



# JOURNAL

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## FRONZ CONFERENCE 2018

Booking for conference 2018 will open in the next few days and available at [www.fronz.org.nz](http://www.fronz.org.nz).

Accommodation bookings at our venue, West Plaza Hotel at 110 Wakefield St will be available at [www.fronz.org.nz](http://www.fronz.org.nz).

**Take advantage of our early booking price and make your booking by 30 April.**

There is an option to book ALL conference activities Saturday and Sunday or as individual elements.

When booking note that our Friday and Monday excursions and site visits must be booked separately.

Our confirmed plans include:

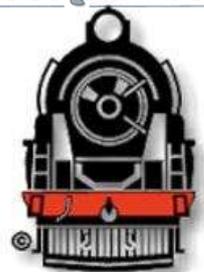
**Friday 1 June:** An afternoon visit to the Wheelwright Shop at Gladstone in the Wairarapa. Greg spoke at our last conference in Dunedin, now we have a chance to see his work. Visitors can take a scheduled train from Wellington at 1255 arriving Carterton 1414. We will have a coach transfer us to and from Carterton to Gladstone, followed by return train from Carterton. Return train leaves Carterton at 15.56 arriving Wellington 1717.

Friday evening conference registration begins at the West Plaza Hotel at 1700.

**Saturday 2 June:** Conference sessions all day with a free evening. Keynote Speaker is Peter Dunne, retired MP and cabinet minister who will entertain us with his political knowledge specifically on making submissions to government legislation. We will also have updates from NZTA Rail Section staff. We are awaiting confirmation on speakers from Ministry of Transport, and funding agencies. There will be a presentation on those all important Safety Cases, and an update from Kiwirail on their year.

**Sunday 3 June:** Morning conference session will be the FRONZ AGM and after other business there will be updates from The National Railway Museum and NZ Rail Heritage Trust. In the afternoon we will travel by coach to visit some of our members' sites: Mainline Steam Plimmerton depot, host group Steam Incorporated Paekakariki depot, and the Wellington Tramway Museum, all in the Kapiti area.

**Monday 4 June:** (Queen's Birthday Holiday): Coach to the Hutt Valley where we will visit more member sites. Our first stop will be the NZ Railway & Locomotive Society Archives at the Thomas McGavin building in Petone, then on to the Silver Stream Railway, Rimutaka Incline Heritage Railway (including lunch there) before returning to Wellington and the airport by 1500 for visitors to fly home.



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

## FRONZ AWARDS 2018

See the two links below for this year's conference awards at Queen's Birthday.

The first link is the criteria for the awards (one of which includes a prize from KiwiRail to the tune of \$2000), the second link is for the NZTA award, which also comes with a \$2000 prize.

Also MOTAT have just agreed to support the prize for Steam Locomotive Restoration with a cash sum of \$1500 to the winner.

Please talk over with your members about any possible categories you may be eligible to enter. There's a lot of free money up for grabs so give it some thought.

### Awards Criteria

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1mKjj5KD5toU2RUdVdYQ3ctbDZjenZBcERVTGICQU5XY2Y4>

### NZTA Tourist and Heritage Rail Safety Award

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1mKjj5KD5toOS1HbF9iQjNWenVtUkMjMXlhMGdrY3NrbkRz>

Be aware, the deadlines are April 25 and 26, so strike while the iron's hot.

Any questions, refer to e-mail contact details in the files.



Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand

## 2018 Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand - Achievement Awards -

The following awards are available for presentation at the annual Awards Dinner, Sunday 3 June 2018 at Wellington.

| Award                                     | Prize   | Entries Close |
|---|---|---------------|
| Steam Locomotive Restoration Award        | TBC   | 25 April 2018 |
| KiwiRail Infrastructure Improvement Award | \$2,000 & Trophy  | 25 April 2018 |
| Tramway Restoration Award                 | Certificate   | 25 April 2018 |
| Carriage / Guards Van Restoration Award   | Trophy & \$500 courtesy of Dunedin Railways                         | 25 April 2018 |
| Goods / Service Wagons Restoration Award  | Certificate   | 25 April 2018 |
| Z-Minitankers Award                       | \$500 voucher toward fuel courtesy of Z-Minitankers.                | 25 April 2018 |
| AON Young Achievers Award                 | Up to \$1000 towards the costs of attending next year's Conference. | 25 April 2018 |
| Rail Heritage Trust Restoration Award     | Plaque  | 25 April 2018 |
| Submission Details                        |   |               |
| NZTA Tourist & Heritage Rail Safety Award | \$2,000 & Plaque  | 26 April 2018 |

## 2018 Award Sponsors

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## HERITAGE RAIL SITE SECURITY

Recent well publicised incidents of criminal activity at some of our member sites have occurred and these are a significant concern to members.

