

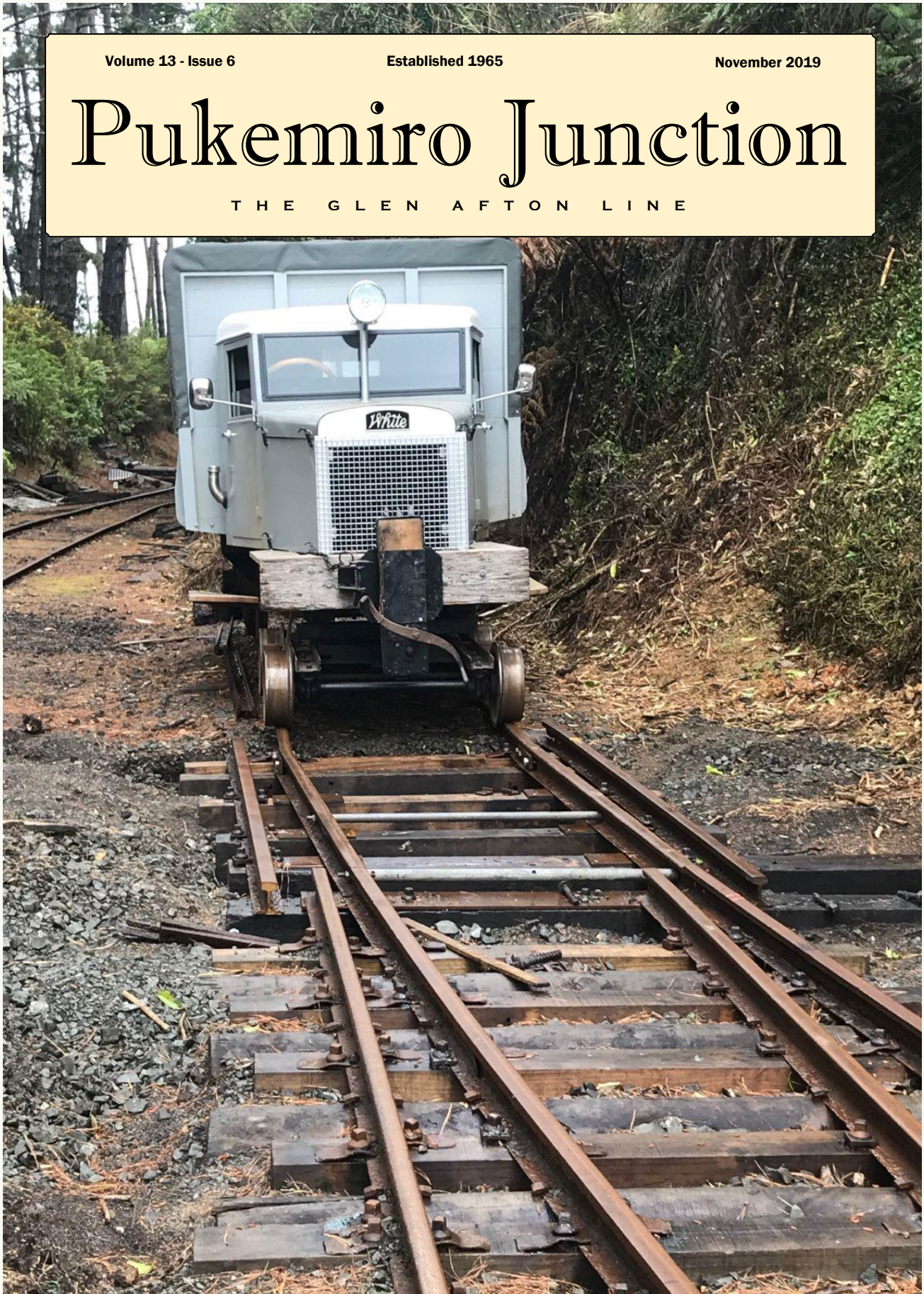
Volume 13 - Issue 6

Established 1965

November 2019

Pukemiro Junction

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



The front page shows the Bush Jigger No.1 and the unusual new stub point behind the Woodwork Shop (image: R. Stratford)

THE NEXT OPEN DAY IS ON SUNDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER 2019**GREETINGS**

Although the weather is starting to warm up, it is still pretty windy with the land drying out which is not good for fire risk.

2019 OPEN DAYS

September open day was very well patronised but October was even better. Luckily for October, we had had a lot of rain in the couple of days beforehand.

Both days, the Mamaku jigger was in use. We are still running only from the top of Pukemiro yard to the bottom end of the line, so the 2 trains crossed at the Junction with the up train taking the loop then reversing into the station after the other train had left. Our passengers didn't have long to wait between trains.

I'm told that both days we ran a record number of trains. The café was again very busy, particularly during October. The souvenir shop did well too.

Many thanks to all who turn up & help out with these days in any capacity.



