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Established 1965

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# Pukemiro Junction

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



**THE NEXT OPEN DAY IS ON SUNDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

**WORKING BEE, SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

A working bee is provisionally planned for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November, to do track work.

Contact Peter Cairncross or look out for messages nearer the time on email group "Around the Junction" for details.

**GREETINGS**

The year is certainly racing away, almost gone. The weather has at last fined up mostly.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We have had several new members join recently. Welcome to our club. We hope that you will come and help to run our railway. If you want to lend a hand, contact Richard Ellis ([secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com)) in the first instance, outlining how you can help or what interests or skills you have and he will put you in touch with the relevant member or group to get you started.

**OPEN DAYS**

The October Open Day was on the first week of the school holidays. Our three carriages were needed for the first four trips and were all full. The weather was very fine & a large number of passengers came out for rides. We tried several different attractions on this day. Tea and cake were sold from the small buffet counter in the new carriage "Mary" and was very successful. The Peckett was confined to the yard because of the dry weather conditions so the opportunity was taken to try out "Become a driver for \$10" This was pretty successful, and some passengers went away very happy after having a very different experience. The loco crew were in the cab to guide the "new" drivers up and down the yard. Cb 117 was also running up and down the yard entertaining our visitors.

A very good amount was banked as a result.

Thanks to all who come along and help make these days a success.

The next open day is on 4<sup>th</sup> November and the last for the year will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.



Three carriages were used on the October Open Day (above) with Marlene & Alyssa doing morning teas on “Mary” (below) (R. Ellis)



The committee has decided to run on the first Sunday in January, February and March plus our normal open days for the rest of 2019 as we did in 2018.

We hope that members will be available to make these extra running days a success.

For January, February and March this year (2018) we made about \$5000 in extra income. All money comes in handy to continue with our extension of the line.

### **OCTOBER WORKING BEE**

At the working bee last week: Peter Cairncross, Trevor, and Jordan Shortt did some tamping at the Hangapihi end of the track, Russell Webb shifted the ballast from the carpark into the hopper wagons and I scrubbed the bird poo off the station window sills and handrails. (Notes by Linda Cooper)



Jordan & Pete tamping near Hangapihi Road (P. Cairncross)

## **GRANTS**

The Waikato District Council has provided a grant to us for \$10,000 towards the carriage shelter extension. Adding this to a previous \$3,500 grant from the Council gives us almost 100% of the funds required for this project.

We have paid the deposit for this job & construction should start in November.

## **ALONG THE LINE**

Dean McQuoid has been back to the railway and has now completed the re-sleeping of the track into Glen Afton .

Members may not be aware, but the old NZR last used this part of the line in 1972. It has been unused since, except for the occasional trips over it recently by our Mamaku jigger. A large amount of work by members & our contractors has got us to this point of re-establishing the old line after several decades of effort. We should be very proud of our achievement.



Sleepers replaced by Dean, assisted by Dave Mann at Glen Afton (B. McLuckie)



Dean's Hi-Rail truck & digger at Glen Afton (Linda Cooper)

Our Community Work crews have been out replacing more sleepers within Pukemiro Junction yard. Their next re-sleeping job will be in the cutting just above Campbell's level crossing.



Russell tends to the gardens whilst the Planet looks on....(Linda Cooper)

Dave Mann has been busy pruning the line side growth. This has really started to grow again.

Russell Webb continues to keep our lawns looking good. Lesley was noticed on her knees weeding some of the gardens recently.

#### STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

**Peckett 1630** . This has continued to perform reliably during our open days. John Soffe has completed his training sheet as a firemen on this loco.

**Climax 1650** - Richard Stratford has continued to put in the new fire box stays. Each stay requires a lot of work before its installation is completed. In Te Kuiti the new cab is being built for this locomotive.

**Heisler 1082.** - We have received a quote from Alastair MacIver to cut out the remaining stay studs, weld up any nicked ends and then re-tap the threads. Only at that stage will we know if we have to go up a size for all of the new stays. The Committee has approved the expenditure of the money for this work.

#### DIESEL & PETROL

**Meremere 401 & 402** - These both continue to perform well and are the main stay of our loco fleet. As the drier weather comes on they will be hauling most if not all of our trains.

Geoff Boyle has completed his training to drive these locos and is now able to drive them solo.

#### ROLLING STOCK

**A1477 (#3 car)** - Work on this car progresses. Richard Ellis has been over for another 3 weeks and spent most of it working on this car.

The glass has been removed from the windows and new safety glass has arrived and will soon be fitted. Maarten Rekke has been burning the old paint off the pressed steel ceiling. He can only do this for short periods as his arms get very stiff. Rob & Sue Beaumont, Dave Mann & Russell Webb have put many hours into the car. The car is being painted in the standard BTC yellow “Afghan Tan”.

Lots of little bits and pieces are being worked on it at any one time.



A1477 is progressing well (R. Ellis)

**La 17313.** - The frame work for the roof has been adjusted and will be welded onto the top of the wagon body corners.

**XP Wagon** - Dave Harrison continues to work on this wagon. The outside cladding has almost been completely replaced and the old floor has been removed ready for new replacement timber.

