



JOURNAL

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PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITOR, SCOTT OSMOND, BY E-MAIL : scottosmond@xtra.co.nz

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SEASONS GREETINGS



While normal people spend this time of year looking forward to special family time we railfans (I dare not use the F....ER word!) look forward to running our trains and trams, getting dirty and covered in black stuff, but mostly seeing the smiling faces of our passengers who still get a thrill from riding a train or tram and seeing a genuine restored piece of our transport history in action.

Sadly 2016 has seen further reduction of our rail system in Northland and we hope the government keeps its promise to restore the Kaikoura line. There is a glimmer of light for Napier - Wairoa but who knows what will happen to the Gisborne - Wairoa section. Now today we hear that the electrics are going to get switched off on the North Island Main Trunk.

Good to see at least some use of closed lines with new Rail Cart operations in Dargaville and Awakeri, and the suggestion of a steam train in Marlborough (earthquakes notwithstanding), all of which have become new members of FRONZ.

So our wish to members is to enjoy your Christmas and every success with the holiday running of your trains and trams.

From all of the FRONZ Executive; Grant, Clark, David, Hugh, Jeff, John, Lindsay, Nigel, Scott, and Trevor, have a great Christmas and best wishes for 2017.



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

FRONZ PUBLICITY OFFER FROM DRIVING CREEK RAILWAY

Driving Creek Railway has space to display and distribute FRONZ member brochures. Keeping in mind that they get 65,000 visitors a year this is a major opportunity. Suzy Taylor sent us this:

Many changes are taking place at Driving Creek Railway with John Gurney as our new manager, albeit keeping the essence that Barry Brickell established. John has installed an information board displaying FRONZ members and we would like to display your railway's DLE's brochures. Would you be so kind as to send us about 50 of your railway brochures to enable us to we promote your attraction this coming season. (we have plenty already from Dunedin Railway, Waihi Gold Fields Railway, Rotorua Railcruising and Paekakariki Steam Incorporated).

Our Address:
Driving Creek Railway Ltd
380 Driving Creek Road
Coromandel 3506
Ph 07 8868703

If you are interested in having some of Driving Creek Railway DLE's please let us know [<bookings@dcrail.com>](mailto:bookings@dcrail.com).

FRONZ WEBSITE REMINDER

A reminder that the FRONZ website New Zealand Trains and Trams is getting a fair number of hits. We would appreciate it, if you haven't already, you could please link to that site from your website or Facebook page.

You can see the new website at: <http://www.new-zealand-trains-and-trams.org.nz/>

As the success of any website is determined by visitors and referral links we would appreciate it if you could please add a link to the new website on YOUR website and/or Facebook page. We would appreciate it if you'd use the following wording: "Click here to search for more New Zealand trains and trams."

With the actual link being the words New Zealand trains and trams.
and the link being: <http://www.new-zealand-trains-and-trams.org.nz/>

We would also ask you to ask your members to visit the website and the Facebook page and give us a "Like". That will really help. All of these things will help get the website and Facebook page good positioning in Google and the other search engines. This in turn will drive more visitors to your websites and should get more people coming to your events.

