

MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2013

Tuesday 1st.

- 5 staff on duty.
- Bryan B & Trevor mowed the lawns at Waitara & Waitara Road.
- Mike L & Denyse clearing the site for the container & ballast wagon shift at 7.30 am.

Wednesday.

- Measured up for the power conduit to the container.
- Bill B brought in the painted brake items ready for installation on 414.
- Removed one of the rear tail lights off 414 & found a lot of corrosion due to fertilizer ingress.
- Had to chisel the unit out of the cab rear wall, 3 more to go

Wednesday 2nd.

- 4 Staff & 1 visitor.
- The museum container was shifted up to the end of the platform & the old ballast wagon was shifted to the front of the old rail tractor.
- 2584 was fuelled up.
- Phone call from Tracy Lee at Kiwi Rail to confirm that I will be working with the media for the 150 rail celebrations at Stratford.

Thursday 3rd.

- Staff of 1.
- Finished the development of the alterations to the tail lights with an LED package on Dsa⁴¹⁴.
- Go to Steel & Tube to get some setscrews for the tail lights on Dsa⁴¹⁴.
- Pick up some paint from Guthrie Bowron's.

Saturday 5th.

- 12 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 52---11,791
- Tr⁴⁰⁷ Brian & Jim B welding in the new window section on the LH cab window.
- Bill B overhauling more brake components for Dsa⁴¹⁴
- Denyse finished the modifications & processes for the tail lights of 414 plus working drawings.

- Neville SJ preparing cleaning up the static display of the 1898 ballast wagon for painting.
- One Russian & one Chinese visitors today
- Noel, Carl & Keith H shifted the fuel shed into it's new location.
- Carl & Denyse discussed the layout for putting the electrics into the museum.
- Neil & Jamie S filled in the growing pot holes in the driveway.
- Robyn S did the catering.
- Noel & Keith fitted the window into one end of the Open car & discussed about fitting built in step up platforms down each side of the open car. On-going.
- Every one pitched in at the end of the day & shovelled out a truck load of ballast so that the roadway down into the new siding for the mower & vehicles to access the site.

Sunday 6th.

- Bi Monthly excursions.
- 10 staff on duty.
- Very good loadings.
- Welcome back Mike Zeier from the UK.
- Safety Case Variation written up, drawings & photos supplied to the NZTA on the new window fitted to Nak⁶⁰⁷⁸ on the hand brake end for weather protection.
- Some of the remaining pile of ballast that was for the pot holes in the driveway was barrowed down to the roadway into the new siding.

Monday 7th.

- 150th anniversary Kiwi Rail celebrations held at Hawera.
- Good one on one meetings held with Kiwi Rail board members & other head office staff.
- Spoke on behalf of the local railfans & the WRPS Inc.
- It was good meeting up with old workmates again.
- Spent some time with the Taranaki Flyer group sorting out the logistics of getting the Bagnal fleet # 11 of the Portland Cement Co , back to Waitara.
- The Ab is heading to the Rimutaka group at Maymorn, just out of Upper Hutt.
- The Media briefing went well.

Tuesday 8th.

- Load of ballast arrived for Waitara Road.
- Paper work.

Wednesday 9th.

- 3 staff on duty.
- Ben & Denyse on electrical 414.
- Denyse on writing up a manual for the AF triple valves & fault finding for the Goldfields Railway at Waihi.
- Eileen assisting.
- Management committee meeting.

Thursday 10th.

- 1 staff.
- Delivery of a load of ballast.
- Went to New Plymouth to purchase electrical fittings for Dsa ⁴¹⁴.

Friday 11th.

- Organising materials for the Ditch lights for Dsa ⁴¹⁴.

Saturday 12th.

- 12 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 53--- 12,035
- Noel has made a beautiful job of rebuilding an old wrecked material trolley plant

WW ⁶⁷⁷³⁴ resplendent in it's bright yellow paint work & red wheels. It did not take long for Mike Z to take off down to Waitara with a load of plants for the Waitara yard garden!

- Gary L brought out his small digger spread the ballast on the new siding vehicle track for vehicles assisted by Keith H.
- Neville SJ painting the new battery boxes for Dsa ⁴¹⁴.
- Mike Z cutting a new track down to the Magnolia glade & weed trimming.
- Bill B, Carl M, Jamie S & Denyse on 414 on electrical & brake components.
- Jim B, Noel A, Carl M fitting the RH cab window into Tr ⁴⁰⁷.
- A good days progress despite the howling wind & cold heavy showers.

Sunday 13th.

- Deaf / hard of hearing charter.
- 7 staff on duty.
- Brian Biggar driver training after charter.

- Emergency train brake tested on training run.
- Mike Z doing gardening at Waitara Road & Waitara.
- New members wishing to join, Welcome to the extended Trowbridge Family from Stratford.

Monday 14th.

