

# Pukemiro Junction



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

## GREETINGS

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We are well into 2018 now. The weather is still very hot although we have had some rain and very heavy at times.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

These are coming in quickly. Thank you to all who have sent them in and also included a donation. Remember all donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

## OPEN DAYS

Unlike previous years the Railway ran over the Summer period. The first Open Days for 2018 were held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> February & 4<sup>th</sup> March. The January & March days were reasonably well patronised but the February one was fairly quiet. Overall these extra days have been good for the bank balance as well as not so busy as to stress out the members who came along to help and made the days a success. We are very fortunate to have some members helping in various jobs who normally don't come and help on open days. Welcome to the hustle and bustle of our railway open days and many thanks for your support.

Next open days are April 1<sup>st</sup> & May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## CHARTER TRIPS

Ian tells us that he has 4 charters booked for the next couple of months. Two are for a tour company from Masterton who have been coming every year for the last few years.

## SOUVENIRS

We have expanded the range we have for sale. There are new "T" shirts plus fridge magnets, train whistles and key rings featuring the Mamaku jiggers. Our surplus calendars have been returned.

## TRACKWORK

Not a lot has happened on this front since the last newsletter. Our CW crews have been back and completed re-gauging the track immediately uphill from Hangapihi road level crossing. This involved breaking up the concrete that covered the sleepers, up to 200mm thick in places. They replaced 2 sleepers in this area as well.

Peter Cairncross and Alex Smith spent a day getting part of our ballast tamper working, this is the first time it has been worked on since it was purchased. They drove it up and down the yard. The next step is to get the electrical side going and then we can start to use it.

Dave Mann continues with the line side cleaning of the spectacular growth that has occurred with the wet winter, spring and summer combined with recent hot temperatures.

The culvert that runs under the shanty is now clear, thanks to Richard Stratford & helpers. Colin J and Maarten Rekke cut out and welded 2 new grates for the pipes that lead into this culvert. They were bolted in place by Maarten.

## Locomotives & Jiggers



Locos at rest – Feb 2018. Image RE

**PECKETT, CB & DIESELS**

The Peckett and the Cb are out of service for their annual boiler surveys. Elliot Baptist & Ian Bettison spent time in February maintaining the Meremere diesels whilst Mike Andrews has made progress on the Tr locomotive.

**MAMAKU # 2**

The hydraulic brakes on this gave trouble at the start of the January open day so Jigger No.1 was used for the open day. The problem was found to be a joint on the brake line that was leaking. Not an easy job to get at the pipe as the body had to be lifted clear of the rear axle. Even to do this the "U" bolts holding the whole lot together had to be undone and they were very awkward to get at. Ian Jenner repaired the Pipe work and refitted it a couple of weeks later.

The Jigger was back in service for the February open day.

## Rolling stock

**A 1319**

Richard Ellis has been back in NZ. The work on the A1319 car is pretty well complete except for a guard's airbrake control on one balcony and a few other small jobs. Dave Harrison has been making a few of the fiddly wooden pieces for the catering area of this car.

Now that A1319 is virtually finished, the "carriage group" has started work on the No.3 car (A1477) which has revealed that the condition is "fair" and it should be restorable in a twelve to eighteen month period.

## Around the Junction

**GROUNDS**

Russell Webb continues to keep the grounds in very good order. The hot and wet weather has really made the lawns grow. He has spent a lot of time tidying up the metal on the driveway up to the Junction, keeping the lawns tidy and cleaning the Rec Room and toilets before the Charters & Open Days. Essential work which is often taken for granted.



One of Russell's many garden creations at the Junction – Image RE

### **THE AGM & SHUNTING SCHOOL**

By now you will have received notice of the AGM being held on 25<sup>th</sup> March starting at 1.30pm.

Before this the annual shunting school will be held starting at 10.30am. It is important that as many members as possible turn up on this day.

### **THE GLEN AFTON LINE EXTENSION**

Our contractor will be at the Railway shortly to get rid of the mud that is heaped beside the line, clean out the drains and replace the sleepers at the Glen Afton end of the line.

We have twice been turned down on our grant applications for the funding for the track screws so have had to buy and pay for them from club funds, 1000 have been ordered.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have received a grant from the "Pub Charity" for \$10,000 towards this work. We have applied for another grant for the balance of the cost.

We are very keen to get our trains back into Glen Afton.

**FIREWOOD**

For the last couple of years we have sold firewood that brought a good return moneywise. So far this year we have none.

We need a few people to come and cut up a pine tree that has come down but is still growing. So far Ian Bettison and Dave Mann have volunteered but we need a couple more to help. If you can assist, then please email the Secretary who will pass your name on. We use a log splitter to break the rings into reasonable sizes for wood burners.

**KITCHEN**

At the last AGM it was agreed to move the kitchen from the station into the Rec. Room for a 12-month trial.

The idea certainly seems to have worked. We now sell hot chips, toasted sandwiches, pies and savouries plus the normal hot and cold drinks & sausage sizzle. Helping out during the last year have been Russell Webb, Sue Beaumont, Lesley Rekke, Dillon and sometimes Jan.

- CJ

## Gallery



The Planet and No.3 car in the Woodwork Shop – Feb 2018 – Image: RE



The No.3 Car shortly after arriving in the Woodwork shop – Rob Beaumont examining – Image RE



Members relax at the end of the day – Image RE



Mary Burns visited us at the December Open Day...



Len Boyd & friends made a visit in December.....



A1319 goes on a trial run to Colin Jenner's house in January.



Evening activity at the Bush Tramway Club as RS does work on the Climax boiler – Image RE



The train approaches PJ at the February Open Day – Image RE.