

Monthly Report September 2013

Sunday 1st.

- 7 staff on duty.
- Start of the new season after the "Winter".
- Beautiful day & there Dad's up to great granddads on the train due to fathers day.
- Bill B doing some Westinghouse brake work on 414.

Tuesday 3rd.

- 3 staff on duty.
- Trevor O & Bryan mowing lawns at Waitara Road.
- Denyse had a conference with Paddy Bradford a farmer over putting in enhanced drainage from the farm into our deep cess drain between Kairau Road & Bridge 2.
- E Mail from Bill Batten re a freezer wagon on a farm at Bell Block. To investigate.

Wednesday 4th.

- Morning spent with 2 farmers & Chicken farm over the proposed drainage into our cess drain.
- All our requirements were put in writing as the consents officer was looking at the proposed site that afternoon.

Thursday 5th.

- Had an E Mail from our track manager who is still in London on leave & I have briefed him on the proposed drainage improvements & the need to fence off the cess drain & do some riparian planting along the top of the bank on our side.
- The farmers Maize cropping paddock could be looked at as well, although that is not a problem.
- Had the first feed back this morning on the train trips during the Fringe Garden Festival.
- Once again these people are hearing good things about us—way to go.
- Eileen & I attended the "Waitara Alive" business get together at the beach café.
- There was an approach from Andrew Larsen from the Taranaki Car Club (also a Waitara Community board member) on a street race meeting to be held in February 2014 that will need a variation to our safety case for the closure of two streets over the Rail Corridor. (on going).
- An approach to assist with advertising as a volunteer group was also made by Tracy Douds—account manager for the Radio Network. (to follow up).
- Delivered our Fringe Garden Festival promotional material to Irene Surrey (Garden 32).
- Being involved with Waitara Alive is now reaping benefits with the net working with both business & council representatives with awareness about the role of the WRPS in our community & the willingness to help each other. Good stuff.

Friday 6th.

- Sent a document letter to the Taranaki Car Club & the NZTA advising of the protocols required in around the closure of the rail corridor & variation of safety case requirements. (Discussion at this stage).

Saturday 7th.

- Bill Batten & I met at 8.30 am to have a look at a “Cool Store” rail vehicle that has been offered to us.
- What turned out to be the “cool store” was the body & frame, minus bogies, draw gear & brake equipment was VB 6 (TMS-- VR 187).
- The body is in fair shape, could be restored if bogies etc are available. We declined the offer.
- 9 staff on duty.
- 1 visitor.
- Dave O has preparing 2 derail blocks ready for the sidings at Waitara.
- Continued wiring by Jim & Carl on 414.
- All hands on deck to move the signal power box from off the platform into it's resting place by the carpentry shop ready for fitting into place.
- Noel, Keith; Garry & Carl fitted more timber into the vehicle crossing on the new siding
- Garry said he will bring down his small digger to Waitara to load up the spoil wagons from digging out the last section of old fouled ballast from the Waitara yard, for use in the vehicle track at Waitara Road. Thanks Garry.
- The crew have re-fitted the rails from the motor trolley sheds to the main line & the general tidy up of the earthworks in that area is 50% completed.
- Good progress.
- Volunteer hours at week 48—11,018

Sunday 8th.

- End of week paper work.

Monday 9th.

- Prepared drawings for BP cut out cock modifications to 414.
- Purchased the materials for the above job.
- Purchased a MIG welder suitable for steel material from 2mm to 8mm. Now the panel patching (rust removal) jobs on 414 can get underway.

Friday 13th.

- 2 Staff.
- Internal audit.

- Pick up material from Steel & Tube.
- Documenting for drawings on 414.

Saturday 14th.

- 17 staff on duty.
- 2 visitors from the Whangarei group.
- Girl Guides conference charter.
- Noel has updated & painted the ambulance box.
- Station Masters sign been fitted. (from the isle of Wight!)
- Bill overhauling brake components for 414.
- A crew stored the seat frames & points fittings into the ZP.
- Started assembling components for the BP modification on 414.
- Another 3 sheets of drawings prepared for 414.
- Bed plates for the bridge were delivered.
- Dave O is progressing with the derail blocks for Waitara.
- The clean up in the area between 5 & 6 sheds is going well.
- Scrap sorting by Jim H.
- Electrical on 414—Jim Blyde.
- Volunteer hours at week 49---11,249

Sunday 15th.

- Bi Monthly train running to day.
- 7 staff on duty.
- Big loadings today & all hands on deck to assist with the catering.

