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IN THIS ISSUE

FRONZ Conference 2017	1	Classifieds	8
International Rail Conference	2	International News	9
News From Our Members	3	Future Mainline Excursions	10
		Picture of the Month	11

FRONZ CONFERENCE 2017

Bookings are now open for the 2017 FRONZ Conference in Dunedin from Friday 2 to Monday 5 June. To make your conference bookings online go to our web site link at <https://www.fronz.org.nz/conference.php?display=confRegis>

Reduced registration costs for early registration cease from 1 May so be in quick to obtain the cheaper option.

Scenic Hotel Southern Cross is our venue for the conference and accommodation. The hotel has offered a very good room rate which includes breakfast for FRONZ delegates. The hotel is about 600metres walk from the Dunedin Railway Station. The Dunedin Casino is also located at the hotel. To make a booking for accommodation at the Southern Cross Hotel go to our web site link at <https://www.fronz.org.nz/conference.php?display=accomBooking>.

Conference Program

Friday 2 June. Taieri Gorge Limited train to Pukerangi and return. Registration and get-together in the evening.

Saturday 3 June is our main business day.

Sunday 4 June. FRONZ AGM in morning. In the afternoon visits to the Dunedin Gasworks Museum, Ocean Beach Railway, and Toitu Otago Settler's Museum.

The FRONZ Annual Awards Dinner will be held on Sunday evening at the Scenic Hotel Southern Cross.

Monday 5 June. Dunedin Railways Silver Fern railcar from Dunedin to Oamaru and return. We will visit and ride on the Oamaru Steam and Rail train during our two hour stopover there.

The 2017 FRONZ Conference is sponsored by:



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

PRESENTING THE 8TH ANNUAL



New Zealand Rail 2017

**Rail: Enabling NZ Growth
and Resilience**

27 – 28 June 2017 | Pullman Hotel Auckland



PRESENTATIONS FROM:

Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore, Auckland Council

Peter Reidy, CEO, KiwiRail

Danny Broad, CEO, Australasian Railway Association

Andrew Lillis, Managing Director, Metro Trains Australia

David Westburton, CEO, Auckland Transport

Mark Cairns, CEO, Port of Tauranga

Howard Collins CBE, Chief Executive, Sydney Trains

Rene Lalande, CEO, Transdev Australasia

Bob Herbert AM, Chair, Australasian Railway Association

Megan Drayton, Foundation Manager, TracksAFE NZ

David Irwin, CEO, Pacific National

Pedro Polon, Director, CAF

Todd Moyla, Group General Manager Network Services, KiwiRail

Chris Meeks, Project Director City Rail Link, Auckland Transport

Chris Ford, General Manager Global Supply Chain Development, Fontana

Chris Ballantyne, Principal Advisor Rail Safety, NZ Transport Agency

PLUS KEYNOTE PRESENTATION FROM:



Frances Valmala, Founder, Tech Futures Lab



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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

CANTERBURY RAILWAY SOCIETY

From "Branchlines"

Several current and former members of the CRS (formerly the Canterbury Branch of the New Zealand Railway and Locomotive Society), who witnessed Wd357's arrival and first operating days at Ferrymead fifty years ago, stand near the locomotive, Lb4803 wagon and F79 van which were displayed opposite Moorhouse Station on 2nd April 2017. From left to right are: Tom Halliburton, Keith Brown, Don Spicer (driver of the first passenger train), Ken Philpott, Alistair Lighfoot, Wayne McClintock, and Paul Markholm. *Photo: Glen Anthony.*



FORGOTTEN WORLD ADVENTURES

Part of the agreement in allowing the 'mothballed' Stratford-Okahukura rail line for use by golf-cart traffic, is clearing line of any slips and attending to any washouts. Being rather rugged country in back-blocks of Taranaki and type of country prone to slips and washouts, 'Cyclone Debbie' certainly resulted in a number slips on Tuesday 4th April.

With few slips around tunnel 17 (between Tokirima and Mangaparo), as well as seven slips in Tangarakau Gorge. There was also one big 100-metre slip in "wet slip" vicinity of Tangarakau Valley 12-km west of Tokirima, as well as couple smaller slips around tunnel 4 area (between Kohuratahi and Tahora). West of Whangamomona, there was also couple slips around tunnels 2 and 3 (between Ngatimaru and Whangamomona on 'Whanga Saddle'.

Recently the operators of SOL golf-carts operation, Forgotten World Adventures of Taumarunui, were 'tested' so-to-speak when they conveyed a large tour party of 136 passengers (Railway Enthusiasts Society Auckland members) in a weekend last month, and they did this by conveying 72 passengers from Okahukura to Whangamomona on Saturday and 64 passengers from Whangamomona to Okahukura on Sunday using total of 29 golf-carts that can travel 22-km/h, with lunch stop each-way at Tokirima. The SOL operators also have 6 x rail bicycles.

