

The Generator

Issue 528
November 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.

Saturday 29th November

End of Year Gathering in Whanganui
Steam Rail Whanganui, Club Member Shed Visits,
Plus Lunch at the Barracks

Saturday 31st January 2026

New Year Fire Up
A Different Venue but the same as 2025 get your Road and Stationary
Models out of storage Small and Big and Light them up!

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 7th December & Sunday 21st December

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

Whanganui Gathering Saturday 29th November

The plan is to meet at Steam Rail Whanganui's yard in Taupo Quay at 10am. Steam Rail Whanganui have very kindly offered to open up their shed for our visit where we will be able to view their restoration efforts with various ex NZR equipment and to view the Locomotive Skunk. From there we will head down to Graeme and Janice Hall's residence for a cuppa and to see what Graeme has been producing in his workshop. From there its over to the Barracks Sports Bar for lunch and a refreshing beverage of your choice. Meals for \$20 max. We will then head up the Great North Road to visit the workshops of club members Eddie Bleackley and Richard Stevens who's addresses aren't to far apart.

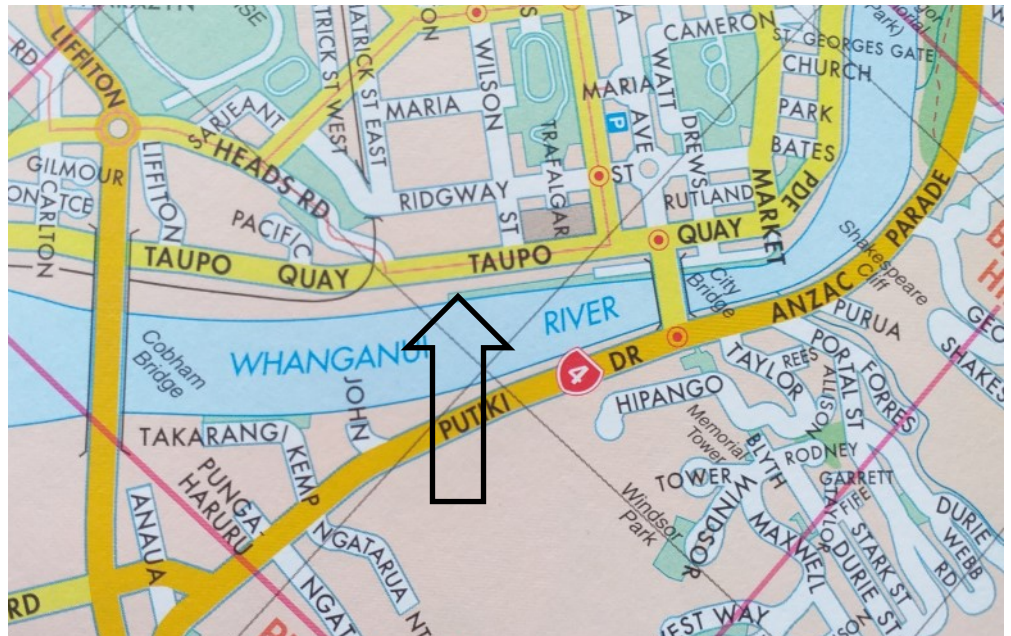
Timetable wise apart from the 10am start at Steam Rail Whanganui we should aim to be at the Barracks Sports Bar, 170 Saint Hill Street by 12.45pm at the latest.

It would be appreciated if those of you who will be journeying over to Whanganui can let Richard Lockett (06 3230948) (027 2541059) know so that a table for us all can be arranged for our lunch at the Barracks!

If you would like a rideshare over to Whanganui on the day please feel free to contact Richard also for this to be arranged!

Steam Rail Whanganui

Head into Whanganui over the Cobham Bridge, turn right at the roundabout into Heads Road, turn left onto Taupo Quay. Whanganui Steam Rail on the right just after entering Taupo Quay.



New year fire Up

Saturday 31st January 2026

The Mudgeway family have kindly offered their shed space as the venue for our 2026 Fire Up. This years event proved popular so bring your Mamod and Wilesco etc or bigger out to Ruakina Farm for the 2026 edition!

BYO barbeque and drinks PNMEC supplied hot drinks.



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October Club Night Report

The theme for October was bring along your latest hobby purchase which made for an enjoyable evening with lots of items on the table with story to be told for each!

