

# The Generator

Issue 489  
May 2022



**Palmerston Model Engineering Club**  
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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  
Hearing Association Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North.

#### Thursday 26 May

Annual General Meeting  
Document Show and Tell

#### Thursday 23 June

Project Progress  
Bring along the current progress of your latest project!

### Marriner Reserve Railway

#### Sunday 19 June & 3 July

Railway operations at the Marriner Reserve  
Trains in operation from 1pm to 3pm  
Weather permitting (Richard Lockett 3230948)

#### Thursdays

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome back team. Regular Thursday night club meetings will start again on the Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The first meeting will be our AGM, a little late but we could not hold this any earlier because of the Covid Restrictions. Following the AGM (which will be short) we will be hosting a document evening where members can display and explain documents of special interest. I do encourage your attendance.

The Crompton Shield is an award given annually to a member who has made a significant contribution to the club. The nominee is selected by a membership vote after the AGM, however, a selection this year will be difficult because the club's activities have been minimal, disrupted by persistent Covid lockdowns and restrictions. There is a general consensus that this trophy should not be awarded this year, but that annual presentation should continue once we have enough activity to facilitate a fair and rational selection. Should any member have strong views regarding this decision, please contact me.

Members that follow the club's activities on line will notice that the new website is almost complete. I know that members have visited this site because I am getting comments from those who have their mugshots in the Photo Gallery. These photos were selected to portray the wide range of activities our members undertake and to communicate to the public that we are more than just a railway. Photos will be added on a continuous basis to maintain a fresh appearance to the public. We are making final corrections to this site and once these are completed we will be moving to the second phase of our marketing campaign: advising our activities through the electronic medium.

Our new website is:

[pnmec.net.nz](http://pnmec.net.nz)

For General Interest: Many of our club members are into bikes, and their varied activities, will be the feature of upcoming Generator issues. These two photographs were taken in Copenhagen and show the results of an interesting lesson in "leadership of the masses".

Copenhagen had a problem: there was traffic congestion in the city and building additional roads and parking buildings was not practical. A typical Danish solution had to be found. The Danish Royal Family is highly regarded, and they are very accessible to the public. To lead the way the Queen got on a bike and did the morning commute, peddling across a main bridge into the city and up to the palace. In the evening she reversed the process. Soon hundreds, and then thousands, of citizens were biking into the city with her every day. Now tens of thousands of bikes do the daily commute into the city centre. This created another problem. Bike parking. The first of these two photos show one of many two tier parking stands around the central railway station. The other shows a parking lot on the footpath outside a popular pub.

Keep healthy and keep building,  
David Bell



## Club Notices

### **Club Night AGM and Document Night**

As previously advised the PNMEC 2022 annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 26 May. Hearing Association Hall, 435 Church Street, Palmerston North. Normal Annual General Meeting format will be observed.

- Approval of 2021 minutes.
- Reports from office holders.
- Election of 2022—2023 office holders.
- Setting of Subscription fee.
- General business if any.

Traditionally our AGM has been have been efficient and with this in mind we will hold a **Document Night** in conjunction with the AGM.

So bring along a document which has some significance to you and that may be of interest to fellow club members and be prepared to talk about it! These Document nights have over the years produced some very interesting items so don't be afraid to use your imagination and bring something along!

### **Marriner Reserve Railway**

Resumption of public passenger hauling will recommence on Sunday 19 June after a lengthy ten month period of inactivity. The risk of catching the virus off one of our customers in an outdoor setting such as the Marriner Reserve would be deemed as low as we only have a fleeting contact with our customers in our station area.

Normal winter schedule applies 1pm to 3pm with set up from 11.30am. As always weather dependant.

### **For Sale**

Set of castings for a 5 inch gauge Sweet Pea contractors locomotive.

Consisting of

- 2 bronze cylinder castings with cast end covers.
- Quantity of Cast Iron horn blocks.
- Quantity of Cast Iron driving wheels some machined.
- Quantity of Cast Iron spoked pony truck wheels.

A good starting package for someone wishing to get a live steam locomotive project underway.

The Sweet Pea can be in 0-4-0 or 0-6-0 or even built with a pony truck incorporated into the design.

A great deal at \$100. contact Richard Lockett at 06 323 0948



A fine example of a Sweet Pea locomotive owned by Eddie Bleackey



## Adieu Murray Bold

Murray passed away on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April after a gallant battle with cancer.

Some individuals are, in their younger years a source of worry for their parents and Murray was probably one of those not expected to reach the age of thirty. Many of Murray's exploits have passed into the Bold family folk law such as while still in high school becoming interested in the chemistry of explosive substances and putting the acquired knowledge into practice by blowing the family Hill's rotary washing line clean out of the ground just as his poor mum arrived with a full basket load of wet washing! His parents possibly only relaxed when Janice took Murray on as a life partner moderating some of his enthusiasm perhaps.

Murray joined us model engineers in the early 1990's after a distinguished involvement with competition model boats with some speed records still held by Murray! With a career in radio with the Post and Telephone Dept and then working in the computing/IT industry, Murray brought our club into the digital age, setting up and managing our website, publishing the Generator for many years, production of any printed materials for the club, always ready to help out and always with that cheeky grin.