Thefts, vandalism such as tagging, or simply suspicious activity have occurred at several sites and also we need to be aware of the risk of other illegal behaviour of potential members and workers of our member groups.

News coverage of alleged illicit behaviour of people is the last thing the rail heritage movement needs, considering the potential effects on our customers and volunteers.

### Criminal Record Checks.

While it is not practical to ask all our individual members to undertake criminal record clearances it may be worth considering this for members that have contact with the public and also those working with younger members of our groups. The Ministry of Justice actually undertakes free Criminal Record Checks. See <https://www.justice.govt.nz/criminal-records/>. This is free of charge and simply needs completion of a request form, with of course the permission of the person concerned.

Do not be complacent. This is all about protecting the innocent.

### Site Security.

It may be necessary to spend some money on making your site more secure.

Suggestions to improve security include:

- Locking all doors and gates.

- Approach any strangers wandering around sites and ask their business.

- Install secure fencing

- Install security (and fire) alarms and engage security patrols.

These items do cost money but may well save it in the long run. There may also be an opportunity to reduce insurance costs.

## BIG PLANS FOR SPRINGFIELD STATION

*From: Star Media*

A new community group has formed to give Springfield's historic railway station a make-over.

The Friends of Springfield Station plans to beautify its station – in a bid to transform it into a community hub.

The group is planning to work with KiwiRail and Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand to paint the station and tidy up its gardens.

Restoration work will include painting the building's woodwork, veranda, doors and window sills.

Founder Simon Williams said the aim is to turn it into a community area for people to come and "hang out."

"I think it is worth doing because it is part of the historical fabric of Springfield, which was really put there for the railway," he said.

The group was formed after Christmas and is made up of about 20 members.

The station is already beginning to grow with The Springfield Railway Station Cafe re-opening last month in the station's old refreshment rooms.

The cafe's leasee Heather Valphy makes up cheeseboards for the TranzAlpine at the station each day.

The station already has a collectables shop, personal trainer and plant seller.

A monthly farmer's market is also planned to run in the future.

The station has operated in the township since the 1880s.

It was originally located in the centre of Springfield – which is now known as Tramway Reserve.

In 1923, the railway station was moved to its current location off King St so a larger marshalling yard could be built following the opening of the Otira Tunnel.

"Springfield used to be a really big railway centre . . . they used to have a particular type of locomotive stationed at Springfield. I think there was something like 70 people who serviced the system," Mr Williams said.

He said 12 white railway houses known as the "white city" used to be located along the line.

The railway station was rebuilt using pink summerhill stone in 1966 after the old station burnt down.

Mr Williams said while pink summerhill stone is not "everybody's favourite building material in 2018", the Rail Heritage Trust felt it was a voyage too far to repaint the building material.

But Mr Williams said there are still a lot of railway men in the town and its heritage is not being celebrated enough.

The group will lodge a proposal with KiwiRail in the hopes of securing funding for the project.

As part of his proposal, Mr Williams would like to get KiwiRail to agree to stopping the TranzAlpine in Springfield for an extended break. Currently, it only stops to allow passengers to board or disembark the train and to pick up the cheeseboards.



*The Springfield Railway Station Cafe is now run by Gayl and Barry Lindon.*

## 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](mailto:scottosmond54@gmail.com)

### WAIMEA PLAINS RAILWAY

Waimea Plains Railway Steam Festival, was held at Mandeville 24, 25 February. Mandeville and K92 Locomotive was in steam, joining many traction Engines, steam punk visitors and their amazing outfits, art exhibition, lego display and other attractions.

Wonderful weekend for the 1878 Rogers K92 Locomotive having fun at the Mandeville Steam Festival. The ongoing development of her working railway yard is continuing.

