



Newsletter of THE PALMERSTON NORTH MODEL ENGINEERING CLUB INC
Managers of the "MARRINER RESERVE RAILWAY"
Please address all correspondence to :- PO Box 4132, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442

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October 2017
No 438

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TRACK RUNNING

This is held on the FIRST and THIRD Sunday of each month, from 1 pm to 4 pm Summer and 1 pm to 3 pm during the Winter. All club members are welcome to attend and help out with loco coaling, watering and passenger marshalling - none of the tasks being at all difficult. We may even offer you a cuppa.

Visiting club members are always welcome at the track, at the monthly meeting, or if just visiting and wishing to make contact with members, please phone one of the above office bearers.

Sender:- PNMEC
PO Box 4132
Manawatu Mail Centre
Palmerston North 4442

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If you have been affected by the Vodafone email change, please let us know your new address so we can update your email address for continued delivery of **"The Generator"**

This Months Feature



Sunday afternoon at the track

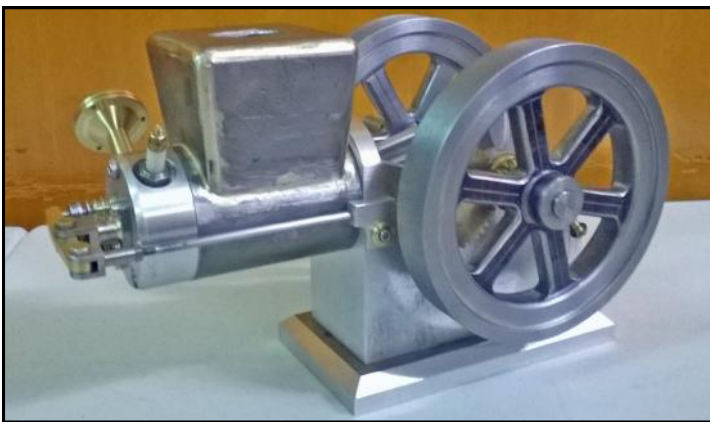
Report on the September Meeting.

Much of the September meeting was taken up by **Robert Edward's** illustrated talk on the trip he and Margaret took recently to Alaska and the parts of Canada. This included a trip by rail through the Canadian Rockies to Lake Louise. Their trip also included a cruise which left from Whittie, the deepwater port for Anchorage. The journey from Anchorage to Whittier involves a 5-mile tunnel which is only a single lane so traffic is one way for each hour. To further complicate matters the tunnel also has a railroad track so all traffic has to wait for the train to proceed.

A highlight of the cruise was a stop at Skagway, Alaska which is the coastal terminus of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad. This railway was built during the latter stages of the Klondike gold rush in 1898. It was a commercial enterprise but operations were suspended in 1982 due to low mineral prices. However it was reopened in 1988 as a scenic railway and Robert and Margaret took an excursion train from Skagway to Carcross in the Yukon territory. The video they showed had some of the history and also some contemporary footage of the line.

The meeting closed with a small offering of two items in the bits and pieces section.

Graeme Hall showed his work-in-progress on an internal combustion portable barn engine. This has a vacuum operated inlet valve and cam operated exhaust valve.



Phillip Bealing had a small lathe that he had begun restoring which he was offering to anyone

who wanted to take it on. I was tempted but I have far too many partially completed projects already.

October Meeting

This will be held at 7.30pm on the 26th of October in the Hearing Association Rooms, Church Street, Palmerston North.

Last chance of the year to show off your **Bits and Pieces**.

Bring along your projects, interesting items, anything you would like to demonstrate, show, display or present. We look forward to some interesting discussions, debates and exchanges of ideas.

COMING EVENTS

Track running at Marriner Reserve Railway

November	5 th	1pm-4pm
November	19 th	1pm-4pm

Club End of Year Dinner

PN Cosmopolitan Club
22 Linton Street
Palmerston North

Thursday 23 November 2017

Drinks 6pm Dinner 7pm

The cost is \$25 per person. (Pay as you arrive.)

They also have a licensed bar for you to purchase innervating liquids.

Bring the family and join us for a relaxing lead into the summer.

We look forward to seeing you there.

We need to give the restaurant an idea of numbers.

