

Volume 14 - Issue 2

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 "F" & the Car-van at Pukemiro Junction sometime around 1985 (Photo R. Ellis)

**THE NEXT OPEN DAY IS ON SUNDAY, 1st MARCH 2020****GREETINGS**

Welcome to another newsletter. The real hot weather has arrived – it's too hot for me!! It's hard to believe that the first 2 months of 2020 have already gone.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Many thanks to all who have renewed their subs for 2020. A lot of you have also given very generous donations as well. Remember that donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

**2020 OPEN DAYS**

January was very good passenger wise but February was, as in previous years, much quieter. Our Meremere diesel locos hauled all trains with the Mamaku jigger also being very busy.

Unfortunately, right at the beginning of the February Open Day, 401 blew the fusible plug in the torque converter again. This was temporarily repaired by Richard S & the loco was back in use later in the day. In the meantime, 402 soldiered on hauling 1 car.

We are still only running our passenger trains to the top of Pukemiro yard as our contractor hasn't yet been down to repair the top half of our line. According to the latest info we have, he hopes to be here just before our March Open Day. Keep your fingers crossed!! So far, he has approx. 135 sleepers to replace & a few areas to re-gauge.

Many thanks to all who turn up & help make these days a success, but there is a serious need for people to assist the Club between our running days as well!

**CHARTER GROUPS**

Ian Jenner is organising a BTC charter for Rotary on 15<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00 until about 3.00. He plans to run one diesel with 1 carriage down the line & so needs a driver & guard for that. Also the plan is to have the Peckett in the yard for "driver experience" rides & also the Cb if it is running. Ian will run the

jiggers up the line & he and Marlene will be providing a lunch for Rotary.

### ALONG THE LINE

Not a lot to report in this area. John S & Pete C have marked out most of the sleepers that need to be replaced.

Our CW crew have been out a couple of days splitting firewood. There is still a pile of knotty rings still to do but we will need to hire a log splitter to deal with them. So far the wood wagon & wood shed are full

John S spent half a day laying out more sleepers ready for when our contractor comes.

### AROUND THE JUNCTION

Russell continues to keep the lawns & driveway sorted out. With this very hot weather, the grass isn't growing much.

Patricia A has been down again working on our gardens.

Bruce McL hired a small digger during his Xmas break & dug a trench from the top corner of the carriage shelter to the new water tank. He has buried the pipe in the trench but has yet to fit the pipe joiners. He was helped by Russell W.



Bruce McLuckie recently got a machine to dig the trench for the water supply to the new loco water tank (Photo: B. McLuckie)

Recently, David Black brought down a ute & trailer load of Bob Mann's "useful stuff" & guess where a lot of it went.

Maarten has continued to empty the hall but he & Lesley are now away in their bus on their holidays, & probably will be returning in the autumn.

### **LOCOMOTIVES**

The boiler inspector was here on 15/1/20 & passed both boilers. Richard S is going to replace all the pipework on the Cb with much heavier walled pipe as a lot of the existing pipework is getting very thin in the walls.

401: As already mentioned, the fusible plug in the torque converter blew early during February open day. This was temporarily repaired by Richard S so the loco could be used during the rest of the day.

402: For the last couple of months, the front right hand side of this loco has a bad droop to it. This was found to be a spring hanger longer than the rest. This was adjusted by John S, Pete C & Guy C.

Tr367 (105): Richard E spent another 3 weeks over here, mostly working on this loco. He is fitting up an air system so that the driver can operate the carriage air brake. Richard S has kindly donated the brake valve. This is a very big job involving a lot of pipe, threading the various pieces plus fittings. Richard E. has been helped by Russell W & Dave M.

The loco carried out some load / braking tests on our line. It handled 2 cars OK but will normally be limited to 1 car.