Impossible dream to complete original Waimea Plains line from Gore. The 450 is our current approved line under NZTA rules. We have other areas laid but yet to completely link these from one to the other. Eventually we will have approx 6.5km of track and yes we are aiming to be a tourist attraction. Check out our website [www.waimeaplainsrailway.co.nz](http://www.waimeaplainsrailway.co.nz)

*Story and photo from Facebook.*

*Little Steam Engine bravely attempting to pull 1878 Rogers K92 Locomotive. Photo by Eric Eaves.*



### FEILDING STEAM RAIL

The last six or eight months have been a very busy period for Feilding Steam Rail. Our mechanical team has been working hard on stripping down WAB 794 ready for her ten-year survey.

While the ten-year survey is under way, other work which must be done at the same time become apparent.

New crank pins have just been fitted to the main drivers, a set of trailing bogies tyres have been imported from South Africa and fitted. The Westinghouse pump is having a major over haul as is the generator. The boiler is having new tubes and the axle boxes are having a major overhaul. We are pleased to report that for an old girl the boiler is in excellent condition.

Our DSA is receiving some long overdue TLC and then it will be the turn of our small TR.

Wednesday 14 March saw our turntable lifted from the ground in preparation for the turn table installation to be completed. The table will have a new deck and finally concrete sides to the table pit.

We are also in the middle of installing a new left hand turnout which will provide access to our engine shed at the rear of our property. It is the societies intention to construct a new service pit later in the year so that all our volunteers will finally have something decent and clean to work in.

On the excursion front we have just returned from Taumarunui after a very busy day with our 13 carriage consist. It has been a while since Taumarunui has seen a passenger train of that size and the locals certainly warmed to the occasion. *Supplied by Rod Bertram.*



*Left: The Taumarunui excursion crossing the Hapawhenua Viaduct.*

*Right: Feilding turntable being lifted. Photo: Keith Jacob.*



## OAMARU STEAM & RAIL

We had a quieter month in February, with just under 500 passengers.

The Husky ran February's services after having her starter motor refurbished.

We lost one running day because of... clay following a slip during Cyclone Gita.

The Silver Fern railcar from Dunedin Railways visited our platform on 18 February.

A wedding charter was run in conjunction with Portside restaurant. Didn't the Husky and the open wagon behind her look pretty?!



## CANTERBURY RAILWAY SOCIETY

*From Branchlines.*

The ten-year survey of D140 continued during February, with work progressing on the coupling rods and the cleaning and refitting of the boiler lagging. A1552, Af863, A222, B231, and F79 have had their annual inspections and are waiting re-stencilling.



*Above Left: Michael Hobbs, the driver and General Manager of the Ferrymead Railway, keeps a watchful eye ahead as Peveril steams into the platform at Ferrymead Station on 7 January 2018. Right: D140 in the workshop for work on its boiler lagging. 22 February 2018 Photos: Wayne McClintock.*

## GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

In preparation for the March 2018 Day Out With Thomas Weekend it was decided that DBR 1295 (GVR No. 12) needed a freshen up. Over the course of one week she was repainted into the 'Fruit Salad' livery that was once standard for all diesel locomotives back in the 1970's.



## BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB

*From March Newsletter.*

### Open Days

Unlike previous years the Railway ran over the Summer period. The first Open Days for 2018 were held on 7th January, 4th February & 4th March. The January & March days were reasonably well patronised but the February one was fairly quiet. Overall these extra days have been good for the bank balance as well as not so busy as to stress out the members who came along to help and made the days a success. We are very fortunate to have some members helping in various jobs who normally don't come and help on open days. Welcome to the hustle and bustle of our railway open days and many thanks for your support.

Next open days are April 1st & May 6th.

### The Glen Afton Line Extension

Our contractor will be at the Railway shortly to get rid of the mud that is heaped beside the line, clean out the drains and replace the sleepers at the Glen Afton end of the line.

We have twice been turned down on our grant applications for the funding for the track screws so have had to buy and pay for them from club funds, 1000 have been ordered.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have received a grant from the "Pub Charity" for \$10,000 towards this work. We have applied for another grant for the balance of the cost.