Please let us know if you plan to attend and how many there will be in your party.

Murray 326-9665, engineer@inspire.net.nz
Cynthia, 354-7100, cynthia@trains.net.nz

The closing date for the next issue of The Generator is Friday 10th November

Internet Email Changes.

As Vodafone is giving up its email service there will be an impact on the delivery of **“The Generator”**.

Those members with :-

@vodafone.net.nz

@vodafone.co.nz

@ihug.co.nz

@wave.co.nz

@quik.co.nz

@pconnect.co.nz

@paradise.net.nz

@clear.net.nz and @es.co.nz

email addresses will need to advise us of your new email address for continued delivery of your newsletter.

There are 17 PMMEC Members and 11 other modellers we send emails to, when **“The Generator”** is available online.

There are also 7 clubs with their contacts on the **MEANZ** website. Please update your email address with the update link.

Letter from England

Stan Compton

On visiting our local clock repairer I found an item called “Trench Art” in the antique trade, a propeller hub from WWI. It had been cut down and bored out to hold a round spring driven clock of good quality. Stamped on the face of the hub was the name “Boulton and Paul Ltd” followed by a code number and also “Beardmore Co Ltd” and a code number. Now could that be the make and model of the aircraft and its engine?

To add decoration the fitter had added twelve .303 cartridge cases in a circle. The owner had asked for a quote for an overhaul of the time piece which had a Swiss escapement fitted to an English movement. Incidentally “Trench Art” was made in the armourer’s workshop. The trenches of WWI were due to the old generals who did not believe in commando tactics and fought a war of attrition.

You never know what will be made of a

model. Years ago I used to buy corks from a shop in Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham to replace worn out ones in clutch plates. You could buy cork of every description there, in the shop window was a model of a Coach with four horses.

It didn’t occur to me what a tricky job that would have been to make. In those days I could even buy Emery Powder and Bead Glue to refurbish polishing mops, Borax for brazing motor-cycle frames, and also Whale Oil for hardening steel. The shop was called “Drysalters”. Behind the counter were banks of drawers containing a variety of supplies, just like the location of the Ronnie Barker sketch “Four Candles”. Those were the days when Birmingham was known as the City of a Thousand Trades.

I was foreman for a firm who specialised in repairing smashed motor-cycle frames and forks. We repaired anything and overhauled engines and gearboxes. During our lunch break I built a motor scooter for my wife.

One day a variety artist brought a Trick-Cycle frame to me for repair, but he wanted to watch me do the job because he had built the bike as a young man in the USA. Now in his fifties metal fatigue had set in. He was so pleased with the repair he peeled a One-Pound note off a roll of notes in his pocket as a tip. You can multiply that by forty now to allow for inflation.

In a lifetime in engineering, acquaintances seem to think I should be pleased to repair domestic items for them, old toasters, and lawn mowers spring to mind. “That toaster must have been a wedding present Ron?” “Yes it’s been a good one.” “Well it’s worn out, buy her a new

one.”

I knew of a manager of a firm in Auckland who sent a cheap can opener down to the welding shop to cut new teeth on the winder. It was sent back with the money to buy a new one!

Another version of the creation . . .

On the first day, God created the dog and said: 'Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years.'

The dog said: 'That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll

give you back the other ten?' So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said: 'Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span.'

The monkey said: 'Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?' And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said: 'You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will

Using the Club Library

The library is a great resource of information and is readily available. We currently have over 166 main items plus many years of “Model Engineer” magazines.

Here is how to use the Library:-

If you don't have internet access phone Merv on 06 323 2509 to arrange a viewing or to book out an item.

If you have internet access then go to www.pnmecc.org.nz web site

1. (Click on) Member Database
2. Log in (If you haven't already done so you may need to register – password etc.)
3. Library
4. Search (& request a book)
5. Select a book, DVD or Video. Search through the listings and when you find the required item
6. Request this book. An email will be sent to the Librarian. He will contact you to arrange delivery of the book to you.



Hey wasn't that easy!! Unlike other Libraries ours doesn't have a time limit (within reason) so no hurry to finish all that wealth of knowledge

To return the book simply contact the Librarian to arrange return of the item. Deliveries and returns can often be done on a club night – easiest. However if you can't wait or need to view the various items available contact the librarian to arrange a time. He lives about 20 minutes out of Palmerston North, or 10 minutes out of Feilding – great for a drive in the country side.

