



JOURNAL

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FRONZ MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

It is timely for all FRONZ Members to update us with their current details. All groups will have changes in positions and with Vodafone, Clear and other e-mail providers getting out of the business many e-mail addresses will have changed.

Could all groups send their current details to Jeff Tollan at secretary@fronz.org.nz with at least details of names of current Chairperson/President and Secretary with e-mails, phone numbers and a postal address in case we need to use snail mail.

FRONZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Reporting a little late with apologies, below is the full list of appointees to the FRONZ Executive and Convenors from the 2017 AGM held in Dunedin.

Changes of position from the last AGM. Jeff Tollan is now the Secretary, Jason Durry replaced Nigel Hogg as the Boilers Convener. A newly created Mainline Convener role was approved and Rob Martin was to be approved by the Mainline Groups to this position.

President	Grant Craig
Secretary	Jeff Tollan
Treasurer	Hugh McCracken
Executive Members	Scott Osmond, David Maciulaitis, Nigel Hogg
Executive Officer	Trevor Burling
Notably Grant Craig thanked Clark Simmonds for his long and distinguished service to FRONZ.	
Auditor	Keith McGavin

Convenors

Position	Appointee
Boilers	J Durry
Mechanical engineering	L Challis
Insurances	H Brittain
Rail Retention Advocate	D Selby
Operational Communications	G Clover
Rail PlaNZ Database	C Mann
Rolling Stock Register	D Maciulaitis
Steam Loco Drivers' Qualls	C Jenner
Tramways	D Hinman
Mainline Groups (New Convenorship)	R Martin

Note: Convenorships of Infrastructure and Occupational Health have been held open for potential future appointments.

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

MARLBOROUGH FLYER



PRESS RELEASE
THE "MARLBOROUGH FLYER" IS ON TRACK!
A BOOST FOR TOURISM AND JOB CREATION IN THE MARLBOROUGH REGION
FIRST EXCURSION CONFIRMED FOR DECEMBER THIS YEAR

Monday 2nd October 2017

The magnificent heritage steam train that will launch on 1st December this year between Picton and Blenheim has been officially named "The Marlborough Flyer".

Comments Paul Jackson, managing director of Pounamu Tourism Group, the company behind the Marlborough Flyer, "The name was partially inspired by the Kingston Flyer which has links to the region (we respectfully acknowledge the recent sad passing of the late David Bryce from Renwick who purchased The Kingston Flyer in 2011), and which also used Ab class locomotives, the same class that the Marlborough Flyer will operate. The emotions and passions of the old "Flyer" days still stir deeply amongst rail fans throughout New Zealand.

Marlborough is fast becoming a world-famous region; attributable in part to her beautiful natural assets, like the Marlborough Sounds and surrounds, and in part to the marketing efforts of the burgeoning wine and food industry, aviation heritage and numerous other successful business enterprises. Marlborough is establishing itself as a recognisable brand overseas, so with these two pillars combined ("Marlborough" and "Flyer"), the christening of The Marlborough Flyer was one which resonated with all stakeholders and rail fans alike."

Continues Paul, "The launching of the Marlborough Flyer is an exemplary example of what can be achieved when private enterprise, state-owned enterprise, government and the unions work closely together towards a positive outcome for the community and for the regional economy. On behalf of Pounamu Tourism Group and our partners at Steam Incorporated, I would like to thank KiwiRail, the Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU), Port of Marlborough and the NZ Transport Association for making this tourism venture possible and for sharing in our vision to create a new and attractive tourism product."

"Of paramount importance was the support of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union and KiwiRail. KiwiRail have a great group of kiwis working for them who often float under the radar quietly going about their daily business. The progress they have made on the enormous task of getting the mainline back in operation after the Kaikoura earthquake, borders on superhuman, and they deserve accolades for how quickly and efficiently they have embraced the challenge of reconnecting the community down there. Their efforts are often understated and underestimated.

Mr Alan Piper, Group General Manager Sales and Commercial at KiwiRail says, "The Flyer is a great local initiative celebrating New Zealand's rail heritage while providing a boost to the region. KiwiRail is always keen to support tourism in our regions and has seen a big increase in our tourism services bringing economic growth to areas such as the West Coast and Marlborough. There is a real romance to rail travel that international tourists are looking for as well as local enthusiasts, and still no better way to see our glorious countryside than by train."

