

Volume 13 - Issue 3

Established 1965

May 2019

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, 5th MAY 2019

■ The front page shows our tractor, which does huge amounts of work which largely goes unrecognised (R.Ellis)

GREETINGS/SUBSCRIPTIONS/NEW MEMBERS

The first quarter of 2019 has already gone by, the days just seem to go past faster & faster.

New members: Welcome to our new members – we have had several join recently. We hope you will become an active member & help with our open days or on the maintenance of our railway.

To our other members: We still have several who have not paid their subs. If you are one of them, this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you pay up.



The Peckett is prepared for the Open Day (L.Cooper)

2019 OPEN DAYS

March: this was an average day. Customers were a bit thin on the ground, but we should remember that a couple of years ago this would have been a “typical” day.

April: This was extraordinarily busy day. By 9.45am, we had enough passengers waiting to fill a train, so the first one left at 9.55am. When this train returned from the top end of the line, there were enough passengers waiting to fill another 2 trains. To stop the congestion of passengers getting off the train with those trying to get on the train, we stopped the train at the bottom end of the platform to unload, then pulled the train up to the station proper to load. As soon as the train was full, we were away again. We ran 3 extra trips with the last leaving at 3.55pm instead of 3pm as normal.

The Mamaku jigger ran 14 trips; usually it runs about 6 or 7 trips.

The café ran out of food at about 1pm with just a few drinks left. We sold 35kg of chips alone between 10am and 1pm.

In all, we carried 1051 passengers. They just never stopped arriving.

For the first time ever, we banked a 5 figure number (over \$10,000)!!



The grey Mamaku jigger being attended to before the Open Day (L. Cooper)

Many thanks to all who turn up & help run these days – in any capacity. You are certainly needed but we could do with more help as some members didn't get a break all day.

The Peckett was in steam, running up & down the yard, giving visitors a chance to drive a steam locomotive for a nominal fee.



Mark Prujean fried 35kg of chips at the April Open Day (G. Coker)



Richard Ellis & Russell Webb. Sue Beaumont, Trevor Willmot & Mark Prujean sold almost \$2,000 of food and drink at the April Open Day, whilst Marlene took another \$150 for cakes & teas on "Mary" (G. Coker)



Trevor Willmot, Rob & Sue Beaumont relax after the recent hectic Open Day (L. Cooper)

CHARTERS / GROUPS

During March, we ran a charter for a tour company based in Masterton. They have been coming every year for 4 years now.

We ran another small charter for a family birthday in late March, using the Mamaku jigger. We have two charters booked for the middle of May, including the Pukemiro Primary School, our local school.

Other groups come on Open Days, such as the Aparangi group organised by Linda (below).



GRANTS

The grant we received from Lion Foundation for the injectors / fuel pump for 401 has been spent. Shaw Diesels came down & fitted the fuel pump but left the injectors for us to fit. Jordan Shortt is on with this.

We applied for a grant to excavate & move the track over to form direct access to the proposed new platform at Glen Afton. This has been turned down. Linda is looking at re-applying with a modified application..

AROUND THE JUNCTION

The siding into the future battery electric shed has seen a lot of work undertaken bending the 15kg/m rails for this siding as the curves are very sharp. The majority of the really curved section has now been screwed down to the square sleepers. Dave has spent a lot of time putting in the sleepers for the point for this siding, whilst Trevor, Robert, Alun & Rob have had a couple of successful working bees bending the rails.

Russell continues to mow the lawns & is keeping the driveway in order.

New member Sue has started getting the gardens up to scratch. She recently spent a couple of days at the Junction, camping in her van.



Following a couple of successful working bees organised by Trevor Townsend, the new siding for the battery electric loco approaches the point on the right hand side of the picture (R. Ellis)



Rob Beaumont wields a spanner on the new siding for the battery electric loco whilst Richard Ellis “supervises” (T. Townsend)

ALONG THE LINE

While carrying out the track inspection before the February Open Day, a broken rail was found approx. ½ way between the Junction & the Rotowaro end of the line. Our trains terminated just uphill of the rail for the February & March open days. The rail was replaced by our CW crew the day before our AGM.

Our CW crews have completed the replacement of the marked sleepers above Campbell’s crossing.

The whole line has been weed sprayed by Russell. Dave continues to spray the Junction yard.