- 1 staff.
- Picked up the parts for the ditch lights for Dsa ⁴¹⁴.
- Measured up the placement & lengths of the ditch light mounting brackets for Dsa ⁴¹⁴ & Dsc ²⁵⁸⁴.
- Started the many drawings & photo back up images.
- Tourist time's free giveaway arrived in the post for the lower North Island & our advert in amongst the other Fringe Garden Festival participants stands out well.

Tuesday 15th.

- Spent the day doing the drawings for the ditch light mods for the Bagnal locos & Dsc ²⁵⁸⁴.

Wednesday 16th.

- 6 staff on duty.
- Eileen planting out the gardens at Waitara Road.
- Brian & Les removing the rusted brake cylinder pipe from the A side # 1 bogie. Once again fertiliser is the culprit.
- Trevor & Bryan washing down Dsc ²⁵⁸⁴.
- The heavy cold showers hampered things somewhat.
- Denyse measured up for the ditch light mounting brackets for Dsa ⁴¹⁴.
- Denyse & Eileen went to New Plymouth to get flower plants, steel & nuts, bolts & washers.
- Picked up most of the rest of the ditch lighting parts.
- A big thank you to Steel & Tube, Waitara Automotive & Colson Road Garden Centre for the discounts. Much appreciated. It is very apparent that when we say where we are attached to the Waitara Railway, customers that have used us are very happy to assist us in this matter.

Thursday 17th.

- 4 staff.
- Trevor & Bryan finished washing down the train, good job guys.

- Jim H cleaning up & burning rubbish in the fire pit. These high winds lately blown a lot of rubbish etc around our site. Thanks for that Jim.
- Denyse preparing material for the fabricating of ditch light brackets , welded & fitted the front two onto Tr ⁴⁰⁷.
- Picked up the last of the Ditch light parts.

Friday 18th.

- Advise the New Zealand Land Transport Agency on the progress re the ditch lights.
- 4 staff on duty.
- Trevor & Bryan spent a long day mowing the lawns at Waitara, Waitara Road & now Magnolia Glade. A big thank you guys.
- Denyse picked up another load of Punga pots & garden edgers from Smart Road Freight Terminal in New Plymouth.
- Denyse made & fitted 2 more ditch light units & brackets, 1 on Tr ⁴⁰⁷ & 1 on Dsa ⁴¹⁴.
- Eileen planting flower beds at Waitara Road.

Saturday 19th.

- 11 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 54—12,332
- Noel putting in new door step & flooring ready for the new floor covering to go in at Waitara Road.
- Jim, Carl, Bill & Denyse on Tr ⁴⁰⁷ & Dsa ⁴¹⁴.
- The first two locos Dsa ⁴¹⁴ & Tr ⁴⁰⁷ have the ditch lights fitted & are ready for wiring in.
- Carl & Mike L preparing for the power to be put into the museum.
- Mike L's birthday to day & he put on a scrumptious morning tea, just as well some of us take cholesterol tablets, as they need something to work on!
- Thanks Mike it was enjoyed.
- Mike & Denyse went down to Kairau Road & trimmed out a spreading tree that was overhanging the track.
- Jim H cleaned out the area between sheds 4 & 5 so that next Friday the first of two Caterpillar engines & Torque converters can be stored & put under cover.
- Pat Hook doing garden maintenance.
- Brian Jury & Les S fitted the new brake cylinder pipe onto # 1 bogie on Dsc ²⁵⁸⁴.
- Well done guys.

Sunday 20th.

- Two trains running.
- Delivery of more trees from Vance Hooper from Magnolia Grove Nursery.
- 12 staff on duty.
- 1 visitor from Birmingham area in the UK Dave ?
- Good passenger numbers, 11 am load full up, 1.0pm load excellent as well.
- Vance load of trees are very well received & our visitor had his first ever ride on a motor trolley & helped Mike Z plant the trees. He could not get over the outlook over the farms in our area.
- Dish washing all those cups seemed to be never ending, no rest between services today.
- Thanks to all staff it was busy & Daria from Russia you are a gem & very helpful.

Monday 21st.

- 2 staff.
- Denyse & Eileen planting in the gardens & picking up the piles of weeds.
- Denyse purchased some 1/2" Alcatene pipe & fittings to lay a better & more user friendly water service to save dragging heavy long hoses to the flower beds by us old gold card holders.

Tuesday 22nd.

- 4 staff.
- Jim & Pat Hook were on site for an hour sorting out tickets in the ticket office.
- Eileen on site for an hour delivering me messages.
- Denyse part finished another section of the garden water service & waiting for a delivery of one pipe fitting that had to be delivered from Inglewood.
- Measured up & ordered some Hardy sheeting & 100 X50 timber for fitting panels to the Gazebo to stop the wind blowing the crockery off the table. Gone through some glass ware with these winds we have had lately.
- The scrap man came & picked a lot of scrap this afternoon.