WHOLESALE OFFER TO ALL FRONZ MEMBERS

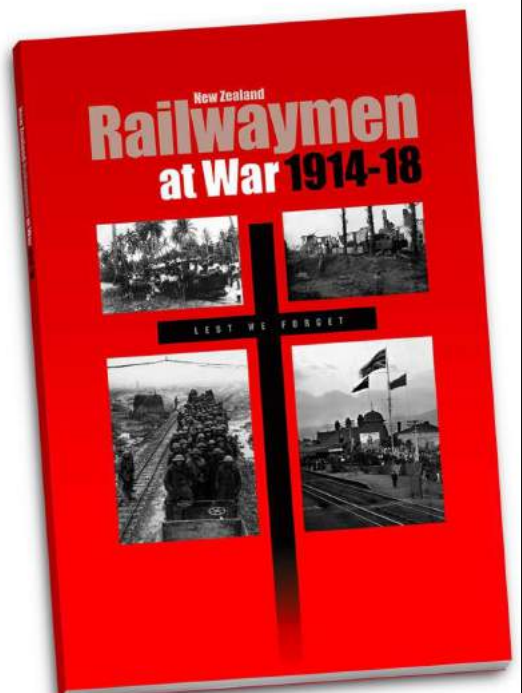
New Zealand Railwaymen at War 1914-18

By 1918 more than 7,500 of New Zealand Railway's permanent and casual employees had enlisted for military service, equivalent to almost 40% of its total 1914 workforce. They served throughout the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, some putting their skills to work by manning specialist rail-operating units in Samoa and Belgium.

The cost was high. At least 450 railwaymen lost their lives, the greatest loss suffered by a single New Zealand employer and one that would be commemorated via a range of distinctive First World War memorials.

■ 64 pages ■ Complete NZR Honours and Awards list ■ NZR Roll of Honour

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Recommended retail price **\$25.00**



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CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM NZTA



Dear rail industry participants

On behalf of the NZ Transport Agency Rail Safety team I want to convey season's greetings to you all. Enjoy the break, if you're having one, but if you're continuing to work around our rail network during the holiday period please take care and ensure your safety and that of others comes first.

This year has seen another period of development for the Transport Agency as the rail safety regulator, and we are now better positioned to deliver our functions effectively and provide a consistent level of monitoring and oversight. We appreciate that some of the changes we're making will mean a significant change for the industry, and we value the co-operation and input many of you have provided as we improve processes.

The addition of new staff (in part driven by bringing the assessor function in-house) will enable us to be more visible in the field. This is already resulting in improved delivery and industry support.

Changes to Health and Safety legislation are reflected in amendments to the Railways Act 2005, and we are seeing some positive and encouraging responses from the industry in implementing these requirements. In the new year we expect to see further advances in operators proactively managing their risks, seeking continuous improvement and enhancing risk controls so far as is reasonably practicable.

We are currently reviewing and analysing safety performance reports, and have received a number of high quality and comprehensive reports. This enables us as the regulator to be better informed of current and future trends so we can adjust our priorities accordingly. We will be providing more information on the outputs from this work in the new year, including some of the great safety initiatives that we could all learn something from.

We are always looking to promote best practice across the industry. A couple of examples worth highlighting this year have included:

- Transdev Auckland won the 'best significant health and safety initiative by a large organisation' category in the 2016 Health and Safety Awards for its success in delivering the SPAD reduction strategy.
- The Transport Agency presented its inaugural rail safety award at the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand (FRONZ) conference in June this year. The Tourist and Heritage Rail Safety Award was presented to Goldfields Railway for its campaign addressing public safety at Waihi level crossings. We will be inviting applications for the 2017 awards in the new year.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the surveys we sent throughout the year. The tunnel survey this year had a 100 percent response rate, which is fantastic! Receiving your input is important and enables us to better understand risks so we can plan for the future and deliver better results to you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - stay safe wherever your travels may take you.

Regards,

Debbie Despard

National Manager Rail Safety

RAIL INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

At this time of year, as at all times, please ensure you continue to exercise vigilance in your operating environment. Remember that rail accidents or incidents that occur over the holiday period must be reported to the Transport Agency as soon as practicable.

If the accident or incident involves a fatality, serious injury or significant property or infrastructure damage, call our 24/7 phone number. This number is monitored by our on-call staff member: 04 499 1858 or free phone 0508 RAIL 555 (0508 7245 555). A member of the rail safety team will be on call throughout the holiday period.

For other incidents or accidents, please advise us as soon as practicable using the online notification form at: www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/rail-incident-accident-form/ or by emailing railregulation@nzta.govt.nz

Please note: Advising KiwiRail and/or WorkSafe does not constitute a notification to the Transport Agency.

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

BAY OF ISLANDS VINTAGE RAILWAY - SUMMER RUNNING FROM FRI 16 DEC

The Bay of Islands Vintage Railway are pleased to announce that Gabriel, our steam engine, has passed her boiler test with flying colours, and has also had some maintenance whilst out of action over the last 3 weeks. With her diesel engine shed companions, we are now ready for our summer running.

