

Wednesday 1st.

- Media workshop at the NPDC chambers by Gordon & Kath Brown.
- This was organised by Heather Dodunski the volunteer organiser for the NPDC.
- One charter today.
- 10 Staff on duty.
- Brian B mowed the lawns at Waitara Road.
- Brian J went & got some more fuel.
- Mike L, Ben S & I worked on repairing the Points lever & locking device for the new siding, ready for installation.
- Bolts & nuts run down ready for the installation of one of the guard rails by Ben Sewell.
- Guard rail spacer blocks sorted & laid out ready for installing.
- 2 wagons of spoil brought up from the Waitara Yard ready for unloading on Saturday.
- Received Ben's training documents from his agricultural course, which will be useful to us on a number of areas.
- Ben has now got his full licence.

Thoughts on Media Briefing.

- Very useful & has given us some food for thought.
- There can be occasions where we can self help our selves on bringing major improvements to the general public by either the Daily News or Mid Week Community paper.
- Having the vital information to do this & how to approach this & to whom is critical.
- Now that we understand how the paper industry operates in the digital world today is far removed from where it used to be.
- The days of just ringing the paper is now over & expecting instant follow up just will not happen. Self help in the correct manner is the only way to go. No short cuts will work.
- Listening to what other groups are saying on getting their voice heard in the media, I feel we are proactive in other ways how we at the WRPS can spread the word on what we are doing to quite a big group of individuals, businesses & groups, not only in NZ but in Australia & the UK. We know that others also send this information on to others & that is fine. We are fortunate that we do have choices, other volunteer organisations do not have this luxury.
- FRONZ eg are good at this.
- Monthly Reports are also a good way of not only letting others know what is happening, but is a blow by blow account on daily, weekly etc to Monthly permanent records when filed for assessment by the auditor & the New Zealand Transport Agency & especially a historic document to plot where you were to where you got to.

- Along with the tracking of Volunteer hours in a document on the following parameters:--Week#, On site hrs, off site hours, Corrections work & number of staff on duty.
- Valuable information—sure it is a lot of work, but worth the effort.
- The value in being involved around other volunteer groups where possible also has benefits.
- The Volunteer set up out of the NPDC by Councillor Heather Dodunski is brilliant.

Thursday 2nd.

- Paper work.
- Mike Z cleaning up track bolts ready for the new siding at Waitara Road.

Saturday 4th.

- Society's get together social dinner was held at the Sun World Chinese Restaurant in New Plymouth.
- Corrections on site.
- 12 staff on duty.
- Mike Z had the corrections crew at Waitara Road unloading the spoil from Waitara behind the retaining wall down at the pond.
- All the rail tractor parts were removed off the EWW well wagon & stored on pallets down by the fire wood heap.
- The empty spoil wagons were returned to Waitara ready for filling.
- Jim B & Mike L have sorted the keys & labled them to the new shed numbers to save confusion! Good job guys.
- Noel A, Jim B & Nick E fitted a draw for small tools under the work bench in the mobile workshop.
- Jim H sprayed the Waitara Road yard, even though we had a big drought, weeds always survive & prosper!
- Jim & Pat H were weeding the gardens. It is appreciated that the gardens are being kept in shape by our proactive team.

Sunday 5th.

- Normal monthly winter runs.
- Brian J stepped in for me while I am not well. Thanks Brian.
- Eileen reported there were 10 staff on duty & the passenger loadings were quite low considering the awful weather prevailing today.
- Mike Zeier was sorting out track screws down in the storage shed in the bulk containers.

Wednesday 8th.

- 4 staff on duty.
- Brian jury; Trevor O Keefe, Brian Biggar & I.
- The lawns were mowed at Waitara & Waitara Road.
- Fuel containers filled.
- Eww 18 measured up for looking at putting a 12 ton digger on the deck. Drawings & photos taken for planning.

Thursday 9th.

- Mike L & I .
- Marking up the buildings for the new numbering system.

Friday 10th.

- While in New Plymouth for medical checks, Eileen & went into the Café in Fitzroy to have a coffee & snack on our way back to Waitara, where a man sat at our table & introduced himself as Kevin & during the conversation we found out he is a neighbour of the WRPS just up by the Rock Cutting at Kohatu.
- Learnt some valuable information that was unknown by us re some of the Rail Corridor boundaries in that area. Had a little problem in that area a few years back with trees causing problems, & one particular resident was trying to lay down the law to us, which did not work anyway, which when the chain saw started & dealt with the problem, things went quiet & a hasty retreat by this gentleman was in his mind a prudent course of action.
- The moral of this story is we now know that $\frac{3}{4}$'s of these back yards are on the rail corridor!
- Jim Blyde has now found the aerial maps on the NPDC site which will be filed. Anyway the conversation has been beneficial, & there have been minor issues cleared up amicably after telling one neighbour of their rights & ours on who we can & can not use on the Rail corridor to help us. Other words BACK OFF! It always works!
- Had a ring from Ron Brown of the Waikato Society re a visit over the remaining FA parts still in Storage here set for Wednesday the 14th.