#### **COAL SUPPLY-**

We have had to change the method that we use to get our coal. In the past we just took our coal wagon up to Campbell's crossing, Russell took the tractor up to the mine and brought the coal back in the tractor bucket and put it in the wagon. This mine has stopped producing coal so we must get our coal in bags from the bagging plant at Huntly West. This is a lot of work but is presently the only way we can get our coal supplies. This is proving to be expensive as well.

#### **BATTERY ELECTRIC LOCO SIDING**

We have recently purchased some lengths of 15kg/metre light rail specifically



for this siding. This is to form the track into the recently finished lean-to shed behind the woodwork workshop to house the battery electric loco.

Eventually we hope to extend this shed lean-to to the full length of the woodwork workshop building so that we can store our light rail vehicles in it.

### **CHARTERS**

This year we have had a marked increase in charter bookings over previous years. On Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> October we had a visit from a Hamilton Poodle club. They have been coming regularly for a number of years. Thanks to the Charter crew for running these trips.



The Poodle Club with their diesel hauled charter train (Bruce McLuckie)

### **DECEMBER OPEN DAY XMAS CELEBRATIONS**

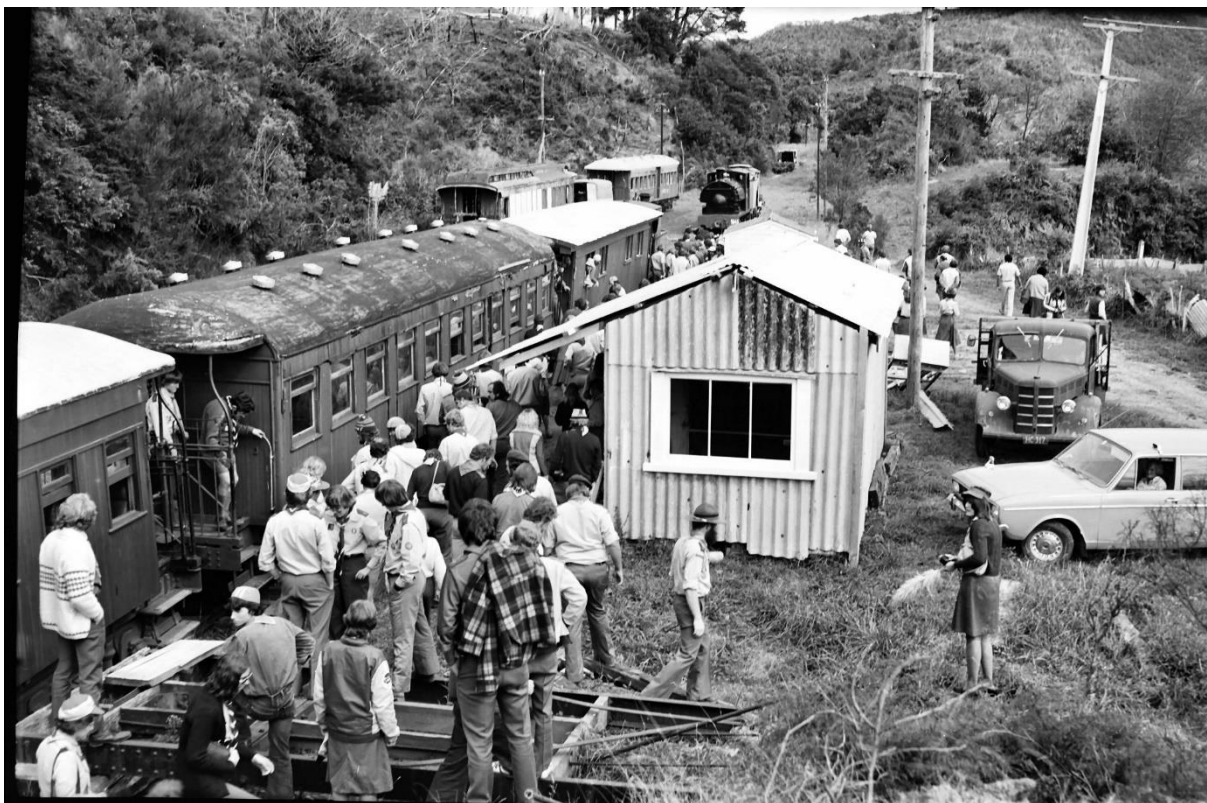
After the last train of the day we intend to have our usual end of year BBQ dinner.

Please bring your usual goodies and help us celebrate a successful year.

**T H A N K S**

As temporary editor, I'd like to acknowledge the continuing contribution of Colin Jenner for providing most of the text, & Bruce McLuckie for computerising it. Please send your contributions (if any) to [secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com), - Richard Ellis

***We have received some Railfan 2019 calendars. They are for sale for \$18 each. Please buy them from our souvenir stand at the Junction. We need some more used engine oil. We use a lot of this for oiling points & our wagon axle boxes. Contact Colin Jenner if you have spare oil.***



What appears to be a Scouts and/or Guides visit to the BTC is seen (above) at Pukemiro Junction in 1979 (photo J.A Terry) whilst a special train is seen at Glen Afton (left) in around 1970 (photo from I. Jenner) – possibly an RES. Excursion.

Send your old photos and any reminiscences of the line to [secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com) .