

MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2013.

Thursday 1st.

- Charging batteries.
- Doing working drawings ready for component manufacture.

Friday 2nd.

- Went into New Plymouth to price new batteries for 2584.
- Purchased the steel sections for fabricating transition fish plates.
- Cranked up 2584 & gave it a run.

Saturday 3rd.

- Corrections on site.
- Finished ballasting, burnt rubbish, last of the raking up & trimmed the hedge row.
- Birthday charter.
- 2 Visitors from Hamilton spent the day with us & enjoyed themselves. (Bruce & Selina Murdoch)
- 11 staff on duty.
- Mostly tidying up, shunting & general duties.
- Cleaned out the loop of un-restored carriage & 2 guards vans plus some others into the new siding away from the platform.
- Nice day with 19 degrees & no wind.
- Volunteer Hours at week 43—9,965

Monday 5th.

- Doing revised drawings for a servicing pit around a spare ½ of a rail certified underpass / culvert section.(left over from a job & not saleable due only being one part section)

Wednesday 7th.

- 2 staff, Ben Sewell & I.
- Pulled all the rolling stock out of Stepping Stones Nursery siding & placed onto the new siding. We wish to record their help in this matter & allowing us to use this siding.
- At long last with all the stored rolling stock moved out of the run around loop at Waitara Road the rubbish that had blown under the vehicles could be at last cleaned up.
- The way is now clear to finally level, ballast & align the track here, it is very reminiscent of bush tram way.
- There is steady improvements taking place to eliminate the propelling of the train & for me it cannot come quick enough.

- Long term, once the bridge gets back & open again at some stage thought is turning to reactivate & fit a run around loop at the old Sentry Hill site which will then eliminate propelling once & for all.

Friday 9th.

- Cutting up steel sections for transition fish plates, travel to New Plymouth for more steel.
- First one laid out & tack welded.
- Rang Merl our prospective new help in the Butterfly Garden at Waitara. To follow up.

Saturday 10th.

- NZTA Rail advisor on site today.(Visitor).
- My personal assessment today.
- Training our internal auditor.
- 20 staff on duty.
- The first signal was completed today. By Noel & other helpers.
- Lawns & gardens at Waitara Road done.
- Trevor O & Bryan B finished painting the front fence.
- The last of the storm damage rubbish was burnt.
- The general tidy up is really looking good.
- My assessment went well & lot of useful topics were covered along with how our staff are viewed, management & documenting practices.
- Good to see dialogue between our staff & the NZTA assessor Graeme Hudson, well done guys.
- Volunteer Hours at week 44 10,202

Sunday 11th.

- Meeting with the Taranaki Flyer Society on their future.
- Fringe Garden Festival get together at Stratford.
- Birthday party charter for 60 people.
- Eileen rang Hine when we got home from the Fringe Garden Festival opening & the group had a brilliant time.
- A lot of interest from them.
- Promotional material handed out at Stratford & new contacts made.
- 7 staff on duty at Waitara Road.

Monday 12th.

- Staff of 1

- Fabricating transition fish plates.

Tuesday 13th.

- Staff of 1.
- Fish plate manufacture.

Wednesday 14th.

- 2 staff.
- Set up Dsa 414 for the restoration crew.
- Removed 2 redundant derail blocks at Waitara Road & shifted one other.
- Management meeting at 7.00pm.

Thursday 15th.

- 2 staff.
- Mike Lehrke & I.
- Took Mike into Smart Road to check out the maintenance pit in the maintenance depot to see what we are proposing for Waitara Road.
- Checked out the very rusty Dsc belonging to Ravens Down Fertilizer works, depending on it's future as a spare parts source. The fertiliser damage has really taken hold & would now be a major expensive rebuild.
- Mike & I went to view the concrete culvert section for his orientation on the proposed pit.
- We went to APPCO & ordered the new set of batteries for our Dsc.
- Had a phone call from the Taranaki-Manawatu Farmers paper re advertising us in a feature they will be doing on the upcoming garden festival. The word is spreading on what we are doing & it must be word of mouth.
- Cracking the Rural folk for custom would be a big step forward.

Friday 16th.

- 2 staff
- Denyse & Mike L.
- Building fish plates.

Saturday 17th.

- 12 staff on duty.
- Un restored wooden body rolling stock weather proofed with heavy tarpaulins, good job team.
- Battery charging alternator for 414 had the mounting bracket altered ready for installation.
- The general site clean up at Waitara Road bore a lot of fruit & is getting to the stage where it needs to be. Well done by all. (Abridged report).

- Volunteer hours at week 45---10,456.

Sunday 18th.

