

Monthly report January 2013.

Saturday 5th.

- Carl, Bill & Jim B removing another sand box off 2584 for repair.
- Mike Z & Mike L cladding the new mower shed, painting the Magnolia Glade station & mower shed.
- Mike Z also on spraying duties.
- Jim & Pat H weeding the front gardens.
- (Abbreviated from short notes that I was given)

Sunday 6th.

- Pat H & Helen J filled in for Eileen & I as we were away on the catering.
- Gillian H ran the ticket office.
- Thanks ladies, much appreciated.
- Very busy 2 trips with overseas tourists amongst the mix.

Wednesday 9th.

- Fully back on deck again catching up.
- Dave O & I went out to Okato to examine a shed that is being dismantled by Dave & his son Malcom for a possible workshop—looks promising.
- After much chasing by the local police they finally caught up with me on the matter of the missing mower. Still no sign of it.
- Charter bookings still rolling in.
- Met with Ken Bedford from the TET to discuss the current new funding round & they are adding to the funding so that we can purchase another mower—A BIG THANK YOU from us at the WRPS. We are very grateful.
- I went & visited the Bush Tramway Club at Pukemiro & Bruce the contact person was most helpful in arranging the caretaker to assist me—thanks guys.
- Spent 5 hours having a good look around.
- Interesting trip from Raglan to Pukemiro, scenic but very twisty!
- Got another pail of “Hot Chilli” paint for the sheds.

Thursday 10th.

- Paper work & filing.

Friday 11th.

- Wedding shoot today at 4.00pm. I cannot figure out why Brides want to have their wedding photos taken on old grubby un-restored rolling stock in their flash gowns while the groom & his mates are more interested in downing some bottles of Tui beer. OH well it is income & they enjoyed them selves.

Saturday 12th.

- 9 staff on duty.
- Mower flat top, remove ramps ready for filming.
- \Dsa 414 Engine cooling pipes replaced where required.
- Removal of sand boxes for modification & repair.
- Weed spraying.

- Painting of mower shed.
- More setting up of new Rolling stock workshop in #4 shed.
- Keith doing some practice runs with the flat top & motor trolley ready for the filming.

Sunday 13th.

- 2 well booked excursions.
- Vivien (Viv) Adamson the official photographer for the garden festival was on site photographing our operation for inclusion in this years booklet. This advertising goes Nation Wide & will cast our net into the tourism market on a wider scale.
- 12 staff on duty.
- Lawns mowed at Waitara Road by Mike L with a motor mower, tough going on the Kaikoia grass by that means.
- Jean Sevick Jones has intimated that she wishes to take on the vacant ticket office duties, thanks Jean.
- Mike Z has got the rail lying in the vacant railway bus yard at Waitara lifted across the street by a "purloined?"

Fork lift truck so that it can be lifted onto a wagon for storage at Waitara Road.

- Bill B did some painting.
- Volunteer hours for week ending (week 14)12/01/2013 ==3,323 hrs.

Monday 14th.

- Sent out the drawings for the modification of the sand boxes for DSA 414.

Wednesday 16th.

- 1 charter.
- 8 Staff on duty.
- Two staff on driver training

Thursday 17th.

- Paperwork.
- Completed map of all facilities at Waitara yard laminated Thanks to Benjie Orpillo.

Friday 18th.

- Finish the working drawings for the 700mm gauge wagons.
- Venture Taranaki rang to see if we were running on Sunday & they are going to advertise us, Thanks that is appreciated.

Saturday 19th.

- Corrections back on site.
- Lifting, levelling & ballasting the new track where the points that led into thr Freezing works were taken ot & straight railed has been a big job with only some minor finishing to do when the rail rotabroach drill arrives & the tamper.
- We can be well satisfied in taking on this large project & complete it to a good standard.
- The CWC crew can be pleased to see how their hard effort in hand digging out the track , which was not easy have seen the job through over many weeks of slog in all weathers. Well done guys.
- The 4 guys that helped Mike & I with the levelling & temporary packing you did a good job.
- The last of the ballast pile has been ½ loaded onto an Nak ready for ballasting the dip at Strange Street allowing this long running problem to be completed along with the retaining walls is another major job ready to be ticked off.

- This will remove the long standing 10kmph speed limit that has been in place long before I came on the scene.
- Some excellent news—we are now gaining some new members in the lower age groups, which is music to our collective ears, & they came to us. In the middle 20's to 30's, welcome guys, your age group in the long term is where the further foundation of the WRPS & or any other group is where to long future lies.
- Make your selves at home & that goes for your families as well.
- Another length of rail has been picked up & needs stacking.
- Progress on Dsa 414 is turning up a lot of hidden defects which is not surprising where it came from the Smart Road Fertiliser works—real corrosive stuff.
- 414 was in excellent condition when it belonged to Kiwi Dairies (Nee Fonterra) at Whareroa. We used to maintain it along with a Drewry built Dsa at Wareroa.(from Smart Road depot in New Plymouth under contract}
- I appreciate the debrief on what has been going on with the Rolling Stock crew who are now getting to grips with what they are doing.
- Jim & Pat H did some gardening, looking good.
- Volunteer hours at week 15—3,642 hours.