Interestingly, this winter time, instead of suspending usual operations for the winter months, the SOL operators Forgotten World Adventures plan to run a "5 tunnels tour" service just between Okahukura and Matiere (out in the morning returning in afternoon) on demand as and when required!



STEAM SCENE

Price V locomotive running at McLeans Island taken on 9 of April. Photo: David Oakley



SILVER STREAM RAILWAY

From "Pantograph"

The Christmas shutdown at the end of December saw our biggest civil works project of the year kick into gear with the rebuilding of approx. 70m of track from the turnout leading out of the curve at the north end to the start of the loop.

On the locomotive front, L509 is back in service at the main locomotive. C847 has been retired from service pending an overhaul after 22 years' service.



The track before and during rebuilding. Photos: Jason Durry

DUNEDIN HERITAGE LIGHT RAIL TRUST

It was hoped that by how we would be constructing the building to house Mornington trailer 111 and Roslyn Cable Cars 95 and 97.

In February this year we were finally successful in obtaining the building consent, however we required planning consent before any work could progress. To date we are at a position where an alternative site on Mornington park has been proposed following a negative response to our original site. The Trust are currently working through negotiations with the Planning department for a joint agreement of this site, as the new home for the three cable cars.

The Trust has placed a deposit on the building for Stage one and have the funds set aside to pay in full once all the consents have been received. The Transport Historic Society have graciously donated 24 metres of track for stage one which has been viewed by a trust member, cut to size and delivered to Dunedin. This was track uplifted after the Christchurch earthquake and is in need of a good clean-up to remove a lot of asphalt.

Three members of the Trust presented an update on the cable car progress to the Dunedin City Councillors at a Forum on 28 March. A brief history of the project from 2007 to 2017 was delivered to the councillors prior to the forum in order to bring the new councillors up to date with progress.

MEETING AT HELENSVILLE

On Thursday 30 March the Christchurch Press Readers Rail Tour of the North Island passed through Helensville en-route from Auckland to Whangarei. The train consisted of Da1431 and carriages chartered from Steam Incorporated. The photo at left shows the train arriving at Helensville. The second at the station platform for a crew change. Between the Auckland and Whangarei Loco Engineers and local Gangers there was a "full and frank" discussion on the future of the North Island Line – or lack of it! *Photos Scott Osmond.*



FERRYMEAD NON-STEAM TRACTION

David Oakley made the most of some cloudy conditions to get these photos of diesel and electric traction in action at Ferrymead on 18 April 2017.



BAY OF ISLANDS VINTAGE RAILWAY

Opua Railway Station 2017

Artists impression (provided by Pip Bolton, Avail Pacific) of the new proposed Railway Station for Opua.

The BOI Vintage railway propose, and are inviting ideas, for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first rail in the North Island of NZ . This section of rail was built in 1868 to cart coal from the mines in Kawakawa to the Derrick landing and which is now part of the Kawakawa-Opua railway experience.

What better way could there be to commemorate the 150th anniversary then to see the steam engine Gabriel return to Opua and to coincide with the opening and dedication of this new magnificent facility for Opua and the Bay of Islands. The station and centre will be built and painted in the old heritage style which will mirror and complement its counterpart at the other end of the line in Kawakawa.

The building has been designed as a multi-purpose facility and will comprise the station, a café complete with a modern kitchen. There will be a lounge area complete with a fireplace for those cold winter months,, a cycleway shop for the hire and repairs of cycles plus a separate shop for railway merchandise. A 120 seat Events centre is also incorporated and will be available for hire for weddings, birthdays , conferences and other social functions.

It is proposed that local hapu be invited to be involved with the landscaping and beautification projects and also in presenting their history within the complex. The history of the railway and Opua will be depicted through photographs throughout the facility.

Provision has been made for some 39 cars and 9 coaches in the main parking area with additional parking for a further 38 spaces for cars and motor homes. Electric car charging units will also be installed. Toilets and showers have been included to cater for cyclists regardless as to whether the ride on the train or not.

The application for the Resource Consent is due to be heard at the Opua Cruising Club on the 3rd and 4th of April and we look forward to receiving, we hope, their favourable consideration. After all this facility should be seen as totally complimentary to the current development of the Opua Marina and the completion of the permanent section of the FNDC's cycleway Longbridge to Opua.

The Bay of Islands Railway Experience.

The BOIVR Trust fully accepts that once the train has returned to Opua and the Opua Station complex and facilities has been completed it will be necessary for the whole operation to be run as a business.

This is supported by the independently commissioned Business Plan which shows that once fully operational the Railway will be running 2 separate trains per day, 7 days per week and could be employing some 30 workers.

