

The Generator

Issue 527
October 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 23rd October

Club Night

Bring along a Hobby Purchase you have Recently Acquired

Saturday 29th November

End of Year Gathering

A few Shed Visits and Lunch at the Barracks

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 2nd November & Sunday 16th November

Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve

Trains in operation from 1pm to 4pm

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)

Club Notices

October Club Night

Your recent hobby purchase is the theme for this club night! Models, tools, equipment, materials, books etc and as we all have more than one hobby or interest so there's plenty of scope for you to bring along something to this month's club night and tell the story associated with the item!



End of Year Gathering

The plan at this stage is to meet in Whanganui at 10am on Saturday the 29th of November at a location unknown at this stage with the intention to visit the sheds of some of our Whanganui members who like us all have various other interests of a mechanical nature as well as model engineering and perhaps a close inspection of the "Skunk" Locomotive at Steam Rail Whanganui. Lunch will be held at "The Barracks" which we all enjoyed on a previous visit a few years back. If you have intentions to join in on this club event it would be good to know the numbers so as to let the lunch venue know! So let Richard Lockett Ph 3230948 know if you are a starter.

Photo Editor



Wooden NZR JA Whistle

This beautiful wooden JA chime whistle was made by Maurice Quinn some decades ago and given to his friend Chris Saunders. Maurice was a very clever musician and craftsman as well as a railway enthusiast. He was an active member of the NZR "F" class Locomotive group in Palmerston North which existed before Feilding Steam Rail was set up. He designed and created this whistle from 6-ply plywood. He was able to put it together so that it replicated the exact musical notes of the JA chime whistle when you blew hard into the mouthpiece. Chris gave it to Bill Krippner who has the 3.5 inch gauge JA locomotive built by renowned modeller and inspiration behind the Keirunga Park Railway in Havelock North Bruce Fordyce. It was also pointed out that Bill has some grandchildren who will enjoy hearing him blow into it! Script Chris Saunders.

Photo Editor



August Club Night Report

Many years ago Dannevirke based club member the late Brian Wiffin made up a display for one of the clubs exhibitions of the different metals that we use and the surface finishes that can be obtained from different machining operations performed on them. This display was in storage for many years until being rediscovered recently where upon it occurred to the club committee that here's the basis of a club night talk!

Lawrence Brooshooft being a Toolmaker was tasked with this. The display is of mostly round pieces of bar stock of various metals and alloy's which had been faced in the Lathe and with some of the ferrous metals having ground finishes as well. Lawrence went on to explain that that's all very well for a piece of bar stock being faced but where a fine surface finish is required on a component where it is impossible to use any sort of machine process it has to be done by hand!

Lawrence then produced a component from a Plastic Injection Mould which had a row of slots in it each about 10mm x 2mm rectangles 15mm deep made using an EDM (Electronic Discharge Machining) machine tool. Most of the plastic encased items that we use around the home (computer, printer, modem etc) have an EDM finish as standard and the quality of this finish is dependant on the setting of the EDM machine when machining is being carried out ie the rate of cut. Even the very fine finish achieved in the slots machined into the mould that Lawrence had on display was not fine enough to prevent the plastic product from sticking to the mould (hanging up) when the two halves of the mould were withdrawn and the product ejected or not in this case! This is where the mould has to be polished by hand using a selection of special lapping sticks of different shapes and grit sizes and elbow grease. Lawrence explained that he would spend weeks undertaking this process!

Also some engineering items were shown. Bill Krippner had the sight glass shields for his Traction Engine project and explained that a length of flat bar stock in brass that he acquired many years ago and used on the shields was nearly all gone.

Bruce Geange had finished a couple of scratch build models of Owen Mudgeway's Peterbilt tractor and low loader trailer unit "Miss Pete".

Richard Lockett brought along a sack barrow which he had modified to motorize it with an electric motor/gearbox unit and lights so that 25kg of drum kit could be transported around the streets of

Lawrence Brooshooft with boxes of Laps for polishing plastic ejection moulds and the metal finishes display produced by Brian Wiffin many years ago.

Photo Editor



Above
The sight glass protector for Bill Krippner's Burrell Traction Engine along with an oil cup for the lubrication of a motion component.

The modified sack barrow powered by a 24volt electric motor/ gearbox driving one wheel with power supplied by a 24volt power tool battery. Mud guards fitted so as lights could be mounted with shielding from the operators eye sight!





Bruce's scratch built model of the Mudgeway's restored 1996 Peterbilt 362 Cabover "Miss Pete" hooked up to their MTE low loader. Cabover 362's were manufactured by Peterbilt in Texas USA between 1981 and 2005. Regulation change's making cabover/cab forward trucks in the USA unpopular and hence production ceased. Bear in mind that this is modelled from photo's and a few measurements in brass, aluminium and wood by Bruce! The low loader attached to the fifth wheel of the Peterbilt is a Modern Transport Engineering (MTE) model known as a wider as using the truck PTO driven hydraulics it can widen out to 3.6 metres. These trailers are manufactured in Hamilton this example also featuring a winch.

Photo's Editor



A New Grate for Locomotive W192

For some time now I've needed a new grate making up for the "W" to replace the trial Rosebud grate that I had made up to trial this style of grate with the coal that we're currently burning. The grate worked well but was only made from mild steel and was never going to last long and with a hole being slowly burnt through it the time came.

Our grates are usually made from Stainless Steel a piece of 304 grade Stainless Steel was laser cut from plate to size and I only had to drill a few 5mm diameter holes in it, 189 of them to be precise. Stainless steel can be tricky to machine due to work hardening particularly when drilling holes and the thought went through my head that I would get re-educated on that subject what ever I did so started drilling with an old drill bit not one of my good ones. Lesson-1 use a good expensive drill bit either a HSS blue point or a TI coated HSS one, as my first choice did about 4 holes before giving up! Lesson-2 fill the coolant tank up and use it to keep the temperature down! Lesson-3 keep the drill sharp don't push your luck as it can go bad reel quick. Lesson-4 run a slower speed than for mild steel. Lesson-5 sharpen the drill properly. I have an older drill doctor sharpener that I picked up at a garage sale and got that out and gave it a go but soon put it back as it disappointed me again my eye sharpening free hand did a superior job. If I got down a row of 21 holes on a sharpen I was happy and only had one hole work harden on me.



Photo Editor

Date and Time			Activity
Thursday 23th October	7.30pm		Club Night Bring along a Hobby Purchase you have recently acquired
Sunday 2nd November	1pm to 4pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 6th November	7.30pm		Committee Meeting
Sunday 16th November	1pm to 4pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Saturday 29th November	10am		End Of Year Gathering Whanganui
Thursday 4th December	TBA		Committee Meeting
Sunday 7th December	1pm to 4pm		Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday 21st December	1pm to 4pm		Marriner Reserve Railway

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