

Volume 15 - Issue 3

Established 1965

May 2021

# Pukemiro Junction

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



Eric Burns, Bruce McLuckie & Richard Ellis with "F"185 at the BTC, mid 1980's (Bob Mann/C. Mann)

**IMPORTANT NOTE – 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY OPEN DAY**

Please be aware that the Council plans to close the Tainui river bridge in Huntly on the date of our May Open Day for maintenance.

Therefore cross the river either at Ngaruawahia or Rangiriri and proceed to the BTC via the west bank of the river to Rotowaro Road then on to the Club.

**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.

**CHEQUES**

As from the end of May, no banks in NZ will accept cheques. If you are paying cash for anything, please don't send it by post. Send it by EFT instead to:

Account: "Bush Tramway Club Inc."; Bank: ASB; Account number is: A/c No. 12 3039 0311256 00 plus give it a reference to make it clear what the payment is all about (like "Subs/Smith").

**AGM**

This was held on 28/3 & attended by 22 members. The committee is exactly the same as last year: Chairman, P. Cairncross, Treasurer, I. Jenner, Secretary, R. Ellis, committee: G Boyle, G Coker, J Soffe, R Stratford, A Turner. General Manager, C Jenner, Deputy GM, C Mann.

The usual reports were presented & approved.

Our finances for the year were way down but that was expected because we were unable to hold some Open days because of Covid 19 restrictions.

There were several suggestions of ways to try & get more passengers & to hold more special open days. The committee will be looking into these suggestions.

A shunting school was held in the morning & was well attended.



Members attend the AGM in March (Guy Coker)

## TRAINING

We could do with more members to train in all aspects of running our railway. We are very short of guards. Contact Colin Jenner if you want to help.

### MEMBERS ZONE

This site can be accessed via a button on the home page of our website [www.bushtramwayclub.com](http://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 Soffe by sending a request to [membership@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:membership@bushtramwayclub.com)

## 2021 OPEN DAYS

March Open day had to be cancelled because of Covid 19 restrictions.

April was a very good day with a lot of passengers. Rain during the previous week meant that the Peckett could be run but the country side was drying out quickly under a hot & cloudless day, so its last trip was at 1pm. It was used to haul the mines car up & down the lower half of our line while the 2 Meremere diesels ran the top half of the line.

Cb117 was also in steam, the first time we have had 2 locos in steam for many months.

We were a bit short of operating members. Thanks to all who turned up to help run the day. It was a case of “all hands to the pumps” at times.

### CHARTER GROUPS

We had the Huntly Lions Club out for a charter in mid-March. It went off very well & they had a cooked BBQ lunch with us. We have had many good comments back about their visit.

We have no others booked at present.

### ALONG THE LINE

Dave M & CJ spent a couple of hours cutting the lineside growth on the lower half of our line.

They had hoped to do the same on the top half but heavy rain stopped that. Oh well, another day, we will get this work done.

John S continues cutting tracks into & then checking our culverts. Luckily none were blocked as there was no ponding when the line was checked following very heavy rain in mid-March.

Pete C, John S & Dave M spent at least half a day replacing point slide plate bolts & then re-gauging a large part of a point at the bottom end of Puke yard.

### AROUND THE JUNCTION

Dave M & Russell W have been mowing the lawns with Russell tidying up the driveway up to the Junction after it was badly scoured by the heavy rain. The ride on mower has just had an overhaul in Huntly.



Members congregate under the new café awning (Elliot Baptist)

## OLD HALL

Dave M continues to cut up all the salvageable wood from the hall. Ian J, Pete C, Dave M & Richard S spent an afternoon sorting out the rubbish & burning it. The only complete part of the hall left is most of the floor.

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

## GARDENS

Marlene has spent some time tidying up the gardens around the shanty.

## WOODWORK SHOP LEAN-TO

Ian J has continued laying the bottom layer of concrete blocks for the rear wall.

## N.Z.T.A.

They have extended the time that we have to get all their requirements approved by. We now have until mid-May. We have already sent some of our amendments to them for approval & have just received a letter that these have been approved. Once all are approved, we can then alter our safety case & safety system to suit.

## LOCOMOTIVES

Peckett: The open boiler inspection was passed on 18/3 & the loco passed in steam on 23/3. Chris M, Pete C, John S & Dave M worked on this loco.

Tr 105: No work has been recently done on the new air brake system because the owner lives in NSW but Russell W starts the engine regularly & runs it for approx. half an hour each time. Hopefully work on the brakes can recommence soon with the easing of travel restrictions.

Tr 436/110 : This was put in the shed as part of the large shunt of “rotten row” Our CW worker is replacing a couple of pieces of badly rusted steel in the cab side.

Meremere 402: The pipework for the new air system on this loco has been completed as far as possible, until we get the pressure reducing valve.

Heisler: Four members worked on the underframe of this loco during the cancelled March Open day. We scraped, wire brushed & sanded down the underframe & then applied a coat of rust killer. Dave M has since applied a coat of undercoat & 2 x coats of top coat black paint.

We have just received a grant of \$5256.14 for the project of making & fitting of a new smokebox for the loco. The grant came from Waikato District Council. Many thanks to them for this & to Richard E for applying for the grant & to Chris M & Pete C for presenting our case to the council grants committee.

### ROLLING STOCK

Xp wagon: Bruce McL & Russell W have replaced all the ventilators that fit into the outside walls of this wagon.



The large flat top wagon with Ian Bettison & Pete Cairncross aboard (Guy Coker)

Large flat top wagon: This was brought up from the bottom end of the line after the AGM. It is intended to cut approx. 1/2m off each side of the wagon to allow our digger to travel & work on the wagon. A high sided bin will be made on one

end so that the digger can clean out the lineside drains up & down the line & dump the spoil into the bin. Ian B has managed to get Genesis Energy at Huntly Power Station to sponsor the necessary gas to do the cutting work, for which we are very grateful.

#3 car: Dave H has been back & worked on the interior lining of this car.

### HEISLER 1082 FUND

This fund has had quite some success with several members making substantial contributions in cash (for which many thanks) as well as the BTC receiving a couple of very welcome grants. Funds raised so far total \$15,160.73. The boiler is currently down south near Paekakariki being worked on by our member Alastair who is making good progress.....but, hey, we need a lot more money yet to complete the rebuild of the locomotive. Just a reminder: this is a Club locomotive so there are no “fairy godmothers” waiting in the wings who are flush with cash....

### GALLERY



Above & next page (upper): The BTC as seen in the 1970's (Images Kerry Bennett/Les Downey).





Above & next page (upper): smokebox componentry has been cleaned up for the Heisler project & shipped off to Paekakariki to be installed on the new Heisler smokebox (Chris Mann)



Remains of the hall roof with the new lean-to for the woodwork shop in the background plus a distant jigger (Rob Beaumont).

This newsletter was produced by Richard Ellis, with most of the text from Colin Jenner. Photos & text to add variety are needed and much appreciated. Send your contributions to [secretary@bushtramwayclub.com](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com).