

The Generator

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Palmerston Model Engineering Club
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Managers of the Marriner Reserve Railway - Marriner Street - Palmerston North
PO Box 4132 - Manawatu Mail Centre - Palmerston North 4442

The Palmerston North Model Engineering Club **Upcoming Club Events**

Club Nights held at the Hearing Association Hall 435 Church Street,
Palmerston North 7.30 pm

25 February

Club Night

Electrical Safety

Robert Edwards will host a discussion around the use of portable electrical equipment i.e. Power tools and leads. Robert will demonstrate the process of tagging an item of equipment using specialised equipment and his extensive experience gained working in the electrical contracting industry. Please bring something for Robert to test

Marriner Reserve Railway

7 March & 21 March

Railway operations at the Mariner Reserve
Trains in operation from 1pm to 4pm
Weather permitting (Kerry Puklowski 06 353 6189)

Thursdays

Railway operations for club members
Subject to ongoing track maintenance and weather
Contact track manager (Richard Lockett 06 323 0948)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The new year finds the club in a position where we are once again having to adjust the way we do things to combat the ravages of time.

Murray Bold has been the clubs webmaster for a long time and since he adopted this role the club has benefited from his dedication, knowledge, and skill. Murray has tirelessly maintained the clubs web site, and managed the accompanying email system. The club has grown to rely on this arrangement, but unfortunately this dependence cannot continue, and the club is going to have to stand on its own two feet. Here is where the situation gets complicated, because we don't have another person with the skills required in house.

To circumvent this problem the committee has decided to redevelop the web site into a form that can be maintained by people with very limited IT knowledge. This process can be likened to pruning a bush in your garden. Over time this bush has grown into something that can no longer be maintained, and now it must be cut back to allow it to grow into something more manageable.

When facing this challenge, it must be remembered that we are a small club with an ageing membership, and over reaching with this redevelopment could have a detrimental effect on the operating costs of the club. This would precipitate an increase in our membership subscription and this has to be avoided. Hence the new web site will be a scaled down version of the present system, it will look different, and may not have all the features of the existing one. This redevelopment has already started using a tame technician from outside the club to carry out the technical work. If all goes well the transition from old to new should be relatively seamless, but if there are problems along the way, the committee does have contingency plans in place to keep information flowing out to the membership.

KEEP HEALTHY and KEEP BUILDING

David Bell

Wanted to Buy

Bench lathe, of English, American or maybe even Aussie manufacture, something compatible with a Boxford, Hercus, Parkinson etc.

Must have a long bed.

Contact Fin Mason at fmason@inspire.net.nz



END OF YEAR FUNCTION

On the 28th November a hardy group of members and guests braved a beautiful summers day to enjoy the sights of Feilding. The number of members present steadily increased as the day progressed, a product of the good weather, an interesting itinerary, and the opportunity to meet old friends.

The first destination of interest was the Feilding Steam Rail Society to view the locomotive and carriage restoration work being undertaken. A walk through the locomotive repair workshop gave members a first hand opportunity to see the extent of the work required to overhaul a steam locomotive. Fortunately this visit coincided with programmed work so staff were on hand and able to discuss the challenges posed by undertaking work of this magnitude in today's society where the old skills are in desperately short supply. Following this the group ventured into the carriage rebuild workshop where the predominantly wooden superstructure of old rolling stock is rebuilt. The skilled workmanship on display was impressive and is a testament to the dedication of this volunteer organisation.



NZR Wab 794 is undergoing a significant rebuild in the Feilding Steam Rails workshop

There is nothing like the sight of heavy metal and the smell of old steam oil to stimulate the male appetite. To meet this need the group then moved into Feilding for lunch where conversation was the main order of the day.



New Cow Catchers are being fabricated for the Wab to the specifications as per the last NZR drawings produced for this item

Freshly white metallised big end brasses awaiting boring to size, possibly waiting for the pins to be ground so that the size is known?



Following lunch, the next destination was the Coach House Museum, an establishment run by a volunteer organisation recording and showing the history of the region. Here the group viewed the comprehensive collections showing aspects of the pioneering life. Of interest to many members was a collection of vintage tractors and farm machinery all meticulously restored. Included in this was a comprehensive collection of vintage John Deere Tractors. Some of this machinery is very rare, however, all these tractors on display are operational. They are regularly started by their support team to maintain their working status. Overall this proved to be a most enlightening visit and culminated with an afternoon tea. This part of the afternoon went on for quite some time with members talking about their experiences of the day.



A life size diorama of a blacksmith at his forge swinging on the long wooden lever which operates the bellows supplying oxygen to the burning coals

Another life size diorama of a couple of bushman boiling the Billy in preparation for a hard day of toil



Overall the day must be classified as successful and extremely enlightening. Attached are photographs taken during these visits. Unfortunately the lighting within the museum did not support photography so only a small number of photographs could be taken of the wide range of exhibits present.

A special thanks must go out to club members Chris Morton, Richard Lockett, Stuart Anderson and Liam Puklowski for organising this successful and very enlightening day. Thanks must also be extended to Feilding Steam Rail and the Coach House Museum for the effort they put into making our visit such a success.

Article David Bell. Photographs Bruce Geange & David Bell.

[Club Day at Marriner Reserve](#)

PNMEC held a club only day at the Marriner Reserve Railway on Saturday the 13th of February and with good weather supplied along with plenty of tea, coffee and good banter an enjoyable day ensued. With no public train rides being offered the opportunity was taken to give some of our newer club members the experience of driving a steam locomotive. Graeme Hall had four radial aero engines on display and the days highlight for me was the firing up of Graeme's Snow gas pipeline pumping engine which I hadn't seen in operation before.



Doug's School's, Ian's Maisie, Liam's Princess Marina and Richard's Black Five. 3.5 inch gauge locomotives on display in the steaming bays.



The stunning Bruce Fordyce built NZR Ja 1267 returned to the Marriner Reserve Railway for a visit after a thirty plus year absence, thank you Bill Krippner.



Michael and Alex Philipp having a spell behind the "W"

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