



Newsletter July 2022

Excursions

2022-2023 Season

Planning is underway for the excursions for next season.

More details will be here as they become available or on our website at www.gcvr.org.nz/bookings/

Workshop Catch-up

Major items of work to be done during the winter period include (in no particular order):

1. maintenance work on some bridges
2. Wa165 boiler inspection
3. replace the fire bricks in the fire box in Wa165
4. the undersides of all carriages to be cleaned and inspected
5. brake inspections and tests to be carried out on all the carriages as well as Wa165 & DSC2759

Wa165 Maintenance.

Following the removal of the boiler plugs, the remains of the sacrificial anodes were removed from the plugs and new anodes fitted to the plugs.



The boiler plugs at the end of the season.



The boiler plugs fitted with new anodes.

The amount that the anodes deteriorate during an operating season (and therefore the protection they provide to the boiler) is clear to see.



The interior of the boiler has also been water-blasted using an extension rod to spray the water into the boiler through the (removed) boiler plug holes.

This cleans out any material which may have been deposited in the boiler from the water or through any other means, prior to the boiler being inspected.

The cleaning water and any debris are blown out through the (empty) plug holes in the base of the boiler.

Two boiler inspections are required each year – one while the boiler is cold and empty, the second under full operating pressure (which will be done later in the year).



As part of the general cleaning and inspection, the cab and coal hopper were also cleaned out.



The wooden cab floor has also received some repair work.



The cleaned fire bars.

The fire box is currently empty as the fire bricks and the fire bars have all been removed.

The fire bars rest at the bottom of the fire box, preventing the burning fuel (wood to start the fire and coal in normal operation) from falling down into the ash pans underneath.

The eight fire bricks rest on horizontally-protruding studs, that can be seen in the *empty fire box* photo below. They form an arch over the top of the fire box which blocks the view of the boiler tubes. With the fire bricks removed, it will be easier to carry out the cold boiler inspection.



The empty fire box.



The old fire bricks which form the brick arch that have been removed, shown with the installation tools to install the new fire bricks.

This will be the second time that the fire bricks have been replaced since Wa165 was first steamed up in 1999 following the major restoration.

DSC2759 Maintenance.

A routine inspection has revealed chaffing on some high pressure hoses due to rubbing on part of the steel frame. These hoses have been removed and we are waiting for the replacement items.

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.

Graeme Scott

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