



# JOURNAL

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## FRONZ CONFERENCE 2015

Another FRONZ Conference has been and gone. This year a good number of delegates, partners and guests met at Clubs Marlborough in Blenheim with fine weather all Queens Birthday weekend.



## BOILER CODE UPDATE

As discussed at the recent FRONZ Conference Peter George of Sentinel Inspection Services has been contracted by FRONZ to update the Boiler Code.

To assist in the consultation process we require one person to be nominated from each FRONZ group currently operating steam locomotive boilers to be the contact person for the consultation. I have been in contact with most groups that currently operate boilers either at the Conference or subsequently by e-mail to find out who the nominee is. If you are a group that does not currently operate steam locomotive boilers, but feel you should be part of the consultation process, please forward me the details of your contact person. [nigel.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.hogg@gmail.com). Nigel Hogg. Boilers Convener

**JOURNAL IS FOR ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS. PLEASE  
FORWARD IT TO ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS**

## FRONZ CONFERENCE 2015—Continued

Many delegates took the opportunity to start at Nelson on Friday afternoon with a few hours at the Nelson Railway where they entertained us on their train, railcar and facilities plus the advanced work on restoration of their Wf locomotive. The Nelson people catered a very pleasant lunch as well.



*Above: Visitors admire the railcar at Nelson and the well-advanced restoration of WF 403. Photos: Scott Osmond*



*Above left: Lindsay Benbrook, Barry Ollerenshaw and Michael Boyton enjoy the view and the famous Nelson sun. Right: Hunslet locomotive running around the train at Tui station. Photos: D.L.A. Turner.*

Friday evening many members arrived at the conference venue, Clubs Marlborough, to register and enjoyed the facilities on offer at this excellent venue.

Saturday was our "working day". After the Mayor of Marlborough, Alastair Sowman opened the conference and welcomed visitors local identity and representative of our host group Blenheim Riverside Railway, John Orchard, gave us a presentation on the history of railways in Marlborough with a well researched photographic show.



*Left: The Mayor of Marlborough, Alastair Sowman opens the conference. Photo: D. L. A Turner*

## FRONZ CONFERENCE 2015—Continued

**NZTA.** Next we met the manager of NZTA Rail Section Debbie Despard who, supported by Rob Gould, shared their vision for the future of rail safety. Debbie emphasised that the responsibility for rail safety is on the industry itself. NZTA has high expectations of safety performance and is looking to recognise best practice and partner with other agencies. NZTA will act decisively with operators in a more pro-active approach and focus on good news. The philosophy is that if you create a risk then you must manage it.

NZTA wishes to continue their good relationship with a high level of cooperation and engagement, utilising FRONZ as a "safety Champion" to encourage a safety culture throughout the industry. NZTA is considering offering a regular "Safety Award".

Rob Gould talked about NZTA targeting critical risks including tunnels, substance impairment (Clear Heads campaign). There is a need to work together with Worksafe so that effort is not doubled up. Rob also discussed the temporary suspension of rail safety assessments and need for good occurrence reporting.

**Kiwirail.** Our annual Kiwirail Update was given again by David Gordon. Some of the main points were that the introduction of "Super" size container ships to Port of Tauranga will have a large impact as will the competition between ports. Coal tonnage was down 5 million tons and this is an unsustainable reduction. The scenic train have made a profit and Interislander has had its best year. Kiwirail is moving to a "One Kiwirail" business focus with all business units focussed on the same objectives.

**SPIKE.** David Webb introduced his company, Spike Consulting, and the service he offers to assist rail heritage operators with training and developing operational procedures.

**RMTU.** We welcomed Wayne Butson the RMTU Secretary who gave us an informative presentation on current RMTU issues and the relationship with Heritage Rail.

**NZRHT.** Murray King gave us an update on the activities of the Rail Heritage Trust and mentioned the Heritage NZ Act, 2014, that creates the Heritage NZ Authority that authorises any modification or demolition of any historical site associated with pre-1900 human activity.

**Trams.** Dave Hinman gave us an update on tramway activities during the year with particular emphasis on the Christchurch extension.

Lindsay Benbrook of MAjik Video also presented a short video of Marlborough railway activities in more recent times.

On Saturday evening many delegates and partners enjoyed the dining facilities available at Clubs Marlborough.

Sunday morning the FRONZ AGM was held. Of note all Executive Officers were re-elected.

After the meeting we heard an update from Nigel Hogg on progress with the FRONZ Boiler Inspection project. Also John Peterson updated us with the exciting news that construction is likely soon to begin on the main complex of the National Railway Museum due to success in achieving funding for a slightly altered building from the original design.

