

Pukemiro Junction



T H E G L E N A F T O N L I N E

GREETINGS

Page 1

Welcome to another newsletter. That's a quarter of the year gone already.

SUBS

Thank you to all who have renewed their subs and a special thanks to those who included a donation.

To those who have not renewed, you will have received a reminder notice from our Secretary. Those that have not paid by the end of June are removed from our mailing list.

To our new members, welcome to our club, we hope you will come along and help run our Open Days and charters or help with other maintenance tasks such as track work and rolling stock restoration.

NOTICE: ROTOWARO ROAD

We have just received a notice from the Waikato District Council Contractor that they intend to close Rotowaro road completely from 18th April to 2nd May. The section closed will be between Hangapipi Rd. and The entrance to the railway and Puke Coal mine. Our open day is scheduled for the 1st May. At present it looks unlikely that we will run this open day as the alternate route is from Ngaruawahia and Glen Massey village. This may add 30 minutes to the journey for people coming from the north.

The contractors need to close the road so they can dig up and replace the creek culvert pipes under the road below the Junction. They consider it too dangerous to have even one lane open during this operation.

We will let members know closer to the date whether the Open Day is running or not. (Looks like we will have one in some form—Ed.)



Rain stops neither the Peckett nor the Art Gecko Jazz Band (Image: EB)

OPEN DAYS

The first for 2016 was held on the 3rd of April. The number of passengers was not too great but all that came appeared to be enjoying themselves. A Jazz band from Hamilton was present on the day and played for a large part of the day. It was very good to see a lot of our passengers sitting and listening to the band with some singing along and some even dancing. The band played under a gazebo to shelter them from the sun (and rain –Ed.). The trains were operated with the two Meremere diesels and the Peckett with the Mamaku Jigger giving rides as well.



Because of the weather over the previous few days and on the morning of the open day, the Peckett was able to haul the passenger train up from the Rotowaro end of the line

Thanks as always to those people that turn up to help run our Open Days.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held as advertised on the 13th March. There is one change to the Committee with Russell standing down and Ashley Turner taking his place.

The Committee is:

Elliot Baptist- Chairman

Richard Ellis- Secretary

Ian Jenner- Treasurer

Colin Jenner- General Manager

General Committee members are: Ian Bettison ,Ashley Turner, Bruce McLuckie, Richard Stratford, Guy Coker, Jan Jenner.

The AGM was well attended and no contentious issues were raised.

SHUNTING SCHOOL

The annual shunting school was held prior to the AGM and was well attended.

NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT 2015

This Act came into being on the Monday 4th of April. Nothing much has changed for us. As we do not employ anyone we are classed as a “Volunteer Association” (V.A.). If we did employ some one on a permanent basis, we would be classed as a “Person carrying out a business undertaking” (P.C.B.U).

If we bring a contractor on to our railway, we remain a VA but the contractor is the PCBU and is responsible for the safety of its staff and our members or anyone else who may be present at the time.

The Railways Act 2005 puts an extra requirement on our operating members to comply with the principles of the new act in regard to safety on our railway.

UPCOMING OPEN DAYS

Our next Open Days will be on:

Sunday 1st May

Please see the notice at the front of this newsletter about the road closure.

Sunday 5th June

Sunday 3rd July

From steam loco drivers to diesel driver trainees and photographers for the newsletter, we always need as many members as possible to come and help out on these days.

UPCOMING WORKING BEES

These are getting a bit of a shake up from the usual “turn up and do your own thing” working bees that we have had for so long. Now each working bee will have a specific task for members come along and help with, along with a contact person to point them in the right direction. This initial lot focus on making our railway ship shape for the new year’s passengers.

Why not join in?

Sunday 24th April

Painting the Toilet Block with Russell Webb.

Sunday 29th May

Cleaning the Station with Russell Webb.

Sunday 26th June

TBC

Come along as there is something to do!

If you have a job you think ideal for a working bee, send a brief description to secretary@bushtramwayclub.com

TRACKWORK

Ian Bettison has carried out his inspection of our railway, concentrating on the gauge of our track.

He has found quite a few areas that need attention. Some have been repaired already but some still need attending to. If you are able to help please contact Ian.

For a long time the point in rotten row has had some bad rail in it. This was removed, new pieces cut to size and a start on putting it all back together. Those involved have been Ian B, Peter C. David M. and Colin J. This job was completed on the 6th April.

Our Community work crews spent a couple of days painting the yellow line near the platform edge.

They have also spent a day replacing sleepers on the lower section of our line with plenty more still to do.



FRONZ ADVICE TO VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS ON THE "HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT 2015"

By far the majority of FRONZ members are a VA and normally the HSWA act does not apply. But if a Rail Operators Licence has been issued by the NZTA, the fundamental rules of the HSWA apply. Note, bringing a contractor on to your site does not change your status to a PCBU. The contractor must have a HSWA management plan in place that you must check and point out any risks that exist on your site.

