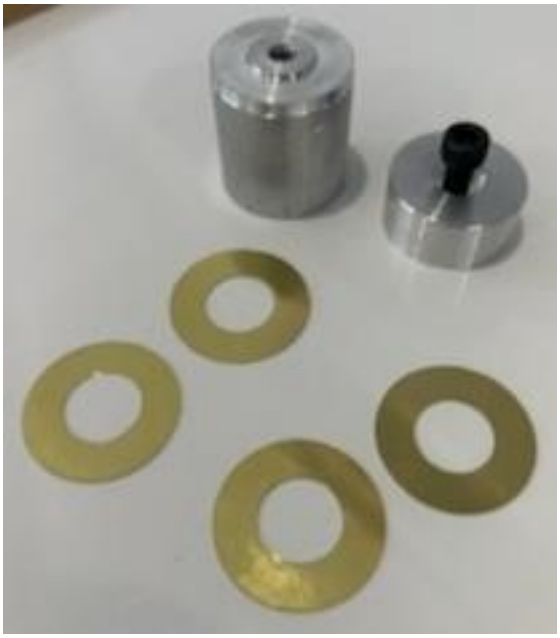


Owen Handley with his NZR F class Locomotive, first on track!

The evening concluded with a slide show of various members photo's from our clubs exhibitions and railway events held over the years. Thanks go to Leith Marshall for providing and operating the tech to make the club night possible.

# Machining Thin Materials

Regan Olivecrona sent in some photo's of a machining job that he had undertaken recently as part of the build of his 7.25 inch gauge "Phantom" steam locomotive. Regan likes to do the best possible job no matter what it is and needed to make some shims out of 0.1mm or 0.004 thou shim stock in the form of washers and wanted them perfectly round, hence machining. So how to hold shim stock in the lathe bearing in mind that you are machining the OD and the ID but not in the same machining operation (he's not that good!). Basically you have to clamp the shims between some other material (aluminium) and sacrifice some of that material in the making of the washers. I let the photo's tell the story but this remined me of a little job I did for a friend of mine who's into old British motorcycles. He was rebuilding the engine from a Triumph twin cylinder and the 3mm thick head gasket needed to be machined out to the oversize bore diameter to clear the piston. How do you hold the gasket to be able to machine it without damaging it! Ounce again clamp it between two other pieces of material (wood) which can then be clamped or held in a vice without damage to the gasket.



Finished shim washers



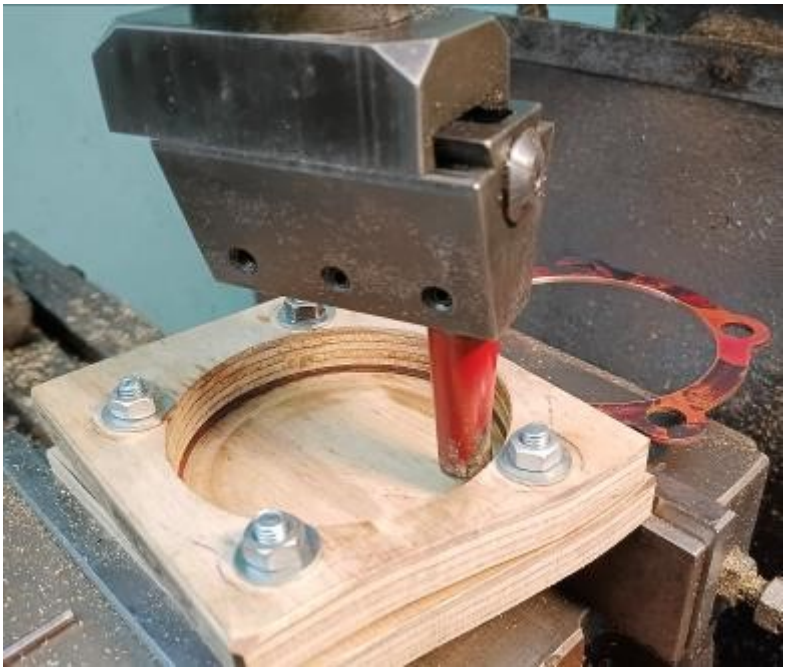
Sacrificial clamp mandrel being machined



ID being machined



OD being machined in second mandrel Photo's Regan Olivecrona



Triumph head gasket being bored out clamped between plywood held in machine vice Photo Editor

# Locomotive Karsha

After a twenty year build  period Stuart Anderson's Locomotive Karsha has turned a wheel at the Marriner Reserve Railway. A Keith Watson ( WA Australia) Lil Lima design modified to a 2-6-4 wheel arrangement by Stuart with the addition of a rear two axle truck under the fire box. Other detail design features have been incorporated into the build by Stuart to make this locomotive a true one off.  A steel boiler provides steam, with hydrostatic lubricators, a scaled down NZR chime whistle and air brakes. A younger Stuart wondered why we take so much time to build our locomotives and now he knows! The rest of your life gets in the way!
Test runs have uncovered a few issues which are being resolved as with all these projects and Stuart's confidence and smile is growing with each outing.



Resplendent with its blue paint job, a happy Stuart and locomotive Karsha.  Photo bill Krippner

With the recent purchase of a fleet of Ikon style ride cars by Stuart this consist will prove to be an excellent additional attraction for our railway operation down at the Marriner Reserve on Sunday afternoons twice a month taking some of the pressure off our other hard working passenger hauling locomotives!  Nice one Stuart.

# Other Stuff

Its that time of the year where you get pulled in all directions and hope that something sticks!
In addition to our clubs visit to Mainline Steam Trust this Saturday the 21st November you can also visit if you're quick,

- The open day at the Feilding (Taonui) Aerodrome, 10am to 3pm
- The open day at Feilding Steam Rail, Gladstone Street, Feilding. 10am to 3.30pm
- Old Iron Rally, Waipukurau Showgrounds, Sat and Sun from 9am
- Railex Model Train Show, Walter Nash Centre, Lower Hutt  Sat and Sun 10am to 5pm

As they say, stay calm you can't be everywhere at once!



Room for one last photo, this one will do. Karsha parked on the traverser.  Photo Editor

| Date and Time | Activity |
|---|---|
| Saturday 21st November 10am | End of year Gathering<br>Mainline Steam Trust, Plimmerton |
| Thursday 3rd December 7.30pm<br>Sunday 6th December 1pm to 4pm<br>Sunday 20th December 1pm to 4pm<br>Thursday 24th December | Committee Meeting<br>Marriner Reserve Railway<br>Marriner Reserve Railway<br>Full Moon |
| Sunday 3rd January 1pm to 4pm<br>Thursday 7th January 7.30pm<br>Sunday 17th January 1pm to 4pm<br>Sat & Sun 23rd - 24th January<br>Thursday 28th January 7.30 pm | Marriner Reserve Railway<br>Committee Meeting<br>Marriner Reserve Railway<br>Club 50th Birthday Celebration<br>Club Night  Project Progress |

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.