

FRONZ: JOURNAL

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

We have been working hard behind the scenes to confirm the last few important details, and now we are thrilled to announce that registrations for the 2023 FRONZ Conference are open! Join us in June to see the sights of the Bay Of Islands, visit our host railway the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway, and the Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club.

For more information, and to register now visit <https://www.fronz.org.nz/conferences>

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge our groups up North as they assess damage and begin to make repairs. They have had a pretty rough start to the year with the destructive weather. It is so important that we support each other through times like this, both in spirit and physically - clean ups can be daunting, but there is a lot of knowledge and experience that can be shared between groups.

We also send our condolences to Dave Lennards family and friends and MOTAT/The Western Springs Tramway, as he was tragically lost during the Auckland floods. He has left a legacy behind, and will be remembered through the many projects he was involved in.

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Photo: Dave with one of the finials he made for the new sand domes fitted to No.100, one of the vehicles he so passionately worked on.

FRONZ CONFERENCE 2023

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

The FRONZ conference over King's Birthday weekend next year (doesn't that sound strange!), is confirmed as being in the Bay of Islands, with the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway being our hosts.

We appreciate that, like Invercargill, it is a long way for many of our members to travel. However, this part of the country is so rich in New Zealand history, that for those of you that haven't been that far north before, it is definitely worth making the effort. Rather than just coming for the three days of conference, why not take a mini-holiday with us beforehand, and enjoy a few days of touring and socialising pre-conference.

For the FRONZ conference in 2023 FRONZ is proud to offer the following options:

1. Join our mini-holiday (see details below) and arrive in Kerikeri on Monday 29th May 2023 for four days exploring Northland before conference.
2. Arrive on Thursday 1st June and on Friday visit the historic sights of Waitangi Treaty Grounds and Russell, visiting the birthplace of our nation.
3. Attend for the conference only, arriving on Friday 2nd June and staying through to Monday 5th June. (Options as per past conferences)



CONFERENCE VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The venue for the conference is the Copthorne Hotel at Waitangi. Many of you may know this hotel by its former name of Waitangi Hotel. It is right on the waterfront next to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds and has beautiful gardens and view across the harbour to Russell. It is an international four-star hotel, and has ideal conference facilities to host our event. We have been able to negotiate good room rates which include breakfast, with rooms being held for us at these rates until mid-April only. (See below for details).

The Copthorne Hotel is close to Paihia, although it is two kilometres to the heart of Paihia where most of the restaurants and bars are. We have been able to negotiate a courtesy coach which will be available to take you into (and from) the heart of Paihia each half hour between five and nine o'clock at night. In addition, FRONZ will be hiring a van so we can do airport transfers to and from Kerikeri Airport and run-abouts as required. There is a Countdown supermarket within easy walking distance of the hotel should you want to get any supplies. If preferred, you can book accommodation elsewhere in Paihia, but you will be responsible for making your own way to and from the conference venue.

Whichever conference option you intend to take we strongly recommend that if you will be flying to the conference, that you book your flights as early as possible. Kerikeri is the closest airport, which is 22 kilometres from the venue. Currently return fares to and from Kerikeri from Wellington and Christchurch can be attained in the low \$300 range. There are only four or five flights into and out of Kerikeri each day, so fares will increase if you purchase your flight closer to the time of travel.



Photo: Millenium Hotels website

OPTION 1 - MINI HOLIDAY — HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTHLAND (MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY)

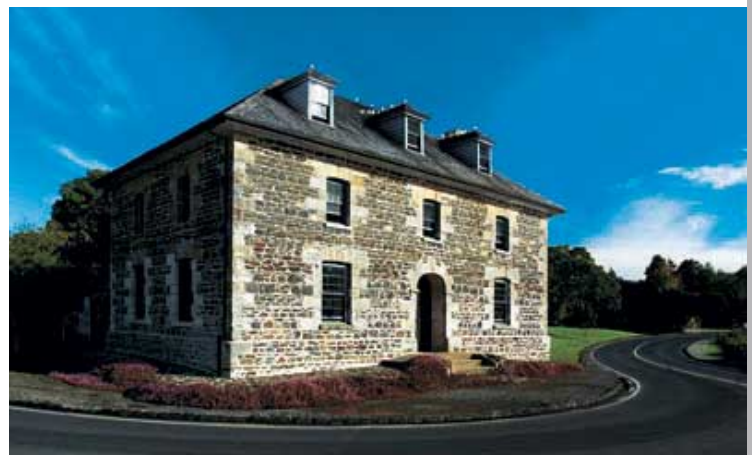
Margaret Gordon (the FRONZ Executive Officer) and husband John, together with Alan Verry (RES), will be the tour hosts for these few days.

