

Monthly Report December 2012.

Saturday 1st.

- Corrections on site.
- 16 staff on site.
- 4 members from Steam Rail Wanganui, good to see Colin, Blair, Rob & Ewan.
- Major push down on the Waitara yard job today with a lot of spoil removed, track laying & rail recovery.
- Noel A worked on the signals & ticket office.
- All sorts of odd jobs carried out.
- Benjie Orpilla did the levels for ½ of the new siding that is to be fitted at Waitara Road, not a lot of excavation required. Can now get some forward planning on this.
- Neville J did some weeding & mulching.
- Volunteer hours at week 8 2,042 hrs.

Sunday 2nd.

- One Christmas party charter for Taranaki Pine .
- One public excursion.
- Our Rail assessor from the NZTA, Graeme Hudson on site today.

Monday 3rd.

- Spent time on sorting information for ongoing paperwork for the bridge for the NPDC.
- Met up with an Australian Tourist down at Waitara this morning & found out about us from a pamphlet in a tram museum in Sydney, & decided to look us up.
- I invited him up to Waitara Road to have a look around & have a brew of tea & some lunch.
- Interesting guy, gave him information on the best route to Taupo & told him where to find other rail societies on his way north.
- He said he will be back again. Always welcome.
- Measured up & sorted some rails for the Waitara yard.

Tuesday 4th.

- Started documents for quotations for steel, bolts & fittings
Sleepers & walkway materials for bridge #2.
- Delivered those particular documents to the firms where required.

Wednesday 5th.

- Charter today for special needs children.
- Dennis & Myra from the Fringe garden festival came today to do an assessment for our inclusion under heritage & garden criteria. Foundation has now been set into the next phase. This is going to be beneficial to us & the garden festival in spreading a wider net on local tourism.
- Looking very positive.
- Did component drawings & quotation documents for 2 engineering companies which I delivered later in the day & one other to have more information to add for quoting on removing the track off the bridge etc.
- A lot of work involved on this.

Thursday 6th.

- Mike L & I went out to Inglewood to see Inglewood Loader Parts for a quote for ballast for the bridge approaches.
- On having a discussion with Inglewood Loader Parts we had a general discussion about local engineering companies of a size that would be capable of doing the top side work on the structure & nearby Buckthought Engineering came up.
- Mike & I went up Dudley Road to see them & talk to the owner, who is very good to deal with. Liked his attitude & willingness to meet up & have a look. Further action.

Saturday 8th.

- One Xmas charter.
- CWC on site laying rail & digging out ballast.
- Bill B did 2 yearly certifications on rolling stock.
- Jim B, Carl M & Bill B worked on 414.
- Another discussion was had on improving the compressor suction filters to a better type.
- After inspecting the brake pipe which is very corroded in several places the whole length is to be removed & replaced. Fertiliser is not good material around locomotives.
- Mike Z along with CWC crew cleared up some rails out of the long grass by the Pukekohe domain (Camp Reserve).
- The re-railed & de pointed section is ready for lifting, levelling & ballasting with only the rails to be drilled for fish plate holes when a rail drill can be procured.

Sunday 9th.

- Trevor O & Brian B mowed the lawns at Waitara.
- Eileen & I visited the Steam Rail Group in Wanganui & have not done that for a while. Good cup of tea Colin.

- On our way home we went in the Waitotara Rail bridge & checked out & photographed the way the track has been ramped up to the bridge on both ends. We are going to have to do the same on our bridge.

Monday 10th.

- Ben S came with me to see Wayne Buckthought at his engineering works at Inglewood on pricing for clamping clips for our bridge.
- The structure work for quoting purposes will be carried out before Xmas.

Tuesday 11th.