Our trains will be running every day in the school holidays from Friday 16th December until Sunday 29th January inclusive.

Trains depart from Kawakawa station at 10.45am, 12 noon, 1.15pm and 2.30pm, and the trip takes about 50 minutes to return.

Fares: \$20 adult; \$5 school child; under school age - free; \$18 NZ Gold Card; \$45 family ticket (defined as 2 adults and 3 children).

You may like to know that there is a cost-effective method of travel ... by joining the Gabriel Club. Membership subs entitle members to half price fares on our trains. (Annual Membership: \$40 family as defined above; \$25 single adult)

Please also pass on this message to all relations, friends and visitors ... Christmas present idea:

a one-off voucher for a train ride

Gabriel Club membership

More information on our website: www.bayofislandsvintagerailway.org.nz

OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL

Nice restoration job completed on "Husky", 0-4-0 locomotive.



PORT DARGAVILLE CRUISES

From 1 December Port Dargaville Cruises have taken up the lease of the whole of the Dargaville branch line from Dargaville to Waitotira. They hope to start trips next year. The picture is at Waitotira looking north with the North Auckland Line on the right and a Port Dargaville cruise vehicle on the Dargaville branch.



ORMONDVILLE RAIL PRESERVATION GROUP INC.

Some recent images from the Ormondville Rail Preservation Group Facebook page. Taken on 5 November. The photos show Tom Williamson and Paul Mahoney admiring recent work, and highlight the lovely rural location of this iconic station and precinct.

Below Left: Tom posing on the new platform seating at Ormondville Station. Right: Tom and Paul discussing the finer points of one of the garden seats.



Below: The newly painted tank stand and station platform.



AUCKLAND DOCKLINE TRAM

As well as celebrating Tram No.257's 90 years, we also launched our newly refurbished ex-Melbourne SW6 class tram No.881. Here's Driver Susan Walker getting to grips with what is a VERY different tram to drive. Thanks Alan Curtis for capturing the moment and also the image of two members of the Lindsay



Meech Trio who made music for us during the afternoon on 881 as we trundled back and forth. Philip, their amazing guitarist was just out of shot.



CANTERBURY STEAM PRESERVATION SOCIETY

© 2016 - D. J. Maciulaitis



David Maciulaitis recently visited at Steam Scene at McLeans Island, Christchurch, and saw the EX-Ogilvie & Co railcar in action.

WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM

From WTM Facebook page. December 9.

Our new tramway power supply has been switched on and, as part of the system testing, trams ran to the beach today. Over this coming weekend (December 10 & 11) testing will continue, however there will be limited services for passengers.

In light of the cost of installing new switchgear for the tramway power supply, we have had to adjust our fares.

ALL DAY fares are now Adult \$12.00, Child \$6.00, Family (2A+3C) \$30.00, Under 5 free.

If all goes well this weekend, full operations will recommence on 17 December.



Left: Double Saloon 151. The first tram to run to the beach after repairs to the Tramway overhead power system.

TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From Tram Tracts

THS have recently created an innovative display using "Standard" trailer 126. It has been set up as a "bach" display showing how the fate of so many old trams that became holiday accommodation.



The interior of trailer 126, showing the recreated living room (left) and master bedroom (below), complete with sleeping occupant! She is clearly a tramway enthusiast if the pictures of 'Brill' 178 above the bed are anything to go by... Behind can be seen part of the living-room display and its photos showing old tram bodies at their final rest. Photos: Alastair Cross



AWAKERI RAIL ADVENTURES

Awakeri Rail Adventures have acquired and restored a railway jigger. Here she is getting loaded onto the rail trailer at their workshop for transportation to the railway. WW 6980 is now restored to original condition (she just needs the flag holder and head light fitted). It was a signals branch jigger. Note the cut away face board and brackets. This was for ladders to be stowed on the jigger to take along the line for servicing railway signals.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FEDERATION OF HERITAGE RAILWAYS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

FRONZ recently received correspondence about a new organisation in South Africa to represent the heritage rail sector. Edited details below.