The itinerary is as follows:

Day 1 – Monday 29th May – Arrive in Bay of Islands. If you are flying in, you will be picked up and transported to your accommodation.

Day 2 – Tuesday 30th May – In the morning we will embark upon the four and a half hour “Dolphin Cruise to the Hole in the Rock”. This will take in the stunning views of the island in the bay and glide through the islands and along the Rakaumangamanga Peninsula to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over Piercy Island, or as it is popularly known as the “Hole in the Rock”. The cruise will include a BBQ lunch. In the afternoon you will have free time to explore Paihia, or you may wish to visit the iconic Kerikeri Stone Store. We will have a hire van available for transport as required. Built in 1832, the Georgian-style Stone Store was originally a Missionary Society warehouse but assumed various roles including a trading post, library, barracks and boys’ school. It also served as a general store, a tradition that continues today in the atmospheric ground-floor gift shop.

A browser’s delight, the shop stocks an amazing range of authentic goods reminiscent of those traded in the early 19th century, alongside unique New Zealand merchandise. Museum displays can be viewed upstairs.



Photos: Left: Hole In The Rock - Stuff. Right: Kerikeri Stone Store - honeheke.co.nz

Day 3 – Wednesday 31st May – Cape Reinga and Ninety Mile Beach Tour – this will be an early morning start which will take us on a journey to the very tip of the North Island, uncovering a region of rich Maori tradition along the way. We will travel along the sand-swept shore of Ninety Mile Beach in a purpose-built coach. For those that are adventurous, there is the opportunity to climb the massive sand dunes at Te Paki Stream and experience the thrill of sand boarding.

Stand at the northernmost part of New Zealand and take in the panoramic views. From beneath the iconic lighthouse watch the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean collide far below, and take in the power of this special place.

The tour will include a delicious lunch prepared from locally prepared produce.

Day 4 – Thursday 1st June – Explore the Hokianga – we will be hiring a coach just for our party and travelling from the east coast to the west coast of Northland to visit the beautiful Hokianga Harbour, with its beaches of golden sand. We will visit Tane Mahuta, the awe-inspiring giant kauri tree in the Waipoua Forest. Lunch, which is included, will be at The Head Hotel on the waterfront on the harbour.

In the afternoon we will visit Manea: Footprints of Kupe, which offers a unique cultural encounter sharing the stories and traditions of Kupe and his descendants.

Day 5 – Friday 2nd June – Historic Northland – the Birth of our Nation – from the hotel we will stroll across to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds next door, and have a few hours to enjoy all that this historic place has to offer including a guided tour, cultural performances and a carving studio. Visit the Treaty House, Te Whare Runanga (a carved meeting house), see the iconic flagstaff and take in all that this site has to offer. Around midday we will catch the ferry across to Russell. You will have time for lunch in one of the numerous cafes or other eating places (own expense) before embarking on a minibus tour of Russell, taking you around all the famous sights and providing details of Russell's rich history. There will be time to cruise the lovely shops there, visit Pompallier Mission House or perhaps just enjoy a quiet one on the veranda of the famous Duke of Marlborough Hotel. We return late afternoon in time to register for the conference.



Photos: Left: Cape Reinga - doc.govt.nz. Right: Ninety Mile Beach - worldbeachguide.com

OPTION 2 – FRIDAY 2ND JUNE – WAITANGI TREATY GROUNDS AND RUSSELL

This is the same as Day 5 of the mini-holiday.

