

Pukemiro Junction



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

GREETINGS

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By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be almost into 2018. We hope that your Christmas went well and that you have a happy New Year. See you soon!

This time of the year means that subscriptions are due for the New Year. Renewal forms will soon be posted out. We hope that everyone will renew (& join someone else up too! - Ed).



The Cb was running in the yard at the November 2017 Open Day

OPEN DAYS

The next Open Day is on 7th January 2018.

With the popularity of some recent Open Days, we need as many of our members to attend as possible. We are running in Jan/Feb/March 2018 so get ready now! Contact secretary@bushtramwayclub.com if you can help over the Summer period.



The Car Van & Mines car are highlighted in this photo of the train....

November and December open days were reasonably quiet, During the November open day the Peckett ran the trains on the lower section of the line and during the December open day the Peckett was restricted to running in Pukemiro yard due to the very dry conditions.

The Cb put in an appearance for the November open day.

The December open day saw the Trains once again running the full length of our operating railway for the first time since the September derailment.

Many thanks to all who turn up and make these days a success.

We have managed to get enough members to run our trains for January, February and March. We will be run on these days for the first time. All trains will be diesel hauled with possibly a Mamaku jigger running as well.



The recently restored Mamaku Jigger No.2 together with the hand crane outside the Loco Shed

CHARTER TRIPS

Ian Bettison continues to organise our charter trips and has run a lot since the last newsletter. Charters are well up on the last few years. He is usually assisted by Derek and Gail Morgan and Teresa.

END OF YEAR GET TOGETHER

This was held at the end of the December running day and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.



Members enjoy a well earned rest after the December Open Day...

SOUVENIRS

We are expanding our souvenir range. We presently have caps and “T” shirts, we will be adding fridge magnets and train whistles. We still have a few Railfan calendars for sale at \$20 each.

TRACKWORK

A tremendous amount of work has been done on our track since the last newsletter.

The area of the derailment has had approximately 70 ½ rounds replaced with square sleepers. There is still mud contaminated ballast to dig out and replace with new ballast. These sleepers were all replaced by the hard working Community Work Crews.

These crews also replaced 12 square sleepers and 3 long point sleepers under the point at the top end of the loop at the Rotowaro end of the line, and re-gauged it.

A club working bee was held at the end of November. The team dismantled the check rail of the Rotowaro loop point, the parts were cleaned up, track re-gauged and screwed back into place.

A very good turnout of club members ensured this work got completed. The Community Work Crew also spent a day replacing ½ rounds and re-gauging the line immediately uphill of Hangapi road level crossing. There is still a bit more work to do in this area.

Dave Mann has done a lot of clearing of line side growth. Bruce McLuckie has taken the tractor up to the sandfill section and spent 2 days re-shaping the line in this area to ease the sharp curve. There is still more to do on this as the track has moved recently.



Members working on the track – an essential task to keep the railway functioning...

New sleepers for the Glen Afton end arrived at Pukemiro Junction in mid-December. 840 sleepers were unloaded by 2 Community Work crews 2 days after they arrived, this job took most of the day and the temperature was a very warm 25c. We recently received a \$10,000 grant from Pub Charities towards getting the track over hauled towards Glen Afton.



The BTC has purchased 840 sleepers – here being seen transferred from road to rail...

CULVERTS

We presently have 2 problem culverts on our line, both within Pukemiro Junction yard.

One is at the top of the drive to the yard. This is blocked by a slip that came from our neighbour's land, He originally thought the culvert was on his land but has since produced plans to show the problem is possibly ours. It will be cleaned this summer. The other culvert runs under the shanty from the back corner of the filled area behind Russell's caravan. An attempt to unblock this culvert when contractors came up against an obstruction. A couple of days later they put a camera up the culvert pipe and found a grating causing the blockage. This grating would have been put in well before our time by the NZR. We had extended the culvert, once it was found as it was well buried. Unfortunately, at the time we had not noticed the grate, so we now need to figure out a way of cleaning the blockage.

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!

LOCOMOTIVES

Peckett.

The Peckett has continued to run well and is now stopped for its annual survey.

Price Cb.

The Cb was in steam during the November open day and it is now to have a hydraulic test done on the boiler.

Climax 1650.

Richard Stratford has spent a couple of weeks on the boiler. Assisted by Guy he has put in some new rivets around the smokebox tubeplate.

Price E.

Bruce McLuckie continues to work on this Loco and has just recently fitted extra channel steel to the cab to bring it up to height. The next job is to bolt the cab to the floor. Dave Mann has been assisting as well.



The Climax boiler is being worked on again – this close up shows the previous work done on the tube plate and the wasted rivets.

ROLLING STOCK

Xp van.

Dave Harrison continues to work on this wagon. He has stripped all of the old T&G off the second side and is replacing any rotten framing timbers. New timber was recently purchased for the floor.

A1319.

Richard Ellis has recently been over from NSW again and by the time you receive this newsletter he will be heading back again to Pukemiro Junction. The main job on his last visit was to make and fit new tables between the seats, it has been fitted with internal lighting. Rob and Sue Beaumont & Russell Webb have continued with the finishing touches. Mary Burns was very impressed with the standard of the restoration of the carriage when she made a visit to the club during the December Open Day.



A1319 now has lights & tables and is almost complete & ready for service

AROUND THE JUNCTION

Russell continues to keep the grounds in very good order, but is now finding that the recent very hot weather has really dried the place out making some jobs difficult.

ASSESSMENTS

The NZTA annual assessment was carried out in September and we received their report in mid-November. There are a couple of things that they would like us to do on the paperwork side. In late November we had a visit from an Insurance surveyor. His report shows he also wants a few things done.

AGM NOTICE/ SHUNTING SCHOOL

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 25th March 2018 at 1.30pm. Prior to this a shunting school will be held starting at 10.30am. We would like as many members as possible to turn up for both of these.

The Gallery



Bruce, Colin Swabey, CJ & Elliot enjoying the December Open Day



Members sort out check rail issues at Rotowaro during the recent working bee...



Neil Purdie & Bruce McLuckie hard at work ashing out the Peckett – note the red hot cinders!



Sue & Rob Beaumont take a breather whilst working on A1319



The Meremere diesel & flat wagons await the sleeper delivery to be transferred from truck to train...



Delivering the sleepers to a “safe place” up the line....

FINALLY.....A BLAST FROM THE PAST..... IN 1985!



In 1985 Richard Ellis & Carol Mann spent a week finding and installing the “missing windows” in the Mines car.

Newsletter script by CJ, digitised by Bruce McLuckie. Images by Guy Coker, Chris Mann, Richard Ellis & Elliot Baptist.
Please send images & text for future editions to secretary@bushtramwayclub.com