

Pukemiro Junction



Voice from the Bush

PUKEMIRO JUNCTION

T H E B U S H T R A M W A Y C L U B I N C .

GREETINGS

The weather around the Junction has been cold and wet, usually very wet, so not much can be done outside.

OPEN DAYS :

July was very poorly attended but August was the exact opposite. We had a couple more people to help in the station, as the ladies were hard pressed during the August open day. Bruce put an advert in the local Hamilton paper for our August open day, it certainly paid off. Thanks to all who turn up and make these days a success.

CHARTER TRIPS :

We had 3 kindies for rides on 26th of June, a very full morning indeed. Most of the kids were well behaved, thank goodness, as there were only 5 of us to run the trains and look after the mob. Thanks to those that help out on these days

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Winston Churchill

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UPCOMING OPEN DAYS

The next ones are:

October 7th

November 4th

December 2nd

Please turn up and help with these days.

UPCOMING WORKING BEES

These are held on the Sunday of the 4th full weekend of the month and are very important in keeping our railway running, there are always jobs to do. The next ones are:

September 23rd

October 28th

CARETAKER :

We now have a resident caretaker, Russell, who lives in a caravan in the car park by the Shanty. He is usually busy tidying up around the Junction, this involves clearing gorse and bracken etc. and then planting some native trees he has purchased. He is 'helped' by his dog, Zena. This is the first time in at least 25 years that we have had a resident caretaker at the Junction.

He is actually an old resident of the Glen Afton area so has many tales to tell!

TRACKWORK :



The recent heavy rain brought down two minor slips, one across the track and the other into a drain. The one across the track was cleared by a CW crew about a week after it was found, while the other one will be dug out as soon as the weather allows.

A couple of days work has seen sleepers replaced at the Glen Afton end of the line, we are now right up to a gate across the line just below the Jenner household. We are now another 25 metres closer to Glen Afton.

ASSESSOR :

During our August open day, Adrian Douglas of NZTA paid us his annual visit. He was impressed by the number of passengers we had. We discussed the points our annual assessment had highlighted and were able to sign some off. Some are still to do.

QUIZ :

Where is this bridge and tunnel?



Clue: There's gold in them thar' hills!

PECKETT 1630 :



A lot of work has been done on this loco, partly by the regular crew and partly by other members.

The boiler has been in steam twice so far and the first time to 70lbs, which resulted in some minor leaks. These were repaired. The second time it was up to full power, 160lbs, and the safety valves were set. This pressure resulted in a few different leaks appearing. Most of these have been repaired at the time of writing this newsletter.

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Ian B has completed the new lubricator lines and the drain lines from the Westinghouse air compressor. John and Neil are working on the steam supply line to the air compressor.



Chris M has been down 3 times in a month. He is presently trying to sort out the side rods; why one seems tighter than the rest.

CLIMAX 1650 :

The under frame went to Te Kuiti on the 15th of August. Chris has purchased some new steel for the main frames as the old ones were a bit on the 'had it' side.

A lot of work has been going on behind the scene getting the boiler repairs OK'd and a welder re-qualified. This repair work should start soon.

MAMAKU JIGGERS :

1 :



Ian J has fitted new rear steps to this jigger to make it easier for passengers to climb in and out.

2 :

Ian tells me that the overhaul of this jigger is coming along with the frame complete and painted, the framework for the rear built and in place, and the diff rebuilt.

He has had the front springs replaced and the rear ones repaired and reset. Since starting this newsletter, Ian has completed the timber work for the rear passenger compartment.

NO. 3 CAR :



Robin continues work on this car. Derek has screwed all studs into place. We have purchased some building paper to cover the side.

HUT RENOVATIONS :



Our battery electric group is still working on repairing/overhauling the hut. They have replaced a couple of window panes and are adding a porch on to it.

PUKEMIRO PICKINGS :

Jan and Gail keep the kitchen in the station tidy and ensure what we need to buy is purchased. Jan continues to keep the toilets spick and span.

David Mann has spent a couple of weeks at the Junction. He has been cutting up old sleepers for firewood for the Cb loco and scraping, then patch priming the underframe of the bunkcar.



The Photo Gallery



Those visiting the junction recently would have noticed two new static displays; one is located by the car park (pic on the front page), the other (above) is by the hall.



Here we have Ashley having a quick rest in the station masters office. Maybe we should replace the couch with a bed!



The remains of the steaming of the Peckett. A welcome sight indeed to see the fires burning once again. Except of course for whoever cleans it up.



Here's a good line up from the September open day with Richard completing the loco rainbow with his blue overalls. Photo courtesy of Chris Lucas.

QUIZ ANSWER:

Formerly part of the Paeroa-Waihi line, now they serve as part of a walking and cycling path through Karangahake Gorge.

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