Of course, with any new tourism venture one of the immediate benefits is job creation.

The General Secretary of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union, Mr Wayne Butson used to work on The Kingston Flyer as a younger man. Says Mr Butson, "I fondly remember my days working on The Kingston Flyer as a young 20-year old, there was something about the drama and thrill of a steam locomotive that captivates you.

It is hoped that the added attraction will assist to improve the overall cruise ship visitor experience in Picton and in doing so encourage more cruise ship visits to one of the most popular ports in Australasia.

Mr Ian McNabb, CEO Port Marlborough says, "We have supported The Marlborough Flyer right from the outset as it will offer something unique to cruise ship visitors at our port, something which adds another unique selling point for cruise ship agents and owners. It is our hope that Port Marlborough will soon have as many visits as the busiest Cruise Ports in the country. The Marlborough Flyer is another feather in our cap."

Says John Bovis of Steam Incorporated, "The Marlborough Flyer locomotive is the historic World War I Memorial loco-

motive Ab608, "Passchendaele". Built in 1915, a major rebuild of the locomotive was completed by our team at Steam Incorporated, in 2014. It is certified to operate on the main line and since overhaul has run 10,000 Km covering much of the KiwiRail network."

"During the steam era, the Ab class was the largest type of locomotive operating on the Picton – Blenheim route. October 2017 is the 100th Anniversary of the Passchendaele Battle and the launch of the Marlborough Flyer will help reinforce the memory of this battle."

The Marlborough Flyer will focus on cruise ship days, however on selected Sundays every month, from December 2017 to March 2018, there will be "Super Sunday Specials". These are special days for Marlburians and for the general members of the public to enjoy The Marlborough Flyer experience with friends and family at a special discounted rate.

Full steam ahead for The Marlborough Flyer!

Bookings are essential to avoid disappointment and can be made online on: www.marlboroughflyer.co.nz

Right: The Marlborough Flyer on the rail ferry Aratere rail deck. 12 November.

Photo: Alastair Maciver



TRANZALPINE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

So what's the prettiest part of that five-hour rail trip between Christchurch and Greymouth, Bill?

That takes retired train driver Bill Gage from Greymouth aback. He's 76 and was one of two drivers who handled the first return run of the TranzAlpine Express 30 years ago.

He's been talking about speeds on curves, how you keep the train "stretched" to make braking smooth, technical stuff like that. But pretty views? "Um," he says. Then it comes to him.

"The staircase, coming over that big, high bridge, the highest one. That is beautiful through there." And he hits stride again. "You've got to remember that the West Coast is better looking than the Canterbury side. Got to stick up for us West Coasters."

The TranzAlpine was launched on November 22, 1987 with a couple of flashed-up carriages, including one with revolutionary super big windows, and a buffet car. Sheepskin seat covers, tables for four facing seats, and commentary were other novelties in the attempt to rescue the dying railways with a new idea that people would buy train tickets to look out the window, not just use it as cheap transport.

That idea has worked for 30 years. The first year 17,000 took the trip. By 1989 it was 72,000 and this year it's expected 158,000 will climb aboard.

But the star has always been the hypnotic, sweeping, dramatically changing views as the train moves through the bushy hills, high country, beech forests, alongside the braided Waimakariri River, and across ironed-flat sweeping plains. National Geographic calls the TranzAlpine one of the world's greatest scenic train trips. No-one disagrees.

Gage admits drivers probably get the best views of all, even if their minds are on other things. He drove trains for 49 years and rates it among his best memories.

Stuff Below: The new TranzAlpine Express service as it looked in 1988 during its first year as a scenic service. D.L.A. Turner

Below: Train driver Bill Gage was one of the first drivers of the TranzAlpine Express. John Kirk-Anderson/
Stuff



MOTAT TRAMWAY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

MOTAT Press Release

With the new coalition government sworn in, there's no doubt that change is afoot for New Zealand. As a result, Auckland's transport woes are once again in the spotlight and light rail is being championed as the possible solution.

