

“To err is human but to really foul things up requires a computer” (Farmer’s Almanac 1978)

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# Pukemiro Junction

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



Vinnie & Evan work on the Peckett (C. Mann)

## GREETINGS & WELCOME TO ANOTHER BTC NEWSLETTER

### OPEN DAYS, CHARTER TRIPS / GROUP VISITS

Open days: January: This was another pretty busy open day. We had to use our 3 carriages all day. The use of the 3 carriages means that we have to use Tr 459 & one of the Meremere diesel locos. Tr 459 is presently the only loco than can operate the air brakes on our carriages.

We carried 580 passengers so everyone was busy. We just ran trains, as soon as one load of passengers had got off & the next load was on board, we were off.

The kitchen did very well as did the souvenir shop. A busy day in the souvenir shop keeps Jan busy!!

The kitchen staff were extremely busy as were the train crews & the ticket sellers.

February: This was a somewhat quieter day but we still had to use our 3 carriages for the middle part of the day.

We were visited by some members of the Waitemata Vintage Car Club. They brought along 10 vintage cars & they were all in very nice condition.

We carried 415 passengers.



Tr459 and the BTC train at the January 2024 Open Day (Nampu)

Charter trips: We have had none since the last newsletter but have had a couple of enquiries & have one booked for early March.



Colin J, Ashley T and Barry M enjoy the January Open day



Site scenes at the January Open day prior to operations (Chris M)



A large group from Te Rapa at the recent charter (R.Ellis)

Thanks to all our members who turn up on these days & help make these days a success.

## ALONG THE LINE

The point beside the pit: As mentioned in last newsletter, there were 2 sleepers still to replace under this point. They were replaced by Dave M & John S. New ballast was put around these sleepers which were packed & screwed down. Dave M has since replaced 10 fishplate bolts in this section of the point.

We have had several visits from the Community work crews. They have replaced 8 sleepers on the main line around the water tank area at the top end of Pukemiro yard. These have all been packed & new ballast laid. They were screwed down on one side of the rails by them & the other side by John S.

Sand fill area: A very good day's work on this area was carried out between the rain showers on the day before the February open day.

A few months ago 2 x Yb wagons of ballast was dumped in this area where the track had dropped at least ½ metre as a result of the largest earthquake in the Te Aroha area in early February last year.

On the day before the February open day, a BTC crew went up & jacked the track up through the ballast. An air packing tool was used to pack the ballast under the sleepers. Those involved were Pete C, John S, Guy C, Vinnie & Evan.

At the end of the open day, a further 2 Yb wagons of ballast were taken up & dumped .

The empty wagons were taken down the line next day & refilled by Richard S & Dave M.

Dave M & CJ have spent a few more days “pruning” back some overhanging growth beside our line but there is still more to do.

Dave M has weed sprayed the whole of our operating line with long term weed spray.

Thank you to all our members who turn up between Open Days and keep the railway functioning by restoring and repairing our track, rolling stock and doing a hundred and one other jobs.



John S repairs a point in the PJ yard

## AROUND THE JUNCTION

Bruce McL has repaired a couple of loose boards on the front of the station platform at Pukemiro.



Bruce McL has been repairing the platform edge (Trevor W)

Jill has continues to keep the kitchen in the station shop clean & tidy. She has also purchased a cupboard to store some of the goodies in. It was put together by Alun B.



A new freezer in the Rec Room provides much needed extra storage as well as displaying ice creams for purchase (Richard E)

Dave M continues to keep our lawns cut. He has also done a lot of work cleaning out the lower section of the drain on the bankside of the driveway up to the Junction.

## LOCOMOTIVES & ROLLING STOCK

### **Rolling Stock:**

**Xp wagon:** B Mc L has continued fitting the flashings over the ventilators on this wagon.

**A1319 “Mary”** – Richard E, Rob B and Trevor T have managed to get the lights going again, & sprayed the woodworm in the window frames.



Rob B has been working on the carriage “Mary” recently including spraying the window frames to deter woodworm, and also assisting Trevor T to keep the carriage lights operational. (Richard E)

**Large flat top wagon:** Ian B has completed the framework for a cover to fit over the hydraulic pump & motor for the tipping side of the truck tray that is fitted to this wagon. We got the galvanised iron put on by a company in Huntly. The completed cover was fitted & a locking device attached to it by Richard S & Guy C.

## **Diesel Locomotives:**

Loco 402: The engine oil was changed in this loco on 11/2. Those involved were Geoff B, Dave M, Matthew C & CJ.

## **Steam locos:**

Peckett: This loco is presently out for its annual boiler survey. The inspector was due on 12/2.

Those involved were Chris M, Dave M, Alan U, John S, Vinnie, & Evan.

Unfortunately, the Price Cb won't be inspected this year.

Heisler: The work on the axles & bearings for one bogie have been completed by Glenbrook Railway.



Tr459 in an early morning scene (Chris M.)

## **AGM & TRAINING SESSION**

AGM: This will be held on Sunday 24 th March. Notices have already gone out. Before the AGM, we will be having our annual shunting refresher course starting at 9.30am. This is a very important day as we **MUST** elect a new Treasurer. All spots on the committee are also up for election.

## COMPOSITE SLEEPERS

A few months ago, we obtained a quote for 150mm x 150mm x 2 m long treated pine sleepers. They were \$125 each!! This cost shocked us & was well outside our budget.

We started enquiries about composite sleepers as KiwiRail are using a lot of them. One of the two types that KiwiRail were using were slowly being replaced. We contacted KiwiRail's depot in Frankton about the possibility of purchasing some second hand ones that had been taken out.

We also contacted someone who has his own track crew & does a lot of work for KiwiRail & asked him if he had had much experience with them.

The upshot of all these discussions & researching on "Google" was that we purchased 100 of the 2 metre ones. The makers recommend that they are only to be used in secondary tracks or sidings.

Our 2 m ones were delivered in early February & loaded onto a flat wagon. They weigh approx.60kgs each.

## SUBS

**Subs:** Subs: Thanks to all our members who have renewed their subs for this year.

We have had a hold up with getting the receipts to those members who included a donation with their subs. This has come about because of the sudden death of Ian Jenner who was our Treasurer.

The receipts will be sent out with the membership cards.

Pete C has undertaken the Treasurers job until the AGM & has only just received the paperwork that Ian had as Treasurer.

## CAFE

**Food prices:** Because of the continuing rises in all our purchases for the cafe, which we sell on open days, we have had to review the prices that we sell these items to our members.

As from the March Open Day, the following will apply:

- Tea & coffee , free all day
- BBQ sausages & chips: Half price.
- Everything else at the prices we sell to our passengers.

## ● GALLERY



Recently young cows were to be seen grazing outside the Shanty...makes a change from goats! (Jill C)



The loco shed bench in all its glory! Please volunteer to "make a difference" to the BTC restoration work.....we need you!



Assorted December 2023 "Nosh Up" photos (Richard E)



Members of the Public go to examine the Price "E" on a recent Open Day (Nampu)



Pukemiro Junction exhibits plenty of flora in Spring 2023 whilst RS enjoys a pie Dec 2023 (Richard E)

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](mailto:secretary@bushtramwayclub.com).