

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 and another year (the 10th year of the newsletter! -Ed.)

OPEN DAYS

November Open Day was pretty good passenger wise with the day being fine.

December was much the same but with a special meaning, more about this follows.

Thanks to all members who turn up and help make these days a success, we have noticed that most of the passengers come early in the day and by 2pm they have mostly tapered off.

*The good news about computers is that they do
what you tell them to do.
The bad news is that they do what you tell them
to do.
—Ted Nelson*

Notice

AGM: 13th March 2016 at 1.00pm



Stand by your Club. The BTC 50th Anniversary Dinner. (Image: G.C.)

DECEMBER OPEN DAY



The Peckett steams into the station with the special 50th Anniversary Train having just taken over from diesel 402. (Image M.B.)

This was a special day for the club as it marked our 50th anniversary and also the centennial of the line opening to Pukemiro Junction and when the first coal train left Pukemiro Junction for Huntly. We invited most of our past members to the Junction for the celebrations but it was disappointing how few came along to see the progress. It was good to have Dave and Isabel Scott, Lofty Meekins and Mary Burns come along.



Traction engine rides, a rare treat at the junction. The open air experience seemed to go down well. (Image: E.B.)



The end of year dinner was enjoyed greatly by those in attendance. With no worry of running out of deserts! (Image: E.B.)

UPCOMING WORKING BEES

These are held on the Sunday of the 4th full weekend of the month and are a very important part of keeping our railway running. The next ones are

- Sunday 28th February
- Sunday 27th March

Come along as there is always plenty to do.



Thanks to piper Kevin O’Hara the departure and arrival of each train was met with the striking sounds of old. (Image: M.B.)

Our local Mayor, Mr Alan Sanson gave a speech which was responded to by our Chairperson Elliot Baptist. Our local Councillor Shelly Lynch and husband, Brian, also attended.

Teresa Bettison had prepared a substantial afternoon tea, which everyone enjoyed.

An added attraction at the Open Day was Johnny McClune’s traction engine all the way from Wanganui giving rides from the station to the bottom of the drive and back while towing a trailer. It is a 1930 4-horsepower Fowler number 18641. He even drove it up to the club at Glen Afton on Friday evening, which caused some excitement amongst the locals.

The end of year dinner was a roast dinner prepared by Teresa and helpers. The desserts were provided by the members attending

A special thanks to everyone who helped on this special day.



One of the “period” costumes of the day, a dirty young miner with helmet and lamp. (Image: R.E.)



Mayor Alan Sanson presenting the Club a grant for the track to Glen Afton. (Image M.B.)

MEMBERSHIPS

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should also have received a renewal notice for your subscriptions. Yes the start of a new year also means the start of a new financial year for us.

We hope you all renew your subs.

We also welcome some new members to our club. We hope you will become an active part of the team.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The date for this important meeting will be the **13th March 2016 at 1.00pm**. This is your chance to tell the Committee how you would like the club run or better still, stand for the Committee. (With all the action toward Glen Afton, this could be an interesting meeting. –Ed.)

Please pencil this date on your calendars. Our usual shunting



A very special jigger ride, The first rail vehicle to Glen Afton in 42 years. 11/12/2015 (Image: D.M.)

school for new and operating members will be held before the AGM.

THE LINE TO GLEN AFTON

Part of the Mayors speech was about our progress towards Glen Afton. He presented us with a letter telling us that the Waikato District Council had granted us \$31,000 from their Community Wellbeing Trust. The Council’s Long Term planning committee has also given us \$5,000. All of which will be spent on the line to Glen Afton.

A digger has been back to Glen Afton and scraped all of the mud etc. off the top of almost all of the rails and done some excellent drainage work. Still more needs doing to get the wa-



The Glen Afton terminus area has been transformed again by Waikato District Council work! (Images: E.B.)



ter runoff and streams going in the right direction.

A badly bent rail was replaced on the 10/12 just past where we are currently re-sleeping and a day later a Jigger actually made a trip to the very end of the line.

The lucky passengers were Richard Ellis, Dave Mann, Russell Webb, Rob and Sue Beaumont.



There is still a lot of work to do on the line before we can even get at the old sleepers. Mainly more drainage work. Do go and have a look at the Glen Afton end and then you will see what could soon be possible.

