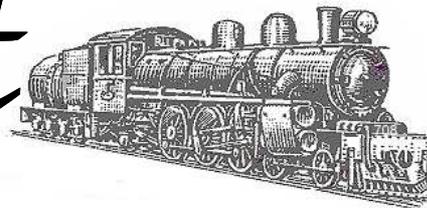
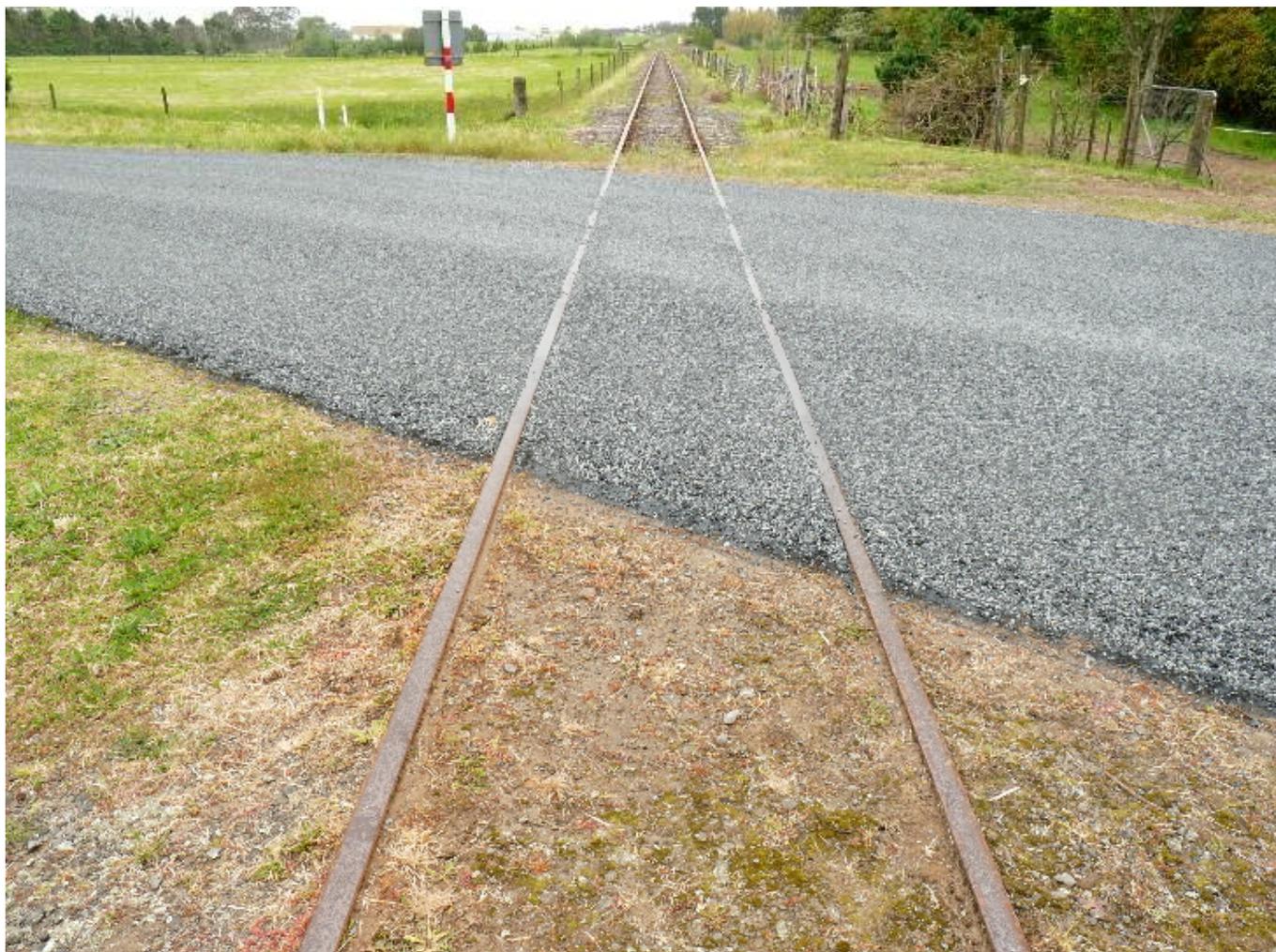


The Tablet



The newsletter of the Waitara Railway Preservation Society Inc.