Murray instigated and designed the signal system at the Marriner Reserve Railway and we have memories of the day of instillation when Murray supervising a lot of members involved on the day walked under Compton's Crossing and forgot to duck his head. He fell backwards onto the steel rails and so getting smacked about the head back and front which laid him out cold for a few minutes. Some say he was never the same after that!

The social side of the live steam railway part of our hobby was particularly enjoyable for Murray and over the years we travelled around the country with himself and Janice, firstly with his self built battery electric locomotive 1093 and latterly with the Bob Sharman built Phantom steam locomotive "Mr Sandman". After a weekend at the Rotorua track, Murray loaded the loco and ride cars into its custom built trailer throwing his overalls in last before closing all the padlocks and then jumping into his car and realising that the keys were in his overalls, locked in the trailer. Angle grinders come in handy.

On another occasion coming back to P North from a hot sunny railway weekend up country when Murray decided that he could not drive any further without a cigarette as his passenger Cynthia Cooper didn't smoke so he couldn't smoke in the vehicle. Unfortunately the stop was in the middle of the desert road and it was no longer warm and sunny but very chilly so still in shorts and tee shirt Murray puffed away shivering and shaking much to Cynthia's amusement. Eventually Murray managed to give up smoking.

In later years Murray downsized his railway interests to garden gauge and with the acquisition of a couple of 3D printers was able to build many locomotives and rolling stock in this gauge with the mere flick of a switch!

Murray was a good friend to us all and will be missed.

Words and thoughts by Cynthia Cooper, Chris Morton, Richard Lockett



Murray Bold and  
"Mr Sandman"  
Mariner Reserve  
Railway.  
July 2006.

Photo  
Chris Saunders

## Lady of the Lake

The Palmerston North Model Engineering Club extends their sympathies to the Hawkes Bay Model Engineering Society on the recent burglary of their storage shed at their Anderson Park site located in Taradale, Napier. As we the PNMEC have had a recent break in of our railway operations shed with items stolen we know what a kick in the guts it is after all of the volunteer hours that go into establishing these facilities from which our communities derive much pleasure.

All model engineering and live steam railway clubs in NZ got notification to the fact that their club owned 5 inch gauge steam locomotive the "Maid of Kent" had been stolen and asking to be on the lookout for it. The number of model live steam locomotives built in NZ runs into many hundreds constructed over the years and those of us of whom this hobby has been a large part of their lives know most of these locomotives, who built them, the current and previous owners, even down to how good they preformed and to any modifications or paint schemes changes made to them over the years!

Point being that if a stolen locomotive turns up at a club track somewhere to run or offered for sale to club members even via Trade Me, questions will be asked and law enforcement notified.

Of cause the persons who break into our facilities don't comprehend these realities due to their lack of intelligence. As to selling for scrap I took 57 kgs of steel offcuts to my local dealer and got 12 dollars for it and he said that the price may be going down soon as there would be a large number of burnt out Russia tanks entering the scrap metal supply chain in the near future. So what is a 5 inch gauge loco worth as scrap metal? Even with its non ferrous content I would say you'd be lucky to got 20 dollars for it!

The theft generated a large amount of publicity in the Hawkes Bay if not nationally and possibly made the locomotive too hot of an item to be in possession of for the thieves or that they just tired of lugging it across Anderson Park. So they tipped it into the parks lake along with the conveying wheelbarrow a few hundred metres away from the storage shed. The lake is used by the local model boat people who are members of the Hawkes Bay M E Club and a few days later a gentleman out with his model boat possibly a salvage tug happened upon the submerged wheelbarrow. Closer inspection found the Mail of Kent also submerged in the lake.

With a bit of work the Maid will soon be back in service hauling trains at Anderson Park much to the relief of the Hawkes Bay club.

The Maid of Kent has been a popular model for model engineers to build over the years based on the British Southern Railways Maunsell designed L1 class and can be built with inside or outside cylinders and with Stephenson's or Joy valve gear. The Hawkes Bay Clubs example is over 60 years old and is the primary steam powered locomotive used to haul passengers around their track and would be regarded as a local Taonga along with club stalwart Graham Lebourne who has been associated with this locomotive for its entire life! Editor



**The Generator**

Graham Lebourne  
behind the footplate  
of the Hawkes Bays  
"Maid of Kent"



Photos  
Ryan Lawson

### PNMEC Calendar

Date and Time	Activity
<p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <p>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>      7.30pm</p>	<p>Club night AGM plus Document show and tell</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p>Thursday 2<sup>rd</sup>      7.30 pm  Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>      1pm to 3pm  Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>      7.30pm</p>	<p>Committee Meeting  Marriner Reserve Railway  Club Night Project Progress</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July</p> <p>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>      1pm to 3pm  Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>      7.30pm  Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>      1pm to 3pm  Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>      7.30 pm</p>	<p>Marriner Reserve Railway  Committee Meeting  Marriner Reserve Railway  Club Night Health and Safety</p>

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