

MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2014.

Wednesday 1st.

- Locating & printing drawings for points lever locking on the sidings at Waitara ready for tomorrow.

Thursday 2nd.

- 4 staff & 2 visitors from Auckland.
- Brian Jury refuelled 2584 filled up the fuel containers.
- Mike, Denyse & Eileen at Waitara.
- Points lever fitted to one of the sidings & as usual not all the holes are the same size with some parts having to be drilled out & pins machined.
- A lot of angst & adapting all worked fine in the finish, been years since these points were last used.
- 90% of the boxing was fitted.
- Andre Coppell & Bill Myers from Auckland met us down at Waitara with their 2 man motor trolley they had purchased from Stepping Stones Nursery & gave it a wee run.
- Picked up the bags of garden waste from the Butterfly Garden.

Thanks Christine.

Friday 3rd.

- Purchased some better draughting equipment, the cheap equipment that was being used is no longer adequate.

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- Christine pruning in the Butterfly garden.

Saturday 4th.

- 9 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 13—3,782
- Safety reflector strips placed along the running board edges 2584.
Thanks Bill.
- Carl doing training on the fitting of the revised 24 volt relays fitted to the Water level / safety shut down circuit # 2 end 2584.
- This is now wired into the 24v set of batteries for the ditch lights & at last taking the 12 v tap off the 64v starting batteries. Thanks Carl.
- Bill doing spot painting on the body work of 2584.
- Neville painting the ditch light battery boxes on 2584.
- Mike & Dave Leslie (Rat to most of us) working on track repairs at Waitara.
- Brought up the bags of prunings from the Butterfly Garden.
- New batteries fitted to 407 by Jim & Carl.
- Carl did some re wiring in the electrical cabinet of 407.

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- List of minor parts needed to finish the ditch lights on 407 to be purchased on Monday.
- Dsa 414, Bill has set up a common fitting/s for greasing around the two Bagnals & 407.
- One side rod will have to dropped off 414 as the grease hole in one ring brass has moved & will need sorting out. Probably turned through lack of grease in it's industrial days
- Denyse training & sorting out the office now that the caterers have their own building at last.

Sunday 5th.

- 2 Excursions, 1st very lightly loaded due to the very heavy rain, 2nd run when the weather cleared was OK.
- 9 staff on duty.
- Lyn & Jan on catering.
- Training on the new operating procedures at Waitara & Waitara Road. Some extra training required here.

Monday 6th.

- 4 staff on duty.
- Track inspector on site.
- Jim welded new packings on the stop for the hand brake on A56536 to eliminate over winding & jamming of the hand brake.

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- Denyse, Bryan & Eileen sorting & hanging spare uniforms in the office.
- Denyse & Bryan training on train braking procedures.
- Track inspection by Paul Heighton.
- One set of points to close in on wide gauge at the frog area
- This was built like this by a Tranz Rail track gang & had been thermit welded just sometime before the line was mothballed.
- Christine been working in the Butterfly garden & another bag of prunings brought back to Waitara Road for disposal.
- Auditor & Land Transport advised that the track inspection had taken place.
- More sleepers to replace at Browne St.
- 24 V 25A alternator ordered.

Tuesday 7th.

- Picked up the alternator today.
- Have prepared a write up & photos on the Butterfly Garden for the local news hand out for the local information centre.
- Picked up another bag of prunings for disposal from Waitara Yard.

Wednesday 8th.

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- Frustration with Couriers—steel bending tool sent before Xmas still not arrived.
- Did all the planning & drawings for alternator mountings for 407,414,11, & 2584.

Thursday 9th.

- Had a ring re the bending tool, ended up at Gisborne, well Gisborne is a long way from New Plymouth. On the other side of the island from us!
- 3 staff on duty.
- Jim & Denyse building the alternator mounting for 407.
- Did a shunt to set up the EA crane tender so that the old steel can be cleaned off it's deck to store the materials for the workshop when they are delivered from Okato.
- Eileen gardening & cleaning the station.

