

# The Generator

Issue 532  
April 2026



**Palmerston Model Engineering Club**  
[www.pnmec.net.nz](http://www.pnmec.net.nz) - [pnmec@trains.net.nz](mailto: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 April**

Annual General Meeting  
The Board Room  
Palmerston Hospital

### **Thursday 28th May**

Club Night.  
Guest Speaker John Neal

## **Marriner Reserve Railway**

### **Sunday 3rd May & Sunday 17th May**

Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve  
Trains in operation from 1pm to 3pm  
Weather permitting (Richard Lockett 027 2541059)

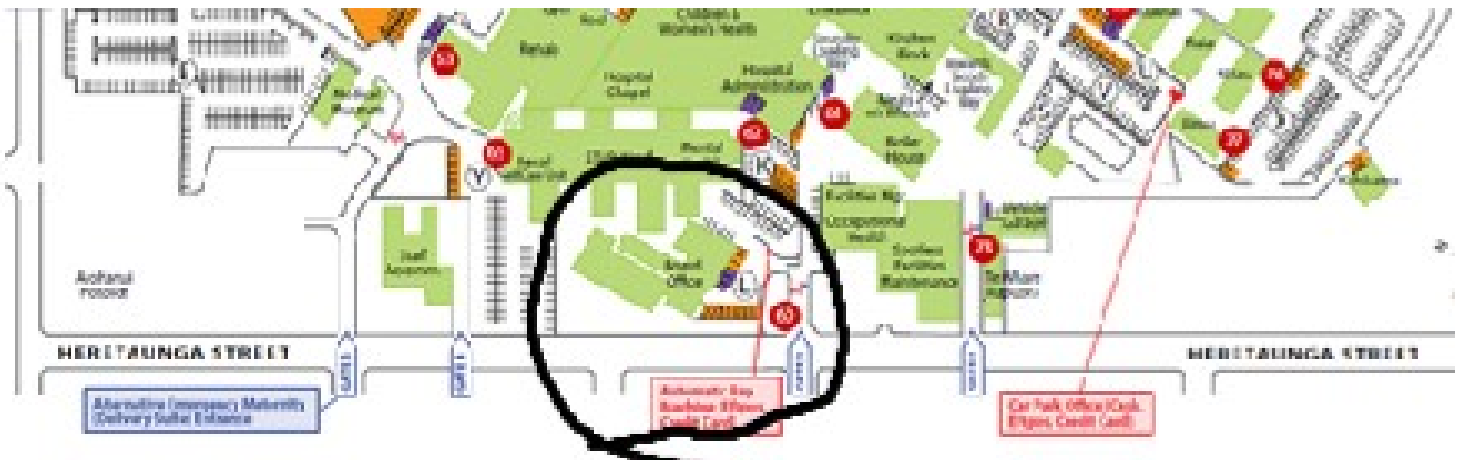
### **Thursdays**

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

## Club Notices

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Palmerston North Model Engineering Club will be held on Thursday the 23rd of April 2026 in the Board Room at the Palmerston North Hospital starting at 7.30pm. Gate 2 Heretaunga Street, Palmerston North.



At the conclusion of the AGM we will have a look at construction toys! Most of us would have had the use of a construction toy during our formative years, maybe briefly or what would turn out to be a lifetime hobby. We're talking of Lego, Meccano, Buz Builder, Technics, Junior Engineer, Vex Robotics to name a few common products, but there's possibly a few I don't know of or have forgotten about.

If you still model with your construction toy build a model and bring it along.

If you are a collector of construction toy sets, vintage or new etc bring some along or if you have something that is new and exciting bring it along and speak to it



### Club Night 28th May

Club member John Neal has led an interesting life starting out as a diesel mechanic in the Marlborough Region of the South Island. Upon gaining his pilots licence and a change in his career path allowed John to work in Labrador Canada, Piper Cub and Cessna 180's becoming his work vehicles. These experiences probably helped John in becoming recruited into the RNZAF as the base Chaplain at the Ohakea and Woodbourne Airbase's.



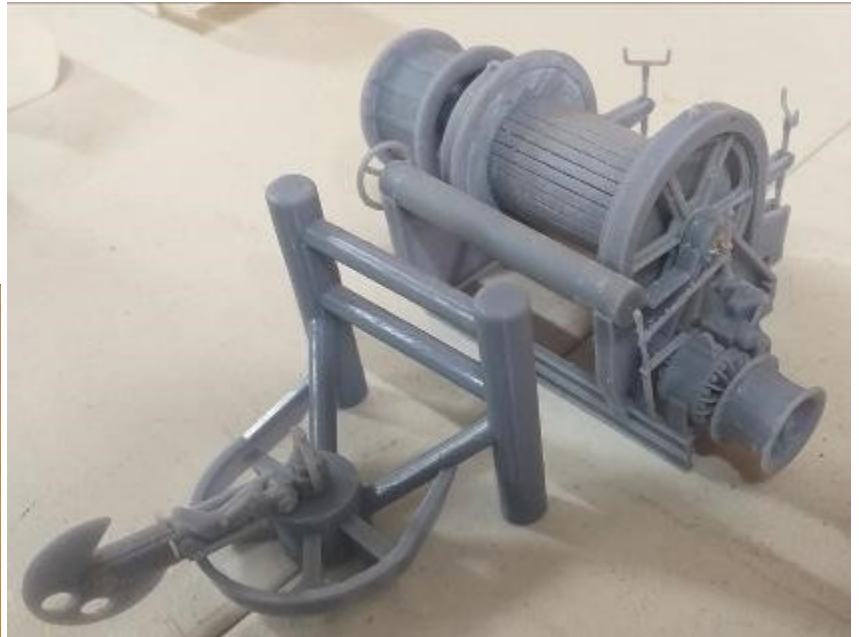
Aeroplanes and Bulldozers can take you on journeys to places unknown when set off to work in the morning!  
Photo's Editor