Sunday 20th.

- Two runs today.
- Well supported with the first train full & the catering donations showed that as well.
- The second trip was also well supported.
- Eileen was up at 5.00am doing the baking & no left overs today.
- Mike Z arrived just after the train running finished & tackled the points into the old Duncan & Davies Nursery siding which were getting very hard to switch & cleaned out heaps of accumulated muck. Never mind Mikes dog Lilly had some left over scones & pickle!
- Had some English Tourists aboard yesterday from the North of the UK where normally we do not usually see them from that area, mostly from the south of the UK.
- There have been a lot of internal tourists from all areas of NZ which is more noticeable this Xmas-New Year holiday season—could a local happening.—no matter where they come from they get to know us & that is good.

Monday 21st.

- Started constructing one of the two 700mm gauge wagons for Magnolia Glade.
- Phone call from Wayne Buckthought of Buckthought Engineering to have a look at Bridge # 2 for tendering purposes at 9.00am Tuesday 22nd.

Tuesday 23rd.

- Wayne B inspected the bridge & what needs to done & is going to get the Tender document underway.
- Got the wheel sets fitted to the wee wagon.
- Had a visitor from Auckland in for a chat.

Wednesday 24th.

- One Charter.
- Lawns mowed at Waitara by Brian B & Brian J.

- Final paperwork received from the Gibson Group.

Thursday 25th.

- Filming at Te Arie Road, Sentry Hill.
- Permission from the director to take photos for our own use.
- The crew were excellent to work with along with Chris Beath the builder of the rail mounted bicycle.
- The public travelling along Te Arie road thought we were having a line side picnic, which in essence we did with sustenance provided by Eileen of muffins & hot drinks went down well by all.
- Thanks to our crew of Jim Blyde, Mike Leherke; Keith Hancock & Eileen it went well.

Saturday 26th.

- 11 staff on duty.
- Corrections crew on site.
- Mike Zeier & I cleaned up the overhanging vegetation in the rock cutting at Kohatu.
- We also lifted, levelled ballasted the big dip at Strange street along with the help of corrections who loaded up two Nak wagons to the hilt with the remaining ballast in the stock pile at Browne Street. The retaining walls that Mike Z built have done the job of ballast retention on the fill really well. A long running difficult job basically finished.
- Some spot ballasting was completed at Kohatu.
- The area around the old mainline points into the Waitara yard was cleaned up so the mower can now get in there to keep it tidy.
- A long tiring day in the hot sun.
- Later in the afternoon Noel Arthur & I set out the position for the first semaphore signal to go in shortly at Waitara Road.
- Pat & Jim Hook on gardening weeding & laying mulch.
- Mike Lerkhe with some assistance from Noel has got the museum almost ready.
- Motor Trolley maintenance was carried out today.
- Eileen re-potted the platform tubs.
- Shelving for the office is now underway so that manuals & documents can at last be stored in a better manner.
- Two of our local constables were herding a wayward bull up the line trying to get into a paddock.
- Adam Jenkins was cleaning & inspecting the tubular check valves on the compressors of 414.
- Volunteer hours at week 16—3,808
- Volunteer hours from off site {ie from home/s etc to be added when handed in} There is quite a considerable amount of hours from this quarter from active members from New Plymouth etc because of fuel prices find it easier to take gear home, restore it & bring it back on completion—The total output is the main thing & thanks to you— you more than do your part in the things we are aiming towards & working in small groups gets that important bond going. (Restoration of the signals are a good example, but by no means the only one).

Sunday 27th.

- One extra run—Pre sold tickets.
- Mike L did the driving under Keith H so I could get on with finishing the timber tram truck.

- Mike you are almost ready to get certified.
 - Eileen sold the tickets on the train today.
-
- I was the tea lady & dishwasher. Multi Tasking!
 - I managed to get the 700mm tram truck finished while Mike Z put two short display tracks in Magnolia Glade.
 - Mike L fished cleaning up the museum & is now ready for opening. Well done Mike.

Monday 28th.

- Rail Drill rota broach & tamper arrived today.
- Paperwork & assets register completed.
- Machines delivered to Waitara Road.
- Manuals to study before meeting with Mike Zeier on Wednesday.
- Thanks for the funding from TET.

Tuesday 29th.

- Met with Victor Night the are Manager for HTC tools to discuss certifying our tools yearly.
- Eileen watered the gardens.

Wednesday 30th.

- Mike Zeier & I sorting out track fittings; taking out a rotten tree down at Waitara.
- Used the new rail drill Rota Broach today, drilling fish plate holes ,lovely piece of equipment. Thanks to the TET.
- Eileen was busy organising the catering team while we are away in the South Island for the next 3 weeks having a long overdue holiday.

Cheers from the WRPS.

Denyse.