- Attended the "Waitara Alive" end of year function where we had food & drinks along with good networking with local business people, community board members, police, fringe garden gardeners & like minded civic people.
- We had a lot of feed back on how the Waitara yard is starting to look, & now how they find us an entity in the town. That is good to hear, just another cog in the well being of our town.
- Discussions were had on many fronts on other planned developments & we need to do our planning into how we can fit in on some concepts. The future is looking really bright.
- We at the WRPS want to be part of these initiatives where we can.
- I had a talk with councillor Craig McFarlane to see if we can help with trade training for pupils from the Waitara High School as it is an initiative that Waitara Alive are implementing. If we can at least help one young person it has to be worthwhile & who knows, this is where we may get future recruits from, or at least get a handle on what we are to the well being of our community.

Wednesday 12th.

- Mike L, Ben S & I today.
- Some work was carried out on the Museum.
- The start on the painting of the track work shop has been started.
- Last Committee meeting for the year.
- Finished off the quotes for the Bridge materials.
- Final paper work finished with the film company (final safety case variation clearance from the NZTA.)

Thursday 13th.

- 1 Charter today, Waitara Play Group.
- Out of this group one of the fathers was enquiring if we needed any help with welding & mechanical work, do not have to ask twice here!
- Dylan Bevins lives in Waitara, nice to meet you.
- Took some photographs of sight lines at the northern side of the Waitara Road for referencing distances & angles to prove to some locals that the problem that they perceive is more than adequate & also for a safety meeting amongst our selves. To follow up & action as required.

- Received a phone call from Ken Bedford from TET advising that we are receiving a grant of \$20,000.00 towards the work in the Waitara Yard.
- Once we know how the TET have want this money distributed on this job, the tools / materials can be sorted.
- Spraying of weeds carried out in the garden at Waitara.

Friday 14th.

- Cleaning the station building.
- Paper work.
- Jim B & I finalised the new charter booking forms.

Saturday 15th.

- CWC crew finished for their holiday break.
- They dug a new fire pit, spread old ballast from Waitara onto the driveway at Waitara Road, unloaded & stacked rails, cleared the cess drain down at the glade, enjoyed carrot cake & scones with lashings of jam & cream for morning tea along with their bosses. Did a good job guys.
- 11 staff on duty.
- Bill started getting the NAK that had no brake gear ready for it's air test & certification at a later date.
- Carl, Bill & Jim are starting to make inroads on 414.
- Have now had the date set for filming in January.
- Keith is getting his rubber tyred trolley ready for the camera mount for the film company.
- Good to see Jim Hook back on deck doing light duties.
- Eileen was as usual feeding us up on good kai!
- Neville has mostly finished painting the mobile workshop, will soon need to wear slippers in there!
- Mike Z did some spraying down the hill.
- Graeme O down from Auckland with more supplies, DVD'S , & more to take back & work on!
- We had a good day & much got done by all.

Sunday 16th.

- 1 Birthday Party charter, 1 Public excursion, 1 Xmas Party charter.
- 11 staff on duty.
- Had a calculated burglary over night—Target ride on mower—Did not need to be Einstein to work it out
**** thieving mongrel.

- Busy day.
- Keith H & I finished off the last bit of carpentry on the mobile work shop.

Tuesday 18th.

- Sorted scrap today & taken away.
- Mike Zeier has arranged for an interview with the Taranaki Daily News tomorrow morning at 10.30 over the callous theft of our ride on mower.
- More charters being booked, the new booking & conformation sheet is working well.

Wednesday 19th.

- Busy day on security matters & solutions.
- Met up with councillor Craig McFarlane, Ken Bedford Community Board Member prior to meeting the News Paper reporter & photographer.
- I feel stink that a community asset under our care was stolen & it is difficult when we take our security seriously & once again faced with ideas on how to bolster this area even more.
- Had to spend a lot of time & petrol on this; there are no easy ways to combat this problem, but one can not be beaten by useless low life idiots.
- IED lifting appliances did a strop up to secure our front gate that can not be cut with bolt cutters.
- Will be investigating an electric fence security system to access it's suitability.
- To clear my head Eileen & I went down to the river mouth to have a meal on wheels (old folks picnic!).
- This was fortuitous as our present corrections supervisor was down there with a Waitara crew weeding the sand dunes for the NPDC.
- Graeme came & had a chat with us re the robbery & told me that the CWC crew wanted the van stopped & had a talk amongst them selves on how disgusted they were about what happened & are not taking this lightly.
- These guys hold us up with some esteem & that is good to know, they will be doing their best to locate these fellows & do not want to be under suspicion. Good to hear.
- Had a chat with some of them , as I have worked one on one with some of them with good results.
- Neville your input from the Corrections view point was also valuable.