No.15 Christmas 2012



Spot the mistake!



Dear members and friends,

Well, another Christmas is almost upon us. Is it just me, or do they seem to come round quicker every year? Maybe I'm just getting old.

For those of you that couldn't spot the mistake with the photo on the front cover, look closely between the rails. The local road contractor got a bit carried away whilst resealing Richmond and Te Arei Roads, and filled the space between the rails up nicely, without any groove for the wheels! Needless to say, Denyse was not overly impressed and advised them of their error. To their credit, they came back and fixed their mistake asap.

Now that the weather is improving, we can get on with all those outside jobs, but as usual, there are more jobs than workers, so if any of you feel energetic, feel free to visit and give us a hand. Failing that, your visit will be the ideal excuse to stop work and have a cuppa!

As you'll read later, the bridge saga is progressing, which is great news. I'm sure if I ask Denyse once more how it's going, he'll do something to me which I won't enjoy.

And finally, speaking of enjoyment, make sure you all enjoy yourselves this Christmas season, and on behalf of the WRPS, Happy Christmas!

Adam

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CHAIRMANS REPORT

As always, this is a general report as an adjunct to the monthly reports.

Gardens

- • There has been a lot of activity by our valued gardeners and grounds keepers.
- • The general teams are manned or "womaned", if you prefer, by Trevor O'Keefe, Heather Crowskey, Pat and Jim Hook, Mike Zeier, Mike Leherke, Eileen Bettridge, various CWC workers and occasionally by myself.

- • The grounds are looking sharp and the donation of mulch has been a big help in maintaining this state of affairs.

Bagnal Dsa 414

- • Making steady progress with the team of Jim Blyde, Bill Batten; Keith Hancock; Carl McCullough and others.
- • I have completed a wiring manual from start to finish so that it can be understood by learners to carry out this task.

Railway served Quarry, Waitara Branch (see page 11 for map)

- • I have started writing, photographing and sketching the remains of this branch and so far have documented the quarry pit, track bed, siding locations, stone walls etc.
- • I have got access to two more farms and more of the

quarry bed to enter yet when I can get a free day.

Waitara Yard

- • Turning into a big job but is progressing well.
- • Hard slow work digging out the ballast to expose the sleepers and rail and fittings for inspection.
- • Two pairs of points have been dismantled for parts recovery.
- • This section is being straight railed.



- • A winch anchored to a spoil wagon is used to pull the bend out of the rails and makes the bending a lot easier than using the Jim Crowe.

Mapping of the Waitara Yard

- • Got some expert help here. Benjie Orpilla, a registered surveyor, along with his wife Jaquelin, had a birthday trip on the train for his son Colin's birthday a wee while ago. He offered us some help, never ever turn down an offer like that! One Sunday we went down and mapped the Waitara yard, Golly Benjie, it was hard keeping up with you (it's the aging factor!)
- • The outcome is that we now have beautifully detailed mapping of the Waitara yard that is clear and precise.
- • It was sad to hear that the Railway in the Philippines has mostly shut down and is only operating around Manila.

Community Volunteers Awards Night

- • I was put forward to the New Plymouth District Council as an entrant receive

an award. To be fair I was not happy about it at first, but after some reflection and being told to accept it gracefully (by one who knows better, my wife!), I changed my mind. I felt proud of our team, without who's support nothing good would happen. It was hard to pick some support members and to be honest, I felt stink that I could not take more along. Out of this I did a radio programme with councillor Heather Dodunski on Access Radio.

- • On Friday the 30th we are hosting the NPDC to come and have a look at what we are doing and have some light refreshments with us. As we move into our future endeavours this type of contact is important.

The Bridge

- • Another milestone in moving forward to the last push on this structure.
- • Mike Sharp from the underwater dive team has done the mapping and scour

inspection of the piers, and found everything ship shape. The divers had some fun getting into the gorge, dodging the boulders and big tree trunks.



Divers checking the Western pier on Bridge 2 Waitara Railway

TV SHOW

- • We were approached by The Gibson Group to host part of a programme on bicycles. Yes, bicycles! Chris Beath, in New Plymouth, has built a cycle that runs on rails and has been certified by Kiwi Rail. The cycle part will be filmed on the WRPS in January 2013.

