

## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup>.

- First day of the Fringe Garden Festival.
- 7 staff on duty.
- As a new entrant the first day turned out better than expected.
- Phone calls are still happening on interest which is good.
- There was almost a 50% mix on locals & others from various NZ destinations.

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- 13 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 4 –1,175
- Paving stones laid at the entrance to the museum.
- New standing platforms fitted into the open car.
- Seats removed from the centre of the open car for safety reasons in an emergency.
- Better loads on the train today.
- Loco fuelled up.
- Weed spraying on the Lepperton side of the bridge.

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- 7 staff on duty.
- Very heavy loadings today.
- There were a large number of tourists on board from many destinations.
- From the UK & some of them have visited us in the past; Australian's, Asian students from a diverse range of countries, Dutch & Swiss tourists. We have not ever had this many at once & was good to see.
- Eileen & Pat were flat out with the catering.

## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Mike Zeier on scrap recovery of rusted out rails & weed spraying.

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup>.

- Visit from Blair Jordan & his partner today.
- 5 staff on duty.
- Good loadings.
- There was surprise today one of the passengers from Auckland arrived in his Essex convertible & we got some good photos along with the train.
- At last the gardeners are turning up & we have a good time with them.

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>.

- 8 staff on duty.
- Another busy day.
- A lot of gardeners are choosing to put us on their itinerary.
- Denyse attended the “International Volunteers Recognition Day” in New Plymouth run by the Council Volunteer organiser at Starbucks Coffee lounge. This was a good introduction to other managers of various volunteer groups & no doubt will meet more in time.
- While in New Plymouth purchased more electrical equipment for the Ditch light wiring for 2584. This locomotive has taken some nutting out & have now got the job sussed along with some innovative thinking & planning.

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Wet day & passenger loadings were only fair.
- 50/50 of out of towners & locals.

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>.

- 7 staff on duty.
- Loadings fair but trickling in & keeping things ticking over, all locals & new customers.

## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Purchased more materials for the ditch light mods to our fleet & reconfigured the control box drawings for 2584.
- Brett ? from Johnstons Coach Lines from Auckland called in, & was surprised to find us operating & came in, had a cuppa with us & talked about possible future work. Nothing ventured nothing gained. (There a lot around, even locally now know that we exist & what we do).

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup>.

- 5 staff on duty.
- Customers were very light today & with only two more days of the Garden Festival left that is to be expected.

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>.

- 10 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 5—1,642.
- Real busy day with a mix of locals, Australians, Americans. English & Irish tourists.
- With only Sunday to go, it has been a satisfying first start into the Fringe Garden Festival & we have learned a lot on the way, but by & large went to plan.
- Noel, Keith & Adam laying more timber into the vehicle crossing on the new siding.
- Bill did some more brake equipment repairs to 407.
- Denyse helped Eileen in the kitchen & between times started to assemble the first Ditch light control box for 2584.
- Mike Zeier weed spraying.

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>.

- 9 staff on duty
- Mike Zeier on weed spraying.
- The loading on both runs was excellent.

## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Volunteer hours by staff over the last 10 days—569
- Good to see members from the Bush Tramway Club & the Bay of Islands Railway visiting.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

- De Briefing paper work from the Fringe Garden Festival.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>.

- 3 Staff on duty.
- Trevor & Bryan started mowing the lawns at Waitara & came to a sudden stop when one blade spat the dummy. Lucky the mower shop is just down the road!
- Eileen & I went to Smart road to pick up some more Punga planters but the scrap man had been & the two old KP wagon bodies had gone to the scrap yard ,planters & all. AHH well them's the breaks.
- Started fitting the battery charging socket into the control desk on # 1 end, too crowded in the electrical cabinet.
- Drawings also completed.
- Had a phone call from the local transport museum advising that due to the heavy winds of late a big tree blew over & made a big hole in the wall of the boiler house adjacent to where my Leyland engine ( ex Dsc class locomotive) was domiciled allowing a side shift out of the hole to retrieve it & bring it to Waitara Road. Checking this out tomorrow. Thank goodness for friendly farmers & their machinery!

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>.

- 3 staff.
- Trevor, Bryan & Denyse.
- Mower repaired & all lawns mowed.
- Travelled out to the transport museum & sorted out getting the Leyland engine out of the boiler house.
- Fitting wiring on 2584 for ditch lights.

Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>.

- 2 staff.
- Mike L & Denyse.
- Trench for the power to the Museum dug ready for the power cable.
- Fitting conduit & cables through the Engine room on # 1 end of 2584.
- Travel to NP to get more conduit fittings.
- Deliver a CD of photos to Vance Hooper of his beautiful garden.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>.

- 8 staff on duty.
- Truck & trailer load of engines & parts for the Portland Bagnall #11 arrived on site unloaded & stored on an old carriage underframe.
- Some ditch lighting wiring connected up & loomed into position.
- Purchased a 10 Amp battery charger for the 24 Volt DC locomotive fleet.
- Money received for gifted scrap.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>.

- 11 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 6—1,996
- Mike Z cleaning up in the Waitara yard & levelling for a new grass area.
- Keith & Ian moving the last of the gear from Stratford.
- Eileen delivered two big cream sponges for morning tea, still eating them at lunch time & our Australian guests helped finish them for afternoon tea.
- Bill & Carl on 12 monthly checks
- Jim preparing for the hand rails for Nak 6078.

## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Neville checking the ambulance boxes.
- Denyse doing ditch light wiring.
- Welcome to Greg who joined us today. Greg has a lot of skills & will be a valuable member.
- Mike Z, Denyse, Guy & Anne Minter from the Brisbane area popped in after riding the Golf Carts from Okahukura to Whangamomona took them for a trolley ride up to Lepperton Jcn. Thanks for the donation.

