

The Generator

Issue 529
January 2026



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 31st January

New Year Fire Up.
Ruakina Farm, Milson Line, Palmerston North.
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Thursday 26th February

Club Night.
Project Progress.

Marriner Reserve Railway

Sunday 1st & Sunday 15th February

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

New Year Fire Up.

This years January club gathering will be hosted by Owen and Natasha Mudgeway along with Kyle and Alex at their Milson Line property.

The theme for our Fire Up is similar to last years event which you all seemed to enjoy so once again bring along your spirit fired Cranko, Mamod, Wilesco Traction Engine, Stationary or other old or new and Fire them up! Owen's swept the floor of their workshop so there plenty of room to run them round in.

In addition to the spirit fired Traction Engines there are a few larger Traction Engines built or owned by our members so how about bringing these out also, either to display, or to run.



Bruce's Burrell and Richards Allchin Traction Engine's recently had an appointment with the boiler inspector, both passed their boiler inspections although the Allchin failed It's road test.

Photo Editor

New Year Fire Up

When Saturday the 31st January

Where Ruakina Farm Milson Line, Half way between Mangone Steam Bridge and the Kairanga Bunnythorpe Road. Orange Road Cone will be placed at entrance.

Time 2pm

BYO Food and Drinks BBQ and hot water on site.

A couple of other events which may of interest to you.

Whanganui Vintage Weekend 16th-19th January 2026

The Great Manawatu Steam Fair March 21st and 22nd

Whanganui End of Year Gathering

A number of club members took the opportunity and travelled over to Whanganui to visit some of our members who reside in the river city. Our first stop was Steam Rail Whanganui to give locomotive Skunk a good look over. Ewen Pound briefed us on the history recent and passed of the first locomotive commissioned by a New Zealand Government and built in the country by E W Mills "Lion Foundry" in Wellington in 1875. Built to run between Foxton and Palmerston North, Skunk and its sister loco's Opossum and Wallaby were not up to the task and were replaced as soon as larger loco's were available (F class). Being the first locomotive to steam into Palmerston North and it would have driven right beside the club's Marriner Reserve Railway site along Pioneer Highway. This loco is of special interest to us and it received a good going over by our club members present. By 1880 all 3 loco's had been relocated to the West Coast for work on logging tramways where Skunk was modified by the fitting of a jack shaft with reduction gearing and chain drive to the flanged wheel axles in an attempt to make it more suited to bush tramway working.



Locomotive Skunk with John Neal in retreat from perhaps a bad smell.

Photo Editor

The purchase of 3 locomotives for a government railway back in 1875 would have been a big deal with I would of thought a bit of pomp and ceremony, what possessed the authorities to name them Opossum, a disaster, Wallaby, a disaster still in the making and Skunk, really! Were they next to be introduced! I digress. Steam Rail Whanganui have a shed full of railway restoration projects in progress which we had a look over also. Thanks go to Ewen and the other Steam Rail members for opening up their shed for the PNMEC and for taking into their care the locomotive Skunk!

Our next visit was to Graeme and Janice Hall's just a couple of km's away where the jug had been boiled for morning tea. Some of Graeme's model engines had been laid out on a table in the garage next to his workshop which made for great ambiance over tea and a biscuit while Graeme held the attention of our newer club members on their first visit to his workshop and what can be achieved in a modest space with good equipment, skill, patient and being tidy.

With lunch time approaching it was then off into the city centre for a feed and a further chat at the Barracks Sports Bar. With another round of drinks we could of spent the rest of the afternoon chatting in the bar but we had appointments with Eddie and Heather as well as Richard and Sally both a few km's up the Great North Road. Eddie also didn't need to tidy up anything for our visit because its always tidy. Some of Eddie's models are of the full size scale, a Jaguar XJ6 which he has owned since 1978 and a couple of BMW motorcycles which he has recently restored all of which along with his 5inch gauge steam locomotives are presented in immaculate condition.

Just up the road, 2.4kms I was told isn't just up the road, anyway round to Richard and Sally's and a different focus with Richard's workshop as well as a bit of model engineering Richard very much likes making fine wooden furniture using native timbers to which he does a very fine job of! A separate workshop for the wood working along with treasured resources in the form of planks of timbers awaiting that next project. Apart from a bit of sawdust in Richards workshop. On conclusion there would appear to be no dust in Whanganui, nice clean air must blow in from the Tasman sea, all their dust blows over to the Manawatu! Nice one.