### **ROLLING STOCK**

A 1477: Dave H has nearly completed lining the inside of this car. Rob & Sue B were hard at it recently with a spade getting the old hard board & lino off the floor. It was well glued down. The ceiling has been cleared of old paint and is now looking good after 3 coats of new paint applied by Sue B. Patches to the ceiling have been applied by Rob B. and he is now ready to refit the brass ventilators. Seats for this carriage have come from Goldfields Railway...we thank them for their kind offer of these seats at a cheap price. Hopefully this carriage will be back in service next year.

**SECURITY**

After a number of recent incidents the Committee has decided that the “top gate” should be locked for most of the time. Our neighbours Geoff & Karleen have installed a new gate at the bottom of their drive.

**STATION**

Bruce has replaced & painted the rotten boards on the handrails.

We have received a quote from a local plumbing company to replace the spouting & install a new downpipe at the top end of the station.

Trevor T4 has put up the public address speaker that had been taken down for the painting work. He intends to come back and improve the wiring.

**A.G.M.**

This will be held on Sunday 29/3/2020 at 1.30pm at the Junction. It is important that as many members as possible come to elect the committee, hear progress of the Club & the railway in general & put forward their ideas. We are looking at revamping the Club Rules, and changing the size of the Committee, which makes it important that you attend.

A shunting refresher course will be held in the morning starting at 10.30am. All operating staff should attend.

**OPEN DAYS**

The next ones will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> April & 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020. We hope that as many members as possible will come & help make these days a success.

**REC ROOM/CAFÉ**

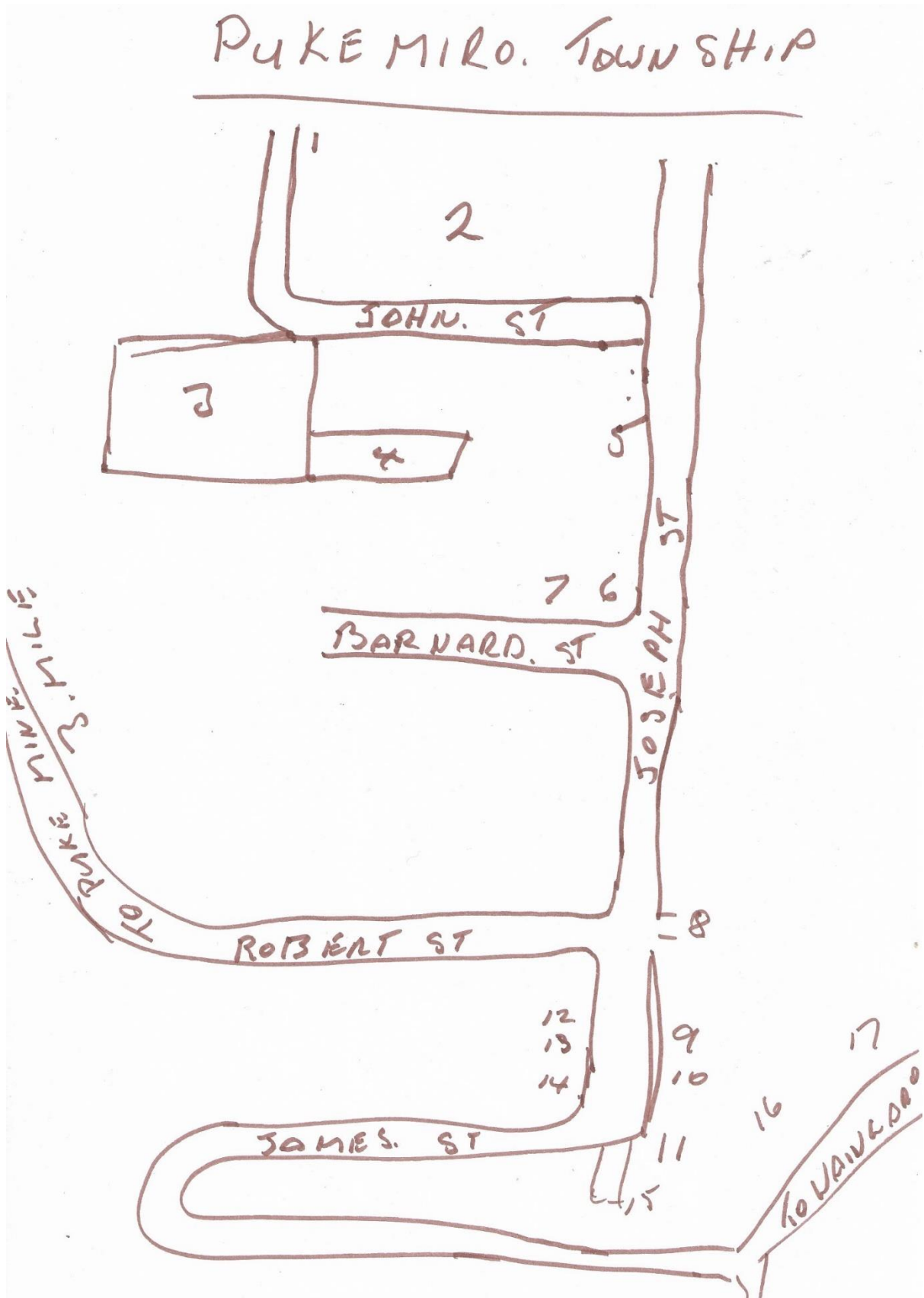
The materials for the shelter in front of this building have been delivered but we need someone to erect it.

