



Newsletter

May 2023

Excursions

As mentioned in the last newsletter, due to the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle, the remaining cruise ships for this season cancelled their visits. The next cruise ships are scheduled for October.

The first of the two public excursions during the Easter Weekend had to be cancelled due to high winds and heavy rain (40mm of rain in 24 hours – nothing like what we experienced during the cyclone, but still a considerable amount of rain). The next day, Sunday 9th April was nearly perfect weather. Some people who had booked for the previous day transferred their tickets to the Sunday and others were offered the opportunity to transfer their tickets to a different day or receive a full refund.

A photo from Mike Zaytsoff of Wa165 crossing the Gisborne airport runway appeared in the last FRONZ newsletter (#231). It was taken from an AirNZ flight which had just landed on Sunday 9th April. The photo opposite it shows the same aircraft as it appeared from the train.



Photo: Mike Zaytsoff



The ANZAC “Weekend” excursion on Sunday 23rd April was well patronised. A larger than usual number of people (especially children) were eager to get up into Wa165 for a look at what the fireman does.

The current operating season finishes on King’s Birthday Weekend, with the steam engine scheduled to operate excursions on both the Saturday and Sunday (3rd & 4th June).

The latest details of our planned excursions are available on our website at www.gcwr.org.nz/bookings/.

Workshop Catch-up

With no excursions from early February until Easter, it was comparatively quiet around the workshops. However, this has enabled some maintenance work to be carried out which may otherwise have been left until after the operating season.

DSC2759 had been scheduled to operate the Mother's Day excursion. A braking problem was resolved, only to have a diode blow in one of the engine power circuits a week before the excursion. Once a replacement had been obtained (not just a matter of going down to the local electrical supply retailer – this was a special high power item) and fitted, a fuse started blowing. This was eventually traced (after a lot of hard work) to the rear brushes on one of the generators. Joe worked long hours to get this problem fixed in time for the excursion.

Off-Site Work



On of the more mundane work items that needs to be carried out on a regular basis is servicing the track points.

With the exception of the 2 sets at Muriwai, used when moving the engine from the “front” to the “rear” of the train, all of the points are located within the marshalling yard at Gisborne Railway Station and the Grey Street intersection.

The track plates that the rails forming the moving section of the points rest on need regular cleaning to ensure that the points will operate correctly.

A blade scraper is used to clean any debris from the plates and then they are lubricated using “chain and bar” oil – the same oil that is used in chain saws. Effective and cheaper than using some other oils or greases. Once cleaned and lubricated, the points are visually inspected and checked for correct operation. This work needs to be done every 2 or 3 months, depending on the weather conditions and how hard the points have become to operate.

Snippets

Thanks to **Solenis New Zealand** for another donation of Drewphos and Amersite. The Drewphos is designed to minimize the potential for caustic-based corrosion in high-pressure steam generating systems, while the Amersite is designed to control oxygen-induced corrosion. Together they are an **essential part of our boiler maintenance** as part of our programme to keep the boiler in as good an operating condition as possible for as long as possible.

A big thank you also to the **Senator Motor Inn** for the work they do in arranging accommodation for our visiting engine drivers.

Avneesh Vincent from the *Gisborne Herald* newspaper spent 2 days with the GCVR people, including travelling on the ANZAC Weekend excursion. He is gathering background information for articles to appear in the newspaper.

Also visiting the GCVR workshops and travelling on the train were 2 people from EIT here in Gisborne.

Fund Raising

Any ideas to Sally please, no matter how off-beat they may seem!

That's it for this newsletter!

If you have anything to put in the next newsletter, please let me know. Any ideas welcome.
Send emails to gcvr.newsletter@gmail.com

Graeme Scott

P.S. This and previous newsletters are also available to view at www.gcvr.org.nz/newsletters
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