Trevor has been doing a roaring trade on Open Days with the sausage sizzle! (Image: L. Cooper)



The Meremere locos & train at the October Open Day (Image: C. Mann)

CHARTERS / GROUPS

There are no charters until our trackwork is completed & we can run the full length of our railway. We have enquiries for 2020/21 including from overseas!

ALONG THE LINE

Repair & Maintenance of our track remains a priority. This time the problems are up past Pukemiro Junction.

We have just received a grant of \$5000 from WEL Energy Trust towards the cost of getting our contractor back. One of our members has very kindly offered us a loan to cover the rest of the contractor's costs. A lot of replacement sleepers have already been laid out.

We have recently purchased from Kiwi Rail's Frankton track depot the last of their second hand screw spikes & 1 heavy drum of rail clips. We have nearly run out of bed plates.

Our CW crews have been busy replacing sleepers on the bottom end of our line & within Pukemiro yard.

We also had a very successful track gang working bee in October...many thanks to those who were able to be there.



The BTC track gang hard at work at the October working bee (Image: P. Cairncross)

The siding into the new shed behind the woodwork shop is nearly completed. Dave M is doing the sleeper work whilst Richard S has built a stub point for access onto this siding. One of the Mamaku jiggers is currently stored in there.

The spring has produced the usual weed growth along our railway. Dave M & CJ have been spraying parts of the line using knapsack sprayers.

AROUND THE JUNCTION

Russell continues to keep the lawns & the driveway sorted out.

We still need a member to keep our gardens in order – any offers??

We have taken delivery of a 20 ft container. All the “good” stuff presently in the hall is being transferred into this container. A lot of members have spent quite a few hours on this work, Maarten in particular. Once the hall is empty, it will be demolished.

LOCOMOTIVES

Meremere 401: The engine oil was changed by Geoff B. There are still a few jobs to do on this loco.

New Diesels Tr367 & Tr 436: We have been concerned for many years that we rely on our two Meremere locos for much of the hard work around our railway. If one failed, we would really be up the creek without a paddle.

Kiwi Rail advertised for sale 2 x Tr shunting locos at their Te Rapa depot. We went & had a good look at them. One (Tr 367) has been purchased privately by a member & the other (Tr 436) by two of our members donating the cost. The privately owned one just needs batteries & the side rods putting back on & it will be a runner. The engine has already been run. The other one has its engine in pieces in the cab as it was supposed to have a blown head gasket but we have also heard that it was blowing a lot of blue smoke so it may need new piston rings & cylinder liners.

They were both built by A & G Price's in Thames for NZR, one in 1958 & the other a couple of years later. They are both fitted with Gardner 6 LW engines.



The new Tr367 acquisition is seen with the Battery-electric loco on 1 November 2019 (Image R. Ellis)



The new acquisition 367 seen being craned onto a low deck truck at KiwiRail Te Rapa depot (Image: R. Webb)



Tr 367 seen at Pukemiro Junction (Image: T. Townsend)

Climax 1650: Alistair has spent most of a week welding on this boiler.

Heisler: Whilst at the Junction, Alistair spent some time working on this boiler. He has removed a lot of the remaining stay stubs that were still in the boiler. He hasn't found any cracks radiating from the stay holes in the boiler sheets. He is generally happy with the condition of the rest of the boiler.

ROLLING STOCK

A1477 (#3 Car): Dave H has been lining the inside of this car with plywood.



The interior of our A1477 "A" Class carriage is being lined with plywood prior to painting (Image R. Ellis)

SECURITY

Our security system seems to be working ok, but the bottom gate of the drive is still not always being locked at night. Please ensure that if you are the last to leave or if you arrive late at night, that you lock the gate.

STATION

We have received a large grant from Waikato District Council's heritage fund to paint the station. Ian B & a chippy have repaired 2 x windows. This took a lot longer than they thought. The painters have started their work. Ashley & Bruce have repaired the platform.



(Upper) Ashley & Bruce repairing the Platform edge (image L. Cooper); (Lower) Repairing the station windows (image T. Bettison)

FILM EVENING

This went off as planned but wasn't well attended. It was held in the shanty. Thanks Richard S for digging out the old colour slides.

OPEN DAYS

The next ones will be on 3rd November, 1st December, & 5th January. We hope as many members as possible will come & help with these days.

SAFETY REFRESHER COURSE

Safety refresher course: This was held as planned & attended by 20 members. It is a requirement of our safety system that you attend these courses.

CALENDARS

We have for sale some 2020 Railfan calendars They are \$20 each & can be purchased from our souvenir shop.

FROM THE OLD DAYS.....



The Peckett at Pukemiro Junction around 1960...the coal wagons are on the Pukemiro colliery branch line (image: Stewart Collection)



The Peckett locomotive coming down the Pukemiro branch line in around 1960 (Image: Stewart Collection)

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!