- • All the paper work is now completed and ready to go.
- • The show will be called “Making Tracks”.

XMAS PARTY 24th Nov

- • Once again thanks to Lyn and Glenyss for the evening and Eileen for the cake.
- • The train ride afterwards shook the kai down before eating the cake. What a cracker of a night.



All the best to you all, have a merry Xmas from the WRPS team.

Denyse.

Dsa 414 Restorations

Jim Blyde.

Saturday 20th

Denyse and myself did a walk around the locomotive with Denyse giving me guidance. Whether this information is taken in fully . . . only time will tell.

I asked Nick to give me a hand as he is more agile than myself. We started with spraying diesel on most of the nuts and bolts that may require attention during the restoration. Nick started later, to attack the fertilizer in and around the springs, but

gave this up and suggested that a water blaster could do a better job.

Nick will also attack the compressor air filters to remove them so that they can be fitted with paper filters.

Whilst showing Nick the requirements, I noticed that in the air intake pipe work, which goes through the engine room roof, the flexi tubing had a tear. On talking to Nick, I suggested that there was no need for this and that the tubing could remain within the engine room. This I will put to Denyse.

All the v belts will need replacing, as most of them look very grotty.



I have removed the drain cocks and some of the pipe work from the air reservoirs. The two barrel nipples from the elbow from the tanks were completely rusted out, and they disintegrated as I tried to unscrew the threads out. I will get the fittings required to have the drain valve and 'farther' valve to the outer edge of the running board.



I have reconditioned these two valves at home, after having cut the thread to unscrew them out.



Saturday 27th

Spent some time with Denyse discussing the safety measures for lifting devices and traversing jacks. I will write this up for Denyse's approval. We discussed other items as well, one being the postcard with the consist at Waitara. This draft will be emailed to the committee to give the approval to proceed. I will then ring Brian Gynp to see if the Society can use the image, to allow Graeme to start printing these at MOTAT in Auckland. Graeme was thinking of about 1,000 to start with, to sell at \$2.⁰⁰ each.

Today I completed the assembly of the farter valves for both sides. I asked Nick to use the pipes dies to do some threading for me as I continued with my work.



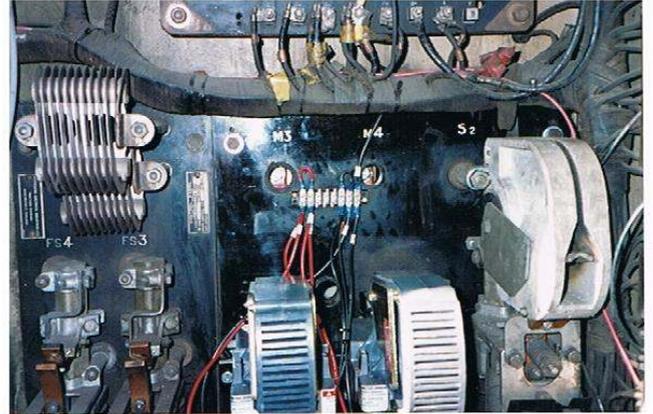
While working on the left side, Denyse noticed a clip on the ground, and this was used to secure the pipe work up under the running board on the left side.



On the right side, I had to make up the complete bracket, weld this to the running board and clip to secure the pipe work.



I also started to loosen the bolts around the fan guard and squirted diesel to soak in on the threads.



Spot the difference. The AEI motor contactors changed out to a General Motors type by D. Bestride at Smart Road Depot, New Plymouth.
Photo D.L. Bestride



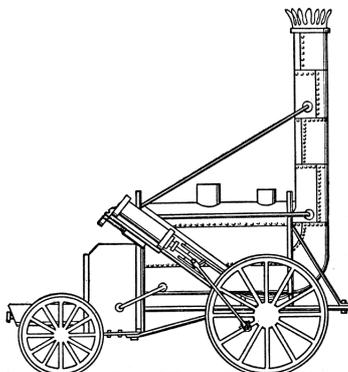
Track and Infrastructure

G'day folks, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New year!

There has been plenty happening along the line, we have secured some new track tools to help us along, thanks to the generous TET funding. A big thank you to all who have done great work behind the scenes. The equipment is invaluable and has sped the job up no-end.