- Off site hours today on behalf of the WRPS.
- Visited the Steam Rail group at Wanganui.
- Spent some quality time with these guys on a one to one basis assisting individuals with any advice that was needed.
- The two younger members are going very well & that is heartening to see.
- Enjoyed the time spent on chewing the fat on the processes on the old East Town workshops steam crane.
- Blair, you have the respect of your staff & how they are working as a team & the quality of their work & thirst for knowledge is great to see.
- Eileen & called in to the Waverley Station site on the way home.
- Colin Hughs advised me that the old station ex Waitotara Station if we wanted it was ours. Thanks Colin I am following that up.
- I gave the building a good check on the out side 90% sound I would say. Looks worse than the peeled paint would suggest.
- I took some photos of all aspects of the building for reference.
- The hand crane once investigated was photographed & now documented to assist in the dismantling of this crane.
- I am pleased that the structural integrity of the superstructure is excellent & will clean up very well.
- I will take the dismantling team through the changed processes on Wednesday at Waverley, & a stop has been placed on this job until this process has been carried out.
- Once again a big thank you to the Steam Rail Wanganui group for their valuable help with the Waverley site.
- It is pleasing for the Wanganui guys & Waverley folk to see that we are making good use of what has been donated to the WRPS & the restored signal is one very visible aspect of that.

Monday 19th.

- 2 staff.
- Mike L & I cleaned up around the sidings & sorted out the defective track screws & fittings into the scrap bin.

Tuesday 20th.

- Had a big surprise visit from Ian Balme the managing director of FORGOTTEN WORLD ADVENTURES.
- Discussed a lot of related topics on the tourism area in Taranaki.
- He had such a lot of good reports about us from his tourism manager who lives nearby to the WRPS & has used our service on several occasions & has passed on the good word. It is excellent that this word of mouth advertising is to our benefit.

- As being the only 2 operators in the middle of the North Island & a distance of 250 miles in either direction, north or south, the impetus in bringing in tourists into the area is going to be greater.
- We covered all types of related matters from management down, staff morale & roles in tourism.
- I feel that he was sussing us out & there is going to be further contact for mutual benefit.
- With the impending changes on how they are going to operate from October, it looks like tourists will be pointed in our direction, as there is only 30 miles between us & this should be of benefit to our region, which sadly is to often ignored or overlooked by tourism operators.
- On other good news today, getting follow up from one of our local fringe festival gardens which will be of mutual benefit. Love it!

Wednesday 21st.

- 5 staff.
- Preparing the hand crane ready for lifting when the HIAB is available.
- Timber & concrete materials for ground signals loaded onto a trailer.
- Noel, Jim Brian & I thoroughly inspected & measured the old Waitotara Station to be used at Waitara.

Thursday 22nd.

- Office work all day.
- Received a complimentary ticket from Ian Balme from the Forgotten world adventures to ride from Stratford to Whangamomona.
- Rang the Farmers paper re the advertising & they have suggested that we write an article & place an add in two months time, better time to hit the Christmas break.
- Purchased 2 kilos of 100mm nails for the track timber work at Waitara Road.
- Did the Waitotara Station foot print plan & photos ready for discussion by the committee next month.
- Also put out the forward planning document & pathway for implementation.

Friday 23rd.

- Staff of one.
- Fringe Garden Festival books delivered for placing in the train.
- Received Surrey's garden & toy making advertising materials for the Fringe Garden Festival.(Garden 32).
- Filing documents & printing train running job sheets.
- Did some more fish plates.

Saturday 24th.

- 13 staff on duty.
- Gardening by 4 staff.

- Dsa 414 rewiring, WH brake equipment overhaul started & training. 5 staff.
- General duties 2 staff.
- Points & road access timber work 2 staff.

Sunday 25th.

- Safety case revision page 49 Permit to graze livestock on the Rail Corridor.
- Go & see farmer at Sentry Hill, Rural address 177 Mountain Road to get documents signed.
- Deliver our pamphlets to garden 32, 11 Cracraft Street, Waitara.
- Paperwork.

Monday 26th.

- Filing documents.
- Amended wiring diagrams for 414 for the train power from the locomotive.

Tuesday 27th.

- 4 staff.
- Trevor & Bryan mowed the lawns at Waitara Road & Waitara.
- Started the preliminary design work & electrical drawings for fitting 24 volt train line power to the train.
- Charged the batteries on 2584.
- The new batteries for 2584 were delivered late in the afternoon & many thanks to APPCO for the donated extras & 1 tray of the battery. That is appreciated.
- 2 staff.
- Ben & I carried on with the yard tidy up & sorting of materials for storing.
- Paid for the Batteries & sorting through off the shelf materials suitable for fitting ditch lights to our locomotives as a further safety enhancement at road crossings. It does not make sense when the Rail operators always are more safety conscious than road users in the main. It is a crazy situation!!

Friday 30th.

- Sean Millar an author on Rail & other transport topics on site today.
- Placed sorted bed plates into shed 10.
- Raked up the wind blown rubbish blown into our yard.
- Started sorting out the good firewood from old pile by shed 5 & loaded up a trailer full.
- Sean Millar & his wife found some stations that were unknown to them to add to his books.
- Updated his file on the diesels on our railway for an upcoming publication.

- They were amazed at the amount of gardens & mown areas that we do at several sites.
- Went for a trip on 2584 down to Waitara & back.

Saturday 31st.

- 17 staff on duty.
- 1 visitor, Steven Jones from Pahiatua.
- New batteries fitted to 2584.
- Team fitting timbers into the new siding at Waitara Road for the access road.
- Crew on gardening.
- Crew on 414 rewire.
- Volunteer hours at week 47—10,830

Cheers,

Denyse.