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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



The Climax boiler shortly before leaving Pukemiro Junction to be re-united with the chassis (E. Baptist)

KEEP UP TO DATE

When did you last visit our website www.bushtramwayclub.com or our facebook pages The Glen Afton Line – Heritage Railway and the Heisler 1082 Appeal? Search now!

GREETINGS

Welcome to another BTC newsletter.

SUBS

Thanks to all who have renewed their subs. If you haven't, you'll receive a non payment notice soon. Many thanks to all who included a donation.

AGM

This will be held on Sunday 28th March at 1 30pm at Pukemiro Junction. It is a very important meeting so we need as many members as possible to attend. We would like nominations for the various positions on the committee. Official notification & forms will be sent out shortly.

A shunting refresher course will be held that morning, starting at 10.30am. It is important that ALL operating members attend this course.



January 2021 Open Day scene featuring the “grey” bush jigger (J.Soffe)

MEMBERS ZONE

This site can be accessed via a button on the home page of our website www.bushtramwayclub.com which will take you to a screen asking for your username & password. All members can get a username and password from John S. by sending a request to membership@bushtramwayclub.com

2021 OPEN DAYS

January & February: Both these days were reasonably well patronised but could have been better.

Ian & Teresa B's granddaughters rang them up & insisted they all go out to the February open day, so they both did the BBQ while Trev got snared into other jobs.

Both days were very fine & very hot sunny days.

We were a bit short of operating staff for the February open day.

Many thanks to all who turn up to make these days a success.



Visitors at the January Open Day under the new café awning (J. Soffe)

CHARTER GROUPS

We had one of handicapped adults during mid January. They came from Papakura – Waiuku areas. Each centre has a minibus so about 8 of them per vehicle turned up. We have another one for Huntly Lions Club booked for mid-March. Thanks to all who turn up to help run these trips.

CATERING

Many thanks to Marlene for her work in the kitchen during open days. She is helped by Sue, Karleen K, & Ian J's granddaughter. A lot of work goes into the preparation before open days & the cleaning up afterwards.

ALONG THE LINE

Dave M continues with his job of cutting the lineside growth, a never ending job. He has also sprayed the weeds along the line but it really needs doing again in some areas. We are going to try out a long term spray.

Dave M & CJ sprayed most of the gorse on the lower end of the line. There is a lot more to do, particularly on the top half of the line.

John S has been clearing tracks down to the culverts on the lower half of our line. He has inspected some culverts & found them still free of obstructions.



The Planet propels a load of sleepers up the main line whilst more stored sleepers and Tr436 are seen on the siding (J. Soffe)

AROUND THE JUNCTION

Dave M & Russell have been mowing the lawns – thank goodness the hot dry weather has largely stopped their growth. The ride on mower is away for repairs & a service.

We owe a great deal of thanks to the member who has donated a narrow spade & a bucket with a thumb for our “new“ digger. The digger has already been used for replacing a few sleepers. On the day before our January open day, Pete C & John S needed to replace 4 sleepers about ½ km down the line from the Junction. They nearly got them replaced when it started to rain & it just got heavier. As the job had to be completed that day so we could run over that section of the line next day, they got very wet – a free shower!!

We recently had a scrap truck visit us & took away a large load of scrap & old rails.

Old hall: This is now a heap of broken timber. It was demolished largely by Dave M & Ian J using our new digger. The timber has been sorted & any salvageable timber has been saved. The rest is being cut up for firewood. Those who have helped with the cutting up are Dave M, Ian J, Bob B & Trev W. Ian J has taken 5 trailer loads of rubbish to the dump.



The old hall partially demolished (R. Beaumont)



The old hall further demolished (P. Cairncross)



A lot of “stuff” from the hall went to the tip including this “20th Anniversary” sign which I remember as a joint organiser of the event in 1985 (photo: I. Jenner)

We now have firewood for sale @ \$100 per trailer load. If you want some, contact us to arrange a day & time.

Thanks to Jan J for cleaning the toilets – a very necessary but thankless job. She also sorts out the rubbish after open days.

WOODWORK SHOP LEAN-TO

Ian J has drilled into the concrete floor & put in the starter rods for the concrete blocks that will form the lower part of the rear wall.

He has also started laying some of the blocks.

Bruce McL & Pete C recently re-routed the downpipe on the rear wall so it is now above the roof line of the lean to. Bruce brought a trailer load of scaffolding to do the job. After the downpipe was re-routed, the timber that the roof will rest on was attached to the rear wall of the shed by Bruce McL & Richard S.

N.Z.T.A.

We have received their final report after their assessment of BTC during our December open day.

They have made 4 x non compliances & 3 x recommendations. One of the recommendations is that safety critical operating members will require medical certificates. The committee are presently working on the type of med cert that we will require & the age it will apply from. Be warned!! We will require med certs at some future date.

LOCOMOTIVES

Peckett: This loco has the boiler opened up for its annual inspection. The work was done by Chris M, Dave M & John S.

Climax 1650: After approx. 10 years work overhauling the boiler, it left the Junction recently to be reunited with the rest of the loco in Te Kuiti.

Tr105: Number plates have been cast in brass for this locomotive. The airbrake system upgrade for operating the train brakes remains on hold due to Covid.



The Peckett, Meremere diesel & Climax boiler seen together in January 2021 (J. Soffe)



The Climax boiler leaves for Te Kuiti (C. Mann)

Heisler: Both wooden headstocks have been removed by Richard S. Both will need replacing. They were from an oak tree in the Papakura – Drury area & were obtained by the late John Hunter about 50 years ago, while the loco was still at MOTAT.

Donations towards the overhaul of this loco are still coming in slowly.

Dave M has been needle gunning the underframe ready for painting.

Diesel loco 402: For some time we have had a community worker at the Junction who comes out every week. He worked on Tr 105 & is now working on 402. He is making up air pipework so the loco can supply air for the carriage brakes, the same as 401. He has largely completed the job & another few weeks should see the job complete except for the fitting of a pressure reducing valve.

ROLLING STOCK

CJ has started the annual inspections of our rolling stock. Bruce has recommenced the restoration of the Xp wagon.



Bruce working on the Xp wagon outside the woodwork shop (E. Baptist)

HEISLER 1082 FUND

Donations towards the Heisler overhaul continue to come in. With the \$5000 WEL grant and donations from a handful of members we have now got around \$9000 in total so far. We have also applied for a grant for the smokebox from Waikato District Council (fingers crossed!).

We recently paid another large bill to Alastair McI for the work done so far so more donations are most welcome. Many thanks to those who have already sent in donations.

To make a donation see our website www.bushtramwayclub.com for details. This restoration needs your help, however small!



Heisler 1082 in action at the mill in the old days.

This newsletter was produced by Richard Ellis, with most of the text from Colin Jenner and R.E. Photos & text to add variety are still needed. Send your contributions to secretary@bushtramwayclub.com.