OPTION 3 – CONFERENCE ONLY (SATURDAY TO MONDAY)

The conference will follow the normal format of sessions all day Saturday, the AGM and further sessions on Sunday morning, followed by a tour to one of our members in the afternoon. This will involve taking a coach to Whangarei to visit the Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club. There we will be able to ride their trains, trams and get absorbed with their model railway exhibition. On the way back we will swing by the old Whangarei Railway Station and see the amazing restoration that has recently been completed thanks to the hard work of the local Menzshed supported by funding from the Rail Heritage Trust.

Monday will be a visit to our conference hosts, the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway at Kawakawa. Take time to ride the train and wander through their workshops and hear about the future developments that are in the planning stage.



Photos: Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway - Facebook



Photos: Left: Whangarei Railway Station - nzherald.co.nz. Right - Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club - steamnorth.co.nz

COSTS

Accommodation

The table below shows the various options that are available at the Copthorne Hotel at Waitangi, as long as you book before Friday 14th April. After that time the rooms that are being held for FRONZ will be released back to the market. Note that these special rates will apply from Monday 29th May to Tuesday 6th June inclusive. All rates INCLUDE breakfast. Prices include GST.

Room Type	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy
Standard Garden View Room	\$178	\$215
Superior Harbour View Room	\$191	\$228
Superior Plus Water View Room	\$210	\$247
Suite	\$268	\$305

Mini-Holiday

The cost per person for days one to five inclusive is \$650. This includes the tours outlined for the four days from Tuesday to Friday, and the airport transfer to the Copthorne Hotel (if required). Three lunches (Tuesday to Thursday) are included. It does not include the accommodation cost or the cost of travel to the Bay of Islands.

Historic Northland (Friday only)

The cost is \$75 for the day and includes entry to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the ferry to Russell and the minibus tour in Russell. Lunch is at your own expense.

Conference

The full conference, including the Sunday excursion to Whangarei and the Awards Night dinner, but excluding the Monday trip to Kawakawa costs \$355.00 per person. The full list of optional extras and part options for conference are available on the registration page.

Saturday option for partners not attending conference

We will have a van available that will seat 10-12 passengers. Partners may enjoy a trip to visit Kerikeri for shopping and a long lunch. This will be complimentary (but not the lunch!). There is also Parrot World in Kerikeri that is worth a visit, if anyone is interested.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

If you are interested in this option, can you please email the FRONZ Executive Officer Margaret Gordon directly. Let her know how many of you will be travelling, and whether you intend to fly to Kerikeri or arrive by car. This will help in determining airport logistics. Margaret's email address is marjohnzoe@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about the holiday then feel free to contact her directly on 0278329777.

This trip will require a non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person upon registering. All prices quoted include GST.

To register for conference, please visit fronz.org.nz/conferences/register



Photos: Left: Hokianga Harbour - visitboi.co.nz Right: Russell - russellnz.co.nz



Photos: Left: Tane Mahuta Walk - doc.govt.nz Right: Manea - Footprints Of Kupe - aa.co.nz

**ANNOUNCED AT THE 2022 FRONZ CONFERENCE
AND NOW AVAILABLE!**



Happy 85th Birthday TR56

A story and colouring in book.

FRONZ members wholesale price **\$5.00**

Recommended retail price **\$12.00**

Minimum order 20 books

Orders to the Rail Heritage Trust railheritage@heritage.org.nz

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TUNNEL
4 AUGUST 1923



LINKING
EAST
AND
WEST
FOR
100
YEARS
1923-2023

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

4th August 2023

For more information:

FB – Ōtira Tunnel Commemorations 2023

Email – otiratunnel2023@gmail.com

Register – www.eventbrite.co.nz

Travel to the event by train –

www.greatjourneysnz.com/gifts-and-specials-otira.co.nz

IN SEEK OF:

KINGSTON FLYER: AB795 needs both left and right hand side driving wheel brake blocks. If anybody, or group can help in locating any or knows where to purchase these, please contact Operations Manager Abbey Lynne Ph 021 2406220 or info@thekingstonflyer.nz



OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL DIGEST

February 2022

- We carried 726 passengers during January's regular running, plus the massive Alliance Pukeuri picnic.
- The society has a new digger, which is being rejuvenated with a replacement engine, de-rusting of light sheet metal, and a thorough overhaul.
- A new saw bench is being built, a new hot water cylinder for coffee and tea has been installed in the workshop lunch room, and bridge bolts are being worked on. The bridge across Oamaru Creek connects us with the KiwiRail network and needs a periodic inspection. After this Dunedin Railways or other excursions might bring trains down into the historic precinct again.
- TR 35's air reservoir now back in place, and Alliance Lorneville's DSC has received a large number of new pins and bushings for its brake gear.

