

Pukemiro Junction



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

GREETINGS

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Welcome to another newsletter with half of 2017 already gone. Not sure where to but my calendar certainly tells me it has.

OPEN DAYS

What else can we say but both May and June Open Days were fantastic. We thought May was extremely good but June was even better.

We were a wee bit short of members for the May Open Day. We could do with more help in the kitchen. Russell and Richard E. put on their aprons during the June Open Day and put together Russell's famous bacon and egg sandwiches along with hot soup, savouries and pies.

I was told that some June passengers had to wait two trips to get on the train. An extra trip was squeezed into the timetable to help with the numbers of passengers. Mamaku Jigger #1 had good loadings all day.

SHUNTER TRAINING & REFRESHER COURSE

This will be held on Sunday 13th August starting at 10:30 a.m.

All new and existing operating members (i.e. those working on or near operating rail vehicles –Ed.) must attend.

We will be carrying out refresher training twice-yearly from now on following NZTA's last assessment.



Packed fit to bursting. The success of the June Open Day was an incredible testament to the capabilities of BTC members. (Image: G.C./C.S.)

Many thanks to all who turn up to help run these days. You are certainly needed.

CHARTERS TRIPS

We have run one day with two Kindies coming for a ride with two more having come for a visit by the time you receive this newsletter.

TRACKWORK

Dave M continues to prune the line side growth up and down our railway.

The Community Work crew have been back a couple of times. On one visit, they replaced 9 sleepers in a set of points at the top end of the station yard. On their next visit, they shifted and stacked 120 new sleepers that had arrived from Mount Maunganui on the back of Ian J’s truck. They then spent the afternoon replacing most of the station platform edge anti-slip netting.

Locomotives

MAMAKU JIGGER #2

After a 6½ year overhaul, Ian Jenner brought his latest restoration project back to Pukemiro Junction. This had been used many years ago for trackwork up and down our railway but had come to the stage that it needed a lot of work doing to it. It’s overhaul has been regularly reported in previous issues of this newsletter.

Mamaku #2 arrived back on Sunday 28th May and was later test run up to the end of the line at Glen Afton. Then to make things even better it won the Federation of Rail Organisations New Zealand (FRONZ) award for internal combustion railway vehicles. This award was presented at the FRONZ annual conference in Dunedin during Queens birthday weekend.

Ian has previously won an award for the restoration of Mamaku #1. Let’s wait and see what else he can come up with.

PECKETT 1630

Neil has completed the additional spark arrester in the smoke box. The loco was used to haul the trains from the Rotowaro end of the line on our Open Days as usual.

PRICE CB117

This passed it’s In steam inspection before the May Open Day so it was in steam for the May Open Day but not the June Open Day.

DIESELS

Elliot has been working to complete the annual checks on these locos. He has found many small air leaks on 401 and 402.

UPCOMING OPEN DAYS

Next Open Days are:

Sunday	6th	August
Sunday	3rd	September

We need as many members as possible to come out and help run the Open Days.

WORKING BEES

The new work notification system seems to be working fairly well with several working days being organised through it these past months. Join up using the instructions in the last newsletter.



Mamaku, 1967. (Image: I.J.)



Pukemiro Jctn., 2003. (Image: I.J.)



Pukemiro Junction, 2017. (Image: E.B.)



Restored and Reunited. (Image: E.B.)



The award in question. (Image: E.B.)

Rolling stock

LA WAGON

The under coating of the body of this wagon has been completed. New gates were made and hot dipped galvanised. A new wooden deck has been laid over the steel deck and the gates fitted and welded into position.

A piece of one head stock has been cut out and replaced. The hand brake has been repaired and is now working. The wagon has been taken for a run up to Glen Afton and back to loosen up the suspension. This is probably its first ever trip on our line since it arrived at the Junction over 30 years ago. Work has been done by Bruce and Mark with assistance from Dave M. and Elliot.

A 1319

Richard E has been over for another few weeks. Work on the car has included laying the interior carpet. Yes carpet on a Bush Tramway rail vehicle! They have also been cleaning up the steel work for the end verandas. Those helping Richard have been Russell, Rob, Sue and Dave M.

XP WAGON

Mark has replaced some of the badly rusted body frame work. Dave has been busy cutting out various shapes of timber to fit on to the frame and is now ready to start re-cladding the exterior.



La wagon is La bee's knees. (Image: B.M.)



The bar is in, drinks anyone? (Image: B.M.)

Around the Junction

Russell continues to work at keeping the gardens and lawns spick and span although the very wet weather has slowed the growth considerably.

Following two cyclones we had a further period of very wet weather but as I write this, the last four days have been frosty in the morning and fine for the rest of the day with the very occasional short shower.

GLEN AFTON

The first cyclone brought down a rather large slip on a section of line not yet opened. Lance Slater has been and has tidied up the slips on this section.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members. We hope that you will come and help with the running and maintenance of our railway.

Recently unfinancial (read: forgetful –Ed.) members will shortly be receiving a letter reminding them that they have not renewed their subs and will be removed from our mailing list.

FRONZ CONFERENCE 2017

This year it was held in Dunedin and was attended by Elliot, Colin



Every stop is a photo stop at a FRONZ conference. Happily, Dunedin railways gave us plenty. (Image: E.B.)