Librarian: Merv George, Ph 06 323 2509

give you a life span of sixty years.'

The cow said: 'That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?' And God agreed

On the fourth day, God created man and said: 'Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years.'

But man said: 'Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty !'

'Okay,' said God, 'You asked for it.'

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family.

For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren.

And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Sounds plausible.....



There are still 8 outstanding subs. Please pay the treasurer as soon as possible to remain a financial member.



John Tweedie Past Treasurer.

My fascination with steam locos and railways began when I was 8 years old and my family moved to Stratford. My Dad had a teaching job at the high school. This was in 1950 and we had to stay in the Empire Hotel because there was no house available. In those days the station in Stratford was adjacent to the main street in the centre of town. After school, I would go over to the station and cadge rides on the footplate of the tank engine that was used for shunting. In those days there was also a wye where the branch line to Taumarunui originated and I could sometimes get a ride on one of the larger engines that was being turned around. Eventually I managed to talk one of the crews that manned the daily return goods train to take me on the footplate to Taumarunui and back, a whole day's trip. My Dad was pretty doubtful about this but I managed to convince him I would be OK. It was a great trip.

After this I became tied up in school and University and PhD studies in California and Wisconsin. However, I was always keen on railway engineering and when I returned to NZ to work at Massey University it was always at the back of my mind that model engineering would be a great hobby. Eventually I enrolled in a hobby engineering night school program

at what was then the Manawatu Polytech. I found I could spend three hours on a Thursday evening totally engrossed in the small projects I did there and after this I bought a small Taiwanese lathe.

However I did not have a workshop in the house I lived in then and also my job at Massey left little time for hobbies so I did not progress very much until I retired and purchased a mill as a retirement present to myself. I was now able to spend more time on my hobby and at this stage I joined the model engineers. This was a great help as everyone was most helpful and I made several small models which ran quite well.

I aspired to owning a steam loco myself and started on a 3.5 scale Shay locomotive but I soon realized that I needed to buy a loco that I could use while I was building the Shay. I had always admired Ken Nielsen's locos but found that he could not be parted with any that he had built himself. I eventually persuaded him to sell me his Simple Mallet tank locomotive that he had purchased from Paul Newton, the builder, some years earlier. The feature of the loco that most caught my eye was the steam pump that Ken had made and fitted to the loco. My progress as a driver was quite slow and for the last three years the loco has been out of service due to a low water mishap with the boiler. This was largely due to my inattention while public running at the national convention in Christchurch. I found that the pressure to keep up with the number of passengers was very distracting. In fact it was this experience that made me understand why Richard Lockett only runs his loco on the first and last days of the conventions when the pressure of the public is much less.

This repair has taken me much longer than I should have but the end is now in sight. Doug. Chambers very kindly

offered to do the actual boiler repair as this job was well out of my skill level. The repaired boiler is now back in place and most of the loco has been repainted and should be back on the track soon. I would like to thank the members of PNMEC for their friendship and much appreciated help during my membership of the club. Everyone has been very patient with me and the friendships I have made have been very important to me in my retirement. The Thursday morning track sessions are a highlight of my week. When I joined I was loath to get involved in the running of the club but after a few years I was nominated to the committee (thanks Ian!!) and felt I should accept a role in the club. My 7 years as Treasurer were mainly enjoyable and this job was very useful for getting to know the members well. However I am very glad that Kerry Puklowski has agreed to take over this job as the end of year preparation of the accounts for audit was becoming quite stressful.

A final thought I would like to leave with you. One of my regrets is that I did not get fully involved in my hobby until retirement. I find that with increasing age my eyesight (or lack of it) is becoming a problem. However, I recently got my optometrist to make up a set of safety "reading" glasses that are quite powerful. Together with a magnifying light I find that I can still read the lettering on my 1.5 mm taps!

Things to look forward to.

Last Club Night for the year 26 October 17
Club Dinner - Cosy Club - 23 November 17
International Convention in Nelson - 4 - 9 Jan 18

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