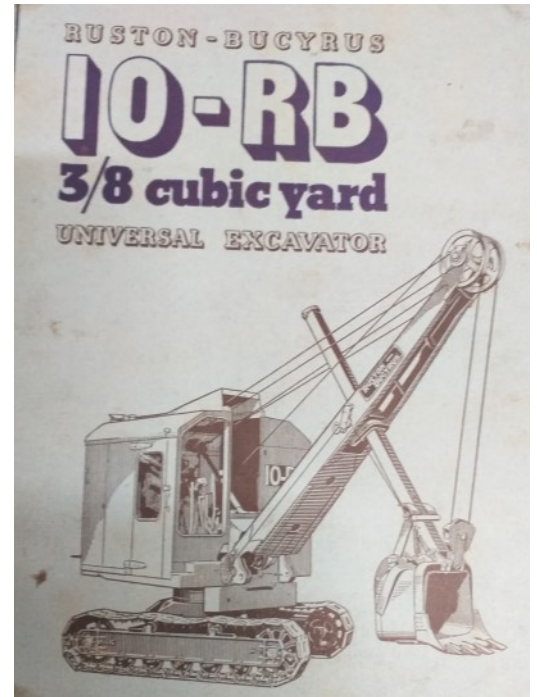
Bruce Geange had a new device which was able to read items of script from books or magazines and read them back to the user i.e. Bruce's hearing is in far better shape than his eyesight!

John Neal has a life time interest in Amateur Radio but was finding it more difficult hearing what was being said over the airwaves. Getting back into Morse Code solved this problem and had purchased a small electronic device the size of a large cell phone which allowed him to tap out the dots and dashes and send them off into the ether without the need to build a shack to house the traditional transmitters.

Kyle Mudgeway has acquired a Ruston Bucyrus Dragline Model 10-RB in 1:1 scale as a restoration project and brought along a sales brochure of the various 10-RB versions produced in the 1960's.



Alex Mudgeway has been busy 3D printing a model Traction Engine and brought along the horn plate tender assembly and the rear wheels. No one was able to identify what make of Traction Engine had been digitally scanned to provide the data but as this project progresses the breed may reveal itself! Nice paint job.



Richard had been having trouble sourcing some flat bladed pull spokes for one of his mountain bike's wheels as one had broken. The local bike shop was unable to source the real deal so he had to use the internet and was able to identify the model of wheel (Mavic Cross Ride) and get a part number for the spoke and then was able to find a supplier in Cleveland Ohio, USA who would courier 10 or so across to NZ.

Merv George was having difficulty with one of his bikes as well, this one a motor bike he is building up, the Bobber and was looking for some of the wiring connectors that are used on modern Japanese motor bikes. Not being able to source locally he found some on Temu.

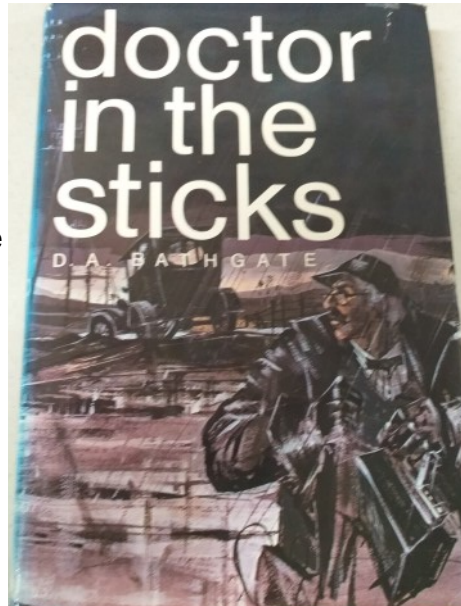


Photo's editor



Jon Mason had been to a recent vintage swap meet and was able to purchase some original equipment manufacturer (OEM) spark plugs by KLG in their original packaging as a bonus.

One of Fin Mason's relatives had worked on the Otira Tunnel project back in the day as the engineer in charge on the Otira side of the project. Upon reading a book about a doctor working on the West Coast he found reference to the engineer in it which Fin recounted the tale of when some of the workers as a practical joke decided to rob the horse and gig bringing the weeks wages to the site. They were not amused when the said engineer let rip with his revolver at them!



Regan Olivecroma gave an update on his 7.25 inch gauge Phantom Locomotive project with work centring on the production of the connecting rods specifically broaching the bore of the wheels for the quartering and getting the centre distance the same as on the locomotive frames to which Regan was happy with the results so far.