We now have a track saw, a motorised auger for drilling screw-spike holes in the sleepers and an impact wrench.

Next on the list hopefully, will be a rail drill, and possibly a tamper. Then we are really in business.



We have been mainly working down in the Waitara yards, removing the old points that once lead to Borthwick's freezing works. PD have been helping with the digging and other tasks, the impact wrench has been a great help here, but a number of screw spikes were too worn, so Dave Oxley came to the rescue with his gas-axe plant and did a great job. Thanks again Dave. This section is being straight railed and old rotten sleepers are being replaced.

Denyse and the PD have set up the old bus stop down at Magnolia Glade, which just needs painting and station name boards. Any volunteers for this job??? When it's all completed I hope to have Vance Hooper from Magnolia Grove and John Michielsen from Michielsen's tree nursery open the new station. All their donated trees are looking great in this area. Speedy signs made up a sign to recognise their kind help with this project.

The mobile workshop is now all go, great work there, team! This also needs painting (any more keen painters out there?).

Summer is rumoured to be coming. This has made the job so much easier, all our tools are on hand, as well as the sleepers and track parts. So I really feel that we are getting somewhere. Work is still ongoing as old sleepers become available on the Strange St. retaining wall, and once the Waitara track work has been completed, this job is looming.

With PD's help we will jack-up and straighten out the kink here, underpinning it with the new ballast funded by the TET. Weed control has been undertaken from Lepperton Jct. to Richmond Rd, but good old Taranaki weather is holding this job up but at the

same time making the weeds grow like mad!

It was good news from the divers who inspected the Waiongana bridge. Denyse is hopeful that we can get TSB funding so we can get the bridge re-sleepered, among other repairs to get it back into use again in the not too distant future.



There is still plenty of firewood for sale, let your friends and family know as well, see Denyse for the price. Going cheap! I would hate to see all our hard work preparing this wood go to waste, and next winter's not far off. Time to fill that woodshed up!



Great transformation has taken place on the site of the old Waitara station. This once unkempt weed infested site has undergone a huge transformation over the last few months. Heather Crofskey has been the driving force here, bringing a couple of Waitara schools onboard, helping with propagation of plants, also organising many donated plants, often from peoples gardens. The NPDC supplied the mulch, which was spread by the PD crews. Old mooring ropes separate the gardens from the pathways, enhancing the "transport theme" of the gardens.

The old steamers rusting away there are now "garden art" according to Heather...a weedy eyesore no more, all this adds to the profile of the society and the town... well done Heather.

Cheers,

Mike Zeier



The WRPS Christmas party's late night trip to Waitara

New post card designed

(see picture on page 12)

Graham O'Keeffe and Jim Blyde have designed a new sketched post card based on a photo of Jim's.

Brian Gnyp, of Taranaki Sketchers was asked to do the sketch, and did three different designs. One was decided on, and some refinements were requested which Brian was most helpful with.

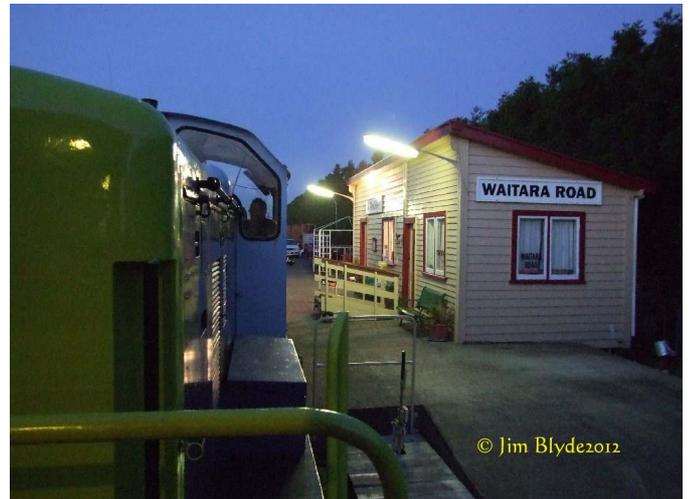
There were cards delivered backwards and forwards by email and snail mail, until between us, we were happy with the end result.

Graham is going to print the end result, which will be for sale in the ticket office.

