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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



WINTER EDITION

THE NEXT OPEN DAY IS ON SUNDAY, 7th JULY 2019

The front page shows the early morning mist at the Junction – Winter has arrived! (Linda Cooper)

GREETINGS / NEW MEMBERS

Greetings: The first half of 2019 has already past, the days just seem to go by faster & faster.

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



The recent Open Day saw two trains running giving a half-hour service (L.Cooper)

2019 OPEN DAYS

May was a good day but June was even better.

For June, we carried 650 passengers. As we had no crew for the Mamaku jigger, we tried running a different way. The 2 diesel locos had two carriages & the Peckett one carriage. We could only run a certain distance up the line – not right up to the top – and the 2 trains crossed at the Junction with the down train running through the loop. This meant we were pretty well operating a train

every ½ hour, so no passenger was waiting for too long. This system worked very well.

The café was very busy both days & a good amount of money was taken. At least 200 sausages were sold by Trevor each day, and soft drinks & toasties went very well.

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 hauled the Mines Car at the recent Open Day (L. Cooper)

CHARTERS / GROUPS

During May, we ran 2 charter trips & have got another couple of enquiries. Thanks to all who help with these trips.

GRANTS

We have received a grant of \$16,000 from Pub Charity to help with the painting

of our station. We have also received \$10,000 from the Heritage fund of the Waikato District Council towards this painting job & the restoration of some of the station windows. This job will be done in September.

Thanks to these two organisations for their very generous grants, and to Linda for making the successful applications.

ALONG THE LINE

Trackwork: We have a few problems with our track at present which are restricting our operations.

To help get around this, we have ordered 400 more sleepers & have engaged a contractor to replace some of our sleepers along the line. We are also purchasing some second hand screw spikes & clips.

We recently replaced 38 sleepers & re-gauged a long curve. The sleepers were replaced by our CW crews. The re-gauging & screwing down the rails was done by Pete C & John S with Dave M's help.

We've had the "wandering jew" weed sprayedthis invasive plant had filled the cutting we recently re-sleepered. It has been in the cutting for many years.

The contractor has also sprayed the gorse, toi toi & tobacco weed from Campbell's crossing down to the Junction. We have asked him to do the same for the rest of our line.

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

Pete C & John S have been carrying out a comprehensive survey of our line.

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

Member Lance Slater has had his digger sorting out 2 culverts under our line. Unfortunately when he turned to go down to one of the culverts, he damaged 6 sleepers. These have been replaced by our CW crews.

He also pulled down 2 large willow trees in front of the Jenner's house – one of them was growing right across the line but just above our trains. He has also deepened the creek in the area as it had silted up.

JUNE WORKING BEE- A REPORT FROM THE FRONT.....

A working bee was held on Sunday 23rd June & is reported on by Ian Jenner –

“There were nine of us there, five of us uplifted 107 sleepers from up near Colin’s house then we trundled down the line dropping them off in places where Pete had marked sleepers for replacement. Following that we went up the line again & uplifted old sleepers that had been replaced & were lying around. Ian Jenner, John Soffe, Dave Mann, Trevor Wilmot & Maarten Rekke were working on sleepers & Pete Cairncross was measuring & marking.

Three others worked on the Meremere diesels, CJ, Ian Bettison & Geoff Boyle.”

We need as many members as possible to help with our working bees to keep our track in good order. No track equals no trains & no income!!

AROUND THE JUNCTION

Russell continues to mow the lawns & keep the driveway in order, whilst Maarten & Lesley have tidied up the gardens around the shanty.



Following a number of successful working bees organised by Trevor Townsend, the new siding for the battery electric loco approaches completion. A stub point will be installed to access this siding due to space considerations (T. Townsend)

LOCOMOTIVES

Diesel locos: We had a couple of problems with our Meremere diesels during our June open day. 402’s batteries decided to die early in the day & it had to be jump started. We have purchased new batteries.