It's quite pertinent therefore that this year marks the 50th Anniversary of MOTAT's iconic Tramway. A Tramway which was motivated by the termination of Auckland's tram service way back in 1956. The MOTAT trams have now been in operation almost as long as the Auckland Tramway was in commission.

It may be difficult to believe in these gridlocked modern days but Auckland City once boasted an impressive public transport system with electric trams operating from 1902. The tramway eventually stretched over 70km and operated a fleet of 256 trams. This was the world's only coast-to-coast tramway system running through the isthmus from downtown to Onehunga.

One of MOTAT's longest serving volunteers, Alan Curtis is looking forward to participating in the 50th anniversary celebrations at the Museum where he first began volunteering at the age of 17 in 1963. "My parents thought this was great, because they always knew where I was," says Alan. He went on to earn his Tramway licence at the tender age of 21, when he was legally old enough to become a motorman, and has been driving the MOTAT trams ever since.

As someone with a keen interest in railways, Alan was one of 12 volunteers who worked on the original tram tracks running between the old Pumphouse and the jail back in 1964. This was completed in 1967.

Alan has had a hand in many important projects over the years and as a result, his far-reaching contribution is imbedded throughout the Museum. His work has included serving on the MOTAT Board for six years and participating in the development of the tramlines, extending their run to the Auckland Zoo in 1981 and eventually the second MOTAT site on Meola Rd in May 2007. Today the trams introduce more than 200,000 visitors a year to the joy and wonder of tram transportation as they move between the Museum's two sites in Western Springs.

50 years on and Alan is still volunteering as a tram driver and conductor once a month, with a goal to be the longest serving licenced motorman in New Zealand.

Giving back to the community seems to run in the Curtis family, Alan's daughter Makyla now also volunteers at MOTAT, and was recently recognised for her work in the Print Shop with an award at the Waitematā Good Citizen Awards.

"It's the people, the comradery, the sense of achievement when you accomplish an objective with limited resources that keep me motivated to volunteer at the Museum," says Alan.

Alan backs the proposal to bring back light rail to Auckland and firmly believes that trams will once again run up Queen Street and Dominion Road in the near future. In fact, he would be delighted to be able to drive one of those trams when that day comes!

As part of the Tramway's 50th Anniversary celebrations, MOTAT hosted a special tram-themed Live Day at the Museum on Sunday 19 November where visitors explored the tram workshops, learnt more about MOTAT's award-winning tram restoration projects and took a ride on a heritage tram.

MOTAT is currently on the lookout for voluntary Tramway conductors and drivers, and would love to hear from any tram enthusiasts keen to join the team. Full training is provided by the Museum.

Right: Alan Curtis, a regular attendee at FRONZ Conferences, with ex Auckland tram No. 11 of 1902. No. 11 was restored by MOTAT and re-entered service after restoration in 1977. No 11 worked in Auckland for 50 years from 1902 to 1952. After 50 years driving MOTAT trams when will Alan be going for restoration!

Stuff photo.



FERRYMEAD FEATURE

A couple of gems recently taken by D.L.A. Turner on "Steam Sunday" at Ferrymead on 5 November.



Above: F13. Peveril, leads its train from the Ferrymead-wharf end of the railway back to Moorhouse Station in the Ferrymead Heritage Park township. In the background, the Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch City and Mt Hutt (visible above the locomotive) in the Southern Alps.

Below: Returning from the Valley Line along the edge of the Ferrymead Heritage Park, Peveril, F13, is about to lead its train past the junction into National Railway Museum site. Items of special interest are from the left; Ex Wellington EMU "Super Ganz", Vulcan RM 57, EO 45 and the English Electric unit known as Phoenix. Note also in the foreground the roofs of various houses of the historic village and several businesses.



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 scottosmond54@gmail.com

OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL

One of a small class of 13 built by Robert Stephenson and Hawthorns of the UK and the only example to head to New Zealand, in 1962 she was purchased by the Wellington Meat Export Co, working there until 1975 before starting a second career at Alliance Pukeuri near Oamaru. Husky came to us in 2009 and has since had a full rebuild and is now fit for running on our passenger trains.

