

Monthly Report March 2014

Funding for bridge # 2 Waitara Branch was approved by the TSB community trust during late February while I was on holiday' Many thanks to the TSB community trust.

Saturday 1st.

- 7 staff on duty.
- Rusted out train pipe removed from 407.
- Alternator & modifications needed carried out, just needs wiring in.
- Weed spraying to Lepperton completed.

Sunday 2nd.

- 9 staff.
- Train running day.

Monday 3rd.

- 2 staff.
- Visited Buckthought Engineering to get the bridge repair process under way.
- Visited Value Timber at Inglewood to check out the situation with the bridge sleepers. All under control & will be delivered in two weeks.
- Drawings getting underway for the sleeper drilling jigs.

Tuesday 4th.

- 2 staff.
- Visit Buckthought Engineering to sort out some processes.

Wednesday 5th.

- 2 staff.
- Lawn mowing at Waitara Road.
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- Investigating making a skid for pulling the rails back onto the bridge structure when ready.
- Laying out drawings for the needed drilling jigs. Not going to plan & have to rethink this.

Thursday 6th.

- Delivery of the galvanized steel for the bridge creep straps were delivered to Waitara Road.
- Delivery of the bolts for the bridge arrived & picked up.
- 1 staff.
- Sketching different ideas for building a rail skid, on going!

Friday 7th.

- Finally came up with a good solution to the drilling jigs for the bridge sleepers at 5.00am this morning & happy with the result & 1 drawing finished to satisfaction.
- Purchased the materials needed & delivered to Waitara Road.
- Coming to grips with the new computer system is slowly getting into place & less frustration on that score! Bit more to go yet.
- Lost all my mailing list in the scam that shut my old system down

Saturday 8th.

- 9 staff.
- Alternator wiring connected on 407 & working.
- Ditch lights on 407 working.
- Windscreen wipers now working.
- Head lights now working.
- Forward/ reverse rotary valve removed beyond satisfactory repair. To be fitted with a modern operating toggle valve. (407).
- 2584 3 month check completed.

- More scrap cleaned up along the track & useful track fittings store for re use. The track workers just dumped materials & left them where they were working.
- Preparation work on bridge 2 & checking some measurements for jig drawings.
- Volunteer hours at week 22—5,424

Sunday 9th.

- Filing updates on vehicle manuals.
- 3 staff
- 1917 sleeper date nail given to the WRPS by an ex track worker that worked in the local track gang. (came out of the Waitara yard).
- Inspected the preparation work carried out on the bridge yesterday by Mike & Noel. Good job.
- Mike & Denyse digging out the points into # 2 siding at Waitara.
- The ballast ? or more likely Claytons concrete like was hard going.
- Put the timberwork in for the points machine & fitted it.
- Knocked off at 6.00pm & back into it again tomorrow (Taranaki Anniversary day).

Monday 10th.

- 2 staff.
- Finish off points, adjust & put in boxing at Waitara.
- Do a stock take on track fittings required for the bridge.

Tuesday 11th.

- 1 staff.
- Started construction of the sleeper drilling jigs.
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- Took the trammel down to the bridge check it for accuracy but needs some minor tweaking.

- Inspected the paint work under the structure, still quite good for another 3 years.
- Went & saw Ian McCaull re access over his farm for the contractors.

Wednesday 12th.

- Training on my new computer system.
- Staff of 1
- Manufacturing components for the bridge sleeper drilling jigs.
- Committee meeting.
- Sponsorship plaques received from the **TET trust** & **TSB BANK** community trust showing their valued support for us at the WRPS. Very much appreciated.

Thursday 13th.

- Council tree trimming contractors in today to trim back the growth between Cracroft & Browne Streets. (Adjacent Park)
- Finished construction of the sleeper drilling jig for the 2.1 sleepers. 1 staff.

Friday 14th.

- 1 staff.
- Truck load of scrap picked up this morning.
- Preparing the contractors induction & safety brief manuals.

Saturday 15th.

- 9 staff.
- Volunteer hours at week 23—5,647
- EA 3298 rusted brake pipe removed & replacement flexible hose purchased. Been a few years since this wagon was last used & is being set up to carry materials down to the bridge.
- Tr 407 electrical conduit fitted to the alternator.
- F 726 body repairs, going to needed after xmas for a large charter by the Morris dancers

convention. Last time they did a fertility dance for the apple tree, it worked for that OK!

- 150 metre exclusion zone set up around the bridge work site.
- All trains stop shifted to new temporary position.
- Drilling rails at the bridge.
- Pruning trees & spraying around the bridge structure.
- Did some parts construction for the 2.3 sleeper drilling jig.
- Shunt ran down to Waitara to place some wagons down there due to space needed for the bridge work train to be assembled.

Sunday 16th.

- Audit day.
- Train running.
- 10 staff + auditor.
- Bed plates for bridge being sorted.

