

The Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest



May 2018

Working on the Railway

- An extended period of rain deposited additional clay on the line this week, so any extra volunteers who can make the workshop day this Saturday would be appreciated. Discussions with the council over line rehabilitation and weatherproofing continue. Work has begun on formers that will be used to cast concrete shapes to be used in water diversion and drainage.
- The passenger count for the month of April was 410.



Re-tubing B10's Boiler

As you may know, steam loco B10 was withdrawn from service about two years ago after it was discovered that some of her boiler tubes were not in great shape.

On B10, there are 58 of these pipes that carry flame and heat from the firebox through the boiler and out through the funnel. As these hot gasses pass through the boiler tubes, the tubes get hot, which then heats water in the boiler surrounding them. This process creates steam used to move the locomotive.

After some analysis, it was found that some of the relatively new tubes, which should last for several decades, did not meet the agreed specifications and had begun to pit and corrode in places after only a few years of service. After a prolonged negotiation with the original suppliers, we are now in possession of replacement tubes, which have been tested by a metallurgist and certified as fully up to specification.

The first step in re-tubing B10 has involved machining out the 'tubeplate' inside the smokebox at the front of the boiler – this is a thick metal plate which holds the tubes in place, and it must be water- and steam-tight. Each of its 58 tube holes was machined to be perfectly round and true.



In the next step, the tubes have been cut to the correct lengths – again, an exacting task, because once fitted, both ends of the tube need to be flared out to make a snug fit into the tubeplate holes. They can't be too short or the tubes won't hold in place, and they can't hang out beyond the tubeplate.

In addition, any issues with the tubeplate must be remedied at this stage before the tubes are fitted. Work continues with this task with the intention of returning B10 to service for the busy summer season.

Come along for a Cuppa: Friday 11th of May at The Brydone

Everyone is welcome to attend our informal monthly coffee mornings. Come along for a chat over a cuppa at The Brydone Hotel on the 11th of May at 10:15am. As always, please RSVP to Anthea by the evening of the 10th so that we can give them an idea of our numbers (anthea.oamaru@gmail.com)

OSR on TV

Oamaru Steam and Rail will feature in one of the upcoming 'Coast New Zealand' episodes in May – keep your eyes on TV1 each Sunday at 8pm.