## March Club Night Report

It would appear that a few of our members have 3D printers at hand and have projects on the go utilising them. Like any modern computerised machine tool taking the time to become competent in the use of Fusion 360 or a similar computer aided design software allows you to design and print your own designs rather than print off a shared file of another persons work. Our guest for the evening Richard Sheehan is currently modelling a Wellington Harbour Board Tug from a few years back and was 3D printing the winch units which sit atop the deck. Richard explained how the winch was modelled from photos supplied by people from within the marine heritage and marine hobby groups via Facebook posts requesting photo's and information on the specific tug and winch manufacturer. Getting the scale right is the tricky part when going off photo's but once the CAD design is done it can be scaled up or down with a few mouse button presses to print off another one!

Getting the detail right is important for most of us when modelling heritage machinery. Even if competent the detail on Richards's winch looks like an awful lot of CAD time!

Photo editor



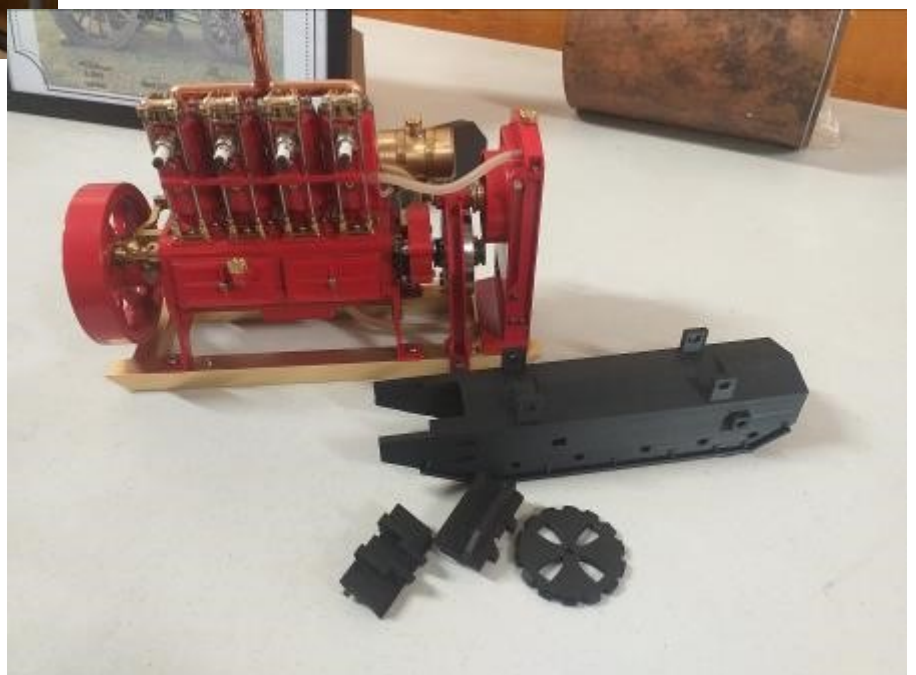
Alex Mudgeway pictured had been printing a model of a Bakers Fan which were used to provide a load when determining the rated horse power of steam engines by some manufactures.

Photo editor



Kyle Mudgeway had purchased a working model of the original Holt diesel engine and was 3D printing the parts necessary to build up a Holt crawler tractor into which the engine will be fitted. Shown: the track frame, sprocket and grouser plates.

