

# The Generator

Issue 461  
November 2019



**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

### Saturday 23 November 2019 Foxton Outing Pages 5 & 6

The club will be visiting a variety of venues in Foxton on the Saturday afternoon. Current plans are to start at the Windmill at 1pm, moving on to the Mavtech Film museum, Flax museum, History museum in Library, New Whirokino Trestle and Manawatu River Bridge.

Finishing with dinner at the RSA after 5:30pm.

Please take pages 5&6 on the day for opening times.

### 23 January 2020

President's BBQ. This will be at Robert and Margaret's again.

The January issue of the newsletter will have more details.

### 27 February 2020

We are back at the Hearing Association Rooms in Church Street. Those that went to the Hamilton Convention will give the members a report on what went on. We will also have a "Show and Tell" on what you have done over the previous 3-4 months.

## **Inclement Weather on Run Days**

If the weather looks a bit rough, squally, wet, wild or just iffy on the morning of a regular Sunday Run Day and you are wondering if trains will be running; then phone **Kerry Puklowski** and he will let you know if running is going ahead or has been cancelled. **Kerry 027-220-9030 or (06) 353-6189**

# What's on this month and in the future PNMEC Club Calendar

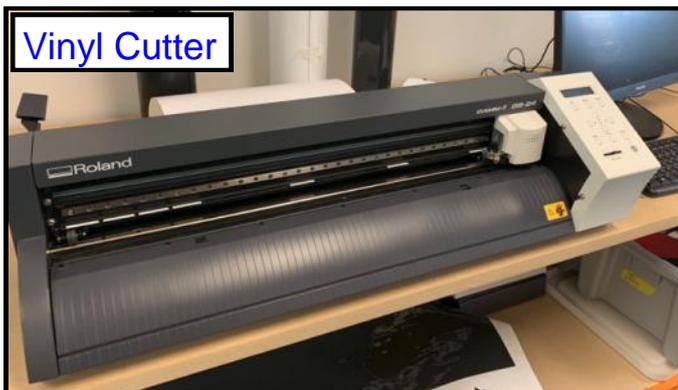
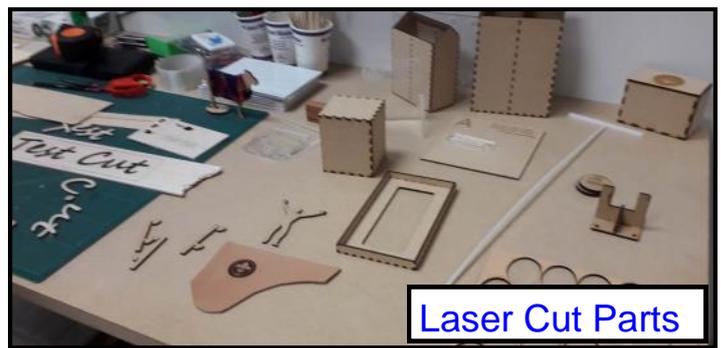
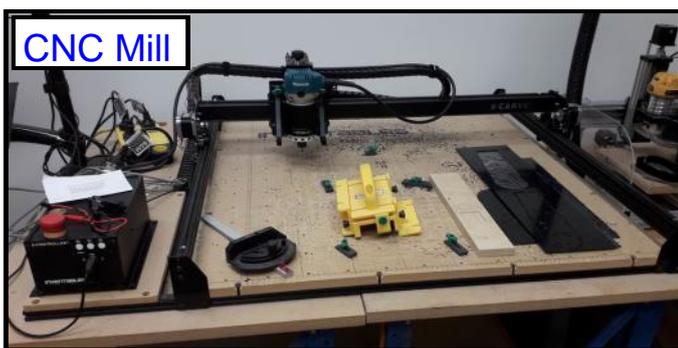
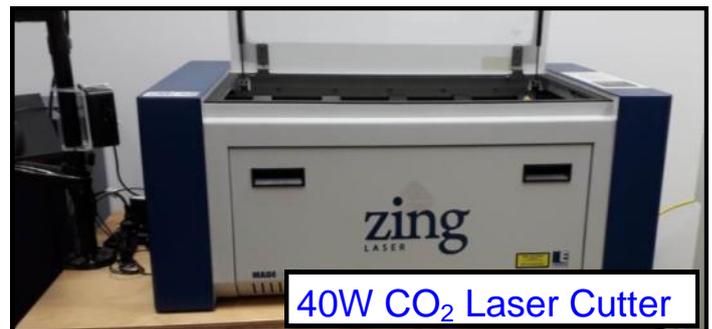
**Track running at  
Marriner Reserve  
Railway**

Dec	1 <sup>st</sup>	1pm - 4pm
Dec	15 <sup>th</sup>	1pm - 4pm
Jan	5 <sup>th</sup>	1pm - 4pm
Jan	19 <sup>th</sup>	1pm - 4pm

## Club Night 24 October 2019

This meeting was held at Blueprint, the Palmerston North City Library Makerspace facility. This is situated on the ground floor of the City Library building facing the square. (Where the Public Trust office used to be.) Access is directly off the Square and is not available to the public from inside the library.

