

Volume 14 - Issue 4

Established 1965

July 2020

Pukemiro Junction

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



June working bee – down the line (Photo K. Kopa)

GREETINGS

Welcome to another BTC newsletter. Because of the virus, a lot of work at the Junction has been postponed, however we are now seeing “green shoots” emerging....

2020 OPEN DAYS

Since the March Open Day we have not run trains, thus affecting our cash flow.

However we are back in business now with trains running on the first Sunday of every month commencing on 5th July 2020. Show your support & come along either as a visitor or as a volunteer.

See our website www.bushtramwayclub.com or our “The Glen Afton Line” facebook page for more details. All assistance, however small, is welcome.

Financially the BTC remains in good shape.

CHARTER GROUPS

We have had a small number of enquiries for charters which are now being handled by our General Manager, Colin Jenner. The first one is in September.

ALONG THE LINE

Our line has had some work done on it recently. A working bee in early June (with appropriate social distancing) had some members doing work replacing two rails down the line whilst others were securing sleepers inserted previously by our contractor.

Other members worked around the station or cleaned out the old Hall.

AROUND THE JUNCTION

Dave M continues to toil away on the foliage around the Junction & along the line. Russell continues to mow the grass. Maarten & Lesley have returned from their adventures in the bus and have been clearing out the hall and doing work around the Junction, including erecting anti-bird defences on the station, as has Linda C. Having just painted the station, we now need to keep the birds away! Also, Trevor T has been busy tidying up the public address system wiring.



Members at the June working bee gathered for a group photo (Photo L. Cooper)



Spikes have been erected by Lesley & Maarten above the station windows to deter the birds: (Photo: T. Townsend)

CAFÉ AWNING

Bruce & Russell have been busy building the new awning in front of the café (Rec Room) to protect our sausage sizzler Trevor & the passing crowd from the sun & rain. Good progress is being made.



The new awning takes shape. (Photo: B. McLuckie)

LOCOMOTIVES

Peckett: This is in running order and should be available in steam on the upcoming Open Days, weather permitting.

Cb 117: Richard S is replacing all the pipework between the steam dome & the engine unit with heavy wall pipe.

Heisler: Some more work has been done on this loco. Dave Mann has been doing angle grinding work on the sheet-metal work



Blanking-off plate for the Heisler found recently in the hall – believed to have been stamped by Colin Jenner 50 years ago. (Photo:C. Mann)



Dave Mann works on the Heisler: (Photo Chris Mann)

Battery Electric Locomotive: Trevor T has been working on this locomotive including fitting a new isolation switch for the batteries.



Switchgear inside the cab of the battery electric locomotive (Photo: Trev Townsend)

ROLLING STOCK

A 1477: No work has been done recently on this carriage.

SECURITY

The Police have tracked down the people who they think stole some equipment from the BTC in 2019. Our CCTV system on site provided crucial evidence.

A . G . M .

This was postponed due to the virus, but will now be held on Sunday 26th July 2020 at 10 a.m.. Please attend!

It will be followed by a working bee in the afternoon clearing out the hall. This is not compulsory.....just turn up and do what you can.....

Russell intends to open up the café on the day for members refreshments.

NZTA VISIT

The BTC has responded to the NZTA findings from their 2020 assessment of the BTC; our response has been accepted and signed off by the NZTA.

ERRATA

Following the letter to the Editor regarding the Meremere diesel locomotives published in the last edition, it has been pointed out by Richard Stratford that in fact the locomotives were officially SHD 446 & SHD 481. The locos carried cast plates affirming this in the past

Also, the last edition of the newsletter had an old photo of a Bb locomotive under a bridge which was said to be at Glen Afton. Several people have corrected this: the bridge shown is the old Hangapipi Road bridge, now long gone (see below).



This map kindly supplied by both John Soffe & Pete Cairncross shows the railway line from Rotowaro to Pukemiro Junction.

