



Newsletter May 2022

Bridge Repairs

One of the many tasks that GCVR has to face, is the upkeep of the various rail bridges that the train travels across. One item of work carried out recently was the replacement of a support post under the bridge by the Customhouse Road crossing.



Figure 1: C.R.Taylor fitting a replacement support post



Figure 2: C.R.Taylor fitting a replacement support post



Figure 3: The old support post

The replacement of the post was carried out in 2 stages over a period of a week due to the tidal conditions. While this bridge was closed to rail traffic, the train was manoeuvred from the sheds to the opposite side of Grey St and then reversed back to the station platform.

Thanks to Danny Greene for these photos.

Workshop Catch-up

As we cancelled our 20th March excursion due to the rising Covid levels in this area earlier in the month, as well as the Gisborne Railway Station being used as a RAT distribution center, more workshop time was available to catch up on other less urgent work.



One item of work concerned our spare Westinghouse Brake Feed Valves, which have been waiting to be serviced and tested.

Time was now available to build a test rig using a calibrated pressure gauge to test and set these valves up to the desired pressure.



We also have a number of road crossing lights that need overhauling. Graham, Les & Peter have been busy working on these units.

(You can just see Peter's hand at the bottom of the photo in the supervising position.)



Very helpfully (or not), a tractor and trailer (owner and driver unknown) managed to snap off the base of the pole holding one set of the fixed railway crossing warning signs at Browns Beach Road.

This damage was found by Graham & Glenn while doing a track inspection.

After repairs to the pole and signs, the pole complete with signs was refitted.

The signs on the opposite side of the crossing were also given some attention.

Excursions

It was good to get back out on the rails again after the February and March Covid-related cancellations.

The weekend of 10th April saw the Gisborne American Car Club host a visit by the Early Ford V8 Club, whose members came from all over the North Island. One item on their visit to Gisborne was a trip out to Muriwai using Wa165. The parking area at the rear of the station was rather crowded with Ford V8 vehicles for the afternoon.



Although Wa165 had not run for 9 weeks, the steam engine performed perfectly on a day with perfect weather conditions (unlike the stormy weather conditions that hit the East Coast 3 days later).

All of our three excursions over the Easter and Anzac Weekends were well patronised, with good weather on all days, however our Mother's Day excursion did not have as many passengers as normal.

With the fluctuating Covid situation, the only thing certain is that nothing is certain!



Thanks to Sally Hewitt for providing the ANZAC Poppies which were fitted to the rear of the 'C' car for the ANZAC Weekend excursion.

Coming up we have the Chardonnay Express on 29th May and then the two excursions on Queen's Birthday Weekend to finish off this operating season.

Snippets

There is the possibility of another Murder Mystery train trip in October – watch this space for more details!

We are waiting to see what happens with cruise ship bookings, now that the international border is opening at the end of July. Hopefully we will see a return of the bigger ships to Gisborne next summer as well as the already planned visits by smaller cruise ships.



Spotted in the crew room recently was this painting by Claire Kizlink of the steam pump & compressor on Wa165.

The word “Incredible” is not adequate enough to describe it.

(My apologies for the photographic reflection slightly marring the lower portion of the painting.)

More details of our fleet have been added to our website (<https://www.gcvr.org.nz/our-fleet>). If you see any errors or have anything to add, please let me know.

That’s it for this newsletter!

If you have anything to put in the next newsletter, please let me know. Any ideas welcome.

Graeme Scott