Ocean Beach railway has lost all but 600 m of it's railway to the advancing beach. Oh the sad irony. (Image: E.B.)

and Jan Jenner. NZTA gave three lectures with their main theme being that they will be looking at worker safety as part of their annual assessments. There were other sessions that gave out a lot of useful information. Conference visits were made on Dunedin Railways train to Pukerangi, The Dunedin Gas Works Museum, Ocean beach railway and the Early Settlers Museum where we were given a talk about Dunedin’s cable cars and the plans to reinstate part of their line. On Monday we did a trip up to Oamaru on a Silver Fern railcar and a visit and ride at the Oamaru railway.

All in all another well organised and successful conference.

THOUGHTS

If you have any ideas for progressing our railway please let one of the committee know, preferably in writing so that it can be discussed by the committee at its next meeting. (We hope to put together a long term plan shortly so now is a good time –Ed.)

-CJ



The passenger cabin of RM24 might be fancier than most aircraft, but it’s twin cabs are still classic 1970’s. (Image: E.B.)



Oamaru Steam and Rail offered another Tr ride. The FRONZ contingent had the open car packed. (Image: E.B.)



One horrid step in KiwiRail track at a crossing gave the cow catcher a solid wallop. It hit ballast regularly all the way home after that, especially in the tunnel. Not such reassuring sounds to hear... (Image: E.B.)



The BTC contingent to the 2017 FRONZ conference. (Image: E.B.)

REPLACEMENT EDITOR

As you will read on the next page, my time as newsletter editor is at an end.

Anyone who knows anyone, young (I started at 17) or old, inside or outside the Club interested in taking up the mantle of newsletter editor should contact the Club Secretary at:

secretary@bushtramwayclub.com

It’s their opportunity to improve their editorial and graphics design skills and help the Club from the comfort of their own home.

As editor I’m sent the typed newsletter text for proofreading and formatting. I’m usually sent some images which I supplement with my own. As former-editor I’m happy to continue taking images and send them to my replacement as I need some for the Club’s Facebook page anyway.

I’ll ask for volunteers on the Club Facebook page if we get to September with no takers.

If no one steps up after that, well it wouldn’t be the first time the newsletter was text-only!

-Elliot

THE NEWSLETTER

A Look Back As The Curtain Falls

Looking back, I'm rather proud of what I've done with the newsletter.

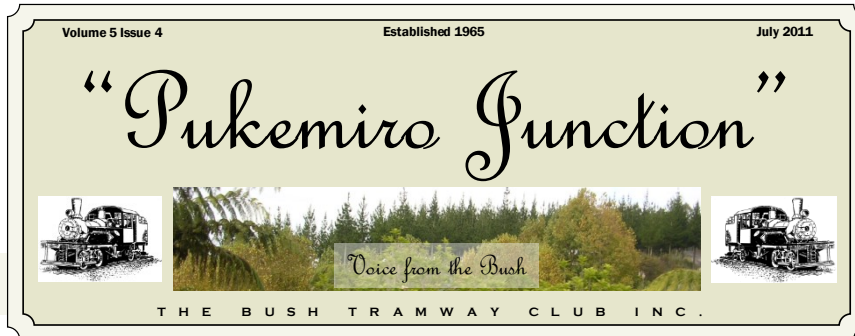
From fonts to content focus. For many years I kept making small improvements, never quite satisfied. Until now.

Now I feel it's time to move on. There's a lot of potential in our Club. I intend to make the most of it.

I leave you with some fun little blasts from newsletters past.

Thanks for reading.

-Elliot

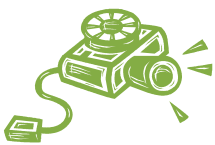


GREETINGS

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The Photo Gallery

Peckett Mania Edition

50th

I love deadlines.

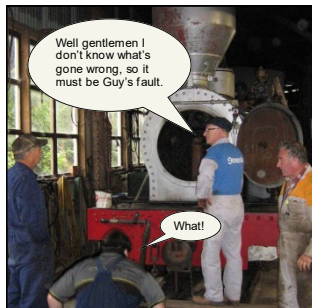
I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.

Douglas Adams

STEAM!



Peckett 1630 being driven by the justifiably excited Chris Mann after over 10 years of overhaul. (Photo courtesy of Chris Mann)



QUIZ

On what page did these fateful words appear?

INTRODUCING THE NEW TEMPORARY EDITOR!

Hello all. My name is Elliot Baptist. I am a young committee member from Hamilton.

I have been writing the club's publicity mailouts that go out to the local newspapers and radio stations since the beginning of this year and I have now taken over editorial duties for the newsletter temporarily. I am uncertain how long I will be in the role but I aim to do my best while I'm here.

Clue: It was just below where I usually put the Open Day dates.

Answer on this page

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

- Dr Seuss

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Why hello there fellow comedians, who's up for a challenge?

QUIZ ANSWER

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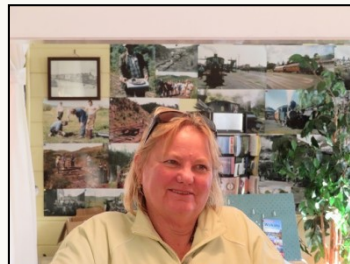
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The Gallery

The Gallery is as packed as the June Open Day with pictures mostly from same courtesy of G.C., C.S., and R.E.



New members Malcom (left) and Paul (right) have been hard at work on the Heisler. Great to see new faces. (Image: E.B.)

A lovely visit by Mary Burns on the June Open Day. Great to see old faces too! (Image: R.E.)