Dear Heritage enthusiast,



As someone interested in railway preservation I would like to tell you about a new organisation, the Federation of Heritage Railways of Southern Africa (FEDRAIL SA), recently founded in Southern Africa to promote and support railway preservation and rail tourism. The region has historically been a favoured destination for preservationists from around the world with steam traction and varied and magnificent scenery and destinations for rail tourism. In recent years, despite our favourable currency, this attraction has declined with limited offerings from local suppliers.

The South African Preservation sector has a less than perfect image and a current industry association with fairly narrow interests. From our experience industry associations need to be managed by elder statesmen who have an in-depth knowledge of how this sector works and who not only understand good corporate governance but believe emphatically in the importance of it.

FEDRAIL SA was created in order to fill this vacuum. We do not believe that FEDRAIL SA should be considered as a competitive force in the Railway Preservation and Tourism sector. It is an organisation which has a large membership, is well funded and it has a Board and a group of advisers who understand the issues involved.

The potential for expansion of FEDRAIL SA is considerable. It is already achieving strong international recognition from organisations such as FEDECRAIL (European Federation of Museum & Tourist Railways) and World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains (WATTRAIN). Influential international people have already joined FEDRAIL SA and include people like Sir William McAlpine, Chairman of the British Railway Heritage Trust (see: www.railwayheritagetrust.co.uk/), and Al Harper, the owner of a number of highly successful and arguably some of the best preserved railways in the world (see: www.durangotrain.com). Our membership increases on a day-by-day basis.

Recently we signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Transnet Foundation giving us recognition by the national railway authority as a representative body of railway preservation and rail tourism industry in South Africa.

We have also been appointed by the South African National Railway and Steam Museum (SANRASM) to manage the custodianship of their assets and allocate these to preservation projects throughout South Africa.

For 2017 we have also been instrumental, in partnership with one of our members, Sandstone Heritage Trust, to enable a number of rail enthusiast groups to visit South Africa. Many of these groups will be visiting many of the preservation operators where international visitors have been few and far between over the last decade or so.

There is no question that Railway Preservation and Railway Tourism is a potentially huge asset for South Africa in terms of its economy. It creates jobs, benefits previously disadvantaged communities in rural South Africa and just as importantly it attracts foreign tourists with their all-important foreign exchange.

At a recent review by the Board it was agreed that FEDRAIL SA should commit to the following list of priorities:

- 1) To lift South Africa's credibility in the eyes of the foreign Railway Preservation and tourist markets.
- 2) To arbitrate.
- 3) To manage projects.

Cooperation is always the best way to develop an industry. Up to now the parties have been too far apart and there was perhaps a lack of mutual trust which inhibited cooperation. In addition this needs to be a democratic process where the very best people in this sector are involved. This is not an organisation that plans to provide a mini fiefdom for individuals who can exercise authority that they do not have.

You may join FEDRAIL SA online by accessing our website, www.fedrail.co.za, and clicking on membership applications.

Join FEDRAIL SA now and have your say in the future of Railway Preservation and Tourism in Southern Africa.

Dave Richardson
Director

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Visit our website. <http://www.fedrail.co.za/>

TRANS AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY CENTENARY

We recently received the photo below from Tim Fischer.

Photo with compliments NRM Port Dock Adelaide: Catchpoint Magazine, Photographer Geoff Doecke. Spring 2016.



Tim reminded us that the Australia our East West Transcontinental Railway Centenary is 17 October 2017. Further investigation found the following information on the website <http://www.rdawep.org.au/trans-australian-railway-centenary/>.

The 100th anniversary of the completion of the Trans Australian Railway line will occur on 17th October, 2017.

Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) is assisting the National Railway Museum with arrangements to ensure that the centenary is appropriately celebrated.

The construction of the Trans-Australian Railway provided nation-building infrastructure that not only linked the east and western coasts of Australia, but also provided the

platform for successful negotiations to encourage Western Australia to join the Commonwealth of Australia and establish the Australian Federation.