Bill Krippner is making good progress with the 4 inch scale Burrell Traction Engine and had the boiler cladding rolled to size by Owen Mudgeway. As those of us who have built Traction Engines or Railway Locomotives know getting the cut outs in the right place can be a frustrating challenge.

Photo's Editor

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday the 2nd of November saw a good muster of visitors from the Hutt Valley clubs Upper and Lower to be precise with a group from the Hawkes Bay as well bringing with them a variety of machinery with which to ride our rails. The day went well with our visitors making good use of our facilities operating their Locomotives with drivers being swapped around so all visitors were able to drive something during the day.

Sunday the 16th of November saw a delayed start to the day with a large branch from the largest tree on the reserve having broken during the gusty winds from the day before hanging across the track. This necessitated Jon Mason returning home to fetch a chainsaw to deal with the offending article. Thanks Jon. This is why we walk the track before any train movements happen as hazards arise at any time and is a reminder as to why if the wind is up on a scheduled track run Sunday we do not operate!

Jon Mason cutting up the remains of the large branch.

Photo Owen Mudgeway



That's what I said, what is that! It's a vehicle from Minecraft. Still none the wiser? Ask a young person!

Alex and Reid trying it for size.

Photo's Jon Mason



Kyle driving David Turners Britannia while Brodie takes the UP switcher for a circuit of the Marriner Reserve Railway



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Machining a Large Radius

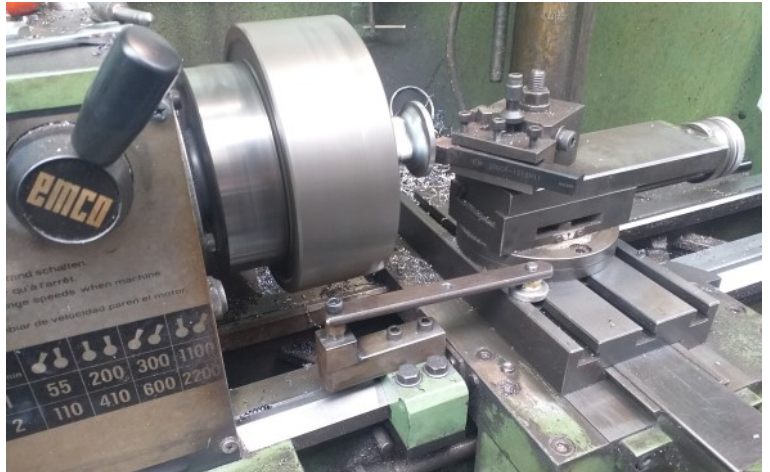
When one builds an NZR locomotive certain aspects of the build have to look right i.e. which means no short cuts they have to be scale otherwise it's not an NZR locomotive. One of those have to items are the couplings, old NZR couplings are very distinctive in appearance hence they need to look right! The face of the couplings is a convex curve of 133mm radius for my 7.25inch 184mm gauge class W192 and these couplings were made over twenty years ago, done and forgotten about! During the rubbish weather that we had served up in October progress on the tender of my NZR class U193 was advanced, things were crossed of lists until next up was drawgear/couplings. I flipped through my W192 drawings book and found that I had produced a nice dimensioned drawing of the coupling, great! This got me more motivated to get into it and the brain started to remember how I machined them and that I had made a device to machine that 133mm radius, did I still have it, what did it look like. I had a ferret around in the lathes cabinet and found some bits and pieces, a link with 2 holes 133mm apart this must be it. Happy days. Now how did it work? My Lathe being a EMCO Super 11 has some features that assist one in doing oddball machining operations, a cross slide with 3 tee slots along it length, a compound slide that can be moved along those tee slots. One of the lathes accessories is a bed stop, which came in handy for mounting the fixed pivot point for the radius link. The other end is mounted onto the tee slot on the cross slide. With the link parallel to the lathes bed the compound slide and tool are positioned to the work pieces dead centre. As the tool is traversed outwards the radius is generated.

Richard Lockett

The finished NZR coupling



Set up for turning the 133mm radius



Date and Time			Activity
Saturday	29th November	10 .00 am	End of Year Gathering Steam Rail Whanganui Plus Members Workshop Visits
Thursday	4th December	6.30pm	Committee Meeting
Sunday	7th December	1pm to 4pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday	21st December	1pm to 4pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday	4th January	1pm to 4pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday	18th January	1pm to 4pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Saturday	31st January	2.00 pm	New year Fire Up

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pnmec@trains.net.nz with **"Generator Please"** in the subject line.