We have also sprayed all the lineside gorse between the Junction & the Hangapipi Rd. level crossing. This has been a combined effort by CJ & Dave.

Dave continues to keep the lineside growth trimmed back, a never ending job.

LOCOMOTIVES

Tr217: Mike continues to work on this loco. The engine runs sweetly but he is doing a few mechanical jobs. When it is all OK, we hope to use it on open days & for other jobs.

ROLLING STOCK

A1477 (#3 car): Richard E has been over for another few weeks working on this car, along with Russell, Dave H, Rob, Sue & Linda. Work has concentrated on the windows & their openings on one side and on the ceiling. The windows are now all square & Richard hopes to have all in place very shortly. He has found a store of window catches & has spent days cleaning the old paint off & shining them up, then fitting them with the assistance of Russell. The ceiling has been patched & is largely now painted in undercoat. Maarten who spent a lot of time a few months ago cleaning up the ceiling with a blowtorch is expected back at the Junction in May, and hopefully will then remove the remaining old paint. So far he has done an unpleasant job without complaint and we thank him for his great effort!



A1477 gradually is getting new windows and a refurbished ceiling. (R.Ellis)

Dave H has been working on the new bulkhead for one end of this car. It is anticipated that MTL(NZ) will be soon producing a design for an extended balcony on this car following a recent visit from Chris Mann & his draughtsman to assess the work required.

La 17313: Bruce & new member Georg spent the March Open Day putting the roof on this wagon.



La wagon with its new roof (R. Ellis)

XP Wagon: Dave H continues to fit the new floor in this wagon when he is not busy on other jobs.

Af1047 car van: The 2 seats that were removed have been re-covered in Hamilton but are yet to be fitted back in place.

TRAINING

A very good turnout was in attendance for our annual shunting refresher course on 24th March. This was followed by a fire extinguisher demonstration & training session. Almost all members had a go at putting out the fire. This was

organised by Bruce McL and conducted by our extinguisher certifier & a fireman from Hamilton.



General view of the firefighting training session (B. McLuckie)



Nampu puts out the fire (C. Swabey)

A . G . M .

This was held in the afternoon of 24th March & again was very well attended. The committee is the same as last year being: Peter Cairncross, Chairman: Guy Coker, Vice Chairman: Richard Ellis, Secretary: Ian Jenner, Treasurer. Committee members are: Ashley Turner, John Soffe, Bruce McLuckie, Richard Stratford, Geoff Boyle & Colin Jenner, General Manager. Linda Cooper was co-opted onto the committee as grants co-ordinator.

Nothing contentious was brought up for discussion. The main topic in “General Business” was in regard to the long term planning of the Committee for the future of the BTC over coming years.

S P O N S O R S

These are a very important part of our financial situation.

Mark Prujean: For materials & supplies for the kitchen.

Spirax Sarco: For our locomotive boiler water treatment.

Roy McNab: For recovering our carvan seats.

Many thanks to you all, every little bit helps us.

P U K E M I R O J U N C T I O N “ B U L L E T I N ”

Richard E has sent out a “Pukemiro Junction Bulletin” to all members with email (about 90% of members). This is an experiment; however if sufficient interest is shown it is hoped to continue this members-only bulletin which will contain more current/forward information about our railway than the newsletter, which tends to look at events which have already happened.

O P E N D A Y S

The next ones are: 5th May, 2nd June, 7th July. We hope as many members as possible will come & help with these days. Volunteer now by contacting volunteer@bushtramwayclub.com, We are really all very friendly & look forward to your support; experience not required!!

You might think you need specialist skills.....not so!!

OVERSEAS VISIT

We recently had a visit from Phil Barnes who was out from UK. He has visited us 4 times previously. Dave M took him for a ride up to Glen Afton. He was very impressed & couldn't believe that 2 ½ km were overhauled by hand. He often writes articles in Old Glory magazine.

This newsletter is produced by Colin Jenner & Richard Ellis. Send your contributions for future editions (including images/photos to secretary@bushtramwayclub.com. We especially want old photos & reminiscences of days of old.....& let's get this newsletter lifted with more member views & opinions!



Wagons at Otahuhu well over 30 years ago await their fate....are our Xp wagons amongst them? (photo: Kerry Bennett)



Don Le Compte builds a house near the Shanty in April 1979 (J.A.T.)



Les Bodle, Dave Harris & Dick Lawrence in August 1979 (J.A.T)