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>.

- 11 staff on duty.
- 2 excursions with good loadings.
- Carl laying electrical conduit in the trench.
- Mike Z on track work between Richmond & Kairau Roads.
- The rest of us on train running duties.

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup>.

- 3 staff on duty.
- Keith P, Eileen & Denyse.
- Ordered a shed for the catering for storing the umbrellas, BBQ & seats.
- Funding application for the bridge paperwork completed ready for processing.
- Started fitting wiring into the #2 hood for the ditch lights on that end.

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>.

- 3 staff on duty.
- Eileen, Mike Z & Denyse.
- Gardens were watered.
- New hose fittings purchased & fitted.

## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Our Rail corridor is now completely sprayed.
- # 2 end ditch light control box assembled & wired internally except the pilot light which is on order.
- Fitted the fabricated transitional fish plate onto the new points.

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>.

- 3 staff on duty, Denyse & Ben S & Eileen.
- Put in a new extension for the garden hose at the north end of the platform.
- Fitting the wiring & conduit down through the # 2 end of 2584.
- Eileen brought up some Tourists from the UK who rang up & wanted to have a look.
- Gave them a hot drink & chatted to Phillip & Maddeline Carver & their hosts from Bell Block.
- Ben took them on the Motor Trolley down to Waitara which was a novel surprise to them & while he was doing that I prepared the train to run them down to the bridge.
- Thank you for the donations, it was really appreciated.

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>.

- 3 staff on duty.
- Trevor & Bryan B mowed the lawns at Waitara Road.
- Bryan was not well & Trevor took him home. Thanks Trevor & remember not to lock your keys in the tablet box again!
- Denyse filed up the documents on restoration progress.
- Spent part of the day sorting out with the council on water Rate issues to satisfaction.

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- 2 staff, Eileen & Denyse.

## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Watering the gardens & planting.
- 2584 hood & cab wiring completed for the ditch lights.
- Removed the old Tait train control radio & associated wiring along with the conduit casings to tidy up the electrical cabinet areas.
- Picked up the scrap money from the scrap merchants. It was worthwhile!
- Farmer rang to see if it was OK to put his stock on the Rail Corridor in the Sentry Hill site.

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- 15 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 7—2,274
- Mike Z & his team starting lifting, levelling & straightening the long neglected passing siding at Waitara road & is another step into getting the Locomotive on the front both ways.
- Jim B delivered the battery boxes for 2584 that Noel built,
- Excellent job, thanks Noel.
- Jim B fitted the new hand rails for the safety enhancement on NAK 6078. Safety case variation sent to the NZTA.
- Bill & Carl on the 12 monthly certification checks on Dsc 2584 & Nak 6078.
- Carl & Mike I fitting the cables into the conduit for the power to the Museum & out door light at the end of the platform at Waitara Road.
- Trevor O painted two of the galvanised sheds into the Heritage colours. A few more to go Trev!
- The battery boxes for 2584 have been primed & will be painted the lime yellow colour to blend in with the font of the loco.
- Nathan started cleaning out the floor of one of the generator compartments on 2584.
- Good to see some of the newer members take part.



## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Battery boxes on 2584 setting up for wiring in & this was partly completed.

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>.

- 3 staff, Eileen, Keith H & Denyse.
- Documents signed on the future ownership of Bagnall # 11 ex Wilson's Portland Cement.
- Electrical Cable ditch filled in & levelled.
- Eileen & Denyse attended the Taranaki Garden Festival de brief & dinner at Palmers Garden Centre in New Plymouth.
- Great meal & company.
- We had a real good report back from the roving festival reporters on our operation, passenger satisfaction & staff performance.
- This is another feed back unknown to us & totally independent on our performance across the board & many thanks to all our staff for their excellent work, it has not gone un noticed.
- Our internal de brief was also well received.

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.

- One only staff on duty.
- #2 end cabling to ditch lights secured.
- Both battery boxes drilled for fittings & drains.
- Steel cut to length & drilled ready for assembly.
- 1 ditch light fitted.

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>.

- 3 staff Eileen, Bill & Denyse.
- Went through the roller bearing axle box maintenance systems with bill.
- Eileen just keeping me company.

## Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Went & saw Merv Potter from Air Gas Compressors in Bell Block to see what is available to upgrade the compressors on both Bagnalls & Tr 407 for when we fit the automatic brake to it. More to follow.

- Built another ditch light bracket & fitted it to # 1 end.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>.

- Off to a funeral to farewell an old workmate who died.
- Donation received from Wayne seed. Thanks Wayne.
- A big thank you was expressed from the Kiwi Rail Mechanical staff from Palmerston North depot on the manual that I produced for the rebuilding of the Bagnall locomotive at the Karioi paper mill. Nice to know.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Documenting & binding , good job for a wet day.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup>.

- Fitting battery box clamping straps for 2584.
- Picked up the new shed kitset.
- A very large bag of donated insulation cut offs delivered this morning.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>.

- 11 staff on duty.
- Volunteers hours at week 7 -- 2,437
- New air horns fitted to the carriage.
- Crossing timbers fitted to the new siding.
- 2 sleepers fitted at the Glade.
- Run around siding continued levelling.
- Winch repaired.
- Scrap recovery.

Monthly Report November 2013-11-01

- Battery boxes fitted & clamped in place.
- Greasing carried out on the carriage bogies.
- Cables being fitted into the conduit for the Museum.
- New shed parts unpacked ready for construction to begin.
- Writing up article for The TABLET, that time again.
- 2 more big bags of insulation delivered.

Cheers, Denyse.