Our annual video show of members achievements was put together by David Maciulaitis.

After lunch on Sunday it was time to relax and have some fun. We all made our way out to the Beaver Station of the Blenheim Riverside Railway, with a short stop on the way for David Turner to take our conference group picture. The trains and railcar then took us on the 6km trip to Omaka via Brayshaw Park including the BRRS workshop. At Omaka we visited the spectacular Aviation Heritage Centre which has support and input from the Film Director Peter Jackson.



*Left: The Blenheim Riverside train and railcar at the two Taylor River bridges Photos: D. L. A Turner*

## FRONZ CONFERENCE 2015—Continued



After a fun afternoon we all returned to Clubs Marlborough for the Annual FRONZ Awards Dinner. See separate article for the award details.

*Above from Left: Chris Barton, Don Selby, John Orchard and Graeme Clover. Photos: D. L. A Turner*

Monday a large number of us headed up to Picton where we had a tour, again ably hosted by John Orchard, of the preserved ship Edwin Fox, the ninth oldest surviving ship in the world. This for me was a real highlight of the weekend. I bought the recent book written with the story of the Edwin Fox and its story is absolutely fascinating. For those who missed it if you are near Picton take the time for a visit.



*Above: John Orchard describes the Edwin Fox to us on the semi-restored "tween" deck and the group inspects the hold. Photos: Scott Osmond*

So ended our conference for another year. As an organiser I wish to thank John Orchard and the host group, Blenheim Riverside Railway, for your help, which was such an important factor in making our visit a success. Thanks also to Bob Murray, Valerie Knight, and the team at Nelson for running your trains for us on Friday and providing lunch. Thanks to Karen and her team at the Edwin Fox and the Omapa Aviation Centre team. Thanks to Michael Boyton who supplied transport between Nelson and Blenheim which unfortunately was not used by enough delegates to make such an option worthwhile in future. In particular I would like to thank the team at Clubs Marlborough for providing an excellent venue, food and welcome.

Finally thanks to our sponsors, New Zealand Transport Agency, New Zealand Rail Heritage Trust, Z Energy, and Clubs Marlborough. the generosity of these organisations helped keep our costs down and hopefully enabled more people to attend the 2015 FRONZ Conference.

Next year we are in Auckland hosted by Railway Enthusiasts Society and Glenbrook Vintage Railway. Work has already begun on finding a venue and formulating an interesting weekend. Hope to see many of you there.

## FRONZ AWARDS 2015

Here is the full list of awards presented to our members at the annual Awards Dinner at the 2015 FRONZ Conference.

**Kiwirail Infrastructure Improvement Award** (with \$2,000 from Kiwirail) Blenheim Riverside Railway Society for completion of the track extension to Omaka. *Below: FRONZ President Grant Craig presents John Orchard with the Infrastructure Award*



**Shantytown Steam School Steam Locomotive Restoration Award** (with \$2,000 sponsored by Tai Poutini Poly-tech) Bush Tramway Club for the "Peckett" locomotive. *Above: Ian Tibbles presents Richard Ellis with the Infrastructure Award*

**Rail Heritage Trust Award** Pahiatua Railcar Society for the restoration of the Waikanae Railway Station at Eketahuna. *Below: Murray King, Chairman of NZ Rail Heritage Trust presents Don Selby with the RHT Award.*



## FRONZ AWARDS 2015—Continued



**Goods Wagon Restoration Award.** MOTAT Railway Section for the restoration of NZR Hand Crane No. 283.

*Above. FRONZ President Grant Craig and David Maciulaitis with the goods wagon award.*

**Taieri Gorge Railway Passenger Car Award** (with \$500 from TGR) Steam Incorporated for the restoration of NZR 56ft second class cars A1902 and A 1953.

**Paul Heighton Memorial Trophy for Excellence** Steam Incorporated for the restoration of locomotive Ab 608 "Passchendaele".



*FRONZ President Grant Craig presents Graeme Clover with both awards won by Steam Incorporated.*

## FRONZ AWARDS 2015—Continued

**Tramway Restoration Award,** Heritage Tramways Trust for the restoration of Dunedin Tramways Box Car No. 11



*Above. FRONZ President Grant Craig with Dave Carr and Graeme Richardson.*

**AON Young Achievers Award.** Scott McIntyre of the Blenheim Riverside Railway Society.



No awards were made this year for the Diesel/Electric Loco Restoration Award or the Weta Workshops Award for Creativity.