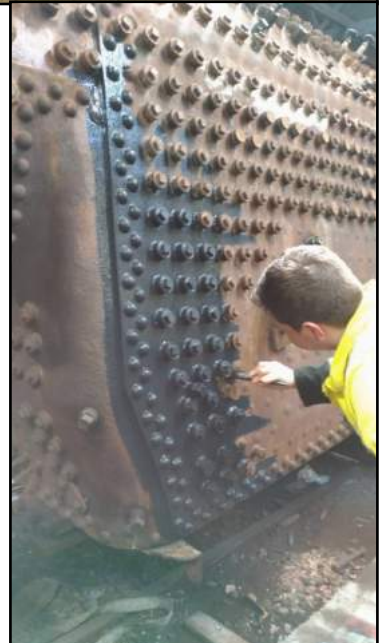


STEAM INCORPORATED

From "Steamline"

Diesel Division. more than ably lead by Peter Steer have spent countless hours returning Da 1410 to the point where it will move under its own power. Da 1410 was part of the repatriation from GVR in 2015 along with J 1234 where they spent a number of years. Seeing the work achieved by these guys is a true credit to both the society and the versatility of work that happens within. *Photo: John Bovis*

Ka 945 - Progress on the locomotive has continued apace. Some of our junior members have started work on cleaning up and painting some of the locomotive's brake equipment, as well as needle-gunning and wire-brushing the cowcatcher. Also to note, is the two main drivers that are occasionally worked on in the workshop. Preparations for the official hydro test are near complete, under the expertise of Alastair Maciver. The entire boiler has had a coat of anti corrosive paint applied. Recent work includes the start of the new doubling plate construction. Jobs to do after this work include the construction of a new firepan, and a new dry pipe. These two things along with many minorities, will complete the locomotive's boiler overhaul, thus allowing work to start in other areas of the locomotive.



Left: Ka 945 makes a rare appearance outside as 2 Road gets a clean up. Photo: P Steer.

Right: Tommy Secker cracks on with the boiler painting. Photo: Dion McKenna

GOLDFIELDS RAILWAY



Goldfields Railway's heritage wooden truss Waitekauri river bridge major upgrade is well underway with the rails uplifted, sleepers removed, the 6 metre steel span taken off for new concrete abutment, and a ground pad formed on the Waikino side of the bridge for the crane to operate from when placing the main steelwork. The society is hopeful that their trains will be operating again from mid-December. *Photos: Sue Brandt*

DIESEL TRACTION GROUP



On Saturday 11 November 2017, the Diesel Traction Group reached a major milestone with their restoration programme to return Di 1102 to working order.

Working with their Dg 772, it was subjected to load tests on the Canterbury Railway Society's railway between The Valley, through Moorhouse in the Ferrymead Heritage Village, to Ferrymead.

Each loco used the other's dynamic grid to provide important load-testing data on the performance of the Di's engine as it was run-in after overhaul. This, the final part of a staggered load-test programme, enabled the locomotive to reach full power, working in Notch 10 for the first time. The freshly overhauled Napier turbo-charger of the Di certainly earned its keep, and along with the Dg provided a noisy display of first-generation diesel-electric power.

1102 is the only survivor of five light-axle load diesel-electrics delivered in 1966. They were produced in Australia by the English Elec-



tric Company for New Zealand Railways.

Photos D.L.A. Turner.

TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From Ferrymead Tram Tracts.

FERRYMEAD TRAMWAY 50 - 6 January 2018

(To be celebrated 50 years from the day that the first section of the Ferrymead Tramway was declared open, and steam tram operation began.)