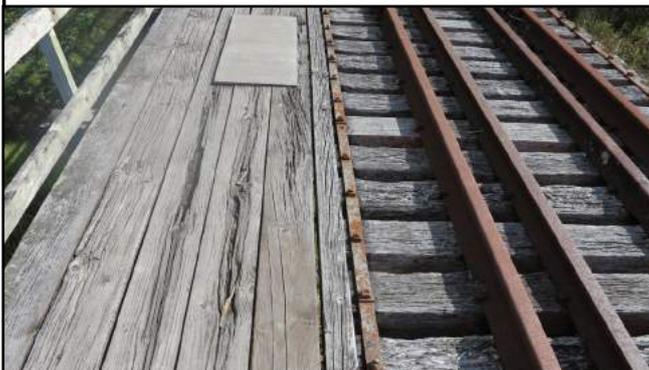
We are very keen to get our trains back into Glen Afton.

*Photo: A1319 goes on a trial run to Colin Jenner's house in January.*



## BAY OF ISLANDS VINTAGE RAILWAY

One of the biggest heritage railway infrastructure projects on a heritage railway, "Long Bridge" at Taumarere just out of Kawakawa on the line to Opuia. The bridge has been rebuilt from the piers to the track. The track over the bridge is nearly complete, ready to be inspected to run passenger trains, BUT then the scree (little stones) on the track all the way to Opuia have to be removed. There are tons of it. After that, the track has to be refurbished, and inspected. The remaining smaller bridges have to be refurbished and the tunnel refurbished. Trains cannot run to Opuia straight away.



*The two pictures at left were taken in 2013. The dog spikes holding the track down were made for the extension of the line 1881 – 1884. The picture on right shows the bridge in its restored state. Text and pictures from Facebook.*



## AUCKLAND DOCKLINE TRAM

From Facebook. The Volvo Ocean Race yachts have departed our shores bringing to an end our Saturday/Sunday operation. It has been a great four weekends with lots of new friends made - I suppose I should also add the usual badly parked cars adding to the fun of the day! Time for our team to have a quiet weekend next week, with tram No.881 running just on Sunday, then..... it's Easter!!

We will be running right through the Easter weekend from Good Friday thru to Easter Monday.

Great news too - Easter will see our refurbished and beautifully repainted 92 year old tram No.466 back in service again after a 9 month face-lift.

The finishing touches are going on, here we see the section panels for the doors now ready to be reinstalled.



## THE PLAINS RAILWAY

K 88 Running at The Plains Railway on 18 March, 140 Years Since it first hauled a train in Canterbury. *Phlatland Rail Philms & Photography.*



## PLEASANT POINT MUSEUM & RAILWAY

Donald Goodman, member for over 45 years writes.

2 March 2018, was the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Fairlie Branch line. The line lay dormant for some time before the track was lifted. When the line closed a group of people wanted to keep something of the line as a reminder of the railway. Fairlie people did not seem interested but there was strong interest in Pleasant Point, part way up the branch. Those people were able to purchase the Pleasant Point station, an old Ab steam locomotive for static display and a short length of track for it to sit on. So, began the Pleasant Point Museum and Railway Society.

They never believed then, that 50 years later they would have the setup that is here now and Ab699 steaming again.

Due to a lot of hard work by a number of people they have re-laid 2.5Km of track, built the Keanes Crossing complex and became one of South Canterbury's top tourist attractions.



On 4 March D16 took Ab699 up to the Pleasant Point station to display it there getting back together. *Photos: Bryan Blanchard*



## CLASSIFIEDS

### REEFTON HISTORIC TRUST BOARD

Reefton Historic Trust Board are after some items to complete the restoration of loco TR 161

A set of 4 window wipers & motors.

A complete horn & valve.

Four side chains.

Air valve for the Brake pipe (on the headstock).

Reply to

Andrew Mckenzie

027 205 1451

[andrew@uniquelandscaping.co.nz](mailto:andrew@uniquelandscaping.co.nz)

### STEAMFEST 2019

Steamfest 2018 will not be running in August as the steam train will not be available.

Journey back in time to Steamfest 2019 to be held in the Kiwiana Capital of Otorohanga. Held on the weekend of Saturday 9th and Sunday 10 March 2019, there will be something magical for everyone to enjoy. With additional carriages being added to The Vintage Train and a repeat of the 2 New Zealand Great Train Races, enjoy the Golden Age Of Steam on the North Island Main Trunk Line as we announce a few surprises throughout the year that will be totally amazing:)

From Traction Engines to Large Displays, Steam Powered cars to Markets and Exhibits. Model Railway Displays and Kids Activities, Glass Blowing, Vintage Machinery and more.

