

MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2012.

Thursday 1st.

- Mike Leherke weeding the garden by the museum.
- Took a trailer load of recycled timber up to Waitara Road & stacked it.
- Checked on the cows grazing down the track, electric fence on keeping the bovines away from the new trees.
- Myra Bailey from the Fringe Garden Festival Rang to set up an inspection trip next week by the festival committee.

Friday 2nd.

- One charter today-Kapiti Golden Group from Paraparaumu.
- 9 staff on duty.
- Jim & Pat weeding gardens & applying Mulch.
- Eileen & I were doing the housework in the station.
- The train crew were Ian H, Ben S, Nick E, (GUARDS) Trevor O & Les S (loco crew.)
- Digging around in the tool shed while extracting a winch ready for tomorrow I found a bag ½ full of draw bar pins & a small wooden crate full of much needed fish plate bolts, goodness knows how long they have been hidden away in the corner of the shed. Put where they can be found in the appropriate areas.

Saturday 3rd.

- Corrections on site today.
- Bill B & I on the yearly check on A 56536.
- Horrible weather we all got soaking wet & the corrections crew got rained off at 1.00pm.
- Heather C had some help from the CWC crew & Mike Z putting the ropes around the garden for edges.
- I did not take long for the professional Photographers to cotton on to use the area as a photo background, & that happened later in the day.
- Mike used the new torque wrench today in dismantling some points materials & getting the screw spikes out of some hardwood sleepers. Much easier.
- We all battled away in the terrible weather fitting sleepers & the heavy rain running down your glasses made it difficult to see. Came home at 2.30 & had a "Nanna Nap" after having a shower after 3 hours!
- For the team up at Waitara Road working in the "dry" the two Jims H & B stripping scrap, tidied up the machine shop.
- Keith H & Ian H were painting the new tongue & groove siding for F 726.

- Eileen B prepared lunch for the Waitara Road crew.
- Mike Z put in some more retaining wall at Strange Street.
- Volunteer hours at week 4 -- 958 hrs.

Sunday 4th.

- 1 charter & 1 excursion.
- One tour group from Upper Hutt on 1.0pm trip.
- 8 staff on duty.—Keith H; Mike L ; Nick E; Denyse & Eileen B; Bill B; Jim H; Adam J & Mike Z.
- Catering donation--\$ 68.30.
- Denyse & Eileen on catering.
- Bill B sealing windows on 414.
- Mike Z on levelling ballast
- Keith, Mike L loco crew; Adam J, Nick E & Jim H guards.

Tuesday 6th.

- Heather C & I picking up more Yucca plants & something similar that is very spiky & needs to be handled very carefully!
- Planted ½ of them the digging was hard going, job for someone younger!

Wednesday 7th.

- 4 on site today.
- Pat & Jim Hook cleaning up the garden behind the platform at Waitara Road.
- Mike L & I did a shunt to set up the work train ready for Saturday.
- Mike L was painting the exterior of the museum.
- Had a bonfire & burnt up some old decayed sleepers in the firepit.
- Checked the gauge of the track down at Waitara.
- Had an E Mail passed on from Sarah Gibson re our possible part in a TV programme on Bicycles & the TV producers are looking at using our Railway for a programme on an adapted cycle made to run on Rail Tracks. An answer has been sent & there are issues to go through first. On going.

Thursday 8th.

- 2 on site today, Mike L & I.
- Mike mowed the lawns at Waitara Road.

- A trailer load of mulch was shifted from the load delivered during the week.
- More follow up from the TV film core safety.
- 2 Winns Williams points operating mechanisms were sorted, sprayed with penetrating oil ready for stripping & repairs for use at Waitara.

Friday 9th.

- Overhauled one points operating mechanism today, freed up the adjusting rod & got the operating lever straightened by Warner construction in the press for free. Now ready to install.

Saturday 10th.

- Corrections on site.
- 12 staff on duty.
- Noel A worked in the museum, fitted the electrode warmer he made & delivered the torque wrench back mounted in a nice wooden case. Thanks Noel.
- Pat & Jim H finished of the garden weeding & mulching.
- Jim H sorting out the scrap.
- Keith & Ian H painting the new siding material for F726.
- Eileen B brought in some Ginger Crunch for morning tea, it was so popular Mike Z who was working down at Waitara all day was lucky to get some!
- Mike L working on the museum.
- Heather C planting Yukka's at Waitara with help from CWC.
- Mike Z & Dave O on the track repairs at Waitara with the CWC crew.
- Keith H, Bill B, Carl M were in training today on the 12 month certification check on 2585 with me.
- Carl C did some driver training on the work train.
- Volunteer Hours at week 5—1,239

Sunday 11th.