PUKEMIRO JUNCTION VILLAGE HALL - A BRIEF HISTORY

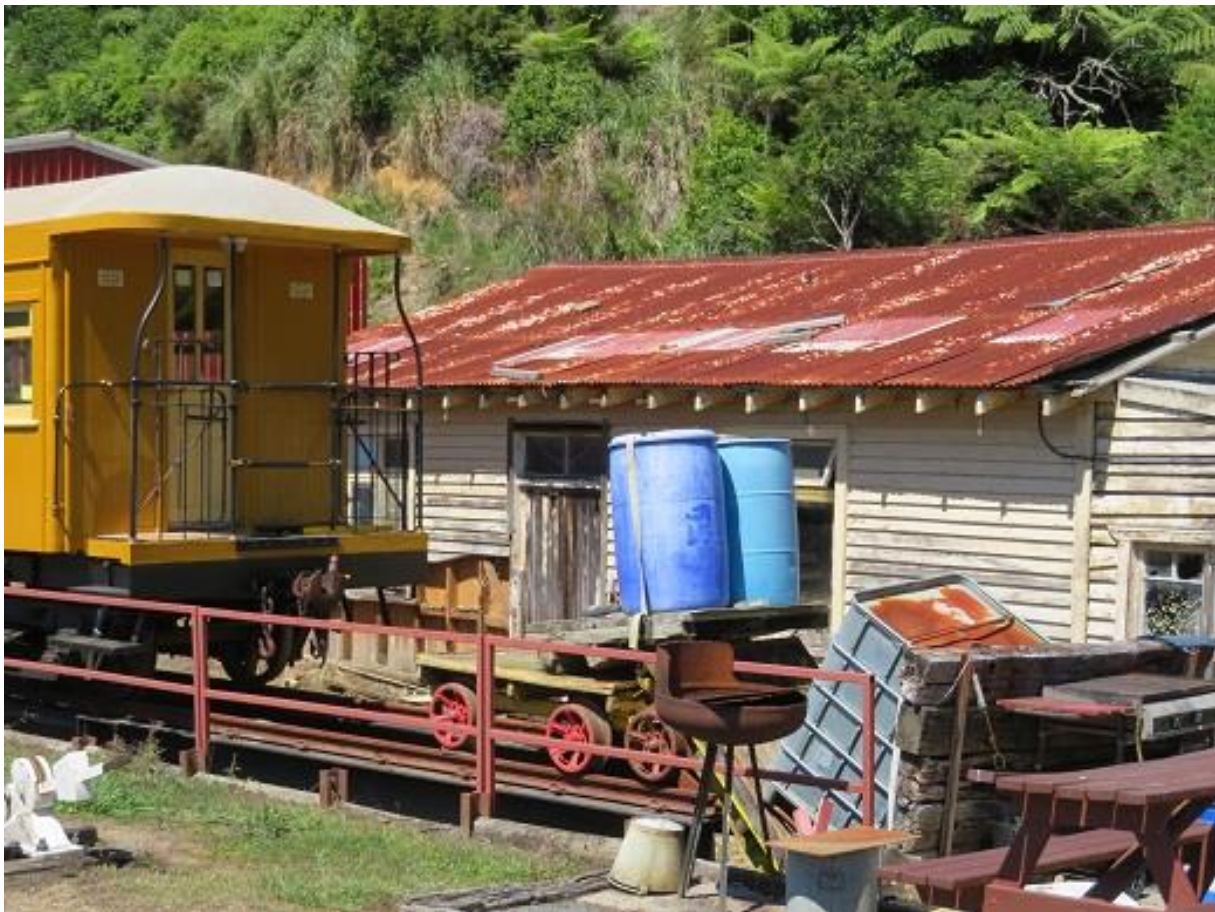
The old hall at Pukemiro Junction fell off its piers in a landslide many years ago. Currently it is being cleared out prior to demolition due to its increasingly unsafe condition. Colin Jenner reminiscences:-

Somewhere in my paperwork, I have a lease for the hall dated 1939 made out to Pukemiro Tennis Club.

I have seen an old photo of the hall with a picket fence around the rail side of it, presumably to protect the hall visitors from the railway.

The main entrance used to be from the rear of the hall with a small car park off Hangapipi Rd. There was a flush toilet just beside where the single door entrance is now. It was where the galvanised iron is nailed onto the side wall. This door was put in in the early days of BTC & the toilet was the only one we had for many years. The "Mens" was out the back, with a proper concrete urinal. All were connected to the septic tank, including the kitchen sink. Eventually the base of the toilet bowl cracked, so we had to get something else built. This was our present toilet block. The double door was also put in by BTC.

Russell Webb also tells stories of the hall being used for indoor sports and Saturday night dances in the sixties when he was a young man. Crates of beer were consumed and dancing commenced. I think we can assume that a good time was had by all!



The old Hall a couple of years ago (Photo: R. Ellis)



The Barclay locomotive at Pukemiro many years ago (Photo: R. Mann; courtesy I. Jenner)



BB147 at Glen Afton in April 1955 (Photo:G. Cosgrove/ collection: chowell)

This newsletter was produced by Richard Ellis. Send your contributions for future editions (including images/photos to editor@bushtramwayclub.com).