The railway line provided a supply chain to outback areas of South Australia; and was particularly important for developing the land between Port Augusta and the Western Australian border. This infrastructure is a legacy that still benefits Australia and South Australia today.

RDAWEP, as the agency responsible for driving regional economic development across the Eyre Peninsula, appreciates the infrastructure investment provided by the early settlers and previous generations, and believes that the benefits resulting from this legacy should be acknowledged.

The Trans-Australian Railway was completed on 17th October 1917 when the rail lines constructed simultaneously from Kalgoorlie and Port Augusta were linked at 1.45pm, at a site approximately 4kms west of Ooldea.

A 50th commemoration of the rail linkage was held on 17th October 1967 at the exact time and place that the rails were joined. The rail link site was marked by the unveiling of two identical monuments placed north and south of the railway line as part of the 50th anniversary celebration.

The monuments were designed, constructed and installed by the Commonwealth Railways. The main structure was comprised largely of a timber frame sealed with plywood, which supported rail steels and commemorative signage. However, the timber fabric was not sufficiently robust to withstand the environmental conditions and the monuments have since deteriorated and collapsed.

RDAWEP's role to support the centenary is to project manage the process to replace the monuments, which will be unveiled during the centenary celebration.

The intention is to have a South Australian sculptor design and build two identical sculptures that use the existing concrete and steel bases of the original monuments. The sculptures will be constructed in robust, long lasting materials – preferably steel – and will be based on a design concept that uses the linking of the railway as a symbol or motif to represent economic development and regional growth.

A project brief for the sculptures is currently being prepared.

The centenary celebration will achieve national prominence. The National Railway Museum will release the event details at the Australasian Railway Association AusRAIL Conference in Adelaide in late November 2016.

Other organisations are also working on celebrations that focus just on Port Augusta, over the weekend of 21st and 22nd October 2017, including the re-enactment of the first train from Adelaide to Port Augusta, and the subsequent departure of the first standard gauge train to Kalgoorlie on 22nd October 1917.

Arrangements are being progressed with the Pichi Richi Railway group for a steam train re-enactment from Quorn to Port Augusta on the same weekend.

Regardless of the proposed celebrations at Port Augusta, the most historically significant element of the celebrations is the importance of unveiling the two monuments near Ooldea on 17 October 2017 to commemorate that heroic achievement in the development of the nation. The logistical arrangements for the event are in progress.

People and organisations interested in attending or supporting the celebration should register their names with RDAWEP on 8682 6588.

Further information about the celebration can be provided by the RDAWEP Special Projects Manager, Bob Ramsay, on 8623 0516.

FUTURE MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

A new feature in Journal is a list of forthcoming mainline excursions by our members. Hopefully all will be covered from newsletters and web sites but if any members have excursion plans please send them to Journal at scottosmond@xtra.co.nz.

Railway Enthusiasts Society

“Railcarts from Whangamomona”. 25/26 March 2017.

Steam Incorporated

Eketahuna Express – Sat 7 January 2017

Deco Delights – Sat 18 February 2017

NIMT Scenic Daylight - Sun 26 March 2017

Mangaweka Express - Sun 1 April 2017

Dunedin Railways

Regular Taieri Gorge and North Line services

Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Gisborne to Muriwai -

Tuesday, 27th December 2016

Wednesday, 28th December 2016

Tuesday, 03rd January 2017

Wednesday, 04th January 2017

Saturday, 28th January 2017

Sunday, 29th January 2017

Saturday, 25th February 2017

Sunday, 26th March 2017

Saturday, 15th April 2017

No Mainline Excursions presently advertised for:

Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

Pahiatua Railcar Society

Mainline Steam

Diesel Traction Group

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

© 2016 - D. J. Maciulaitis



David Maciulaitis recently posted this picture related to the festive season. Taken in the “Re-Start” mall in Cashel Street, Christchurch. Showing a decorated tram and the “temporary” containers which have been operating since October 2011 following the February 2011 earthquake. Note the table tennis table in place.

**FRONZ CONFERENCE DUNEDIN
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