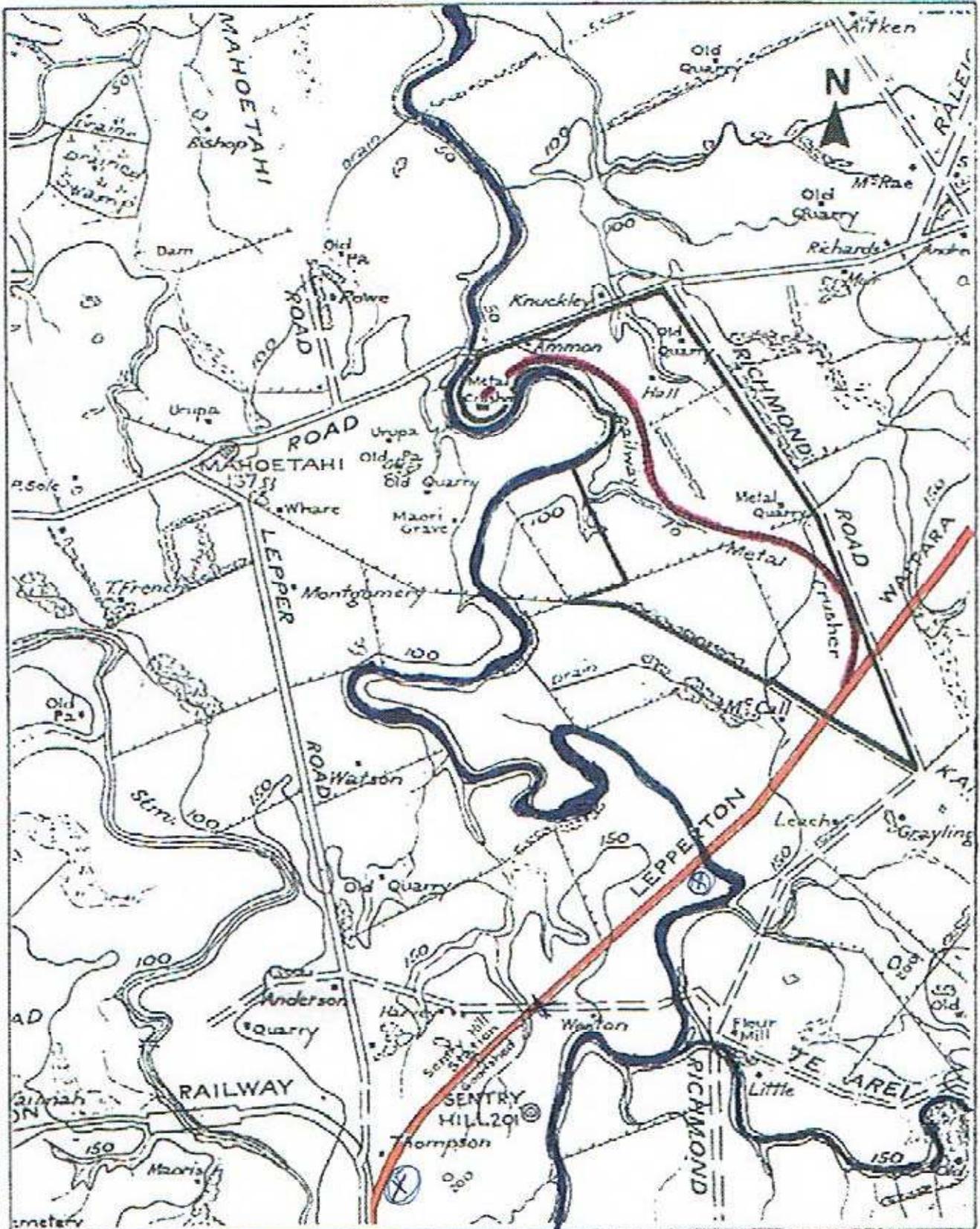
Quite a few hours went into this project with phone calls between New Plymouth and Auckland.

Thanks to Graham for his support on this project.

Jim Blyde.