On that basis , the Trust at their meeting held on the 20th March resolved to register a Charitable Company, the Bay of Islands Railway Experience for that purpose .



CLASSIFIEDS

DBM RAILROADING

Dean McQuoid has the following items for sale or lease.

- 1) Da 1429. As a vehicle provider, the locomotive is available for hire, Annual inspections have been carried out and fit for service
- 2) YD wagons available for lease
- 3) Two Kershaw sleeper inserters for sale. One is operational and the other is not, but could be repaired or used for parts, \$4000 + GST each
- 4) Two FM modules available. One is complete the other has been stripped out, \$1500 + GST for the blue ended one and \$1000 + GST for the red one with no end cover

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

TORNADO REACHES 100MPH DURING SUCCESSFUL SPEED TESTING

Wednesday, 12 April 2017

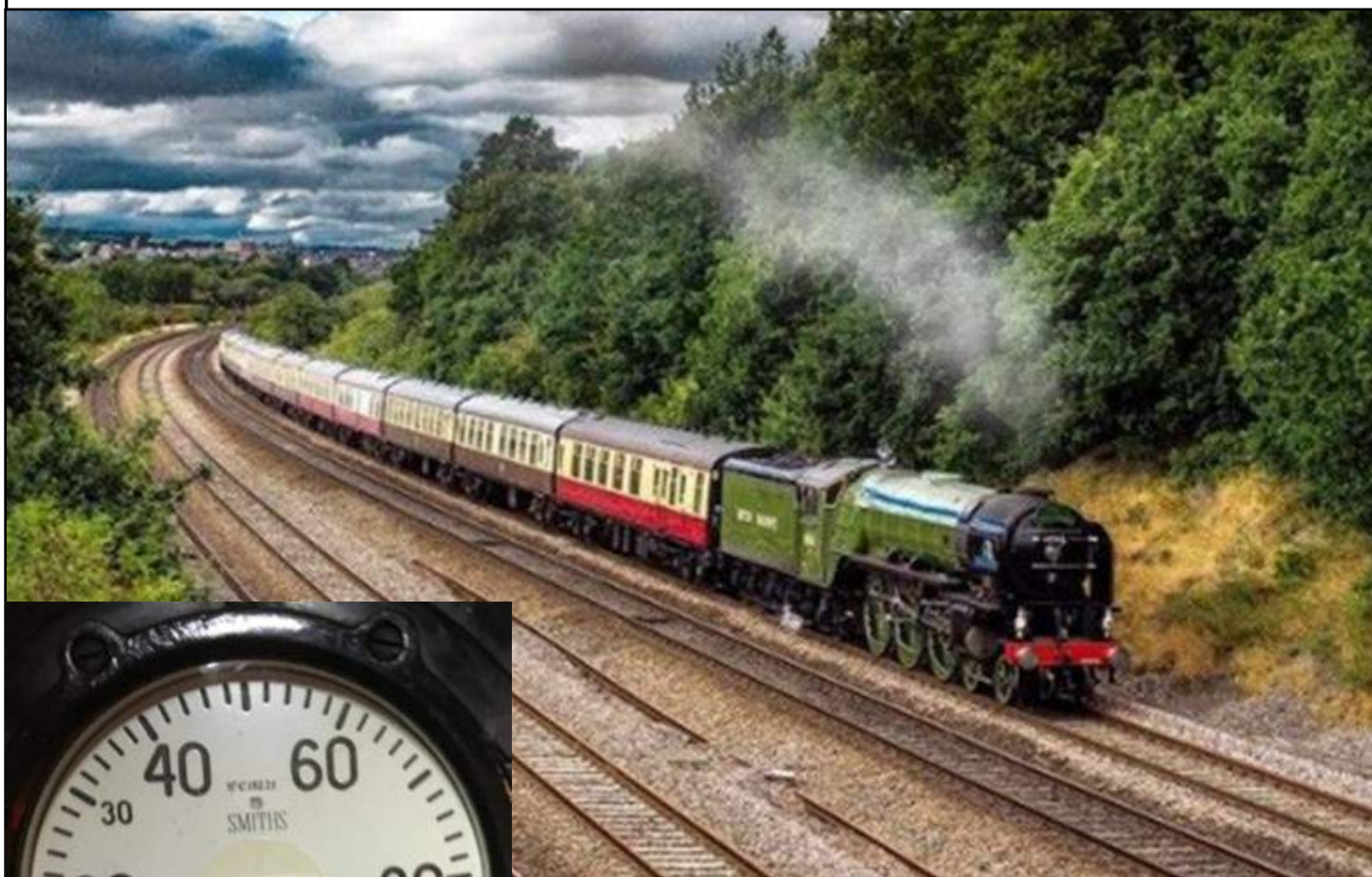
Whilst undertaking test runs in connection with raising its permitted maximum speed, new Peppercorn class A1 steam locomotive No. 60163 *Tornado* has reached 100mph during trials conducted on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) between Doncaster and Newcastle.