Being larger than 2017, Steamfest 2019 is sure to impress and we encourage you to head over to [www.steamfest.co.nz](http://www.steamfest.co.nz) to get your name added to the pre-sales list.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### SAVIOUR OF FLYING SCOTSMAN DIES

*From South Yorkshire Times 5 March 2018*

A millionaire businessman who saved Doncaster's iconic Flying Scotsman locomotive has died. Sir William McAlpine died on Sunday at the age of 82.

Sir William, a former director of his family's construction company, purchased the famous steam locomotive, built in Doncaster in 1923, from America in 1973. It had been due to spend the rest of its days in a museum but Sir William brought it back to England and pressed it back into service for day trips before selling it in the Nineties. A keen rail enthusiast, he built a full-sized railway at his estate near Henley including the original station from Somersham in Cambridgeshire, which was closed during the Sixties. Born in London in 1936 at the family-owned Dorchester Hotel, his great-grandfather was Sir Robert McAlpine, the first of the McAlpine baronets and the founder of the construction company. Built for the London and North Eastern Railway at Doncaster to a design by Sir Nigel Gresley, it became the first steam locomotive to be officially authenticated at reaching 100 miles per hour on 30 November 1934 and then setting a record for the longest non-stop run by a steam locomotive when it ran 422 miles on 8 August 1989 while in Australia. After a ten year overhaul by current owners the National Railway Museum in York, the loco re-entered service in 2016.



## 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](mailto:scottosmond54@gmail.com).

### Glenbrook Vintage Railway Scenic Rail

26 May. Silver Fern. Auckland to Putaruru, Tokoroa.

Other planned trip dates. Details to be advised are:

14 July

11, 12 August.

8 September.

October—South Island tour

### Steam Incorporated

|                |                                    |   |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 22 April       | River City Express                 | Paekakariki to Whanganui (steam)                  |
| 13 May         | Heartland Flyer                    | Paekakariki to Woodville (steam)                  |
| 18 May         | Main Trunk Night Limited (One Way) | Hamilton to Kapiti (diesel)                       |
| 10 June        | Kapiti Family Express              | Paraparaumu Paekakariki shuttles (steam shuttles) |
| 28 July        | Spiral Snow Express                | Kapiti to Taumaranui (diesel)                     |
| 9 September    | Daffodil Express                   | Wellington to Carterton (steam)                   |
| 14 October     | Heartland Flyer                    | Paekakariki to Woodville (steam)                  |
| 17-23 October  | South Island Rail Tour             |   |
| 2 December     | Christmas Grand Circle             | (Diesel)  |
| 5 January 2019 | Ekatahuna Express                  | (Steam)   |

More details of Steam Incorporated trips at <https://mailchi.mp/d045072a13af/rail-excursion-update>

### 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](http://www.marlboroughflyer.co.nz) for their regular summer excursions between Picton and Blenheim. Final run for season 8 April 2018.

### Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Gisborne to Muriwai—  
 Sunday 13 May 2018  
 Saturday 2 June 2018  
 Sunday 3 June 2018

### Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

15 April 2018. Palmerston North—Napier return. (KR Diesel)  
 6 May 2018. Feilding-National Park (Chateau lunch) (KR Diesel)

### Dunedin Railways

Regular Taieri Gorge and North Line services

12 May 2018 Silver Fern Railcar Christchurch to Invercargill and return.

No excursions currently advertised for:

**Mainline Steam**

**Pahiatua Railcar Society**

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



As Di 1102 nears completion of restoration by the Diesel Traction Group, D.L.A. Turner has sent a now long-ago image from April or May 1966.

The first Di, Di 1100, leaving Wellington on its trial run on a test train to Masterton. It was about to enter the "throat" opposite A Box, and was being watched over from above by the usual pair of seagulls as guarding sentinels atop "their" overhead traction poles.

Note also the wooden goods wagons on platform 9, no doubt on the back of a recently arrived express from Auckland.

*Ed: I hope DTG include the curved "V" white stripes on the short hood of 1102. It really adds to the finish, not to mention the inside of the horn! Those wooden traction poles look like they struggle to handle the stresses imposed by all the traction wires, especially with the added weight of the seagulls!*

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

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