Alliance Picnic Charter

Oamaru Steam and Rail participated in the Alliance Pukeuri staff picnic, with around 700 staff enjoying a BBQ, music and rides on steam locomotive B10, which was once one of the plant's steam engines.

Help!

We could do with more volunteers on the train, and for Wednesday/Saturday workshop sessions. In particular we are looking for someone with some engineering experience who could assist, or become, the chief engineer.



DJ1222 SHUNTING AT LORNEVILLE

Allan Boyer



BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB

Pukemiro Junction - The Glen Afton Line, March 2023

On the Friday evening before the February Open Day, I (Colin J) received a phone call that there were a couple of places on the sand fill (which is halfway from Pukemiro Junction to Glen Afton) where the track had moved. We went up & had a look on the Saturday morning & Pete C decided to close the track from the start of the sand fill. During the week we had seen quite a lot of rain & a 4.8 Richter sized earthquake that was centred near to Te Aroha. We found some cracks in the ground just on the downhill side of the track. There is a known fault line running through the construction & demolition dump who are our neighbours & this dump adjoins our railway in this area. At this stage we aren't too sure exactly what caused the track to buckle but suspect it could have been caused by the earthquake. It has been a long time since we had trouble in this area when the track dropped into an old underground mine in 1993. We have had a contractor look at how to fix the problem track & he is going to send us a quote to do the job. This contractor has done a lot of work on our railway in the past.

We have had a lot of reasonably heavy rain in the last six weeks & as I write this newsletter another cyclone is starting to affect NZ. We have suffered four slips plus a tree down on the top part of our railway. We can't get access to clear these until the twisted track has been repaired.

There was a very wide spread damage to our area, mostly trees down but also some power lines down. The power to our area was out from 11pm on Monday 13th until 6am on Wednesday 15th.

We hope that none of our members were affected by all this very rough weather.



Left: track issues after the recent events (P. Cairncross). Right: a clear view of the line, with the challenges of keeping the vegetation under control! (C. Mann)

SOUTH CANTERBURY TRACTION ENGINE & TRANSPORT MUSEM

Tractioncorp, February 2023

Fairlie's New Years Day Parade 2023

Once again the Fairlie Heritage Museum has run another successful event. With fine warm weather encouraging both participants and spectators to turn out in good numbers, the parade procession that passed through Fairlie would have been equal in size to previous years.

Our Club was well represented this year with trucks, tractors and army equipment taking part.

The Gibson family accompanied by Michael Ross of Ashburton, chose to drive tractors up from Levels, Michael having already driven his W6 International tractor down from Ashburton during the week in anticipation for the drive up to Fairlie on the first day of 2023.



Left: The tractor convoy stopped in Albury for a quick break. Right: trucks from the Classic Truck museum on display after the parade.

DSA218 ON RUNNING DUTIES AT THE PLAINS



Photos: Tony Cameron

TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Ferrymead Tram Tracts, January/February 2023

Cable Car 103

Today, 28th January 2023, Grip Car 103 has taken its first steps towards Dunedin. Sitting for the first time on its own wheels it travelled all of 3 metres towards the exit door through which it will one day pass when complete. This move was necessary to provide more working space for some new paid staff who are being hired to finish off the rebuild of electric Hills Car No 24, and to recondition Brill electric car No 178. This will arrive in the workshop in March.

By moving 103, space has been provided for new work bench facilities and for the sides of 178 to be removed and laid out. Having to get 103 on its wheel meant Lawrie Cooper and Don McAra had to grease the axle journals, fit the axlebox castings and rubber cushioning, and install the U shaped strap bolts from under the main chassis timbers up through the axle box castings where washers and nuts affix the axle box structures to the top side of the chassis.

