

Pukemiro Junction

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

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SAFETY REFRESHER DAY

This day will be held on 21 August starting at 10.30am. It is important that as many operating members as possible turn up. The NZTA main focus at present is on health and safety.

NEXT OPEN DAY SUNDAY 5th AUGUST 2018

WORKING BEE – SUNDAY 22nd JULY 2018 @ 9.30 am at Pukemiro Junction

Trackwork at Rotowaro loop to fix various issues with the undulating line & alignments led by Peter Cairncross.

Please come along to this important working bee to improve our operating line!. Bring lunch....

GREETINGS

2018 is already ½ way gone. Unfortunately, the weather has turned and has been very wet.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We still have some outstanding subs so this could well be the last newsletter you will receive if you have not paid.

Welcome to all of our new members. We have had quite a few. We do hope that you will join in our activities, be it running the train on open days and associated roles like the café, shop and ticket sales or helping with mid-week charters.

There are plenty of maintenance jobs on that side of our railway. We need members to train as guards and steam loco fireman.

OPEN DAYS

May open day was well patronised but June was a complete washout with all of the train crews getting pretty wet. We were surprised how many passengers turned out for a ride despite of the weather. The Cb ran in the yard for the day.

July open day proved to be very busy with most of the trains full to capacity. The newly restored carriage “Mary” ran for the first time ever on an open day since its arrival at the BTC in the early 1980’s with passengers enjoying the interior lighting on what was a gloomy afternoon. The cold weather boosted hot food sales.

The Peckett hauled all of the trains on the bottom end of the line. Thanks to all that turned up to help run these open days and make them a success.

CHARTER TRIPS

Ian and his team have run 2 trips on 1 day. One for a travel company from Hamilton and the other for a travel company from Whakatane. The club had a very successful charter at the end of June that was organised by Ian and Teresa for the Motor Caravan Assoc. Thanks to the members that came out to help with this big group. The Peckett ran on the entire line on both trips assisted by one of the Meremere diesels.

There are several advanced bookings pending with one of them for 2019.

MEMBERS DAY 10TH JUNE

The purpose of this special day was to officially launch A1319 “MARY” into service on the Glen Afton line.

This wooden carriage was purchased from the NZR by Eric and Mary Burns. It arrived at Rotowaro by rail and was towed up to Pukemiro by the BTC. It sat in our sidings unused except for storage of boiler tubes until it was pulled out and its overhaul was undertaken by a team led by Richard Ellis.

During its time sitting on the sidings, its condition had deteriorated to the point that in another couple of years it would not have been able to be saved.

The overhaul has taken 3 years with a large team (by BTC standards) of members helping with the project.

The restoration of this carriage won the award for the best carriage restoration for 2018 at the annual Federation of Rail Organisations of NZ conference in Wellington.

About 60 members and families took advantage of our special day. The carriage has been named “MARY” after member Mary Burns who was present on the day to officially unveil the name plate. Mary was extremely pleased with the standard of the restoration. Two trips were made to the bottom of the line for those present to experience the new seats and luxury features then after lunch two trips were run to Glen Afton.

Lunch was organised by Teresa. Thanks to her and her helpers in the kitchen.

There were a lot of faces present that I did not recognise, being members relatives. The day went very well. The Peckett was used to haul the carriage on all of the trips.



“MARY” IS PIPED AWAY FROM THE JUNCTION ON ITS FIRST OUTING (M.REKKE)



MARY BURNS CLIMBS ABOARD "MARY" FOR THE FIRST RUN – LESLEY WILLMOT LOOKS ON. (L.COOPER)

GRANTS

The club has been very fortunate to have received the following grants since the last newsletter.

- WEL energy trust: \$2,800 to upgrade our old switch boards.
- Waikato District Council: \$10,000 towards the extension to the carriage shelter
- Waikato District Council: \$3,200 to purchase two water filter system, one for the station supply and the other for the shanty water supply.

We are extremely grateful to those organisations for their fabulous support. Without this kind of support, we could not progress as we wish to.

ALONG THE LINE

Our track contractor Dean has been out to do more work for us, he has been clearing the drains at Glen Afton and will be commencing the re-sleeping of the track at Glen Afton within days. He is also going to do some remediation work on the "sandfill" which is

halfway up the line. Dave Mann has been assisting by driving a diesel loco along with the track wagon and the contractors side tipping wagon. All this work means we should be in a position to run trains all the way to Glen Afton within weeks.

Dave has continued to work away at pruning the lineside growth. A large gum tree fell down across the track at the top end of the line and it had to be cut up to allow our trains to pass.

Russell continues to keep the lawns and gardens in tip top order.

The rest of the flax bushes have been planted.



DRAINAGE WORKS AT GLEN AFTON (P.CAIRNCROSS)

STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

Peckett 1630 has been in steam on every open day hauling trains on the bottom end of the line as usual.

Climax 1650. Alistair has been up from Wellington recently and spent a week at the Junction working on the boiler. He and Richard S put in all of the stay tubes which Alistair then welded into place after they had been expanded. They then fitted the ordinary tubes as well and expanded these too. Very good progress indeed. Alistair has done a lot of boiler work for us over the years.

Meanwhile at the Te Kuiti workshops of Pitcorn Engineering good progress has been made with the chassis frame and bogies. When Bruce visited them of Friday 29th June the Chassis was sitting back on its bogies. Work on the new cab will start shortly.



THE CLIMAX CHASSIS IS ALMOST READY TO RETURN TO THE BTC.... (B.MCLUCKIE)

Heisler. While Alistair was at the Junction, he took a look at this boiler. He has recommended that we take out a further two rows of firebox side stays on each side.

He is to give us a price to run a tap down all stay threads, fit the stays and seal weld them.

DIESELS

We have obtained a price to overhaul the injector/fuel pump set on the spare 8LW Gardner motor that we have. We have applied for a grant to fund this job (recently received). Once the injector/fuel pump has been overhauled it will be fitted to 401.

ROLLING STOCK

A1477 #3 car. Our carriage restoration team are now concentrating their efforts on overhauling this car. All of the roof ventilators have been removed, cleaned and overhauled and put back into place. Rob and Sue are working on some of the woodwork. It is planned to remodel one end to include a larger open veranda.

XD wagon. Dave Harrison continues to work on this wagon. He has recently replaced a section of the steel body work framework that was well rusted out.

La 17313. Ian B has been grinding the ends of the steel roof supports so that they can be welded together.

FRONZ CONFERENCE

The conference this year was in Wellington and most of the NZ heritage operations had delegates there. Amongst the speakers was a KiwiRail manager who talked about the current government being keen to expand rail rather than endlessly prune it, and a speaker from the Department of Transport who hinted that an Auckland to Hamilton commuter service might eventuate. The NZTA rail inspection team is expanding and doing more work “in house” rather than contracting the work out. Other speakers spoke on areas of concern such as fatigue management. The BTC won an award for the fourth year in a row...this time for the best carriage restoration in NZ in 2018.



RICHARD ELLIS RECEIVES THE FRONZ AWARD FOR THE BEST CARRIAGE RESTORATION OF 2018 (D. MACIUALITIS)

Gallery



THE BTC CERTAINLY HAS FOOD ON THE MENU NOWADAYS – ENJOY!! (G. COKER)



BTC MEMBERS BOB, IAN & RUSSELL TAKE A BREAK- JULY OPEN DAY (G. COKER)



BTC MEMBERS TONY HINTON & JOHN HERBERT LAY TRACK IN 1985 (R.ELLIS)