Tuesday 17th.

- 3 staff on duty.
- Trevor O & Bryan B mowed the lawns at Waitara Road.
- Trevor planted Marigolds up by the front fence.
- Denyse picked up parts from Steel & Tube & assembled the rear BP cock assembly onto it's bracket ready for welding to the headstock.

Wednesday 18th.

- 3 staff on duty.

- Keith Piper measuring up for new floor covering for station.
- Ben S & Denyse extracting highly corroded BP from front head stock. Fertiliser sure has it's downsides as well. Took all day to extract it. Sledge hammers could not budge it. Had to cut it out from the bore of the pipe into pieces & chisel it out. Grr!

Thursday 19th.

- 1 staff.
- Assembled to front BP cut out cock & piping.
- Part assembled some piping to the rear end BP piping into the cab.
- Had a ring from Matt Poland from Kiwi Rail on their behalf & also about the WRPS's operation to see if I would talk to a reporter re the Rail 150 years of operation at Stratford (display day). No problem.
- Had an interesting E Mail from Sherril George one of our NPDC councillors over a possible tourism venture & that will be worth pursuing.
- Sherril has also offered to take over the maintenance of the Butterfly Garden at Waitara as well, Gratefully accepted.

Saturday 21st.

- Real rotten weather only 4 staff on duty.
- Anyway the cup of tea & Banana cake was Kapai!
- We managed to put in 2 ½ hours each on a few small jobs & went home.
- Volunteer hours at week 50 11,361

Monday 23rd.

- Picked up 45 Punga garden pots & delivered to Waitara Road.
- Picked up the steel & pipe for 414 all cut to length.
- Warner Construction at Waitara threaded all the pipe sections for the new BP on 414.

Tuesday 24th.

- I staff one duty.
- Fitted BP& brackets made for clamps on the rear BP adjacent to the Final Drive.

Wednesday 25th.

- 2 staff on duty.
- Configured the piping from the BV to the BP under the control desk.
- Purchased some more pipe fittings.
- Brackets made ready for fitting & welding in place.
- The exhaust clamps are doing a good tidy job in clamping the BP to the brackets.

Thursday 26th.

- 1 staff.
- Finish off BP in cab.
- Bind up document for TR 407.

Friday 27th.

- 2 staff Trevor O & Denyse.
- Painting Sandwich board for platform.
- Continued BP renewal under the running board.
- Binding up electrical blue prints.

Saturday 28th.

- 8 staff on duty.
- Despite the horrible gusty wet day a lot got done.
- Volunteer hours for week 51---11,474
- Noel, Carl & Keith shifted the fuel shed so that the Museum can be shifted onto it's new site near the platform for easier access & power.
- Jim H stripping out recyclables for the scrap drive.
- Jim B, Bill & Denyse on 414 continuing the brake overhaul, training & preparing the new panels for the electrical, switches & gauges.
- Planning for the laying of electrics, wiper air lines, tail lights & ditch lights etc ready for the working drawings for the layout in the cab of 414.
- TR 407 is now placed on the D &D siding ready for panel work repairs & some de-rusting to be done.
- We all packed it in at 2.00pm when it belted down & with the strong winds it was unpleasant—BRING BACK THE WINTER!!!
- Noel & Keith have placed the window framing into the open car, but it was too risky fitting the glass in the wind.
- Noel brought in 5 planters made from Puriri branches for sale during the Garden Festival. Thanks Noel.

Sunday 29th.

- 2 staff, Eileen & Denyse.
- Better day so we went down to the butterfly garden, did some weeding & cleaning up, planted 5 Toone trees & some Lilly's.
- The Monarch Butterfly's are going to be well fed with the "jungle" of swan plants that are thriving until the Butterfly's do there collective thing!

- A lot of the locals stopped & had a chat about the garden, even the police who were trying to locate a local female stopped & had a chat while searching for the culprit who crashed a car & took off! This person was not unknown to us having worked at our site while “employed?” by the Corrections Department.
- It was an entertaining Morning!

Monday 30th.

- Eileen & Denyse attended the volunteer workshop at the NPDC building this morning on how to Manage the diversity of Volunteers.
- The interactive program took 3 extremely interesting hours & was time well spent.
- It is always with great that our staff can be talked about with pride.
- Another busy month with the garden Festival only a few weeks away.
- Eileen has ordered a truck load of 40mm clean material from Inglewood Loader Parts so that the pot holes in the driveway can be finally fixed for once & all.
- Thanks to the managers & others who sent in their reports

Thanks,

Denyse.