The money we have received will go a long way towards getting our trains back to Glen Afton.



Locomotives

PECKET

This was only steamed around the junction on the November and December Open Days. It is now undergoing its annual boiler survey. I know Chris Mann and his team intend doing some work on this Loco during the summer. Hope it doesn't end up looking like the contraption on the right.

Those who have helped so far are Peter C, Neil P, Dave M and Colin J.

HEISLER

Johnny spent two days working on the boiler, over half of the crown sheet stays have now been cut out. He intends coming back for a week in the near future.

Ian B has been dismantling some of the pipe work on the loco.

TRACKWORK



Onward to Glen Afton! This track presumably completed before the jigger trip to the end of the line. (Image: E.B.)

In the area of the September derailment, all marked sleepers have now been replaced by a CW crew. Some sleepers have been laid out ready to replace a few in another area. Half a day was spent by the CW crew screwing down some new sleepers at the current end of the line to Glen Afton.

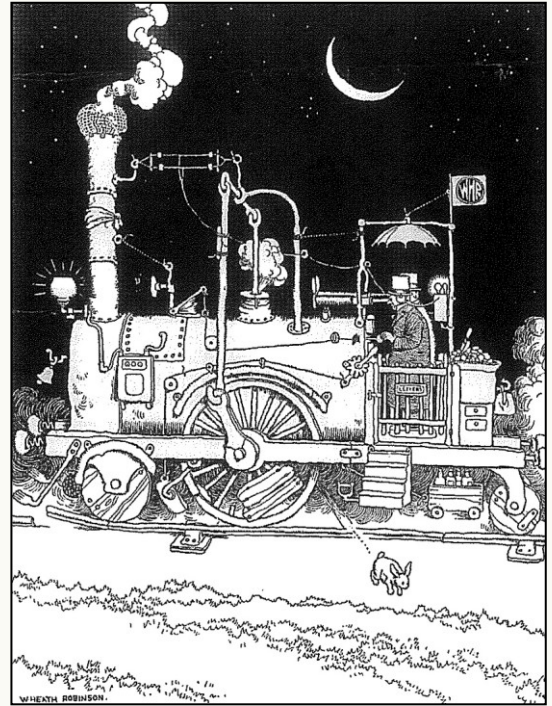
L507

This loco has returned home to the Museum of Transport and Technology in Auckland and left in mid November. We are eternally thankful to MOTAT for letting us have the use of L507 for our Club's 50th year.

Rolling stock

CAR A1319

Richard E has been back again so progress on his car has been pretty swift. He decided that the old roof should be replaced so off it all came. The car is now in the woodwork workshop. All the timber that was attached to the steel roof frame ribs needed replacing so a lot of grooved decking was purchased. Ian B. lent his small band saw so each of the ribs new timber could be cut out, it is all curved. Each rib has 3 or 4 curved sections bolted to it and each is double thickness so that meant a lot of work cutting the timber and gluing it together then painting them!



Quite the contraption! (Image from: C.J.)

Notices

FIREWOOD

We still have a large quantity of split pine for sale. The price is \$60 for a 6x4 trailer full, Be in and stock up for next winter.

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



David on a lack of roof. Is he building or is he demolishing? (Image: R.E.)



The new open air experience. (Image: R.E.)

Once this was completed it was time to put a new set of timber on top of the rib to enable the steel roof to be fixed to it. All of this timber was painted before being fitted to the top side and the inside roof lining was tackled in a similar manner.

Work is currently being done on the open platform decks.

JIGGERS

Russell and Ian B. have finally gotten both of our jiggers going and are manual pull start. They are not to be used as “playthings”. (nor by anyone who has not been signed off on them. –Ed.)

XP474

Derek and Gail continue to beaver away quietly with this project.



Roof-in-progress. (Image: R.E.)



After much work, there is again a ceiling! (Image: R.E.)

Projects

WATER TOWER

Bruce has continued with this progress at his house. It was recently completed and now awaits transporting out to the junction as a kitset.

He is occasionally assisted by Russell. Part of the Lion Foundation Grant was for the provision of a new 25,000 litre tank for this project. It has been purchased and delivered to the junction.