May we suggest that members review their safety cases to ensure it is still fit for purpose and continue to review it frequently and make changes where some difference in the risk levels have been detected or substantial changes to the operating systems have occurred.

In the case of non operating members, you still have a responsibility to ensure staff and visitors are aware of the risks presented on your site, particularly those operating a station precinct that is adjacent to an operating railway.

Steam Locos



PECKETT 1630

This was checked and passed by the Boiler Inspector in mid-March.

PRICE CB 117

This passed its open inspection in mid-March and was put back together and steamed up on the 2nd April and again on the 3rd April when to safety valves were set.



HEISLER

The main work being done on this loco is being done by David, who is scraping years of muck off the Loco and painting it.

Rolling stock

Nearly all of our locos and rolling stock have had the annual inspections carried out.

A1319

The fibre glass ends for the curved ends of the roof were fitted and have been "Bogged" to shape where needed. The new steel roof was fitted the last time Richard Ellis was here assisted by his usual team.



Projects

GLEN AFTON

We have just employed a contractor to come and do the work needed on this section of our railway. At his quoted price we have enough money to pay for approx. 7 days' work. This involves clearing the mud from the last 20-23 metres of the track and removing the mud from on top of the sleepers between the rails and also extra drainage work.

Two culvert pipes were put in under the line where the creek that runs down the side of the line crosses to the other side.

Lance Slater had his digger here and he has removed the slow moving slip that has had a speed restriction in force for about 6 years. He also found the deep buried culvert reported in the last newsletter and has placed two more concrete riser pipes on top last ones. Hopefully we should not have any further problems in this area.

Rob and Sue Beaumont have done the surveying of the Glen Afton station site and we now have a plan of where the track is in relation to other features. Many thanks to Rob and Sue for taking the time to do this for us.

WATER TOWER

Now that another large pine tree has been felled, it was possible to safely erect the leg frames for the water tower. This was done on Sunday 10th April. The team on the job was Bruce McLuckie, Russell Webb, (tractor driver) Colin Jenner and David Mann. It is hope to have all of the permanent bracing on and the whole frame secured to the foundation by the next open day. It is quite an impressive structure as it is now.

BATTERY LOCO SHELTER

Trevor, his brother and Alun have been working on putting up a side wall on this shelter. They have fixed corrugated iron and some clearlite panels to the frame.

Around the Junction

MOWER

Russell now has a ride on mower. Woe betide anyone else that uses it. It makes his job of mowing the lawns especially the long driveway strip much easier. He now has a new roof over his caravan to protect it from the winter weather.

STATION

Last working bee day very few people turned up to help. Teresa has spent a day sanding down most of the inside of the toilet block. Russell, Derek and Gail put an under coat on it after sanding down the ceilings

Russell has spent a day water blasting the station.

Notices

FIREWOOD

We still have some firewood for sale. \$60 for a 6x4 trailer load.



T-SHIRTS & CAPS

New T shirts and caps featuring the Clubs new name are now on sale at the station. Tees are \$30 and hats \$16. As Henry Ford said "Any colour you like as long as its black".

If you would like to post a notice here, send it through to:
secretary@bushtramwayclub.com



The next working bee will be to complete the painting of the toilet block on Sunday 24th April.

PINE TREES

Another large pine tree has been cut down at the top end of the Pukemiro yard, The tree was given to the local Lions Club who are cutting it up and splitting it for firewood which they will then sell for fund raising.

-CJ

CAMPERS

We have had quite a few visitors with camper vans staying at Pukemiro junction over the last few weeks. For a small fee they get to stay in a peaceful and quiet setting. One couple has been there nearly two weeks with others stopping for one or two nights.

-Bruce

THE GLEN AFTON LINE

An excerpt from the 2016 Chairperson’s Report:

As you may remember, last AGM the committee was given the task of remedying the fact that most people have no idea what a ‘bush tramway’ is.

After a long evaluation period we’ve decided to keep the name of Club, the legal entity that runs the place, as “The Bush Tramway Club Inc.” and to name our railway operation **the “Glen Afton Line”** usually paired with the tag line “Heritage Railway”.

This is the name by which the general public are to know us from now on. It’s a combination of the historical “Glen Afton Branch Line” and our tag line of many years, “The Pukemiro Line”.

I think this name will serve us and our passengers much better, so please use it whenever you talk about us to others from now on.

-Elliot

The Gallery

This newsletter is a bit rushed to get out the above message about the road closure. Thus captions have been ditched in the interest of time saving, but that doesn’t stop us making a game of it. Try and find the odd one out in the images below!

