

# 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

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Welcome to another newsletter with nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year gone. Not sure where it has gone to.

## OPEN DAYS

July Open Day was very good passenger wise (thanks in large part to a mention in the North Waikato News community paper –Ed.). August was not quite so good. Both days had fine weather after a wet day before.

For July our carriages were full for most of the day. Thanks to all those members that turn up and help. On both days we really needed a few more hands, particularly around the station.

On these 2 days we had 3 locos in steam, although only for a short time in July.

*To err is human,  
but to really foul things up  
you need a computer.*

*-Paul R. Ehrlich*



MOTAT's 'L507' pulling into the junction with 'passenger' train on the August Open Day. Photo: Guy Coker

**BTC 50TH**

Do not forget your bookings for the 50th anniversary luncheon at “The Metcalfs”. Please let Teresa know you are coming. October isn’t that far away.

**CHARTER TRIPS**

By the time you read this, we will have run a very large charter for the Motor Caravan Association and a smaller one for a couple of play centres.

We have another two booked for early in October Thanks to all who come and help with these charters.

**TRACKWORK**

A CW crew has replaced a few more sleepers at the Glen Afton end of our line. Ian B and Dave spent most of a day using a petrol hedge cutter trimming back all the line side growth that was very close to our trains.

Dave has replaced 2 sleepers under the point onto the pit.

A CW team spent a couple of hours digging out the toe of the slow moving slip about half way up the line. It is hoped to rectify this problem during the summer.

**WEATHER**

The past couple of months have been either very wet or very cold. A couple of times very harsh frosts spanned almost a week.

**Locos**

**L 507  
(COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF  
TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY, AUCK-  
LAND)**

Unfortunately L507 broke down early on the July open day when a small mud hole door gasket blew. It was replaced but blew again. A new door was made during the following couple of weeks but when tried it was not a very good fit and blew again. Luckily a certified welder was at the railway so he was able to build up the old door. This was successful so the loco was able to run during our August Open Day.

Because of this breakdown and the popularity of the strange loco on our line, MOTAT have agreed to extend the loan of this loco until after our September open day.

The MOTAT crew certainly like the much longer run possible on our line.



Visitors were even parking on the drive it was so busy on the July Open Day. Photo: Elliot Baptist



The NZMCA charter was also a roaring success with barely enough room for all the passengers. Photo: EB



However it’s the August Open Day that shows what happens when there’s no advertising or charter, near the end of the day the place was very quiet. Photo: EB



**HEISLER**



At long last and after many promises, work has started on this loco. It has been out of service for approximately 25 years.

Johnny McClune of Wanganui spent 5 days at the junction. He came complete with all of his boiler making gear, Trailer mounted stationary boiler and small steam engines, girlfriend, a mate and a dog.

He and his team have removed all of the tubes from the boiler and have started cutting out the crown sheet stays. The loco was stopped due to wastage of the crown sheet stays. He is hoping to return in September to carry on with the job.

The aim is to evaluate the condition of the boiler and then look at any repairs that may be needed.

**STATIONARY STEAM ENGINE**



Johnny was able to run his trailer mounted steam boiler and engines during the August open day. A great little set up it is. During the Sunday evening he ran the engines, one which drove a generator which lit up all of the lights under the trailer cano-

**UPCOMING OPEN DAYS**

Our next Open Days (with provisional 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events) will be on:

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November**
- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

We always need as many members as possible to come and help out on 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. The next ones are:

- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Station Revamp Day, lets get the station ready for our 50th celebrations yet to come!

- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

I'm thinking not much work will be done due to the luncheon.

- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Come on out and give us a hand**



**50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Current Club Members Fun Day

- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Celebration Luncheon at Metcalfes Conference Centre. Book now or miss out! Details in recent email from the secretary.

- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

100 years of the line with Mayoral visit and piper.

py, a small vertical single cylinder Tangye type engine.



### TR 217

Mike continues to battle away with this loco's fuel problems and we now think the injector pump is also full of muck. One of our contractor's fathers has offered to repair it.

## Rolling Stock

### XP 474

Gail and Derek continue to battle with this wagon. As they go they are painting the metal frame work. If anyone has any clean treated fencing battens kicking about that they do not need then they could be useful on this project as they can be cut down for the framing in this wagon.

### A 1319



Dave has spent some time painting inside this car. By the time you get this newsletter Richard Ellis will have been back working on it. Who knows what he would have gotten up to.

# Notices

## FIREWOOD



Thanks to the cutting down of some of the junction pine trees and the generous loan of a log splitter from Huntly Hire, we now have firewood for sale to raise funds for the club. Price is \$60 a standard 6x4 ft. trailer load, pickup.

## PUBLICITY OFFICER

Many, if not all, of our biggest Open Days have been due to a mention in a community newspaper or radio. As you can see from the cover image of this newsletter the station has been rather quiet as of late with most people in the wider region not knowing we even exist let alone are running that day. The July Open Day showed us that getting the word out about every Open Day to as many publications as possible could have a huge impact on the club if someone were to do it. Once the list of contacts is built up I wouldn't see much difficulty in sending out one email every month but the benefits could be great.