- Mike Z shifting the remaining Mulch down to Magnolia Glade.
- Eileen & I were out researching the branch line that ran off the Waitara Branch at Richmond Road to the quarry on the Waiongona River at the Quarry adjacent to the highway three.
- One of the land holders Peter (Van Griven?) was a big help with some of the road bed still discernible, So far I have enough photos that I took to do a map of the workings.

- I met up with another land owner Morgan Watson who is also going to be of assistance when a fine day comes up again.
- The plot thickens & this neglected area needs to be brought to light along with the Pa site in the same area. Ongoing.

Monday 12th.

- Rang Conrad Patterson from the NPDC Parks department to reminding him of the serious overgrowth from the domain hitting our vehicles & before some one gets hurt.
- Jim Blyde was to check with the council roading engineer over the illegal filling of the rail flange ways on Te Arie & Richmond Roads.

Tuesday 13th.

- Rang the Council over the roading contractor re the Te Arie & Richmond Road crossings.
- I also rang the person in charge of the contractor who was suitably less bolshie than yesterday. Putting the facts of life re rail corridors & working around same & possibly checked up & found he was wrong. The remedial work was carried out with no fuss or bother, would have saved some unwanted aggro in the first place. Thanked the crew & explained what is & not the done thing. All sweet.
- Jim Blyde & I are doing a manual on lifting devices for training purposes. I took photos of all our equipment that would be suitable for generic use. We must remember that a lot of our staff need guidance in this area for their own safety & that of others. What is logical to some of us may not be so for others.
- Dave Oxley cut off the remaining rusted track fittings on the points that are being taken out at Waitara.

Wednesday 14th.

- Committee meeting tonight.
- 1 charter for the Bell Block Play Group.
- 4 staff on duty, Mike L, Jim B, Denyse & Eileen B.
- Mike L had some more driver training today. Not far away now Mike, going good.

Thursday 15th.

- New Brother Laser printer delivered today by Jim Blyde & set up on my computer to lower the cost of printing.
- This has been added to the asset register.

Friday 16th.

- Brian J picked up the fuel for 2584 & lawn mower.
- Errol Barnes an electronics expert came in & had a look at the continuing #1 end voltage regulator problem & has taken to panels away to sort them out.

Saturday 17th.

- Rotten wet day, only 6 staff on duty.
- Heather C planted some Daisies etc. in the Garden at Waitara.
- Even the corrections team was 2 short but the team from New Plymouth out shone the locals we have had lately & despite the inclement weather achieved quite a lot of digging & track work.
- Mike Z & I got sopping wet & was glad to get home.
- Eileen brought down a big hot Bacon & Egg pie for lunch & it was welcome.
- Bill B & Jim B had the inside jobs sorting out the machine shop at Waitara Road.
- Volunteer hours at week 6---1,419 hrs.

Sunday 18th.

- Two excursion runs today. Very quiet due to the weather but not at a loss.
- Ian H doing the certification checks & maintenance on the motor trolleys.
- 9 staff on duty today.
- Spent most of the day doing the entry, indemnity & procedures documents for the film company, all but completed ready for the January shoot.
- Mike Z working on the Strange St retaining wall extension.

Monday 19th.

- Delivered 3 Palms & other plants to Waitara Road for planting.

Tuesday 20th.

- Delivered more plants & a trailer load of scrap metal.
- Ian & Keith H did a full trolley run from Lepperton to Waitara while testing the motor trolleys.

Wednesday 21st.

- Trevor O mowed the lawns at Waitara Road, weed eated the edges & around the signal posts lying on the lawn.
- Eileen & I were cleaning up & burning rubbish.
- 2 visitors today. Gordon Burnside one of our neighbours along the track is happy with what we have done in making our boundary with his land more attractive & to report on one of our neighbours son & his mates hooning up & down the track on their motor cycles. Will catch up on this first chance that I get. The other visitor was a Railfan from Auckland.

Thursday 22nd.

- 1 Charter today, Spotswood special needs.
- 6 staff on duty & 1 contractor.
- Mike Z weed spraying now that the wind has dropped, badly needs it to. Long day Mike & thanks.
- Site meeting this morning talking over safety issues that may arise, Voltage regulator problem with #1 end 2584

& possible amendments to our safety case at the next internal audit.
- Errol Barnes has rebuilt two voltage regulator panels, Brian Jury found one in the spares locker that no one knew about.
- Tested all 3 , two for spares & 1 fitted to no 1 end.
- The 25 amp fuse was found blown again when the trouble was experienced with another regulator that was defective.
- Going sweet now & operating staff advised.
- Graeme O'Keeffe sent some flags from Auckland that he made, & posted down to give to the SPECIAL Needs children, nice thought Graeme. Only arrived when the train was coming down the hill.