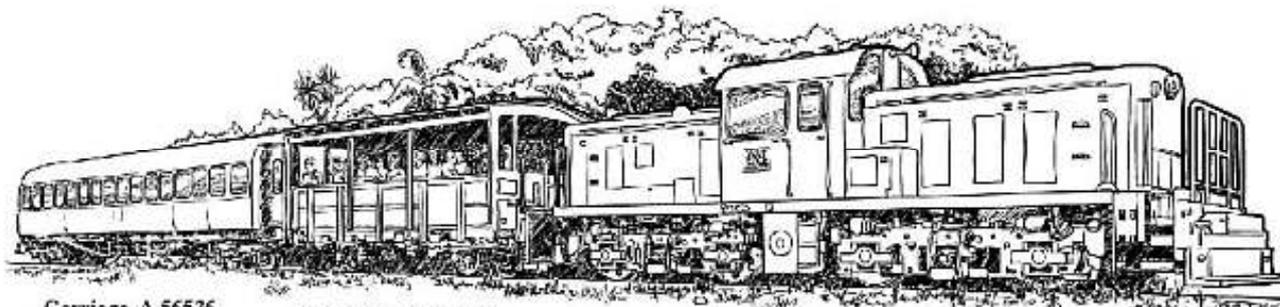
The DSC pulls away from Waitara Road on the WRPS Christmas party



Section of Topographical Plan 111/1 compiled 1926. Harry Hall's farm (Deposited Plan 4128) is outlined. The map shows the position of the Hall home and also shows that there was a railway crossing their land serving a quarry and metal crusher. The land was purchased from Fulton on 14 November 1916. The flour mill at Sentry Hill is shown at the bottom of the plan. Source: Department of Land and Survey Information, New Plymouth.

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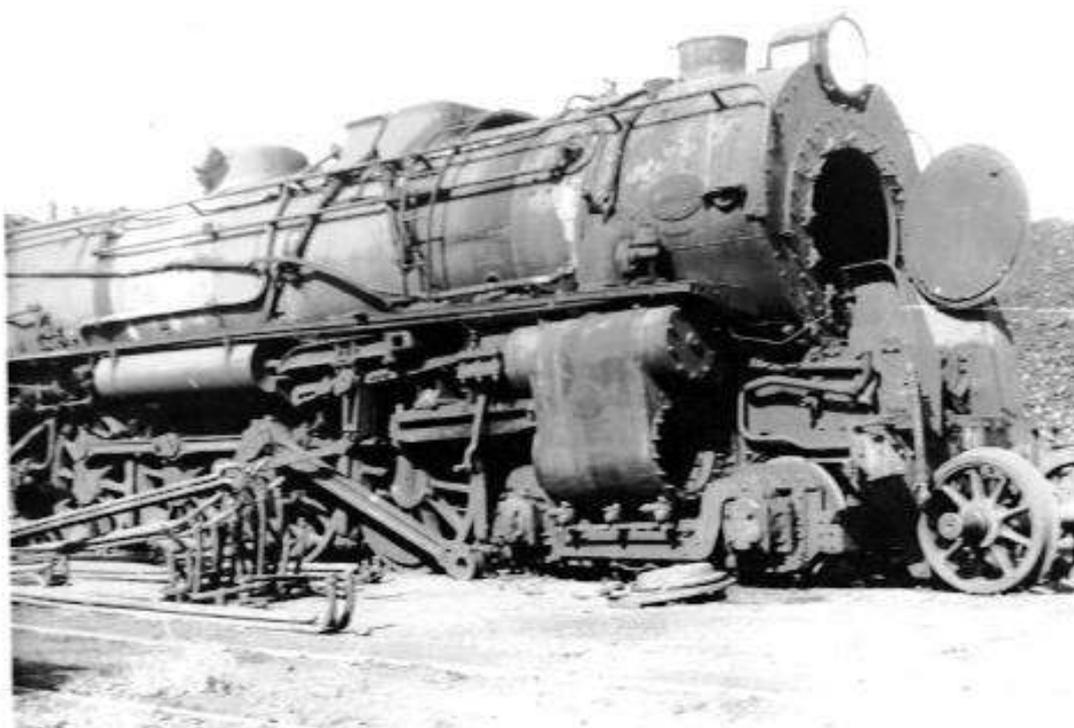
Carriage, A 56536

Open Car, Nak 6078

Diesel Locomotive, Dsc 2584

Brian Gnypp Sketch 2012

Jim Blyde & Graham O'Keefe Design 2012



K 920 at the Wanganui Locomotive Depot 18/03/1962.
Photo D.L. Bestride