In most rail vehicles the axle boxes are below the chassis, not above. The Mornington cable cars were designed to be very low running. We suspect that this was so to enable early 20th Century ladies, wearing hobble skirts, to enter the cabins with an absolute minimum display of even their ankles, Remember that this was the period when even dining table legs in wealthy homes were decorously covered so as to save the blushes of the prim and proper!

At any rate, today was a big step forward for our little cable car 103!



Left: Grip car 103 has just rounded the pull curve just above Queen's Drive at the top of High St and is headed towards the Mornington terminus up a reserved track beside Eglinton Road. Most likely in 1957, the last year 103 ran in Dunedin. Photographer unknown.

Right: Graeme Richardson and Alan Hinman moving 103 towards its new home beside the door. Photo-Don McAra

WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM

Tramlines, January - February 2023

Tram 17

Tram 17 is now parked on display on Road 2 of the Tram Barn while approval for operations is sought from the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA). It was shown to members at the AGM on 26th November (see story, Nov.-.Dec. 2022 Tramlines) and on occasions since then it has been moved outside for display.

Tram 207

In this period work has continued upgrading the second controller (one having already been completed), upgrading the magnetic brakes and a start on cleaning and sorting the rails and fittings for the saloon ceiling bars and handles for standing passengers. Two pole bases for the roof have been cleaned down with one dismantled so far with the intention of having one upgraded for use on 207.

Trams

Daily operations were provided between 26 December 2022 and 23 January 2023 with 159, 239 and 260 being used plus limited use of 151. In the lead-up to daily operations work on these trams was as follows:

Tram 159 had pole rope tension checked, controllers were checked and a windscreen wiper motor was replaced.

Tram 239 had an M3 check completed and controllers checked.

Tram 260 had a compressor governor fault fixed.

Tram 151 had an M3 check completed.

Tram 235

The dismantling of this tram has started with items taken off the roof and the removal of the apron, panels and fittings of the B end compartment. The roof was in poor condition and care had to be taken to ensure no one fell through it.

Container No 2 has had a tidy up to attempt to provide storage space for some of the reuseable parts off 235.



Left: Dismantling of Fiducia 235 has commenced. Here items are being removed from the "B" end.
Right: Colin Dash (left) and Grant Johnson with a pole base being considered for restoration for tram 207. Photos: Mike Flinn,

WAITARA RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC

Derek Baker

Final touches are being applied to our new open passenger car, being built to replace our current, much smaller, NAK wagon.

Flat bogey wagon EA3298 has been transformed over the last couple of years with the addition of a passenger-carrying superstructure.

After the bare wagon was rust-proofed and painted, a wooden deck was added, then a covered construction, which is nearing completion. Boarding steps and a gangway have yet to be added, and the roofing iron is to be installed very soon.

Project team leaders Dennis Jones and Keith Hancock expect completion within a few weeks.



Left: EA3298. Photo- Derek Baker, Middle: C100, right: Horsnell found on the window framing.
Photos- Lumsden Heritage Trust Facebook

LUMSDEN HERITAGE TRUST

Facebook

Bit of a push on today with the removal of the remainder of the old cladding on C100.

Plan now is to bolt the carriage to the frame, rebuild the window frames to make way for the new windows & blinds before the new t&g goes on.

It seems that Indian Red was applied to what was varnished originally.

Reinstatement of the sliding doors is going to be a bit of a challenge.

Thanks to David Stalker Building in Mossburn for the use of the scaffold made the job a lot easier.

Big thank you to all of you who have followed and liked The Lumsden Heritage Trust page, it all helps.

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Progress, thanks to Quintin of Northern Southland Engineering Ltd who came up today to bolt C100 to her new under frame very much appreciated as he is very busy.

We have also made progress with stripping the paint from the interior so we can restore the varnished surfaces to original.

Not sure what the stamped name "Horsnell" means but found this on the window framing today? Was this a cheeky apprentice or the name of the workshop C100 was built in?

GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY

Graeme Scott

Following on from the problems with Wa165 not being able to cross over the Tauranganui River Bridge to get to the port, we have now taken delivery of the 3rd (and final) set of boarding steps. These are being used at our new boarding point opposite the Senator Motor Inn, with the cruise ship passengers being transferred there from the port by bus.