Saturday 11th.

- 9 staff on duty.
- No corrections crew.
- Bill carried out the 3 monthly check on 2584.
- Carl, Jim B & I had a discussion on the rewiring on 414 & this is about to get underway.
- Jim H doing gardening.
- Eileen doing some gardening & tidying up of the branches blown onto the platform from the strong southerly.

- The newly finished points for the new siding at Waitara road is finally finished ready for installation.
- The site was cleaned up.
- A lot of time was also spent in training, “tool box talks” safety thinking & general go ahead thinking. Never a waste of time on these matters.
- Due to a shortage of Samson Brake Blocks for the Dsc, Bill approached me to consider fitting a set of composition brake blocks on one of the NAK wagons & see how & if any difference in the braking could be noticed. None so far. Next Saturday trials will be held on the grade down to Waitara. Along with this a test of the holding of the hand brake will need to be accessed as I consider that the NAK class wagons have probably got the best hand brake of most wagons. Will be a good parameter to judge on.
- Thanks to Mike Z, Noel A, Carl, Adam, Jim B & others into taking training on constructing a turnout. Thank you.
- Several bags of donated insulation By Better Homes Waitara, of oddments was delivered for insulating our vehicles. Many thanks for that.
- Keith H has received the new windows for installation into F 726.
- The internal framing repairs on one side of F726 are going well. Good Job Keith.
- Volunteer hours at week 31---8,005

Sunday 12th.

- Charter.
- A Mothers day family outing for their Mum. Lovely weather today.
- Waitara Road yard document brought up to date.

Monday 13th.

- Paper work.

Tuesday 14th.

- Preliminary talks with the Taranaki Flyer Society in helping them sort out go forward.
- It is sad to see a sister group struggling & a helping hand & advice is what is needed.
- Keith Piper one our members & is also in the management of the New Plymouth Ironsides branch in New Plymouth held a peer review of how I am handling things.(at my request). This was held in a frank way, which is how it should be. It was a very good exercise & very beneficial, 2 hours well spent.
- Thanks Keith.

Wednesday 15th.

- Meeting with Ron Brown from the Waikato Group today re the remaining parts of the FA still locked up here at Waitara Road.

- Detroit hydrostatic lubricator for the Fa located & verified as belonging to it will be placed in the ZP ready to be uplifted & returned to the owners.
- 3 staff & 2 visitors.
- A welcome was accorded to Ron & Judi Brown from Hamilton, following up with us on the Fa parts & recording of same.
- The ZP was set up so that the carrier can easily access the wagon for the removal of the parts.
- Mike L gave a hand & thanks for that & Eileen organised a delicious lunch of sandwiches & fresh scones.
- We took Ron for a trip & down the line to see what we are about & what we are doing.

Thursday 16th.

- Met up with Ron Brown in Waitara,(lucky he found me!).
- Hookers Transport are going liaise with me on shifting the Fa parts up to Glenbrook.

Friday 17th.

- Sent an E Mail to Rob Walker the retired president of the Wanganui Steam Rail group for their dealings with us & also the great friendship that exists between our groups.
- Sent a congratulations message to Blair Jordan also on his appointment to the presidents job at Steam Rail Wanganui.
- Blair will an excellent president & the WRPS wish Blair & the Steam Rail group well into the future.
- Spent the afternoon writing up information on our Dsc to be put in an article in a UK magazine by Phil Barnes in the UK on the connection of the design parameters to the Claytons part in respect to the similar type 17 built by them for British Rail. I guess that they can see that our connection in the long run once the bugs got ironed out in the locally produced version has lasted over 50 years. Bit of envy there I guess that we could get it right?

Saturday 18th.

- Corrections crew on site.
- 10 staff & 1 visitor.
- Mike Z brought in all the bolts & washers for the impending siding laying. A big thank you to EDL Fastenings for the good discount. This is really appreciated.
- A start has been made to lay some timbers on the outside of the well to assist the digger to have a wider platform.
- Thanks to those who helped Noel with this.
- Jim B & I went through the next stage of the re wiring of 414.
- Mike Zeier building another section of the retaining wall at Strange Street-Whitaker St. Getting close to finished.

- Bill, Carl & Brian extracted the EWW wagon out of the siding so that Noel & Co could get started on it.
- Jim H cleaned up the blown off branches off the shelterbelt & burnt them in the fire pit.
- Jim H has started sorting the next lot of Non ferrous & ferrous scrap.
- Mike Z & I did a track inspection from Waitara Road to Sentry Hill & located a good spot where we can shift the stored points down at Waitara so that the continuing clean up can carry on.
- The Corrections crew did a great job in the digging out of

The last section at Gray Street & now ready to clean out the last section to Queen Street. The work ethic of this crew was quite good.

- Garry Loveridge the digger owner who is going to do the earthworks for us came to Waitara Road & has now sorted out what & how the job is going to be tackled.
- Keith H working on frame repairs on F726
- Volunteer hours to week 32—8,362

Sunday 19th.