Friday 10th.

- Picked up the bending jig & is a good useful tool.
- Garden Bench seat donated from our near neighbour, needs new slats.
- 2 staff on duty.
- Bryan Biggar mowing the lawns at Waitara Road & the Glade.

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- Trevor painting the sheds .

Saturday 11th.

- 10 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 14—4,061
- Christine working in the Butterfly Garden
- Mike, Rat, Carl & Denyse rectified the kink in the points at Waitara off the old main.
- Eileen Gardening.
- Keith H put some timber in the doorway surrounds in the caterers shed.
- New tooling being fitted in the workshop.
- Start made in clearing the redundant steel fittings off the crane tender.
Bill & Neville
- Spot re sleepering on the old main line points at Browne Street at Waitara.
- Hood door on 2584 freed up.

Sunday 12th.

- 3 staff.
- Eileen gardening.
- Mike & Denyse.

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- Old non saleable hardwood sleepers cut up for firewood.
- Sorted out the large barrels of track fittings & stacked ready for use
Plenty of screw spikes for the future use on the bridge.
- Uncovered more A clips, fish plate bolts etc, which was a good find.
- A barrow load of non usable hardwood screw spikes assigned to the scrap bin.
- Mike pruned the trees down to the pond in the glade area.
- Sent an E Mail to the car club again requesting the information required for the safety case variation to close & cross the rail corridor for their sprint races. Going on holiday soon & need to get on with this.

Monday 13th.

- Purchased a 100mm vice for the engineering workshop.
- Had a reply from the organisers of the car sprints that will be crossing the Rail Corridor in Waitara, so that the Safety case variation can be started.
- Christine in the butterfly garden
- Rang a local who thought he had the right to remove plant material from the garden when he wished.
- It is gratifying to see the locals enjoy this garden with family groups teaching the little ones to respect & enjoy the natural world.--Priceless.

Tuesday 14th.

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- Purchased the nails & staples for the impending continuation of the retaining walls at Strange Street.
- 3 staff, Eileen & Denyse & Christine
- Gardening & fitting new tools in the workshop.
- Morris tool shed rang, the 9mm slot drill arrived.

Wednesday 15th.

- 5 staff & 5 visitors.
- A big welcome to Bradley Hill from the Ocean Beach Railway in Dunedin.
- It is always pleasant to see some of the young up & coming future heritage society members. & this 13 year old recruit is very heartening.
- He took everything in, was well mannered & polite.
- Ben & Took him & his young brother on the motor trolley over the total length of our railway.
- He was interested in the history of the Waitara Railway & that is pleasing to see.
- A set of photos were taken & E Mailed on so that he will remember his day out at Waitara for a long time.
- Ocean Beach look after him.
- Thanks Ben for helping.

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- Jim & Pat weeding gardens at Waitara Road.
- Someone left 19 panes of carriage windows on the side of the track at Richmond Road for us (who?) MANY THANKS. Ben & I picked them up.

Thursday 16th.

- Picked up the slot drill from Morris Tool Shed.
- 2 staff, Trevor & Bryan mowing the lawns at Waitara.

Friday 17th.

- 2 staff, Bryan & Denyse.
- Sorting out the workshop & sweeping the floor.
- Levelling & raking out the large stones ready for the mower where the fuel shed used to be.

Saturday 18th.

- 9 staff & 2 visitors.
- Volunteer hours at week 15—4,212
- Continued removal of old steel work on the EA crane tender.
- Hood door repairs on 2584.
- Building security modifications on machine shop doors.
- Restacking recycled roofing iron.

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- 5 more rotten hardwood sleepers removed from the Browne Street points & replaced.
- Milling machine set up & bolted down in the machine shop & is now ready to use.
- Gardening.
- A retired farmer & his wife came to see about joining up.