Monday 17th.

Paper work.

Tuesday 18th.

Meeting at Waitara Road.

Wednesday 19th.

- 3 rest homes on a combined charter. Maida Vale. Coronation rest home & Thornleigh
- 6 staff.
- 2584 ditch light batteries put on charge.
- Special Committee meeting tonight.
- Keith Piper temporary chairman until the AGM.

Thursday 20th.

- 1 staff.
- Scrap Bin returned.
- \$820.80 for the last load.
- Ditch light batteries on 2584 charged.
- 3.2 bridge sleeper drilling jig completed.
- Start developing a sled to attach to the rails on the bridge for the removal / replacing (all welded rails).

Friday 21st.

- Down to the bridge again to measure up for version # 4 for a rail sled, hopefully cracked it this time, proving to be awkward.

Saturday 22nd.

Flannel weeds growing up & around the bridge structure dealt with.

Went through the details of a safe method of restraining the rails in case of whip lash while towing them off the bridge.

Timber lengths are going to be nailed to the sleepers next to the creep straps for retainment as the long welded length could whip while being towed off the bridge structure & it is a long way down to the river bed.

Mark 4 version of the rail sled now ok & a start on it's manufacture has begun.

Rail fastening method on the bridge has been settled.

Tr 407 has had the 24 volt generator 7 shaft removed & put in storage.

Continuation of the retaining walls at Strange Street carried out.

F726 continued body & framing repairs,

Eww 3298 Training on bogie removal, jacking & traversing was carried out to be able to access the rotted out brake pipe.

Some modifications to the Brake Pipe securing at the dirt collector-branch pipe area was discussed as the BP will be replaced by modern hose technology.

11 staff & 1 visitor fro Glenbrook Railway.

Volunteer hours at week 24---5,924

Sunday 23rd.

Document work & binding.

Monday 24th.

1 staff.

Building the rail sled, got the base tacked together.

Did some filing.

Tuesday 25th.

Test fitted the rail skid, working out well, just needs some minor adjustments.

Dealing with audit matters.

Wednesday 26th.

Porse home care education charter.

5 staff on duty.

The Chicken Farm rail corridor lease holder is carrying out his requirements & replacing the boundary fence in the area of the 5KM peg.

Had a ring from Graeme Hudson from the NZTA to have a friendly chat with staff who can make it to Waitara Road on Tuesday the 8th of April at 9.00 am.

Purchased some bolts for the rail sled.

Had a ring from Noel on a proposal to remove the sleepers of the bridge, permission given, & asked to supply a sketch & method to be used.

Thursday 27th.

1 staff.

Burnt the rubbish from yesterday.

Filed up the train operating sheets.

Finished the setting up of the rail sled to where I am happy with it. Ready for welding tomorrow.

Friday 28th.

2 Staff.

Rail sled now completed, delivered & unloaded.

Saturday 29th.

13 staff on duty.

Volunteer hours at week 25--6,096

Received the March rolling stock report, & was well written, thanks Bill.

This is a system put into place to take some of the load off me & for that I am grateful.

The repairs to the ticket office has taken on some momentum with some of the rotted untreated timber flashings renewed. (Nak 6065)

The rear wall of the ticket booth has been bolted more securely to the deck. Thanks Noel.

Mike was turning the new jack hammer tyne to good use in cleaning the old road material stuck to the web of some rails, sure beats the pickaxe method! (Mike & Dave)

Continued scrap recovery--Jim Hook.

Ea 3298 had the Brake & Branch pipes renewed , brake test completed, temporary certificate issued for bridge repair material recovery/ delivery use only, until the end boards can be replaced. (Bill & Carl)

F726 Continued body work carried out.(Jim & Keith).

A more concerted start on Bagnall # 11 ex Portland Cement ,ex Whangarei, with Neil & Denyse assisted by Neville measuring up for the drawings needed for fitting of the Catterpillar Engine & Twin Disc torque convertor.

When at Portland the Wilson CA 5 gearbox was retained & an 8 LW Gardener engine was fitted after the removal of the dead loss National MAA6 engine.

A list of work is to be drawn up.

Neil is to oversee this job due to major back problems which are worse after surgery.

Keith is talking of selling the CA5 gear box & ancillary Layrub couplings that will not be needed.

Phone 06--754-6192 evenings.

Neville started basic welding training.

Neville also got trained on the use of the cut off saw.

Sunday 30th.

2 staff.

Keith on body work of F 726

Denyse measuring up on Bagnall # 11, decided to procure blue prints from Kiwi Rail, will be a lot quicker & easier than working around the modifications that have gone before in various engine changes.

Monday 31st.

Meeting with Keith Piper at Waitara Road.

Filing up vehicle documents.

1/4 of the year gone already & with good steady progress by all. Cheers to you all,

Denyse.