- Mike Zeier planting Cordelines (Cabbage Trees} down in the swamp / wet land area down by Kohatu. Golly this is going to be a stunning area in a few years.

Monday 20th.

- Mike Lehrke & I meeting with Hookers Transport at 10.00 am to sort out the transport of the remaining FA parts to Glenbrook.
- Transport all organised.
- Mike L & I .
- Mike & I measured up to see if it was feasible to re-jig the area from the platform to the museum to compact the site, clear out the two piles of bricks & pavers. Shift the fuel shed down near the new train servicing area on the new siding & put all the spare points materials & ground signals into the vacated space in the ZP when the Fa parts are sent to Glenbrook.
- With the track sets finally cleared off the lawn will be much tidier & practical.

Wednesday 22nd.

- Ben S & I .
- Loaded spares for points into the Z^p.

Thursday 23rd.

- Had a ring from the City Council with a complaint from a resident in Browne Street in Waitara over what they consider an over use of the horn at Grey Street.
- I explained to the council person who rang about the antics of drivers ignoring the stop signs.

- I also made an offer that the complainants ring me with their complaints directly.
- Pity some of these people do not have to deal with these idiots!
- Did the planning on costs & materials for the new Water main in conjunction with the new siding.
- Purchased some materials for this.
- Keith Hancock & I are getting the materials & installing this.
- Paper work & documenting.

Friday 24th.

- Staff of one.
- Beautiful warm autumn day.
- Load of donated recycled timber delivered.
- Cleaned out the old hand basin & parts cleaning tray from between the Rolling Stock workshop & the paint shed. Were in a user unfriendly spot.
- Trimmed the hedge row behind the paint & my workshop.
- Put in 80 mtrs of new water main along the boundary fence.

Saturday 25th.

- 10 staff on duty.
- Corrections crew on site.
- Volunteer hours at week 33---8,568
- 0630 start, cold, wet & miserable weather. Work train preparation for Corrections work.
- Corrections crew unloading & levelling waste spoil & ballast behind the retaining wall at Whitaker Street.
- Corrections then moved up to Waitara Road to move & stack the Donated recyclable timber.
- After lunch the crew went up to Sentry hill to pull out a kink in the track.
- Mike Zeier went down to Whitaker Street to finish the last section of the retaining wall.
- Keith H & Nathan were working on F726.
- Keith & Nathan are preparing for the fitting for the new windows that are going to be fitted.
- Noel A was fitting guards over the chain pockets on the U^s wagon to keep the spoil from filling up the chain boxes.

- Jim B, Bill B & Carl were welding on temporary brackets to the E^{ww} to hold the lateral timbers to protect the frame when loading the digger.
- Bill B helping with the shunt.
- Eileen produced a beautiful fruit cake for our morning tea & there wasn't a crumb left!
- Noel, Carl, Jim B & I were removing the trolley turning timbers ready for the section of track to be removed for the new points.
- Noel caught up with contractor who is going to drill the big hole for the signal to be installed. Nick thanks for that. This will be done for free when the contractor does a job out our way in the next week. Good outcome.
- Mike Z slashed out some overgrowth in the Kohatu area. Needs spraying when the weather allows.

Sunday 26th.

- Received Bill Batten's monthly report for Rolling Stock.
- Sunday paper work day.

Monday 27th.

- 4 staff.
- Hookers Transport in to uplift the final Fa parts to go to Glenbrook.
- Heather C working in the Butterfly Garden at Waitara.
- Ben Sewell; Mike Lehrke & I on the loading of the F^a parts. Document can now be closed.

Wednesday 29th.

- 4 staff & 2 visitors.
- Good to see Blair Jordan & his partner pay us a surprise visit on the way home back to Wanganui due the roads being blocked by snow up on the dessert road. Came the scenic route through Taranaki.
- Ben S & I laid another 100 metres of water main & trimmed the shelter belt on our side of the fence.
- Getting closer to getting a water supply at the glade for the gardeners.
- Jim B & Call Mc were welding temporary brackets to the E^{ww} while Ben & I fastened down the outer planks with large nail plates.
- Every time we looked up at Mt. Taranaki & its ranges, the view from our outdoor office was stunning. Mind you it was very cold at 8.00am & getting even one engine started on 2584 was a mission to do a shunt, by midday when the temperature raised to 15 degrees, heavy jackets etc removed both engines fired straight up. I can't wait to get the shed up & the sidings finished so the locomotive can get under shelter! & that includes us when it is raining!
- Received a nice photo of what appears to be a 2.6.0 tender loco hauling a fleet of railcars which were used as carriages on the KDR Keith Dufftown Railway in Scotland, Stunning view taken from on top of a hill & showing the country side. Thanks Rod for that—very much appreciated.

Thursday 30th.

- Cleaning up the documenting for the Month.

Cheers from the WRPS Inc.

Photos to follow.

Denyse.