Wednesday 23rd.

- 2 staff.
- Denyse & Ben.
- Built & installed the panels into the Gazebo to eliminate the strong wind flow from blowing the crockery off the table.

- Finished the water service plumbing.
- The scrap bin was returned & the batteries from Dsc ²⁵⁸⁴ were taken away.
- The electrical conduit was delivered by Stewarts Electrical ready for Saturday.

Friday 25th.

- The ex Portland Cement Co Bagnal fleet # 11 arrived back at Waitara Road today on a very cold wet day for finishing it's overhaul & use on the WRPS..
- Glad to get home & warmed up.
- 7 staff on duty.

Saturday 26th.

- 11 staff on duty.
- Volunteer hours at week 3 of the next 12 months recording 862 hrs.
- Birthday Charter & it was a nice surprise that all the staff were presented with a beautiful chocolate cup cake each.
- Carl & Denyse started digging the trench for the power supply to the museum.
- Jim, Dave & Bill working on Dsa ⁴¹⁴ & Tr ⁴⁰⁷.
- Noel & his willing band stripped down some heavy steps & stacked ready for use elsewhere.
- Noel freed up the jamming door in the station.
- Trevor & Bryan mowed the lawns at the glade & station
- Train crew were Denyse, Mike L & Neville SJ.

Sunday 27th.

- One excursion.
- 8 staff & 4 visitors from the Waitakere 2 foot gauge tramway Society.
- Despite the inclement weather a good loading was pleasant to see.
- Fortunately the clouds broke & the heavy rain ceased in time for the passengers cuppa.
- Thanks to the staff who helped.
- Mike Zeier & Denyse brought back two trailer loads of donated native trees from Magnolia Grove Nursery & a big thanks to Vance Hooper.
- The Lumoa family from the WTR in Auckland were welcomed & Keith H took them up & down our line on a motor trolley after the train run.

- Mike & Denyse planted out the new trees just at the end of the new siding to make a visual break & does that job well.

Monday 28th.

- Denyse is the guest of the Lost World Adventures.
- Took 173 photos!
- Dave the tour leader was a good host & was a credit to the company.
- The vehicles were comfortable to ride in, although the weather was inclement at times.
- Would I recommend the trip—yes I would & have already sent photos out to my contacts in the UK & Australia.
- Standing at the “Round Table” aka a very large cable drum at Te Wera in the solitude of the inland eastern hill country & enjoying each others company over a bush type smoko break--Priceless.
- Although I have worked out on the SOL on breakdowns & derailments over the years & travelled the route from the 1940's up until the 1980's it was an entirely different perspective from the Golf Carts at their cruisy 20KM speed for taking life in the slow lane & for photography.
- Loved the dinner at the Whangamomona Hotel & the “Waiter” the Publican's son delivering the food in bare feet & a torn shirt—seemed to fit the out back style!
- The trip back completed 81 KM of an enjoyable day out.

Tuesday 29th.

- 4 staff.
- Pat & Jim Hook, Eileen & Denyse Bettridge.
- Pat & Jim Gardening at Waitara.
- Denyse Checking out parts for the Ditch Light Mod to 2584, & purchased the sheet of plywood for an additional battery box for fitting a 24 volt system after deliberating whether to fit a 24 volt alternator but that was not going to be that easy & costly.
- A more suitable cost effective system has been devised & to be compatible with the 24 volt system fitted to the 2 Bagnal.s & Tr⁴⁰⁷.
- Development drawings have been started for the electrical.
- Cost wise this is going to very effective.
- Eileen on Gardening.

Wednesday 30th.

- 3 staff.
- Mike Lehrke, Denyse & Eileen.

- Mike & Denyse lifting paving Stones.
- Eileen putting plants back in that the Black Birds decided they needed to move to get to the worms.
- NZTA safety seminar this afternoon. Excellent & much was aired on crossing issues & the severe lack of back up from the authorities, which we were assured would be acted on. Let's hope so.

Thursday 31st.

- New floor covering being laid in the station.
- Dsc & Tr ditch light mod drawings sent off to the NZTA that were completed.
- Picked up a sample of the Pilot light that will be used for indicting when the ditch lights are turned on.
- Laid out the drawing of the front view of the ditch lights & battery box to be fitted to

Dsc ²⁵⁸⁴.

- Set the train up ready for the morning.
- Helped with the unloading & setting up of the Portaloo ready for the Garden Festival.
- Fielding phone calls on enquiries re the train trips over the next 10 days of the garden festival. Looking good.
- Mike Zeier came down & gave me a hand in moving the pulled out weeds from the Waitara Garden, thanks Mike for the help, been a long day.

Been another busy month & now we should reap the rewards.

Many thanks to all.

Denyse Bettridge,

General Manager, WRPS Inc.