401: For some reason, the fusible plug in the torque converter blew, so that loco was out of action as well. Luckily it happened late in the day. Richard S has fixed the fusible plug & it is back in place & we have ordered the hydraulic oil to refill the torque converter.

As Chris M said at the end of the day, it's a change for the steam loco to be shunting 2 dead diesel locos into the shed!!

ROLLING STOCK

A1477(#3 CAR) Richard E has been over for another couple of weeks working on this car, along with Dave H, Rob & Sue B. Work has mainly been concentrated on getting all the windows right, building a new bulkhead, and restoring the ceiling.



A1477 progress – a new bulkhead frame can be seen – thus allowing a much larger balcony so passengers can enjoy the view in the open air – Chris Mann is working on the engineering modifications (R. Ellis)

La 17313: Bruce has put some boards across the open spaces at each end to stop people sitting on the edge or climbing out. He has also put a guttering along each side just under the roof.

Crane 293: Richard S has put a new wire rope on this crane – its first since we obtained the crane approx. 40 years ago.

Maarten has nearly finished overhauling a carriage gangway.

S P O N S O R S

These are a major source of contribution to our success; thanks to you all:

Mark Prujean: For materials & supplies for the kitchen.

Spirax Sarco: For our locomotive boiler water treatment.

Pub Charity: For a grant towards painting our station.

W.D.C.: For a grant from their Heritage fund towards painting our station.

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

The Secretary (Richard Ellis) has sent out a number of “Pukemiro Junction Bulletins” to members by email. The aim is to advise members of upcoming activities which can be participated in around our railway - before the event. The Newsletter tends to report on things past. All comments are welcome.

F R O N Z C O N F E R E N C E

Richard E represented the BTC at the recent Federation of Rail Organisations conference in Timaru. A very useful couple of hours were spent by the delegates discussing “how to attract new members”: this being an issue for all heritage railways. Of interest also was a concern by a number of delegates on how to achieve “zero emissions” by 2050. Food for thought. Side trips were to the Plains Railway at Ashburton & the Pleasant Point Railway at Pleasant Point.

O P E N D A Y S

The next ones are: 7th July, 4th August, 1st September. We hope that many members will come & help on these days. Volunteer now by contacting volunteer@bushtramwayclub.com, We are really all very friendly & look forward to your support; experience is not required: we can train you!

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

TREV TERRY.....Joseph Acton Trevor Terry; 11/11/22 to 1/6/19.

Trev, as he was known to us, joined the BTC in 1978 or 79. He always came to our working bees to help with the back breaking work in the early days. This was mostly cutting down very high gorse & replacing sleepers. He was head of the Health Dept in Hamilton so not really used to hard physical work but never the less did his fair share. He blamed me for getting tennis elbow from replacing sleepers.

His hobby was researching anything to do with railways. He researched & wrote several articles on small coal mines at Glen Afton & Pukemiro for our newsletters.

He was researching the Kimihia branch line when he passed away. This line ran from Huntly to a mine just north east of Huntly. The line closed & was pulled up a couple of years ago when the East Mine closed – this was the last underground mine in the area.

As old age crept up on Trev, he went to live with his daughter in Rotorua & then went into several rest homes in Rotorua.

Trev's father was a signal man in the south signal box at Frankton & Trev loved going to work with his father in his younger days.

Rest in peace Trev, you have certainly earnt it.....Colin Jenner



Wab 797 shunting at Taupiri in 1955 – one of many great photos taken by Trev Terry over many years (image supplied by R. Stratford)



The "Ab" in action for the recent 2019 FRONZ Conference delegates at Pleasant Point (R. Ellis)



The railcar in operation at Ashburton for 2019 FRONZ Conference delegates (R. Ellis)



Our Peckett 1630 at work at Pukemiro Mine in November 1961 (R. Hepburn) – image supplied by I. Jenner

SLEEPERS

We have for sale a quantity of old hardwood sleepers. Price is \$10 each. Please order from the Secretary. secretary@bushtramwayclub.com.

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 these newsletters enhanced with more member views & reviews!

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