Cruise ship excursions are keeping us busy at the moment – a very welcome position to be in. However, the visit to Gisborne on 4th December by the cruise ship “Le Soléal” was cancelled. According to the Gisborne Herald, “the Ministry for Primary Industries ordered a ‘biofouling’ inspection on the hull of Le Soléal”.

Since then (up until 20th January), we have had another 3 successful cruise ship excursions. Between the 24th January and 25th February, we have another 7 cruise ship excursions scheduled (one day has a ship excursion scheduled in the morning and an excursion for a different ship in the afternoon) with the possibility that one of those ships will want 2 excursions on the same day – making a total of 8. During that same time period, we also have 2 public excursions scheduled. Only excursions open to the public are shown on our website (www.gcvr.org.nz/bookings/). A very busy month ahead!

With the arrival of “Le Laperouse” on 14th January, the Muriwai School was back in action at Muriwai with their Kapa Haka – their first one for this year, with many of their Whanau also present. An excellent turn-out remembering that it was still the school holidays and also a Saturday. Their efforts were certainly appreciated by the cruise ship passengers. The money earned from these performances (which are part of the cruise ship excursion programme) enables the 30 pupil primary school to purchase items for their pupils that they would not otherwise be able to afford.

Most ships anchor with their passengers coming in on their tenders, but as “Le Laperouse” berthed at the port, their passengers were collected at the ship’s gangway by the buses for transportation to the train. This meant that the bus drivers had to obtain/update their port clearances to drive inside the port area.

Guy Needham (www.guyneedham.com) was present on one of the public excursions. He is writing a “Beyond the Beaches” article for the New Zealand Herald – things to do in Gisborne away from the water.

See our website www.gcvr.org.nz for the latest updates, excursion information and our more detailed newsletters.



Left: La Laperouse berthed at Gisbourne. Right: Cruise ship steps.

THE CONTROLLER

MOTAT

Tram 11: Ongoing mechanical restoration work. Upper chafing blocks for the truck bolsters have been machined and are being fitted with packers to bring back to the original specifications. Lower chafing blocks are to be fitted with bronze packers. These will be screwed to the top of the chafing block to bring them up to the original specification. We have had Jasper Rose, the museum's Blacksmith, pour some bronze castings for us, which have now been machined. Both axles have now been returned from Titan Marine and the next job is to have Andre Pointon begin work on the white metal axle bearings.

Tram 257: After much testing and sample work with a local spring maker, we now have a new retriever spring fitted into one of 257's trolley pole retrievers, so when the pole dewires, the sudden upward movement trips off the retrieving spring and pulls the pole down away from the overhead. The trick is that they must be reset properly before the pole is put back on the wire to ensure they will work again next time and more important, that the unit does not lock and thus pull the pole off the wire itself. Much credit must go to Brian Coutts, one of the Tuesday volunteers, who persevered with the springs unit we got the forming correct, and then the nasty job off installing the coiled-up spring, into the retriever casework. He now has three more retrievers to set up!

Tram 321: Another big shout-out to Brian Coutts again, this time for another job he recently tackled – making all new controller fingers for tram 321. Both controller drums now have a full set of brand-new fingers fitted and following some teething issues, both controllers are now operating well. Brian is a real tiger for punishment, as he has now set himself the task of making a complete set of controller fingers and segments for tram 248.



Left: Chafing block with bronze packer. Right: The chafing blocks fitted to the trucks

PLEASANT POINT

Talking Point, Bryan Blanchard

Again its been a very busy month at the railway museum for its working members.

Tour party's are back with New Zealand & Australian based ones coming to visit us. They bring many visitors from round New Zealand and a number of country's, overseas. A number have lunch in our meeting room, a look over our site and 2 or 3 short old movies in our vintage 40 seat movie theatre. Most want a steam locomotive hauling their train.

Working bees include, keeping our lawns cut and keeping the gardens tidy as well as other work which has included painting our 2 large fire water sprinkler tanks at Keanes Crossing – Cutting up and splitting more of the recently donated logs, to be used for firewood in our 2 steam locomotives once they have been stacked and dried out.

