

“I can tolerate without discomfort being waited on hand and foot”- Osbert Lancaster

Volume 16 - Issue 6

Established 1965

November 2022

Pukemiro Junction

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



The interior of the Mines car with happy customers – Photo – J.Soffe)

GREETINGS & WELCOME TO ANOTHER BTC NEWSLETTER

OPEN DAYS, CHARTER TRIPS & GROUP VISITS

September: This Open Day was pretty well patronised so we had a reasonably busy day but we were able to stick to our hourly timetable.

October: This was slightly quieter than the previous one.

For both days as the last trip, the Peckett took the Mines car over the whole length of our line. It had to be followed by one of our Meremere diesel locos to take the train from Glen Afton to the bottom end of our line. The diesel loco then follows the train back to the Junction but stopping to lock the two gates on the way up.

The use of the Peckett for the October Open Day was in doubt because of dry conditions but on the Thursday before it started to rain & continued until early Sunday morning.

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

Charter trips: By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have run a charter trip for a group from Hamilton. We have also had another enquiry.



A Meremere diesel shunts the carriages prior to a recent open day (K. Kopa)



A busy September Open Day (K. Kopa)



September Open Day – the balcony of “Mary” (K.Kopa)

TRACK WORKING BEES

We have had a couple of visits from the Corrections Dept. community work crews. They have replaced some sleepers just down from the new concrete level crossing & on another day did some at the bottom end of the Junction yard. These were all gauged & screwed down by Pete C, John S, Dave M & CJ after the safety refresher course. They spent another day replacing sleepers on the back shunt just down from the wood workshop & many more need replacing.

AROUND THE JUNCTION

Russell continues to keep our lawns under control & our gardens weeded.
Maarten continues to keep his vege garden weeded.

ALONG THE LINE

Dave M has been busy cutting down gorse & privet bushes & poisoning the stumps. He has also spent a lot of time tightening & replacing fish plate bolts up & down the line. He has also weed sprayed large sections of our line.

Pete C spent a few hours clearing out some lineside drains on the Sunday morning of our October open day, following heavy rain overnight.

LOCOMOTIVES

Fa 41: This loco started life as an F class loco & was converted to an Fa loco at some stage of its life with NZR.

It was sold to Whakatane Board mills, along with Fa 250, for use on their railway from the mill to the NZR at Edgecumbe. Both Fa's ended their steam days when the Board mills purchased 2 x diesel locos to the design of NZR's Ds class shunting locos. Fa41 was sold to AFFCO who converted it into a diesel loco & it worked at their freezing works at Southdown, Auckland, for some years. During the early days of BTC, Bob Mann purchased the loco as spares for our F loco & it was taken to our railway. AFFCO never used it as a steam loco. Several bits have been taken off it for use on various BTC locos.

Fa 250 ended up with the Waikato branch of the NZ Railway & Loco Society as part of their collection at Te Awamutu. It was sent to a company in New Plymouth for restoration but that never happened & the pieces of it went to Glenbrook Railway with some of the other locos etc when Waikato Railway decided to get rid of their collection. It has recently gone to Bay of Islands Railway at KawaKawa. The underframe of Fa 41 has been sold to them as spares for Fa 250 & was taken up there on 3/10/22 by road transport.

Planet D3 loco: For some time, there have been diesel & engine oil leaks around the engine of this loco. The tappet cover & side cover were removed by Richard S, new gaskets purchased & the engine was put back together again. At the same time, the engine oil was changed.

Tr105 (367) loco: Recently this was found to have an issue with the torque converter. Richard S has been working on topping up the fluid levels and bleeding air from the system. It now goes again...



Above - Tr105 seen outside the woodwork shop for the first time in 2022. Below – The Price “E” has a new smokebox wrapper (RStratford)



Price E loco: A new smoke box wrapper has been purchased for this loco & is being worked on by Richard S. He has cut the old one off its boiler & it is in pieces in our scrap heap. In places there were 4 layers of plate!!

LIFTING GANTRY

This is being given a “birthday “by Richard S. He has removed the house which covers the chain block, overhauled & painted it then put it back in place. He is needle gunning the rest of the steel work & painting it.

SWEAT SHIRTS & T-SHIRTS

We have purchased a supply of these & they are available in the souvenir shop. The sweat shirts are a light grey with a black image on them & the T shirts are black with a white image on them. The price of the sweat shirts is \$55 each & the T shirts are \$35 each.



END OF YEAR DINNER

As usual, after the last train of the December Open Day, we will be having our normal get together & a good feed. Everyone is asked to bring something to put towards the feed.

SAFETY REFRESHER COURSE

This was held on 25/9 but not very well attended. One of the main topics discussed was the new requirements of our insurance company for “hot work”.

SID LE QUESNEY

He passed away on 12 September. He was not known to our newer members but was one of our firemen some years ago. He was always available for charter trips as a fireman as he had retired. He lived in rural Ohaupo, a place not far south of Hamilton. His son had emailed us a few months before that Sid & his wife were moving into a rest home & they were clearing out the house before it went up for sale.

Sid’s interests were steam railways & Farmall tractors. Sid’s accumulation of books had been sorted out & there was several boxes of books for us. They are mostly books on English railways.

OPEN DAY GALLERY



Peckett and train at PJ –September Open Day (K.Kopa)



Nampu, Colin & Karleen at the September Open Day (courtesy K.Kopa))



Meremere 402 with driver Geoff (k.Kopa)



Ian W on the Peckett,(left) and Dave M & Ian W (right) - (K.Kopa)



Catering at the recent Open Day – Ian B on the sausage sizzle (J.Soffe)



Jan and Teresa in the busy souvenir shop (K.Kopa)



Busy station scene with stationmaster Ashley in control (K.Kopa)



Pete, Ashley & CJ enjoying the conversation (K.Kopa)

NOTE THAT OUR JANUARY 2023 OPEN DAY WILL BE ON 8th JANUARY 2023 & NOT ON 1st JANUARY 2023

This newsletter was produced by Richard Ellis, with much of the text from Colin Jenner – and others - send your contributions for future editions to secretary@bushtramwayclub.com.