

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 2017 well advanced by the time you read this

OPEN DAYS

July Open Day was a lot quieter than the last few (particularly June) but still equal to a good day a couple of years ago. It also meant that our crews got a break between trains as the trains ran per the timetable rather than non-stop. We were also able to carry out training for some of our members who had volunteered to be (say) locomotive drivers or guards or catering staff (more volunteers needed!).

The August Open Day was extremely busy – in fact our best Open Day ever in revenue terms. Like June, we just threw the timetable out of the window and ran trains as and when we could. We were pretty short of members on this day, highlighting the fact that we were pushing our current capacity limit in many respects – carriages, car parking, member availability, no rest breaks for members and so on. (roll on getting to Glen Afton with its ample car parking ASAP! – Editor).

Ian J had his newly refurbished Jigger No.2 in operation all day – it ran faultlessly with full loads each trip.

We really need some more members to train in the various jobs available on our railway including station staff and train crews. (if you are interested contact secretary@bushtramwayclub.com right now. No skills needed initially, as we train you up!).

Thanks to the members who have come and helped run our recent Open Days.

CHARTER TRIPS

Ian B is now organising these. Since the last newsletter we have had two days of charters. One was a group from the Waikato Hotrods classic car club. They wanted a steam train ride, and as there were only 40 of them we just used the Mines Car and the Peckett steam loco over the full length of the line, rather than splitting the line operation into two separate operating sections, as would happen on an Open Day.

We also had a kindy from Hamilton, 105 kids & adults, on a diesel charter trip. If you know a kindy that might like a train ride, let the club secretary know.

Thanks to all members who were happy to turn out mid-week to run these charter trains.

We currently have several more enquiries – charters seem to be increasing in popularity this year.



Open Days

The next ones are:-

October 1st

November 5th

December 3rd

With the popularity of recent Open Days, we need as many of our members to attend as possible. We also intend to run Jan/Feb/March 2018 so get ready now!

Open Days recently have been very busy.....Image E. Baptist

REC. ROOM

This little used room adjacent to the station building has been converted to now have the main club kitchen in it, on a 12 month trial. It is the genesis of a little café rather than just be a drinks & biscuits counter as was the situation in the previous station kitchen location..

Dave H, Russell W, Richard E, Sue B & Maarten & Lesley R, have been really busy getting it ready whilst Mark P. has donated equipment and a food hygiene standard preparation stainless bench. Teresa & Ian B and Gail & Derek M have been busy moving equipment and cleaning.

The ticket sales & souvenirs were also trialled at the August Open Day in the Rec. Room. This proved to be a “step too far” and the Committee has therefore decided that the tickets & souvenirs will return to the station with the food & drinks to continue on in the Rec Room. As always, more volunteers would be welcome in this area.



Food & Drinks says it all.....Image EB

TRACKWORK

Dave M continues with his lineside pruning.

Peter C & Ian B spent a few hours recently jacking up & packing two track joints in the area that had previously slumped near the Hangapi Road level crossing. This settling of the earlier remediation work was expected.

Our community work crews have been out & replaced more sleepers under a point at the top end of Pukemiro Jct yard. There are still a few more to do on this point. They also recently spent a day planting flax bushes on the slips at Glen Afton to try to consolidate the ground.

Pete C, Chris M, Dave M and Alex S spent time before the July Open Day replacing both long sleepers, replacing the point levers and rodding to the point at the bottom end of the loop at the Rotowaro end of the line. This means that we can now run a loco round the train at the bottom end of the line. This work was done during the Hot Rod car club's charter.



Reinstatement of the Rotowaro end run-round loop will enable one loco operation of the train in the future.

Image C. Mann



The Peckett & Mines Car in fine form on a recent charter. Image: C. Mann

LOCOMOTIVES

Peckett 1630 - This continues to work very well and is used on each open day.

Cb117 – This was in steam during the August open day and ran up and down in the yard.

Heisler - Our two Rotorua members Malcolm & Paul M have spent a couple of days working on removing the cab.

Diesel Locos - Ian B has been working on the crank pins on 402 to take up some of the sideways slack between the connecting rod & nut that secures the rod to the crank pin. This has stopped a lot of noise (& wear) from the side rod hitting the securing nut.