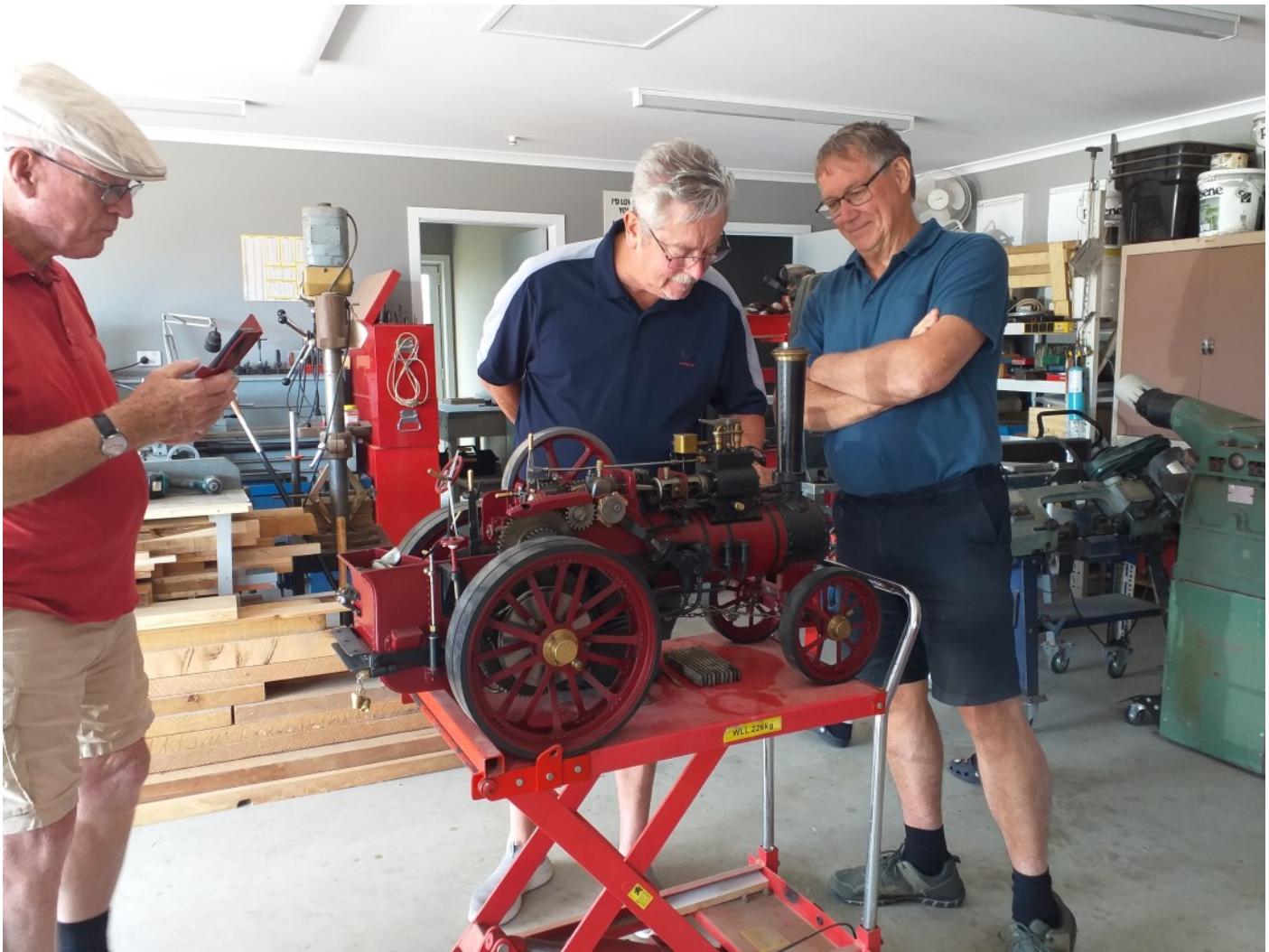
Graeme demonstrating the running of one of his many Stirling engine projects undertaken within his workshop.

Photo editor



Eddie explaining the finer points as to how to be a good man as good men get to store their model locomotives (Ex Chalk family 5 inch gauge Britannia restored and detailed) in the lounge of the family home. John felt the need to take some notes on the subject.

Photo Editor



John along with newish club members Mark Hendry and Ross Bridson admiring Richard Steven's 2 inch scale Minnie Traction Engine.

Photo editor

A 10-RB Project

Kyle Mudgeway has taken on the restoration of his own Ruston Bucyrus 10-RB drag line to compliment the family owned 10-RB that was restored a few years back. 3 10-RB's were brought down to the Manawatu from a South Auckland collector, two for restoration and one good for parts only. One for Kyle and the other for Goodman's Contactors of Waikanae. Kyle being keen has got into it getting the 3 cylinder engine going but discovering water leaks in the cooling system caused by rust and the build up of mud throughout the plumbing as well as around the engines cylinder liners. With that the radiator has been removed and repaired along with water blasting of the engines cooling passages.



The Generator



The 10-RB's 3 cylinder Ruston diesel engine in the workshop and receiving attention after many years of services
Photo's Beaver Lumber

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The 10-RB's under carriage and winch units under cover and awaiting Kyle's attention.

Date and Time	Activity
Saturday 31st January 2pm onwards	New Year Fire up Ruakina Farm Milson Line
Sunday 1st February Thursday 5th February Sunday 15th February Thursday 26th February	1pm to 4pm 7.30pm 1pm to 4pm 7.30pm
Sunday 1st March Thursday 5th March Sunday 15th March Thursday 26th March	1pm to 4pm 7.30pm 1pm to 4pm 7.30 pm

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