Sunday 19th.

- 9 staff.
- Normal Running Day with good loadings.
- Guards doing shunting training on the Locomotive run around at Waitara & Waitara Road.
- Emergency brake tested on the hill as a training exercise with guard & new driver training.
- Christine weeding the garden at Waitara. The weeds get taken out as soon as they peer at the wide world!
- Brian, Bill & Jim B training the operating staff on new procedures.
- Carl has now been passed as a loco driver—well done.
- Mike cleaning up old defective hardwood sleepers into firewood.

Monday 20th.

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- 2 staff Denyse & Christine.
- Replacement bags for garden waste delivered.
- Christine has been planting the winter flowers etc.
- Rang Conrad Patterson re getting the Councils trees trimmed along the edge of the Rail Corridor between Cracroft & Browne Streets.
- Had a ring from Garnett Henderson re the Sprint Racing in February & all sorted with all parties.

Tuesday 21st.

- Went & had a look at the stand by generating set, could be most useful to us

Thursday 23rd.

- Binding paperwork.
- Making work holding clamps for the milling machine.

Friday 24th.

- YMCA Holiday Programme Charter.
- 8 staff on duty. & 1 Australian visitor.
- Received the track audit findings today—Good result.
- New Member out of Auckland—Welcome to Andre Coppell.

Saturday 25th.

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- Waitara Lions Club charter & BBQ.
- 11 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 16—4,460
- Jim & Carl training on the milling machine.
- Mike & Ben on sorting out track materials for recycling or scrap.
- The big bin on the crane tender cut off.
- Wiring on 407.
- Started the Westinghouse check on 407 & found the brake cylinder blowing past the piston leather.
- Old rotted hard wood sleepers cut up for firewood.
- Jim doing more door security fittings for workshops.
- Bill repairing hood doors on 2584.
- Jim H & Ben on scrap recovery.
- Bill has sent me the interesting history on the origins of the crane tender which is going to be reverted to its original configuration.

Sunday 26th.

- Amended wiring diagram drawn for fitting a key starting switch on 414.

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- Drawing issued for the alternator belt tensioning arm on 407, 2584,414 & 11

Monday 27th.

- Picked up 6 bags of garden waste from the butterfly garden.
- Did a security check at Waitara Road.

Tuesday 28th.

- 2 staff & 1 visitor from Switzerland.
- Mike & Denyse entertained Mikes cousin who is a Railway Infrastructure Engineer from the Swiss Federal Railway.
- Interesting listening to hear about the building of the 50km long rail tunnel under the Alps with a station built in the middle 800metres underground.
- Apparently skiers will get off the trains & go in lifts up to the ski fields 800 vertical metres.
- Enjoyed his trip on a motor trolley & spent some time examining the bridge in detail.
- Big drop from engineering 200kmph railway infrastructure down to our 20kmph railway, opening electric fences & herding cows that are put there to keep the vegetation under control! Not seen that before.

Wednesday 29th.

- 3 staff. Bill , Denyse & Eileen.

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- Bill brought the generating plant to Waitara Road & John Michielson unloaded it from the Ute with his fork lift.
- Thanks John, that was appreciated.
- Eileen gardening.

Thursday 30th.

- 2 staff, Christine & Denyse.
- Christine & I had a discussion on the possible winter planting programme for the butterfly garden
- Binding documents.
- Covered the Gardner 6 LW engine with a tarpaulin on the wee rail tractor.
- Did a structural survey & repair document on the ticket office. Not as bad as first thought.

Friday 31st.

- Well that is the first month gone & has been busy as usual.
- 2 staff Eileen & Denyse.

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- Went out to Okato to see how our shed is fairing in it's stacked state. Needs moving soon & trucked to Waitara Road before Winter for elevated storage to run the rain water off before the materials deteriorate.
- Bryan & Trevor mowed the lawns at Waitara Road.

Denyse.