Provisional Programme

Saturday 6 January

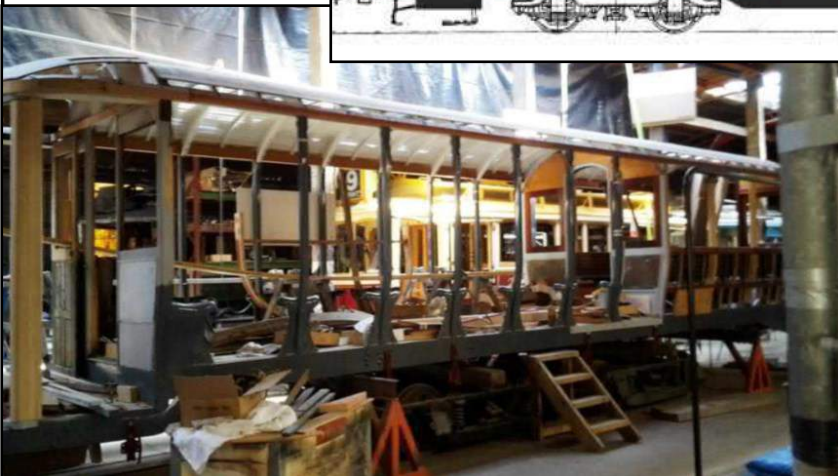
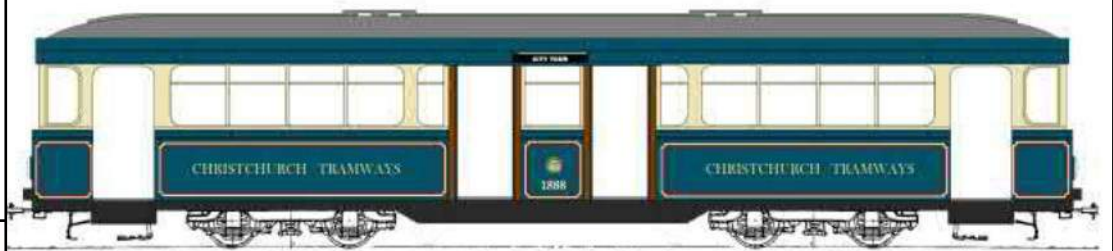
Afternoon - (From) 1:00pm members and guests arrive 2:00pm - Welcome speeches and re-enactment of the original opening, including runs to and from the then terminus (Reserve gate) 2:50pm - afternoon tea in Tram Barn 1 3:15pm - 4:30pm - tram and trolley bus rides Evening - meal and social gathering at Friendly Societies Lodge Hall, Ferrymead Township. This will include a video presentation of the early days of THS, including the 6 January 1968 Opening. Costs to be advised.

Sunday 7 January 10:00am -4:30pm "Steam Sunday" at Ferrymead Heritage Park. Will include 2 electric trams and trailers operating, and the tram sheds open and on display. Also trolley buses and trolley bus shed. All welcome. There will be a formal invitation with updated details sent out separately to members and guests in early December. We have started identifying former members who will be added to our invitation list and still need help in naming and locating some. Hope to see many of you there joining us in this milestone celebration.

Two major tram projects are currently underway at Ferrymead.

Christchurch Tramway Limited has leased Sydney R-class tram 1808 from the Sydney Tramway Museum. This tram, is now undergoing final preparation and painting before starting its new life on the Christchurch Tramway.

Artist's impression of 1808 in its new livery: courtesy John Smith, CTL



Christchurch 'Hills' car 24. We are now refitting the remaining (new) shiplap timber to 24's roof. The left side was fixed down on 28th October, and the right hand side will follow. The photo by Stephen Taylor, Project Leader, shows progress as of that date. 24 is now looking very tram-like.

WAIMEA PLAINS RAILWAY, MANDEVILLE

Meet K92's friend's Fergus & Claudia Dillon, who along with the rest of Balfour School held a dress-up day to raise money for the Locomotive. The Teachers also took the opportunity to educate the pupils about the 1920's and steam trains, resulting in a great day and a lot of fun. Thank you very much to Balfour School for taking up our initiative and raising \$155 that will go directly towards K92. We look forward to you all being able to visit K92 in steam soon. *Photo Rochelle Dillon*



CLASSIFIEDS

Pre-order Offer TO FRONZ organizations and their members

Port to Plains

The Story of the LYTTELTON RAILWAY TUNNEL

Written by David Welch, this new publication tells of New Zealand's first great engineering project – New Zealand's first railway network – the project that shaped a nation's history... Over 200 pages with 100-plus detailed and historical black & white and colour illustrations

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Opening of the Lyttelton Railway Tunnel December 1867

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Port to Plains

OVER AND UNDER THE PORT HILLS



The Story of The Lyttelton Railway Tunnel

David Welch



HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES CHANGES

Hazardous substances: How to get ready for this law change

New rules are coming on how to manage the risks if your workplace deals with hazardous substances. Use WorkSafe 10-step guide to make sure you and any workers are ready — and know how to stay safe and healthy when dealing with these substances.