The resources available include sewing equipment, several 3D printers, a laser cutter, CNC routers, vinyl cutters, a heat press, and much more.



It is a space where those who have ideas about things they want to make but do not have the resources can come use an extensive range of gear at a nominal cost (materials only).

There are a number of computers (Both PC and Mac) which can be used for the preliminary work on a project and the ones I looked at had an impressive range of appropriate software. Often the output can be downloaded onto a disc or thumb drive for transfer to the dedicated computers attached to much of the equipment.

There are also a number of electric/electronic work stations where basic electronic items can be assembled. Harley, the staff member who gave a short introduction and left us to explore for ourselves is a real enthusiast about the Makerspace concept and I got the impression that he is a real driving force behind the development and maintenance of the facility. One of the spaces was an area where various small electronic modules could be connected to make various items. For example, a basic power module can be connected to a slide power controller which in turn can be connected to a number of different end modules such as a small motor or a bank of coloured LED lights. The modules connect using magnets which hold the necessary electrical contacts in the correct orientation. A very clever idea.

For those members of the club who were not at this meeting this facility is well worth a visit. It is closed Sunday through Tuesday and open Wednesday 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 11 am to 8 pm, Friday 10 am to 5 pm and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm.

There is also a web site on the City Library File Server which can be accessed at: <https://citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz/pnlibraries/blueprint>

## Stan Compton's Letter from England

A short coach trip to the peak district in Derbyshire included a visit to the [Crich Tramway Village](#). About twenty tramcars, some under restoration, seen from a viewing area. A museum of tramcar history is a recent addition. I had no idea the volume of horse-muck that had to be removed from our city streets before the advent of the electric tramcar from the USA to the UK.

Steam hauled trams did not survive for long. The quality of restoration of the trams was impressive. The one we rode on had its body in use as a holiday cottage for many years before recovery. It all took me back to the 1930's when my uncle took me with him to buy some fishing tackle. Later we did not catch anything in the canal.

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[Chatsworth House Trust](#) was also on our itinerary. Like many such properties it is not cheap to visit being one of the tourist highlights in the UK. We spent our time walking in the grounds this second visit. The last time I found some old sections of steel pipe with bolted flanges fitted for high pressure use, probably for one of the fountains supplied with water from a canal some distance away. I did wonder now the slabs of rock were put in place years ago to form a rockery with just manual labour and shear legs. The result is so weathered you would think that nature formed it that way. The famous Cascade, a series of rock steps for water to

flow down, was not in use due to our dry summer. It was built 300 years ago to entertain the wealthy. A fountain plays 100ft high with pressure supplied from a canal at a higher elevation when there is no water shortage. Near the rockery there used to be a massive greenhouse. It got neglected during WWI and had to be demolished. The footings are still there.

One thousand staff are employed in the house and grounds. These include the farm workers. Some of the ground staff unloaded perforated steel plates half inch thick, girls as well, two to lift and put in place to form a base on a lawn maybe for a marquee.

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Another place of interest was high up in the peak district called Castleton. Nearby is Treak Cliff Cavern worked for a rock called Blue Stone for over 300 years. Guided tours are available to see the most abundant veins of [Blue John Stone](#) in the world . An interesting museum of farming in this area is located in the town, also shops with examples of jewellery incorporating Blue John Stone. Hold tight to your bankcard!

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Hereford M.E.S. had a day out at [Statfold Barn Railway](#) Tamworth in the midlands. A private railway of two-foot gauge. Entrance by ticket obtained from the internet. They only have three Open Days annually. The quality of restoration is unbelievable on all the twenty locomotives in steam. The restored tram-car and petrol powered rail-car The Flying Goose from the USA had queues to ride on them. The group took over the rights of the firm Hunslet & Co and can restore or rebuild any make of narrow-gauge locomotives. Well equipped workshops open to visitors, all very clean and tidy. A sign of good tradesmen on site.

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An item of news described an English farmer who built a short course to race sheep on, complete with knitted Jockeys on their backs and mini-fences to jump over. All in fun with visiting animals. It was on TV and the sheep seemed quite happy. Now it is considered cruel and should be banned.

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My sister lived on King Island in the Bass Strait between Tasmania and Australia. There are hundreds of graves of immigrants heading for Melbourne. They were almost there when their ship foundered in a storm.

**As this is the last “Generator” for the year  
Have a Happy Holiday Season**

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.org.nz](mailto:pnmec@trains.org.nz) with “**Generator Please**” in the subject line.