SMALL LOCO SHED



This is one kitset you won't be finding at the hobby shop. (Image: B.M.)



Uncovered, the foundations await their load. (Image: B.M.)

This is located behind the wood-work shop, Alun, Trev and his brother have been working on this project. They have laid the concrete blocks for the short wall and are pricing other bits and pieces for the wall and side door.

PRICE “E” LOCO

We have just received a grant from Trust Waikato for the sum of \$3500 to pay for the rebuild of the cab and repairs to the bunker along with a new steel floor for this loco. The steel plate that fits under the smokebox is to be replaced as well. The grant is very close to the quote we received from our local contractor David Wright and will allow him to do the job.

Around the Junction

NEW WATER TANK ON THE HILL

Richard S has completed the installation of the necessary plumbing to this tank. Last time I checked it was about half full.

STATION AREA

Russell continues to keep this area and it's surrounds very tidy. In his spare time I may add.

WOOD WORK MACHINERY

We are grateful to have been offered a decent sized band saw and a buzzer for our wood work shop. These will be picked up shortly from Huntly and will be a great asset for us.

MATERIALS TROLLEY

These are the small trolleys that take the track parts around our railway. A necessary piece of equipment. Ian B. has been building a steel frame, a new deck and angle iron deck surround for one of these that needed major repairs.

STEAM CRANE 256

After two years of effort the last of the crane has been cut up for scrap and was sold in early December. The money received going towards new sleepers. There is one piece of this crane which has been retained as Bruce M. has a job for it. So if you see a buffer beam lying about it has a purpose.

JAZZ BAND

We are arranging for a Hamilton jazz band to come and play during our April Open Day the band is called "The Art Gecko Jazz Band".

We look forward to seeing members at this year's Open Days and working bees. Come along and have some fun.

-C.J.

The Art Gecko Jazz Band ... is a well-known 20-year-old Hamilton Band. It started as four founding members gathered together in a suburban house to play a few simple tunes together –and has developed into the current line-up of nine - bound together by a love of playing music and an enjoyment of the band camaraderie.

Art Gecko has enjoyed playing at a wide-range of functions over the years - ranging from the Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua and Auckland Jazz Clubs to 80th Birthdays, Bowling Club Xmas Parties – and everything in between! And in April ... The Bush Tramway Club!

As a nine-piece band with four different vocalists they play a wide range of music, while still retaining a "jazzy" feel to their style.

Art Gecko can be contacted: c/o Peter Kately 021 759 720; or Barry Stirling (07) 8543755



Art Gecko members in photo (from left to right): Barry Stirling (Lead Guitar); Clara Lange (Violin and Vocals); David Johnson (Keyboard); Magic Murphy (Harp, Percussion and Vocals); Peter Kately (Rhythm Guitar and Organisation); David West (Bass and Vocals); Stuart Bayes (Trumpet and Vocals). Other members not in photo: Colin Ogle (Saxophone); Phil Connell (Drums).

The Gallery



Just another miner on his way to work on the December Open Day (I.: M.B.)



The Blue Rooms look new compared to this beauty! (I.: R.E.)



Dog attempts to go subterranean to hunt it's prey in the Car & Wagon Store (I.: E.B.)



Copper U-bend, only in the shanty. (I.: R.E.)



The cutting to Glen Afton is the bushiest bush on the line. Hopefully we can keep it that way while making it operational. (I.: E.B.)



Mamaku Jigger No.2 up in Auckland. Cab, motor, passenger compartment, it's all coming along splendidly! (I.: I.J.)



A load of many things including timber from shipping containers, new screw spikes and ceiling panels for the carriage. (I.: I.J.)



The big (as in tonnage, excluding the people) stars of the day. Nice to have steam out numbering diesel. 401 rams out so much smoke it should be an honorary steamer. (I.: E.B.)



Looks rather dashing with it's 50th board on doesn't it? (I.: G.C.)

IMAGES:

Thanks to Elliot Baptist, Miranda Baptist, Guy Coker, Richard Ellis, Colin Jenner, Ian Jenner, David Mann and Bruce McLuckie for their contribution of images to this newsletter. Please send any potential newsletter images to:

secretary@bushtramwayclub.com