*Photos of presentations in this article all by D. L. A. Turner.*

## FRONZ CONFERENCE—HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT CONFERENCE

The FRONZ Executive are keen to ensure the showpiece of our industry, our annual conference, continues to be a success and meet our member's needs.

Next year, 2016, our conference is in Auckland from June 3-6. Being a main centre, travel to and from should be easier and cheaper, but against that the cost of using facilities and getting around can be more expensive. In our planning we will do our best to reduce that to a minimum for you.

We have some regular supporters who contribute significantly in sponsorship which keeps individual costs down, but this level of sponsorship is by no means guaranteed in future.

So we are asking members for feedback regarding what they would like to see included and/or excluded from future conferences. We have to consider if you would like more or less conference sessions, more or less field trips and member site visits. Do we have the right presenters and subjects covered? Is the conference too long over 3-4 days or too short? Are you happy with the Annual Awards Dinner format? Is the conference at the right time of the year? Are our venues OK? Could they be better or are they too upmarket?

If you have some thoughts you would like to share on how we do conference please send them to us.

E-mail Trevor Burling [trevor.burling@xtra.co.nz](mailto:trevor.burling@xtra.co.nz) or Scott Osmond [scottosmond@xtra.co.nz](mailto:scottosmond@xtra.co.nz) with your thoughts.

Thanks in anticipation.

## RAIL SAFETY WEEK 10—16 AUGUST 2015

Rail Safety Week 2015 – it's a date!

Rail Safety Week is fast approaching and this year KiwiRail is keen to hear from any FRONZ members who would like to do something to mark the week.

Now in its 9th year, Rail Safety Week runs from 10-16 August and aims to improve awareness of the need to be safe around the rail network and understanding of what safe behaviour is.



Megan Drayton from TrackSAFE NZ says while rail safety is promoted year round, Rail Safety Week is a big opportunity to get maximum public exposure of a cause that is close to all of us in the rail industry.

"This year's theme is 'Expect a Train'," she says. "We're now finalising the campaign which will include billboard, radio, print advertising and social media.

"If any groups would like to be involved during the week, whether that means running their own public events, or simply promoting the week on their Facebook page or websites, we would love to hear from them.

"We can supply imagery for websites/Facebook pages and posters will be available to download as well."

KiwiRail plans and coordinates the activities and works closely with TrackSAFE NZ and other organisations such as NZ Police, NZ Transport Agency, Auckland Transport and Transdev Auckland.

Please contact KiwiRail Senior Communications Advisor Tammy Dickinson [tammy.dickinson@kiwirail.co.nz](mailto:tammy.dickinson@kiwirail.co.nz) if you would like to be involved in promoting the week.

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

These items are obtained from numerous e-newsletters that our member groups publish. Members are welcome to submit these or any other information they would like to share with the wider rail and tramway heritage community by e-mailing to [scottosmond@xtra.co.nz](mailto:scottosmond@xtra.co.nz)

*Note: Members news is shorter this month due to conference coverage. Look for more next month.*

## BAY OF ISLANDS VINTAGE RAILWAY

### Fantastic community support for Puff and Pull Carnival 2015

That may be a little far-fetched, but the Puff and Pull Carnival on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May was certainly a day that will be remembered and treasured by huge crowd of people who came to participate in, and to applaud the participants, in a series of events in a fantastic community day.

The day started with approx 900 children, with their parents and teachers in the sponsored "Trek the Track" between Opuia and UK Rugby Club grounds Taumarere. The great community support started with free bus transport from Clark Coachline, and this support was continued throughout the day from over 20 different organisations.

Following the Trek came probably one of the most unique events in the world, and certainly in New Zealand, as school and community teams puffed and toiled to pull 28 ton Gabriel the steam engine the length of a main street which is also a state highway! With hugely enthusiastic crowd support and an almost manic Frank Leadley urging them on to greater efforts, the school contest was won by Bay of Islands College in a time of 1min 28.15 secs, and the Tai Tokerau Community Cops took out a fiercely contested Pull for a new trophy in a time of 1 min 51.50 secs.

But then came the highlight of the day with the hugely powerful Joyce twins – David and Tom, who had risen to the challenge of attempting to move Gabriel on their own. The whole crowd erupted in applause as they emerged from the Hunter Star Hotel, each in a special "hauling harness" donated by Auckland firm Active Safety for the event. Tom and David put huge effort in, and Gabriel .... moved! Huge cheers and encouragement from the crowd – they were world beaters!