Elliot has finished his annual checks of these Meremere locos.



Locos line up for the August Open Day – image E. Baptist

ROLLING STOCK

Wagons

La wagon – The body of the wagon has been painted red and the underframe black. Three axleboxes were replaced and the curved roofing iron has arrived and will be fitted as soon as the picnic tables are installed. One table has arrived, been cut to length & installed, so as to leave room to walk between the tables. This wagon will be used to take the Community Work people up the line.

XP wagon – Dave H has been focussing on this project and has reclad one side of this wagon

Carriages

A1319 – Richard E has been over for another 3 weeks in July, and is now here again. On the July visit the seats were all fitted and finished off with timber trims. The end doors have been fitted. This involved some “woodwork” to account for a twist in one door. A new section of brake pipe has been made & fitted. The carriage team of Russell W, Sue & Rob B, Dave M have done much of the work, with Dave H & CJ adding their specialist skills.

AROUND THE JUNCTION

The extremely wet weather continues and in fact a local mine owner claimed that this was the wettest winter since 1935! We have been very lucky so far in that we have had no slips of earth come down & block the line. The only recent slips have been two at the Glen Afton end of the line some months ago which were cleared by member Lance S.

Russell W continues to keep the station & driveway neat & tidy, and does lots of “unseen” jobs like cleaning the toilets, clearing the rubbish after Open Days, and so on. The Club owes Russell a debt of gratitude for his efforts.

Membership & Volunteering

Welcome to our new members (we have had quite a few this year). We hope that you will get involved with the running & maintenance of the railway. Contact secretary@bushtramwayclub.com if you want to volunteer or any other Committee member or simply turn up. To find out who is going to be at the Junction & when, join the email group aroundthejunction@gmail.com by sending an email to the group address simply saying you want to join...

Shunting School

This was held on 13/8/2017 but was poorly attended. The shunting signals and whistle signals were gone through and members asked questions. We then moved onto coupling & uncoupling air hoses and looked at different types of handbrake. This course is part of the NZTA's requirement that every member who operates on our railway undergoes a refresher course in what they do every 2 years.

GLEN AFTON

We have recently received a \$15,000 grant towards the cost of sleepers to complete the overhaul of the rest of the line to Glen Afton with spares left over to build the run-round loop.

We had previously received two grants of \$5,000 each, so with the extra \$15,000 the sleeper cost is covered and these have been ordered. We hope to get a quote shortly for the installation of the sleepers.

-CJ



Want to volunteer at the BTC?
Simply send a message to
“aroundthejunction@gmail.com”
and join our working members’
email group. Find out who will
be where & when!

Coaling the Peckett.. Image

CM

The Gallery

THE GLEN AFTON LINE



Malcolm & Paul M have been working on the Heisler cab; also work has been done measuring the boiler thickness by Dave M & others (hence the grid pattern on the boiler barrel)



The TR has had its rods measured recently by Bruce M & Dave M revealing significant dimensional issues which may account for

the “clunk”..... Mike A has been persevering with this project for a number of years.....



Ian B & Derek M were key crew members at a recent kindy charter. Ian B is now organising these charters.



Dave M & Bruce M have been working on finishing off the Price “E” as a static exhibit near the top of the drive



Sometimes attention turns to domestic matters....washing hanging outside the Bunkcar and work underway inside the members Shanty Mess Room to fix up the tatty old wall.....



The latest “Temporary Editor” of the Newsletter, Richard Ellis, in the new Rec. Room kitchen in July 2017 finding the concept of “temporary” somewhat amusing.....image: E. Baptist

FINALLY.....A BLAST FROM THE PAST.....SEE HOW MANY MEMBERS YOU CAN IDENTIFY FROM THIS 1984 PHOTO!!



HELP WANTED!

Send your photos/images for publication in the next newsletter. Anything relevant to the activities of the BTC is welcome. Also, send articles about the Glen Afton branch, your reminiscences, or current activities on the railway etc. Members may not be aware, but for decades the main text has been written by Colin Jenner. Whilst this has been invaluable, perhaps it is time that we had some input from other members. Send your input to secretary@bushtramwayclub.com right now! RE