

Pukemiro Junction



THE BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB INC.

GREETINGS

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Welcome to another issue of our newsletter.

OPEN DAYS:

The July Open Day can only be described as fantastic, with very good passenger loadings on all trains. The military vehicle club attended and brought along some of their vehicles for display.

We sold out of sausages, always a top seller our bangers are!

The August Open Day was slightly better despite very bad weather. The rain eased up after lunch.

Two busloads of Railway Enthusiasts Society members came down from Auckland. They arrived in time for the mid-day train and left at 2pm. They seemed to enjoy themselves. Always great to have them visit.

Many thanks to all who turn up and help with these days as without you we could not operate.

*Life is what happens while you are
busy making other plans.*

- John Lennon

Newsletter continues within...



CHARTER TRIPS:

In mid-July we had a group of over 60's from Cambridge and in mid-August we had the whole of Glen Massey school visit. We have had enquiries from another 3 kindies and a tour party from Taranaki will have been by the time you read this newsletter.

Are there any members who can help with charters? Most are run during the week on a Monday, Tuesday or a Wednesday in the mornings. If you think you could possibly assist then let Colin Jenner or Bruce McLuckie know as we would like the extra help.

AROUND THE JUNCTION AREA:

Russell continues to keep the area looking very good. He has planted out some more trees and shrubs.

ASSESSOR'S VISIT:

Our annual assessment was carried out by Mr Terry Bonner during our July Open Day. He was reasonably pleased with our operation but picked up a couple of things we can improve on.

NZTA VISIT:

Our NZTA case manager Adrian Douglas visited us during the August open day. The weather wasn't good so he didn't go for his usual walk over our line. He did enjoy a ride in the cab of the Peckett though. Both of these visits are part of the requirements for running a railway.

NEW SMALL LOCO SHELTER:

The E-loco crew continue with progress on this. The last couple of working bees have been spent getting the reinforcing rods bent and then the mesh and reinforcing rods in place. They have also put the rails in place. Must be almost ready for concrete.

UPCOMING OPEN DAYS

Our next open days will be on:

Sunday	7th	September
Sunday	5th	October
Sunday	2nd	November
Sunday	7th	December

We need as many members as possible to turn up and help run these Open Days.

UPCOMING WORKING BEES

These are held on the Sunday of the 4th full weekend of the month and are very important in keeping our railway running. The next ones are:

Sunday	28th	September
Sunday	26th	October
Sunday	23rd	November

Please turn up and help improve our railway!



TRACKWORK:

We have had a few more visits from our community work crews. They have replaced some sleepers down the line with some more to be done. They spent most of a day splitting firewood from a couple of pine trees that Ian Bettison and Russell had cut down. The crew has also replaced a few more sleepers towards Glen Afton.

RAILWAY HUTS:

Russell has completed the repairs and painting of the second hut. The two that have been completed look great. Rob Beaumont has assisted Russell as well.

PRICE "E":

Russell has painted some more rust killer on the main frame and painted the whole of one side of the frames black. It is really starting to look smart. If you would like to help out with this project let Russell know. Ian Jenner has delivered some steel that will be useful for constructing the shelter over this "Lokey". All of the side rods have been cleaned and painted, The nuts to hold them all on have turned up so shortly they will go on.

PRICE CB:

The boiler inspector visited on the 13th August and witnessed a hydraulic test and then carried out an open inspection. It passed OK (It has since also got its boiler ticket -Ed). Richard was assisted by Guy. Richard has done a lot of work on this loco since its return from MOTAT.

CRANE 256:

Ian Bettison continues to dismantle this and on the 9th August a large load of scrap was loaded onto SIMS truck and trailer. The trailer was loaded with old rails.

The runner wagon and boom for the other steam crane is due to leave for Wanganui soon.



WOODWORK SHOP:

Bruce has built a new work bench for the work shop and has mounted the wood work vice on it. It was built mostly one evening while the weather was rough and is built with a well down the centre like a proper carpenters bench. Just need to clean up the treads on the vice and put timber facings on it.

HALL:

The power to this will shortly be disconnected. At the moment the supply to the shanty comes from the switchboard in the hall so there is some work needed before the supply to the hall can be disconnected. A reminder also that the hall is **out of bounds** to all unauthorised people due to the **unsafe** condition of the floor etc.