WorkSafe have assumed the regulator role for the Haz Subs regulations and will begin that role on 1 December 2017. We have provided a link to the Practical guide in managing Hazardous Substances for members to use. It includes an online inventory app and takes the user through the steps to establish a proper management system. This is aside from the operational responsibilities members have.

It is planned to invite someone from WorkSafe to talk to us about a range of things at the next FRONZ conference including hazardous substances.

The Link

<http://www.hazardoussubstances.govt.nz/guide>

Comments or questions can be addressed to Trevor Burling, Executive Officer,

Ph: +64 4 234 7199

Mobile: 027 687 1914

Email: trevor.burling@xtra.co.nz

Glenbrook Vintage Railway

Santa's



10th
17th
Dec

Grotto!



Photos With Santa - Kids Activities

Steam Train Rides - Xmas First Class

Book Online - www.gvr.co.nz

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.

Steam Incorporated

3 Dec	Christmas Grand Circle	Circumnavigating the Tararuas (diesel)
3 Dec	Christmas Twilight Express	Evening run Kapiti to Palmerston North & return (diesel)
9, 10, 16, 17 Dec	North Pole Express.	Paraparaumu to "North Pole" return. (steam)
6 January 2018	Eketahuna Express	Kapiti to Masterton via Manawatu (steam)
17 Feb	Deco Delights	Kapiti to Napier for Art Deco (diesel)
24 March	Mangaweka Express	Paekakariki to Taihape (steam)
13 May	Heartland Flyer	Paekakariki to Woodville (steam)

Marlborough Flyer

Readers looking to ride the new Marlborough Flyer, a joint arrangement between FRONZ members **Steam Incorporated** and **Pounamu Tourism**, should see their booking site at www.marlboroughflyer.co.nz for their regular summer excursions between Picton and Blenheim

Mainline Steam

20-21 January 2018. Plimmerton to Whanganui return.

Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Gisborne to Muriwai—

Thursday 28 December 2017
 Friday 29 December 2017
 Saturday 6 January 2018
 Sunday 7 January 2018
 Saturday 27 January 2018
 Sunday 28 January 2018
 Saturday 17 February 2018
 Saturday 31 March 2018
 Sunday 1 April 2018
 Sunday 13 May 2018
 Saturday 2 June 2018
 Sunday 3 June 2018

Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

7 Jan 2018. Palmerston North—Longburn return (Steam F163)
 4 March 2018. Feilding—Taumaranui return. (KR Diesel)

Pahiatua Railcar Society

19-22 January 2018—Festival of Lights. New Plymouth.
 14-15 Feb 2018—Art Deco Weekend

Dunedin Railways

Regular Taieri Gorge (currently closed due to flood damage) and North Line services
 29 April to 12 May 2018 Silver Fern Railcar Christchurch to Invercargill and return.

No excursions currently advertised for:

Glenbrook Vintage Railway Scenic Rail

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



D. L. A. Turner

This month, as the thirtieth anniversary of the Trans Alpine train is celebrated, many readers will have fond memories of earlier railcar trips over the Southern Alps.

D.L.A. Turner has recently restored this photo of a Drewry Twinset in a chilly scene from now long ago near Arthurs Pass in the early 1970s.

In 1974, your Editor, my first visit to the South Island with a couple of mates who also enjoyed trains, included railcar trips between Dunedin and Alexandra, Christchurch and Greymouth and the Southerner between Dunedin and Invercargill, not to mention a newish attraction the Kingston Flyer between Lumsden and Kingston. All of which are no longer in operation, except as fond memories.

**FRONZ CONFERENCE WELLINGTON
1-4 JUNE 2018**

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