The Carnival was organised by the Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway (BOIVR), with huge support from over 20 organisations, businesses and all local schools, including Bay of Islands Rotary Club, Sport Northland, Clarks Coachline, Kawakawa Business Association, Kawakawa Lions Club, Ngati Hine Health Trust, St John's Ambulance, Far North District Council (full list below). In addition, Event Co-ordinator Anne Leitch paid tribute to her team of



organisers and the BOIVR volunteers, who made the event so successful.

As Event Co-ordinator on behalf of the Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway (BOIVR), Anne Leitch stated "It has been an amazing day – set off by beautiful weather. There was a marvelous atmosphere. The Park was a-buzz with people, there were happy children and adults along Trek the Track; world record-smashing attempts by Puff & Pull teams; and fantastic support for David and Tom, our very own local strongmen now world beaters! We succeeded in bringing back a Community Event, which highlights the talent and flair of our Far North folk. It is attracting huge national and world attention".

### **Puff and Pull Results**

Te Tai Tokerau Police 1.51.50; Taniwha 1.53.50; United Kawakawa Rugby and Netball 2.03.22; Fire Service Combined 2.06.59; Bay of Islands College Staff 2.10.50; Otiria Rugby Club 2.18.73; Ngati Hine Health Trust 2.44.60.

Bay of Islands College 1.28.15; Kawakawa Primary 1.48.90; Opua School 2.20.71. Waikare School clocked 1.38.65 but adults had to make up numbers for the tiny school.

The two trophies were presented–

Ruth Moore on behalf of the BOI Rotary Club who had provided the "Puff and Pull Trophy" for the school team competition.

John Carter, Mayor, presented the "Gabriel Trophy" (provided by Far North District Council) for the adult teams.

*Pictures: Teams competing: Tai Tokerau Community Cops; & BOI College; Tom & David Joyce*



## **WANGANUI FLOODS**

We have all been watching the flooding in Wanganui and the effect on FRONZ members there. This message has been sent by Blair Jordan, President, SteamRail Wanganui

Hi All, it has finally happened. After many years of SteamRail Wanganui missing the floods we have been hit along with the KiwiRail yard. It was Wanganui's worst flood on record. This will take several weeks to clear up. Before we can even start in the shed we will have to clear the doorways and tracks in front. This will allow us to get the Locos and rolling stock out so we can do the big job of getting rid of the mud from inside. Thank you to Ewan and Colin who went down before hand and lifted smaller items clear just in case we got flooded. I plan to be there over 3 days next weekend (Saturday to Monday) to start the clean up. We once again need members help. If you can do so come along over the next few weeks. There will be a lot of shovelling and hosing down to do. Cheers.

From the Wanganui Tramways Facebook page:

Unfortunately due to flood damage we will not be running the Tram for the foreseeable future and the museum will be closed. A lot of mud has been found everywhere in the tram shed and the tracks are not visible due to river debris.

Thankfully No.12 was not majorly damaged, mainly just a little bit dirty.

## MEMBERS CLASSIFIEDS

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – VULCAN RAILCAR RM57

The Canterbury Railway Society Inc (CRS) wishes to seek expressions of interest from other FRONZ member groups in Vulcan Railcar Rm57.

The CRS has two operable Vulcan Railcars, no's 51 and 56, and has no current plans to restore Rm57. Rm57 is currently stored outside and is available "as is where is" in a semi dismantled state. Rm57 was retired from NZR service in the 1970's after reportedly seizing its engine. Some preparatory work was done to fix the engine which is also in a semi dismantled state. NZR significantly rebuilt the body on Rm57 after it suffered a fire which makes some body details different to the other railcars and is thought to have had the asbestos insulation removed at this time. The CRS is unable to make any spares available to restore Rm57 where these are needed for the other railcars but will use its best endeavours to assist where possible.



Expressions of interest should be received no later than 16 August 2015. Consideration will be given to interested groups restoration track record, skills within the group, and ability to finance the work. The railcar is viewable upon request.

Expressions of interest or any other queries should be directed to the General Manager, Nigel Hogg, [e-mail: nigel.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.hogg@gmail.com)



# PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Having worked for our emergency services now for 30 years I just couldn't resist this!

Norfolk Southern has unveiled the newest addition to its honorary locomotive fleet. NS Altoona-built SD60E No. 911 honours the country's hard-working emergency first responders in the law enforcement, fire, and EMS professions.

*From Trains Newswire*



**FRONZ CONFERENCE AUCKLAND  
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