**NZTA VISIT**

Two people from the NZTA came for their annual visit on 15/1/20. So far, we haven't received their report. A focus of their visit was on our Risk Assessments & our Risk Mitigation plans.

**FROM THE OLD DAYS.....**

**.....RUSSELL WEBB REMINISCENCES ON THE 1960'S-**



Going by the numbers from the rough sketch:

1. The dental clinic;
2. Pukemiro School (which had 5 classrooms, and between 180 and 200 pupils);
3. The football ground;
4. The tennis courts;
5. The movie theatre (movies were on Saturday night and Wednesday night);
6. The Post Office;
7. The Doctor's surgery;
8. St John Ambulance hall (first aid classes were held every Tuesday evening);
9. Home cookery;
10. The butcher's shop (he also delivered the milk for Pukemiro, Glen Massey and Glen Afton);
11. Ralph Joyce's general store;
12. Snelling's general store;
13. Pool room;
14. Monty Reynolds' dairy;
15. Presbyterian Church;
16. Catholic Church;
17. Large 2 storey wooden building. The top storey was the Masonic Lodge (Freemasons), and the bottom floor was the Buffalo Lodge.

If you turned into Robert Street and followed for 3 miles, you came to the Pukemiro Mine where there were another 15 to 20 houses. Brosnan Motors from Raglan had a depot at Pukemiro and their bus did the school run, the mine run (to Pukemiro mine), and all sorts of charters on the weekends.

*Russell Webb, February 2020.*

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Editor's Note: I'm very grateful to Russell for putting his local knowledge into words....the information he has provided is a part of NZ history which can so easily be lost..... As an aside, the school is currently under threat with as I understand it only two local pupils and the rest being bussed in from Huntly...-----

EDITOR'S FURTHER NOTE If I get no photos for the newsletters as was almost the case for this edition then I'm placed in a situation where the newsletter will revert to the "good old days" with no pictures and be very boring. I want the newsletter to develop with "letters to the editor" and more articles like those from Bruce Alabaster & Russell W. It really is up to you...send me something!!-----



Our then three working steam locos with the Manawatu carriage at the loco shelter (as it then was) in 1985. with the shanty in the distance (photo R. Ellis)



"F" & Heisler firing up for an Open Day at Pukemiro Junction in around 1985 (photo R. Ellis)





In 1949 this train was ballasting our line....a ballast plough in the foreground (photo Len Hostick from the John Agnew collection)



The ballast train in 1949 (photo Len Hostick from the John Agnew collection).

This newsletter is produced by Colin Jenner & Richard Ellis. Send your contributions for future editions (including images/photos to [secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com). We especially want old photos & reminiscences of days of old... & let's get these newsletters enhanced with more member views & reviews!