The Ford Model T Rail car is out of action at present, Engine / Gearbox problems plus a broken rear axle. The axle hub also needs replacing – these 2 are at present being manufactured by two of our engineering members. The brake callipers need replacing too – we are at present trying to locate suitable ones, as the original ones are discontinued.

Easter is our next big steaming weekend = 8 th to 10 th of April, 10.30am to the last train at 4pm. We are running again our very popular, “ Kiwi the Engine and Friends “. It proves very popular with young and old.

Our next popular Saturday evening movie screening in our 40 seat vintage theatre in Keanes Crossing is on Saturday, 11.3.2023, starting at 7.30pm. The usual first half will include a old newsreel, plus more. At half time there will be on sale for those who want one, a \$2 trumpet ice cream. The main movie to be screened is a, 1961 Twentieth Century Fox colour movie = “ The Comancheros “, starring John Wayne as a fearless, Texas Ranger. Also in the cast is : Stuart Whitman, Lee Marven plus more. Entry, as usual is \$2 plus a plate for supper. Pass the world, everyone welcome.



Left: TV1 rest from filming at Pleasant Point Railway Station on 14.12.2022 Left to right, Camera Operator, Rebecca O'Sullivan, Ab699 Driver – Leon James, Fireman, Kyro Brook, TV1 Interviewer, Katie Stevenson.
Photo- Bryan Blanchard.

Right: The running day on the 5th of February. Photo- Courtney Kilner

WHANGANUI TRAM LINES

“We were married on a tram in Whanganui. It wasn’t the plan but it was fabulous,” say newly-weds, Margaret Evelyn and Mark Grove. “It was so different and really special.”

Their plans went awry but they found a solution in Whanganui’s vintage tram, Mable. The West Australian couple had to change plans at the last minute but say the tram proved to be the perfect venue.

“It is beautifully restored and had enough room inside to seat our wedding party of 10. The leather seats are comfortable, the windows give good views and the volunteers went out of their way to make our day special,” Mr and Mrs Grove said after the event on Tuesday 7 February.

The couple had planned to be married in Mark’s sister’s garden in Whanganui. It overlooks the Whanganui River and was the perfect choice for them as they love the water. Their Western Australian home overlooks the Indian Ocean, they kayak in the local river, and the groom has spent years working as a commercial fisherman and piloting vessels.

Mark grew up in New Zealand and Margaret in Indonesia but chose New Zealand for their ceremony so his 94-year-old mother could attend.

Then their hostess tested positive for Covid five days out from their wedding day and the couple had to find a new venue for their wedding ceremony. They wanted water nearby and decided to marry on the banks of the river. The celebrant advised that they would need shelter in case of rain.

After some discussion, Mark’s sister, Penny Robinson, a tram volunteer, suggested they book the tram. It could be parked on the river bank in the shade, and offer shelter from sun, wind and rain.

The couple said yes and on the big day, friends, family and tram volunteers decorated the tram with bunting and roses in pinks, lavenders and white to match the bride’s outfit. With the tram parked in shade beside the river, under pohutukawa trees that were an integral part of the groom’s childhood and tall floral decorations in big pots either side of the tram steps, bunting flapping in the wind and a lectern inside decorated with roses (generously gifted by Bob and Kath Mathews of Matthew’s Nurseries) the tram looked stunning, the couple agreed.



Whanganui Tram Lines, continued

"The enclosed passenger cabin had plenty of room to seat our party of 10, and gave us a quiet private space beforehand to talk with the celebrant," the couple said. And when they had said, "I do" and been pronounced husband and wife, there was space for them to sign the register and stand aside while the witnesses did the same.

"They were even able to use a cell phone to connect to my family in Indonesia," said the bride. "So my family could be with us even though they live so far away. And we'll have another ceremony there in December so they can celebrate with us too."

Emerging from the tram as Mr and Mrs Grove, the couple said they loved the surroundings, the ambience and the backdrop. "We have some stunning photos and wonderful memories. Even though we were sorry to have to make new arrangements, things worked out well. We would certainly recommend the tram as a wedding venue. It was fun, and different and the volunteers

made us so welcome. And having Penny drive the tram out in her wedding outfit just added to the day."