Friday 23rd.

- Eileen, Mike L & I; planted some shrubs in the front garden at Waitara Road.
- Sorted out the mower shed at last.
- Found some more coach bolts & added them to the supply in the mobile workshop.
- Took the battery off charge on A56536
- Did some preparation ready to assist Lyn & Glenyss for tomorrow nights Xmas party.
- Lyn & Trevor O along with Glenyss & Brian Jury getting things organised ready for tomorrow.

Saturday 24th.

- Corrections on site.
- 10 staff on site.
- Xmas party.
- Nice fine day, a new CWC crew from Waitara plus Mike Z, & I doing track work at Waitara, a 6.00am start to get the work train organised & down to Waitara for the 8.15 start of CWC.
- What a huge difference in attitude & work ethic from this group as opposed to the other crew we had from Waitara.

- Was a happy buzz all day long with the biggest days productivity that we have ever had
- 34 sleepers were laid, old ones removed, Spoil loaded, Rail straightened
- These guys did more in two hours than some groups did in a day to a day & a half, when the previous best was 16 in a day. A ++ guys.
- Bill B was working on the sand traps of 2584 while it was stabled at Waitara.
- Carl, Jim B & Eileen working on 414.
- Heather C was working in the gardens.
- Trevor O was on the weed eater at Waitara.
- **THE XMAS PARTY.**
- Eileen finished icing the cake—YUM, but I was told I could not be the official taster, well I tried!
- The Social organisers, Glenyss J & Lyn O' along with the minor chefs Brian J & Trevor O' did as they were told (like the rest of us blokes)
- Once again they did a superb job, well done.
- Later in the evening to finish off a good night, we went moonlight cruising on the train down to the bridge & down to Waitara.
- Keith H & I (the sober courtesy drivers + Adam J as guard). { tongue in cheek}
- To you all who came many thanks.
- Volunteer hours at week 7—1,707 hrs.

Sunday 25th.

- Trevor O & Brian B mowed the lawns down at Waitara. Gosh our site at Waitara is looking better & better. A lot of hard work is starting to show results.

Monday 26th.

- Cleaning up paperwork at Waitara Road.
- Had a visit from Alex Fahey organising the Railway retirees trip on Saturday. Good to catch up & show him how the museum is progressing & our track & structures work shop. Never like this on the old NZR! Gosh this going to be blast from the past to see how we are all bearing up to ageing!

Tuesday 27th.

- Sleepers arrived from Value Timber at Inglewood this morning.
- Had a phone call from Sue from Kiwi Rail re a complaint from a nameless person in the vicinity of the corridor complaining about the grass verges along Whitaker-Strange & Crackroft Streets in Waitara.

- Rang Conrad Patterson the NPDC parks manager & he has confirmed that the Hydra Mower contractor does indeed trim the grass twice a year.
- We discussed about how we keep the area from Browne Street to Queen Street tidy & the garden that we have put in & was very complimentary about our efforts in that regard.
- Also discussed was the problem we have with rubbish being dumped on the corridor from Strange Street up to Kohatu, It is not always our fault & it is annoying that some people have double standards.

Wednesday 28th.

- One Charter. Puketapu School from Bell Block.
- 5 staff on duty.
- Had a ring from Jim Hook out of hospital again, Gosh we have missed you.
- Sorted out the office at Waitara Road, we know it is not ideal & very cramped & with very limited document storage, hence my office at home suffers the same problem with WRPS documents in boxes etc. One day!! Can only dream.

Thursday 29th.

- Numbers have been confirmed for the NPDC introductory trip on the WRPS tomorrow afternoon. This includes some Waitara Community Board Members, which is pleasing to see. Thanks Heather C.
- Neil from Ashphlunde rang to say they are now wanting a entry permit onto our rail corridor to trim the trees overhanging into our space along Pukekohe Domain.
- Purchased the paint for the infrastructure workshop.
- Purchased the fittings to tap into our internal water main so that a hose tap can be fitted to the Northern end of the Waitara Road Station, for topping up the Radiators on 2584, getting dangerous & difficult to climb up on the engine room hoods to carry out this function.(for us Gold Card Holders). I believe the gardeners will be very happy as well. We aim to please!

Friday 30th.

- Fact finding trip with the NPDC & Community Board members.
- It was a pleasure to show off what has been accomplished & where we are heading.
- A lot of interest & discussion was had at the bridge which was very useful.
- More useful dialogue was had on a number of matters which will be followed up.
- Eileen & Heather put on an afternoon tea & a group photo/s was also taken.
- To the NPDC & Community Board members who attended , a big thank you.

Denyse. To You ALL, Christmas cheers,
From the team at the WRPS Inc.