

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

With PNMEC events not taking place until a return to Covid 19 level 1
none of the events listed below will be happening unless advised!

Club Nights typically start at 7.30pm and are usually held at the
Hearing Association Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North.

26 August

Project Progress

Bring along your current project and ventilate on its progress!

23 September

Joint meeting with the Palmerston North Aeronauts

Marriner Reserve Railway

5 September & 19 September

Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve

Trains in operation from 1pm to 3pm

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)

PRESIDENTS REPORT

July was an unusual month where the club did not host a regular Club Night, but did engage in two very interesting site visits. Our next two club nights will be equally different. Exhibition nights are scheduled for August and September, and I strongly urge members to support these.

The next Club Meeting, on the 26th August, is our “Winter Project Progress Night”. Members are asked to bring along their current projects (completed or part finished) to show to the general membership. This is a fun night and has the potential to be a very interesting evening.

The following Club Meeting, on the 23rd September, will be a joint meeting with the Palmerston North Aeroneers and will be held at the Hearing Hall (our usual venue). Both the Model Engineers and the Aeroneers will be bringing along examples of their work to display. Judging by the variety and the quality of Model Aircraft and Model Boats the Aeroneers had on display at the Te Manawa Club Day this has the potential to be a very good night.

Subscriptions: At the last committee meeting it was noted that a significant number of members have still not paid this years subscriptions. Subscriptions cover a large portion of the clubs running costs, and because we keep them low, we do not have cash in reserve to meet our ongoing operating cost. If there is any doubt about whether you have paid, please check with Lawrence Brooshooft (Club treasurer). Non compliance with this reminder will result in the committee approaching people directly and we would prefer not to have to do that. A prompt response would be appreciated.

For those of you that have forgotten, the subscriptions for the year starting May 2021 are \$30.00. Subscriptions can either be paid in cash to Lawrence Brooshooft (club treasurer), or direct into the clubs bank account via internet banking **06-0996-0831663-00 remembering to use your name as a reference!**

Keep Healthy and Keep Building
David Bell



Club Notices

Some of you may be aware that Murray and Janice Bold are moving to Levin in the near future. At the August club night Murray will bring along items from his library that will not be transferring to his new Levin home. These include books, magazines, videos and the like. Please feel free to take anything and everything that takes your interest. What ever is left at the end of the night will go to recycling!

Curious Contraptions

I thoroughly recommend a visit to the Te Manawa Curious Contraptions exhibition.

By cranking a handle, or pushing a button, you can animate the models and bring them to life. There is also a table where you can have a go at constructing something. This is a great option if you have young children with you. Great fun for young and old alike. Take the family and have some fun.

Te Manawa is located at 326 Main Street, Palmerston North. It is open from 10am-4pm each day. The exhibition runs until 27 October 2021.

Cynthia Cooper



A Price model C locomotive in operation at the 2021 Palmerston North Railex model railway exhibition.



The Generator

[Club Visit to the Tokomaru Steam Museum](#)

With the Hutt Valley Model Engineering Club arranging a visit to the Tokomaru Steam Museum PNMEC decided that we would like to join them! Us locals have over the years paid many a visit to the museum and have fond memories of the steam engines in steam with the associated sounds and smells, steam and hot water weeping from the packing glands, the smell of hot lubricating oils and the ever present 600W aroma!

My personal association with Tokomaru goes back fifty odd years to when I was eleven or twelve and the opening of the railway by the then Prime Minister Norman Kirk in March 1973. This was not my first visit but my most memorable with Tokomaru hosting a large Traction Engine rally as well.

We all had the opportunity as individuals to purchase the museum a few years ago, but possibly had to far much foresight to make such a purchase. It was good to see the new owner, Damian Groves had just the right amount of vision to make such a purchase and still be able to sleep at night. We, as enthusiasts are grateful in that it's staying in Tokomaru and that the buildings and contents will not deteriorate.

Thanks to Claude Poulsen and the Hutt Valley Model Engineering Club for arranging the visit and for allowing the PNMEC members to join them. Editor



The Filer and Stowell Horizontal Steam Engine and Ammonia Compressor, ex Imlay Freezing Works, Whanganui . One of the largest Steam Engines to be used in New Zealand, featuring Corliss Valve Gear a beautiful example of precision engineering thankfully saved for future generations to admire by the late Colin Stevenson.

[Club Visit to Fieldair Engineering Ltd](#)

Fieldair Engineering is a long established Palmerston North based business starting out aerial topdressing with Tiger Moth biplanes and progressing up to Douglas DC 3 aircraft to perform the task. The PNMEC had visited Fieldair a few years back when Fieldair maintained the fleet of Convair 580 aircraft for its sister company Air Freight NZ. Upon gathering inside the foyer of their building at the Milson Airport one is greeted by the past in the form of a Pratt and Whitney R-1830 Twin Wasp radial engine from a DC 3 aircraft. The overhaul of these engines over the years helped to cement the companies reputation in the field of aircraft engineering. A possible glimpse into the future was positioned next to the Wasp, A large 6 rotor Drone, or to use the correct term, an Unmanned Aerial System. With a payload of 10Kg either liquid spray or powder/granule designed to operate as a fleet of up to 6 units at a time simultaneously. Fieldair are the NZ agents. Our host Carl Wafer, head of the companies avionics division, then proceeded to escort us through the various workshops and hangers starting with the engine/mechanical overhaul shop. Yes they can still perform an overhaul of that Pratt and Whitney Wasp engine that I know some of you possibly have down the back of your shed! We then proceeded on to the Helicopter hanger where two large Eurocopter Puma's are being overhauled to gain certification to fly in NZ. Imported from South America these aircraft are to be used for heavy lifting operations.



Jonathan Mason and Chris Morton checking out one of two ex South American Puma Helicopters receiving an overhaul at Fieldair.

One aspect of our visit was that Fieldair operations cover a very board spectrum within the aviation industry. Not only aircraft repair and maintenance but also ground support equipment, cargo bins manufacture, cargo loading equipment maintenance, contract maintenance of aircraft fleets for flying schools and air ambulance operators to name a few. We then moved on to the main hanger where operational aircraft receive routine maintenance and inspection. Here we had the opportunity to inspect an North American Trojan T-28, a large radial powered military trainer from the 1950's owned by an NZ warbirds enthusiast . Then it was on to the temperature controlled avionics shop where ex RNZAF instrument fitter Chris Morton felt right at home with some of his ex service colleagues being currently employed by Fieldair in this shop. Thanks go to Carl Wafer for giving up his Saturday morning to facilitate this visit. Editor

Cessna Citation executive jet receiving maintenance in Fieldair's main hanger . First introduced in 1972 with 14 variants produced to date.



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