Footnote: The hostess has recovered from Covid.



STEAM INCORPORATED

Facebook



Left: Hamish and Dave removing 945's tender drawgear for inspection and non destructive testing. Right: ORB #2 pulls 398 out of the shed during a re-shuffle, this is the first time since November 2011 that the locomotive has seen the outside.



Left: 398 - one of the reasons for the shuffle is to enable the Flying 15 Team access to the cylinders and valves on the firemans side. Right: Aa1670 checking out its new X25140 feet as Peter N makes a start on dismantling.



Left: Jacob, Hamish, Alan Bailey and Dennis check out 945's underframe drawing. ensuring the spring compensating gear is returned to brand new. Right: David Rowland works his way through trim restoration inside A1868.

WAIMEA PLAINS RAILWAY

The Mandeville Fly-In & Steam Festival was held over the weekend of the 18th of February, featuring a massive line up of Traction Engines, car displays, market stalls, flights and displays by the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre, and of course K92 in steam.



Left: Waimea Plains Railway, Mandeville and Rogers K92 Locomotive Facebook. Right: Charlie O'Brien photography, Facebook

PAHIATUA RAILCAR SOCIETY INC

Facebook

Over 4 days the weeken before last, RM 31 returned to the Taranaki to run a series of local trips from Puke Arki to both Inglewood on the Saturday and Lepperton on the Sunday. Due to various events over the last few years, it's been 5 years since these trips were last run but the sight and sound of RM 31 once again running on familiar rails proved popular. What is now a life time ago, the Standard's along with the Blue Streaks were once part of the fabric of society in the Taranaki region during the era of railcars and it was great to see the interest RM 31 attracted when roaming up and down the line in the New Plymouth area. We look forward to next time.



Left: RM 31 near Inglewood under Mount Taranaki (Egmont). Photo- Doug Johnston.
Right: Approaching Puke Ariki. Photo- John Bovis.

WEKA PASS RAILWAY

Facebook

Dg791 getting its number two cylinder head changed out today. This was a joint operation between Weka Pass Railway and Diesel Traction Group. The head had dropped a valve guide that had started to disintegrate! The team at KC Engine Reconditioning and Heavy Diesel Parts and Services turned around a reconditioned head for us in a matter of days. Final torquing to 600 foot pounds is required, then we can do a live engine test.



MAINLINE STEAM HERITAGE TRUST

Facebook

The team at Plimmerton has had a busy start to the year with carriage Ao48 now painted and final reassembly underway. There is a lot of little finishing jobs to complete but the bulk of this work should be complete in March.

Jb1236 has been back in steam after an issue arose with one of the pumps which has now been resolved. Annual inspections are currently being completed on this loco.

Dj1229 has been helping with some shunting in the depot as we re-position our rolling stock from time to time to meet our operational requirements.



Left: Ao48 painted with the Mainline Steam decals in place. Right: Jb1236 in steam to test the pumps.

UPCOMING MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

Glenbrook Vintage Railway

GVR have multiple trips available, including the Steam Train Experience and First Class Experience

For more details visit - www.gvr.org.nz/events/whats-on

Steam Incorporated

Steam Incorporated have plenty of trips over the next few months, including the Heartland Flyer Steam Experience, the Grand Circle Rail Cruise, the Canterbury Cruiser and the rare opportunity to head over the Arthurs Pass behind Da1431 on the Alpine Ranger.

More information is available at- www.steaminc.org.nz/book-train-trip

Dunedin Railways

Summer is underway, with the Seaside and Inlander both operating regularly over the summer. There are also special trips including the Victorian.

More information is available at- www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/journeys

Gisborne City Vintage Railway

There are plenty of trips coming up over the Summer to Muriwai.

More details available at- <https://www.gcvr.org.nz/bookings/>

Feilding and District Steam Rail Society Inc

Around the Block 1 - To Wellington 2023 is operating on the 18th of March.

More information is available at- https://events.steamrail.org.nz/?page_id=4

Kingston Flyer

Operating Sundays to Fairlight and return departing Kingston at 10.30am and

2.00pm. Bookings go to www.thekingstonflyer.nz or email info@thekingstonflyer.nz

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