If any member is prepared to do this I would very much like to hear from you:

[secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com)

-Elliot

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

In a similar vein as before, if anyone would like to gain some publishing experience they are welcome to take over my editorial position. I take the raw text and add formatting, images from



The wet weather started the slow moving slip moving again. Thankfully nothing else moved with all of the rain.

## Projects

### PINE TREES

On the weekend of 15 & 16 August 2 x large pine trees were cut down & mostly split up for firewood. Ian B had arranged with Tim Hinton to cut the trees down then cut them into rings for splitting up for firewood. He was doing this as a freebie. He also brought along his large mulcher to mulch up all the smaller branches etc.

Use of the wood splitter was donated by Ron of Huntly Hire.

A community work crew were also present operating the splitter & towing the smaller branches etc. to the mulcher.

On the chainsaws in addition to Tim & his helper were Ian B & Dave.

By evening both trees were down & largely cut into rings with a large pile of split wood. Work continued on Sunday with Ian B & Dave using chainsaws then the wood splitter. The end result is that we now have a mountain of split firewood. We hope to sell it to raise some funds for the Club.

Tim has offered to return & deal to the rest of the pine trees at very little cost. These pines are at the top end of the yard at the Junction, just as you leave the yard going to Glen Afton.

If you live in this area & need some tree work done, you can't go past Tim.

He advertises in the local Huntly papers.

### STATION AREA

Russell continues with his good work around the junction. He has recently planted out more trees and shrubs.

### WOODWORK SHED SHELVING

Thanks to members who have shown up with shelving.

### WATER TOWER

Bruce continues to work on the timber frame at home and is applying for a grant to help fund the project.

many sources, these notices, event information and so on.

Once again, I would like to hear from you:

[secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com)

-Elliot

### POWER USAGE

We seem to be getting rather large power bills at the moment of several hundred dollars a month, any efforts to reduce this would be appreciated.

-Elliot

If you would like to post a notice here, for example asking for helpers to paint a loco or any spare corrugated iron for shed repairs, etc. send it through to:

[secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com)



There are still some logs to be split for anyone who feels like some exercise. Photos: EB



-CJ

# The Rest

## 50TH PROGRAM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24TH (LABOUR WEEKEND)

**Current Club Members Fun Day** at Pukemiro Junction. Our own 'Open Day' to have fun playing trains!

Note: the unveiling of the static display of the 'E' will no longer be held on this day due to it still being a work in progress.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25TH

**Celebration Luncheon** at Metcalfes Conference Centre ([website link](#)) at 292 Ginn Rd ([Google maps link](#)) just seven minutes from the Waikokowai Rd turn off. This outing consists of lunch, extensive gardens, outdoor games such as mini-putt, petanque, croquet, soccer, volleyball, giant Jenga, quoits and a swimming pool (although it might be a bit on the cold side). This venue also offers paid optional activities such as archery and clay pigeon shooting. We meet at Metcalfes at 11a.m. and have the venue until 4p.m.

Cost is \$50 per head, school children under 12 charged by age. There will be strictly limited places available and we are expecting attendees to be life or current members. **Please indicate your interest as soon as possible!** Book as described in the recent email from the secretary.

DECEMBER 6TH

The Mayor (Allan Sanson) is to close our anniversary year. This date is also the closest to the actual operation of the first coal train run on The Glen Afton Branch line, one hundred years ago in 1915! There will hopefully be a piper to pipe out the first passenger train this day. We intend to have people come in period costume dressed as coal-miners, bush-men and railway personnel. As many of our members as possible are invited to participate. We will be inviting other dignitaries in December to round off our year's activities and look forward to another 50 years of Bush Tramway Club involvement.

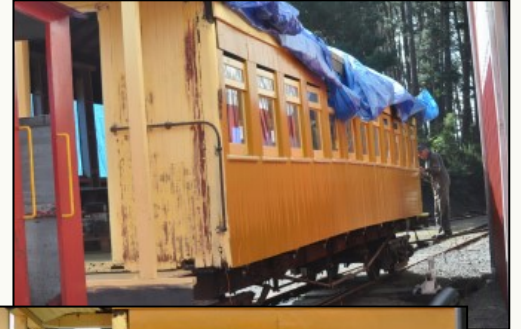
## The Gallery

In the gallery this time we have images of a night photography session, a carriage now with windows, Open Day preparation, running, shunting, cleaning and the now standard end of Open Day BBQ or otherwise social time.

Also Ashely's face, I know not why.

-Elliot





**IMAGES :**

Thanks to Guy Coker and Richard Ellis for their contribution of images to this newsletter. Please send any potential newsletter images to: [secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com)

Also thanks to MOTAT for the loan of L507 (depicted above)