Thursday 20th.

- Help came quick with the offer of a ride on mower from Paul a local resident in Blake Street & who works for Hire Quip in New Plymouth who have assisted us from time to time.
- We have the use of this mower until either the one that went missing (hopefully) returns or we manage to get another one.

- It is sobering to think that we do have the respect of the town & with some other aspects of help which I will not go into & respect their privacy.
- Had an interesting day sorting through various methods of security & an ex Policeman who drives the delivery truck for the local ITM building supplies was very forthcoming. Brilliant.
- The local RD1 store had some useful suggestions as well & the Manager met up with me on his way home & there is some good workable ideas there worth investigating as well.
- The small town network is alive & well!

Friday 21st.

- Load of recycled timber delivered.
- Small load of donated crushed recycled rock delivered for ballasting the run around loop at Waitara Road.

Saturday 22nd.

- CWC on site for ½ day.
- Digging out ballast for re-sleeping yard sidings at Waitara.
- Mike Z, Noel A & Ben S picked up a load of donated roofing iron.
- 8 staff on duty.
- Noel, Nick. Keith & I spread the donated ballast on the run around loop.
- Bill B started setting up the rolling stock workshop.
- Mike Z & Michael Hobbs did another section of retaining wall at Strange Street.
- Mike Z trimming long grass around the trees down the hill.
- Volunteer hours at week 11—2,898.

Sunday 23rd.

- Mike Zeier weed spraying & trimming grass around the trees.
- Catching up with filing & paperwork.
- Bill B sorting out some aspects of his workshop.

Monday 24th.

- Paperwork.

Tuesday 25th.

- Yes Xmas day! The Taranaki Flyer Society from Stratford picked up the caravan from Waitara Road yesterday afternoon. This we have donated to them to help in raising money to get them going & Eileen & I donated our spare Barbeque to go with the caravan. Looking forward to sinking my teeth into a sausage!

Wednesday 26th.

- Had an anonymous message over some loose talk by one of the CWC workers who we asked to be removed from our site just recently, & will follow up on this with the local Police tomorrow

Saturday 29th.

- 13 staff on duty.
- 4 visitors.
- A big thank you to Benjie Orpillo doing a comprehensive map of our Waitara site with all underground & topside services shown on it.
- Benjie & Evelyn we wish you well while you attend University in Dunedin.
- Bill & Carl removed one of the sand boxes off 2584 for attention.
- Jim H was sorting scrap.
- Jim B, Carl & Bill were sorting gear for their new workshop.
- Adam J brought his parents down to meet us, nice to meet you all the way from the UK.
- Adam took them for a ride on a motor trolley up to Lepperton.
- A start was made on a more impregnable fortress to house a ride on mower when we are able to either get a new one or repurchase another. Our site is getting like a Jail, it is maddening.
- Eileen brought a feed of delicious Fish & Chips for our tea on completion of the days work on a new mower shed & we cleaned up around 6.00pm.

Sunday 30th.

- Passed some more info onto the police, who do not seem to want to know, so you wonder why bother.
- Mike Z & Mike L putting the cladding & floor in on the new mower shed.
- Thanks guys & Gals for the effort over the year, there were a lot of good things that happened, but the low points were the thefts of personal & WRPS equipment from our site that is hard to handle. No thanks to the low life on that score.

From the WRPS Inc,

May your boilers steam, enjoy what we do & help each other.

To the Funder's who have helped, A BIG thank you.

Denyse.

Monday the 31st, Eileen & I are off to have a hard earned break & head into the back country & chill out!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.