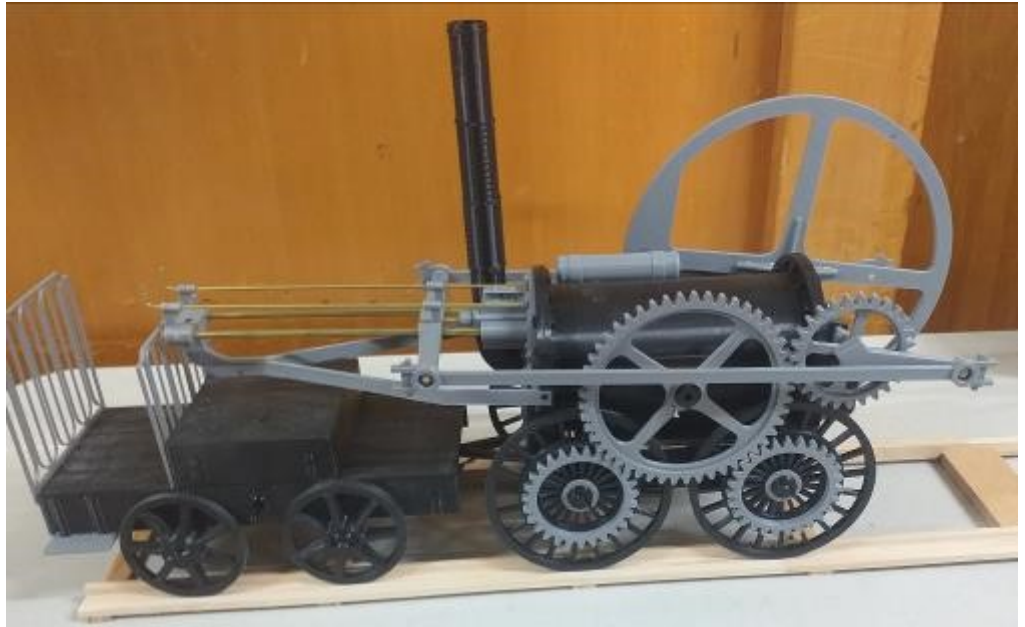
Photo editor



**The Generator**

Bruce Geange's grandson had 3D printed a model of Richard Trevithick's "New Castle" locomotive of 1804 as a present. Bruce decided to give it an upgrade by fitting an electric motor in there somewhere to make it move, which it did!

Photo editor



David Bell demonstrated what can be done when 3D printing is used in conjunction with medical imaging technology. A pen and pencil holder printed from someone's scan! He didn't admit to it being his.

Photo editor

Working from NZR drawings Stuart Anderson had fabricated a part of the chime whistle in brass for his locomotive project, a Wato Locomotive Works "Mogul" modified to a 2-6-4 tank locomotive. Air receivers ex small propane gas bottles modified and to be fitted under the loco's running boards were also shown off by Stuart.

Photo Jon Mason



The Generator

## Marriner Reserve Railway

With a wet forecast for the weekend the decision was made to order 4 metres of concrete for 10am Wednesday 25th of March. The plan all along was to use Owen Mudgeway's little front end loader tractor to convey the concrete from the mixer truck to our worksite, this worked very well. The team of about 9 club members had to work fast as it was a hot day and the concrete was going off quickly. Good to get it laid! Placed, vibrated, screeded twice, wooden floated, steel floated, radius edge tool, oops to late for that, gone too hard.

The work doesn't stop there as all the tools and the tractor bucket have to be cleaned before the concrete sets on them as well but with a good crew this was achieved.



A week later the formwork or boxing was removed before Owen, using his little Cat excavator scraped the soil to the level of the new

concreted alignment the excess material used to fill in some hollow spots elsewhere around the reserve. The concrete needed another week of drying before we wanted to drill holes in it for the sleeve anchors used to secure the track back down. The decision was made to return the next day with a couple of chainsaws, Jon and Owen and deal to the remains of the willow tree trunks which had been left on the reserve by the arborist contractors back in January. These were ringed up and quartered before being placed at the Duff Crescent roadside hoping that someone would remove them for us! At the same time using the little front end loader tractor of Owen's the remaining truck load of mulch was distributed around the reserve's shrubbed areas. This morning of work proved to be of great satisfaction to those involved, back to having a tidy reserve to be proud of!



Top photo editor  
Concreting work, placing, vibrating and screeding.  
Left photo Jon Mason  
Alex tapping in the gold rail spike, a zinc yellow passivate sleeve anchor.

Thursday the 9th of April saw the tracks relayed which had been prepped over the last few weeks by Doug Chambers and John Neal by being cleaned up, drilled for repositioned sleeve anchors, a coat of cold galv paint before having new 5mm ex conveyor belt packings glued onto the under side of the sleeper plates. 42 metres of straight track equates to 7 lengths and to get these fastened to the concrete bed we set up the auto level at one end and using the staff on the rail edge starting at the far end ran along the sections to position then. This seemed to work ok either that or a string line. With the rails firmly in place it was “so when do we get to test it?” With a cyclone on its way Saturday the 11th April was to be it. Locomotives of all three gauges tested the new alignment and the repaired sections and the railway was given the thumbs up as operational again! A big thanks to all of you who turned up over the last 3 months to assist with all the Mahi. Well done. With some decent rain over the past week the Marriner Reserve is looking great again!



Looking after the locals. Two days and it had all gone  
Photo Editor



Bill and Wendy Krippner testing out the Pioneer Bank with locomotive Thomas. Photo Jon Mason

Date and Time		Activity
Thursday 23rd April	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting The Board Room Palmerston North Hospital
Sunday 3rd May	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 7th May	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Sunday 17th May	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 28th May	7.30pm	Club Night Guest speaker John Neal
Thursday 4th June	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Sunday 7th June	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Sunday 21st June	1pm to 3pm	Marriner Reserve Railway
Thursday 25th June	7.30 pm	Club Night Quiz Night

If you would like to be notified when this newsletter is published, send us an email with your **Name, Club** and **Email** address to [pnmec@trains.net.nz](mailto:pnmec@trains.net.nz) with “**Generator Please**” in the subject line.