# PNMEC Day Out

1:00pm - **Saturday 23 November, Main Street, Foxton.**

Meet at the De Molen Windmill, You can't miss it. Big thing with large sails.

Behind the Windmill is the Flax Stripping Museum. Open 10am - 4pm

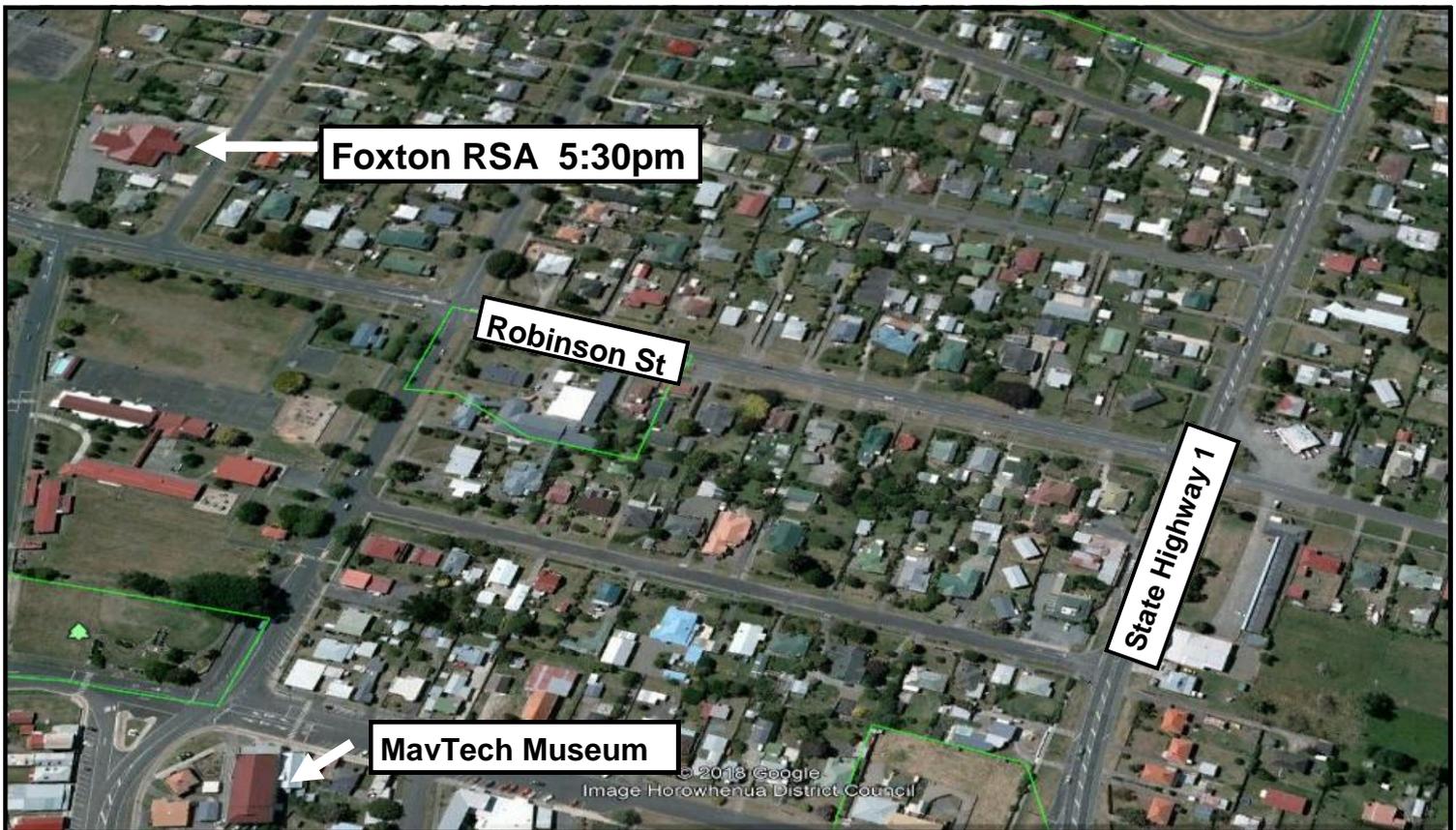
Beside this is the Arts and Crafts Centre. Open 1 - 3 pm

The MavTech Museum is on the corner of Main and Park Streets.

This is open 2 - 4pm.



If we have time, we can go and check out the new SH1 bridge. This is about 4 km south on SH1. Go to the south end of the Whirokino Trestle and turn left to go under the bridge and head to the boat club. You should be able to get a view of the project along there.



We are due at the Foxton RSA soon after 5:30pm. The Foxton RSA is in Easton Street. There is plenty of parking at the back of the RSA, off Robinson Street. See you all there after 5:30pm for drinks and dinner. (At your Cost).



De Molen Dutch Windmill



MavTech Audio Visual Museum



Flax Stripper Museum

**Have a Great Day**