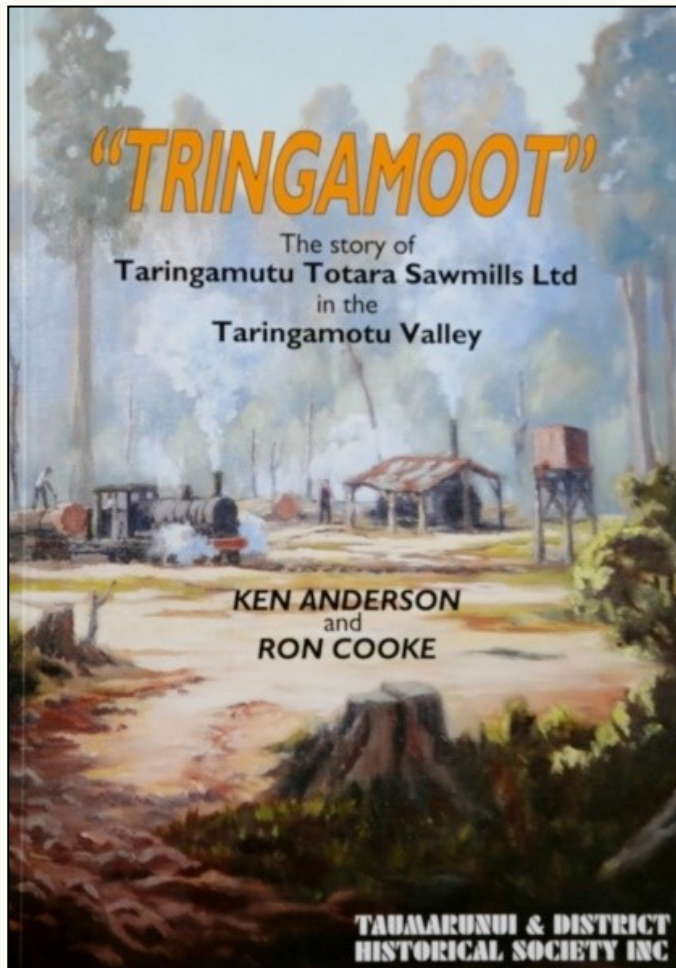
FOR THE HISTORY BUFFS: TRINGAMOOT

This is a very recently published book about the sawmills and tramways of Taringamutu Totara Sawmills Ltd. in the Taringamutu valley about four miles north of Taumaranui. The book was written by the late Ken Anderson and Ron Cooke. It is available from the Taumaranui and District Historical Society Inc, PO Box 329 Taumaranui. Cost is around \$70.

The book is about a sawmilling operation that started in 1904 and ended in 1971. They had an extensive bush tramway and 4 locos; 3 Barclays and a Price C. The C was the last steam loco to work there and one of the Barclays was converted to a diesel by Union Foundries in Stratford. Their last section of line was from the mill to the NZR siding. One of their lines had 21 bridges, the largest 300ft (100m) long and 155ft (50m) above the stream. The book is well written and also describes the life in some of the very isolated villages at the mills in the bush.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in sawmills or bush tramways.

-Colin Jenner
General Manager



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK:

The recent weather surely has dampened the body but not the enthusiasm! It is good to see good turn outs of the public to the Open Days. The number of return visitors is encouraging with the Peckett being the big draw card. We have some ideas forthcoming about what we should do next year for the club's 50th anniversary and will let you know what is planned later. We are open too other ideas. It is hoped that there will be a "DO" at the junction in October 2015, so mark it on your calendars.

If anyone wants a small project to do then may I suggest that the "F" could do with a clean-up and a rub over with an oily rag. It would be nice to have it presentable for next year. There are currently no plans to get the "F" going again as the cost for a new fire box or a complete boiler is to prohibitive. The Heisler likewise could do with a clean up. It has collected a lot of dust and dirt on it over the last twenty odd years it has been laid up.

On the financial side the Committee has decided that the invested funds will roll over for another five year term. These investments have provided a good return over the previous five years.

We have been fortunate that a fishing boat owner from Raglan considered us when replacing the engine in his boat. We have been given a Gardner 8L engine the same size as what powers the two Meremere diesels. It will be a good source of spares or could be overhauled and put into one of the diesels should the need arise. Thank you Warrick for this engine.

One of our neighbours has given Russell a good quantity of shrubs and small trees to plant. He also has some flax to plant as well.



Ian is to cut up the crane runner wagon as it is too dottery to put the crane sections on now. The bogies will hopefully be sold to another Railway group who are after a pair of old bogies for a tank wagon that they have. It is so rusty that you could burn the steel with a Bic lighter. Once this is gone the back road will look bare which is what I am aiming for so the new carriage shelter can be built. Fund raising is going slowly at present but I am confident that we will get there.

Richard gave the engine shed work shop benches a good clean last open day and now has three times more work space. It badly needed it. Remember to keep your work areas in a tidy state, please do not leave a mess for others to clean up.

That's all for now,

-Bruce McLuckie
Chairman

November 1977

A Look Back

Images courtesy of
John Agnew



In these images we see the trip from Huntly yard to Rotowaro then finally Pukemiro Junction of the "F" and Heisler locos. In the topmost images we see them steaming away while being towed by a DSC through Huntly under the sight of the partially constructed power station. Next we see them meeting the Peckett at Rotowaro, a place now lost to an open cast mine. The Heisler's arrival at the Junction was met by the sound of bagpipes, neither sight very common now-a-days. Finally we see the Heisler and "F" steaming at the junction and the Peckett earlier at Rotowaro with the fire wagon.



The Gallery



Top Left: The Peckett making good pace up the line on the July Open Day

Top Right: Looks like someone can't fit into the Cb fire-box anymore!

Above: Ashely playing soldiers in one of the visiting old military vehicles

Above Right: The early rising Peckett heads onto the main line

Right: Go girl go!

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WEBSITE
www.bushtramwayclub.com

EMAIL
secretary@bushtramwayclub.com

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:
 Colin Jenner, Elliot Baptist, Richard Ellis, Bruce McLuckie