Completed in 2008, *Tornado* is currently limited to 75mph, but it has always been the intention to run the locomotive at speeds up to 90mph to better fit in with other trains on the busy UK rail network. In connection with testing for future 90mph operations the locomotive was rigged with diagnostic measurement equipment and operated up to 100mph during controlled testing in the early hours of Wednesday 12th April 2017. In common with other rail vehicles *Tornado* had to operate at 10% above its planned maximum speed to demonstrate a sufficient margin of safety. The tests were observed and monitored by various rail industry engineers and certification bodies.

The operations were planned by The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust (registered charity and builders, owners and operators of No. 60163 *Tornado*) in partnership with DB Cargo Rail and Network Rail. Valuable assistance and support was also received from Ricardo Rail, Resonate Ltd, DATS, Electromotive, Cass Heywood and Riviera Trains.

Graeme Bunker-James, Operations Director for The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, said:

“We are delighted to have completed the test runs that move us one step closer to 90mph operations with *Tornado*. This will allow us to ensure that the locomotive continues to haul trains on the busiest parts of the UK network allowing as many people as possible to enjoy travelling with *Tornado*. As part of these tests the locomotive operated at 90mph for a sustained period and also achieved 100mph under these special conditions and running with clear signals. I would like to thank all of our industry partners for their support in making these trials a success. We now have to analyse the results from the tests and then complete the necessary certification processes before the first 90mph public operations can be undertaken. We hope to conclude this before the end of 2017.”



FUTURE MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

This feature in Journal is a list of forthcoming mainline excursions by our members. Hopefully all are covered from newsletters and web sites but if any members have excursion plans please send them to Journal at scottosmond54@gmail.com.

Railway Enthusiasts Society, Mainline Steam

The first weekend of May will see two special steam hauled excursion trains known as "The Charles Parker and Lance Redman Memorial Excursions" run. These trains running from Glenbrook and Palmerston North will convey guests, Railway Enthusiasts and members of the public to the special memorial function being held at Tangiwai on Sunday 7 May 2017.

The Palmerston North train will consist of Mainline Steam's J1236 and the Capital Connection carriages and will run as a day excursion on Sunday 7th May from Palmerston North to Tangiwai and return.

The Glenbrook train will run as a weekend excursion departing South Auckland Saturday 6 May, overnighing in Ohakune and then continuing to the Memorial unveiling on Sunday 7 May before returning home. The train will consist of Mainline Steam's Ja1275 hauling Glenbrook Railway's yellow set of carriages.

The official event will be known as "The Charles Parker and Lance Redman Memorial" "A tribute to the Enginemen lost at Tangiwai on 24 December 1953"

The event is being supported by Main Trunk Rail Ohakune, Kiwirail, the RMTU, Ruapehu Lions, The New Zealand Army, and many local Ohakune businesses and locals. Kiwirail has assisted greatly in the running of these two excursions and these opportunities may not arise again.

These excursions are now booking and full details and bookings can be viewed on the GVR website www.gvr.co.nz or Mainline Steam's website www.mainlinesteam.co.nz

Steam Incorporated

14 May 2017. Mothers Day Special—Paekakariki-Woodville return.

11 June 2017. Kapiti Steam Shuttles.

22 July 2017. Taranaki Winter Express.

10 Sept 2007. Daffodil Express to Carterton.

ALSO COMING IN 2017-2018

- Christmas Grand Circle (diesel) 3 December
- Christmas Twilight Express (diesel) 3 December
- Eketahuna Express (steam) Sat 6 January 2018
- Deco Delights Express (diesel) Sat 17 Feb 2018

Dunedin Railways

Regular Taieri Gorge and North Line services

4 to 10 May 2017 Silver Fern Railcar Christchurch to Invercargill and return (sold out)

23 to 29 October 2017 Silver Fern Railcar Christchurch to Invercargill and return

Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Gisborne to Muriwai -

Sunday 14 May 2017

Sunday 4 June 2017

Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

14 May—A Day In Hawke Bay KiwiRail Diesel

18 June—Tauamaranui return Diesel

Pahiatua Railcar Society

16-20 Feb 2018—Art Deco Weekend

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



This month we celebrate a great milestone in New Zealand Rail Heritage. The 50th anniversary of the first steaming of a locomotive at Ferrymead. Wd357, wagon Lb4803 and four wheel van F79 on display at Moorhouse Station. Photo: Wayne McClintock.

**FRONZ CONFERENCE DUNEDIN
2—5 JUNE 2017**

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