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FRONZ CONFERENCE 2019

Bookings are now closed for the 2019 FRONZ Conference at Timaru.

A weekend of information sharing, discussion, member site visits and celebration of the achievement in Rail Heritage in New Zealand awaits us in Timaru from 31 May to 3 June. Conference will be reported in full in the next Journal.

Meanwhile we are sending this edition out a little early so we can concentrate on the conference arrangements.

Thanks go to our conference and awards sponsors for their support.



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FRONZ LOGO



The FRONZ Executive are keen to keep our image modern (while still celebrating rail heritage) and would like to update our logo as seen here. We are offering two tickets on a Dunedin Railways regular Taieri Gorge train as an incentive if anyone would like to design a new logo. The line needs to represent our Objects which include promoting all aspects of railway and tramway history in New Zealand including railway locomotives, rolling stock, trams and associated structures.

So have a go at your image computing skills and see what we can come up with. Entries can be sent to the Editor at scottosmond54@gmail.com.

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

FERRYMEAD HERITAGE PARK OFF TRACK AFTER THIEVES STEAL CRUCIAL TRAIN EQUIPMENT

From The Press

Thieves who stole thousands of dollars' worth of signalling equipment have shut down train operations at Christchurch's Ferrymead Heritage Park and jeopardised the popular tourist attraction's future.

Signal relays, transformers, and cables – estimated to be worth about \$10,000 – were stripped and stolen from a shed in the park early in the morning on April 24.

Trains cannot run until the vital safety equipment is reinstalled because the track passes over a public road.

The park, which features an early 1900s Edwardian township with operational steam engines and trams, is one of Christchurch's most popular tourist attractions. It began as the Museum of Science & Industry in 1965 and is now run by a trust.

Canterbury Railway Society member Kevin Prince said the theft was "heartbreaking". His volunteer group restores and operates the trains.

The equipment, which was obsolete and had historical value, was hard to find and replace, he said. It could take more than four months to reinstall and lay replacement signalling equipment.

"We've had a lot of upset people who are expecting a train ride. It hits you in the gut because this is what we do for fun and people like it, and to not be able to run is disappointing."

The society's funding reserves should be for restoration projects rather than replacing stolen items, Prince said.

Ferrymead Heritage Park general manager Jason Harris said the theft was going to have a significant financial impact on the park.

"We get by on the smell of an oily rag on a good day and we rely on people coming in to see the trains when they're operational. I'm really expecting our numbers to be down and we need that money to get by."

Harris said the park would remain open with everything remaining operational except the trains.

A police spokeswoman said no arrests had been made at this stage and police inquiries were ongoing. No CCTV footage captured the theft, she said.

From CRS Facebook

Items stolen from the level crossing location box some time Wednesday morning 24 April. 8 relays. 3 transformers/rectifiers. 1 battery charger. All items will have had an overhaul sticker on them.

This location box was an integral part of the signalling system for trains arriving and departing Moorhouse Station. Without it, the remaining system has had to be modified to still make it work and not lock up the system. All changes noted down, so when the system is back to its complete state, all the changes can then be undone.

To source all the components, rebuild/overhaul them to as built condition. Rewire, tag and terminate nearly 100 wires, is going to take our signals technician a considerable time. So it will be several months of work before the signalling system is back to full operating condition.

This is a good example of holding images of your equipment so if this happens you can easily circulate the information.
- Editor



NAPIER-WAIROA LINE'S OFFICIAL REOPENING DESTINED FOR JUNE

Wairoa Star 7 May 2019

KiwiRail are tentatively circling June 14 as the day the Napier-Wairoa railway line will be officially reopened.

KiwiRail Group General Manager David Gordon said "We are planning to mark the restoration of the Napier-Wairoa line and have asked people to save June 14 as the likely date for this event to take place. However, the date has not been finalized."

When asked about the progress of a Wairoa rail hub, Mr Gordon said KiwiRail was continuing to develop plans for a log yard and was working with the council to progress consent.

"KiwiRail's focus is getting the logging hub and train services up and running as its priority, to take trucks off the road, reduce carbon emissions and help forestry owners as New Zealand's 'wall of wood' comes on-stream. Once the line is up and running, we will look at opportunities for other commodities."

The planned official reopening will mark nearly seven years since the last KiwiRail freight train rolled out of Wairoa in December 2012. That was the final logging freight service, which was part of a trial curtailed when the Government chose not to repair the railway line after washouts took out several sections of the line north of Wairoa. The damage was caused earlier that year when culverts blew out in the Beach Loop area following autumnal storms.

Other possible rail activity was hinted at last Wednesday night at a Federated Farmers Wairoa branch AGM, where Wairoa District Council Chief Executive Steven May, a guest speaker, said KiwiRail was looking at opening an inland port and trying to get Gisborne product to Wairoa, where it could be containerized and transported by train to Napier Port. The possibility of a debarking facility for logs coming into Wairoa was also mentioned.

Work to reinstate the Napier-Wairoa railway line began after the Government announced last year that \$5 million from the Provincial Growth Fund would be put towards the project.

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

TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From Tracts

Recently THS did a review of their current priority projects. This is something member groups should consider annually to ensure the work of our volunteers is focused appropriately according to available resources. Quite a list!

- Construction of Diesel Bus Barn.
- Traverser Work
- Trolley Bus Overhead Repairs and Upgrade
- Restoration of Christchurch Hills Car #24
- Repaint of Diesel Buses 452 and 612
- Refurbishment of the spare Kitson Boiler and installing it in the Kitson
- Repairs to and Repaint of Square Shelter
- 236 – Spare Truck Overhaul
- Mornington Cable Grip Car 103 Restoration
- Society Display Building
- Finish repaint of Trolley Bus 79
- Repairs to Trolley Bus Barn
- Repairs to Tramway Point outside Livery Stables
- Trambarn 3 Sprinklers
- Trolley Bus 210 exterior completion
- Make the Track into the Ferrymead Reserve functional again
- Roslyn 3 Restoration



Above: With the power on and Graeme Belworthy behind the wheel, Dunedin Trolley Bus 79 trundles back towards the Trolleybus Shed after more than a year away for repainting, under the watchful eye of Alan Roi. PHOTO: Dave Hinman. Editor's note. I have been trying to avoid reporting on rubber tyred vehicles but this one does look pretty good!

WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM

From Tramlines

Over the past couple of months, WTM has been working on a potential local tour operation with a local business owner. While it is early days and no final decisions have been made, the idea is to offer a special interest tour to the Kapiti Coast for hotel guests in Wellington. The plan is to bring them to the Tramway for a "cuppa" and a tram ride, after which they will go to The Blue Train in Paraparaumu for lunch and a visit to Southwards in the afternoon.

If the tours become a reality, it is intended to run them at Weekends and possibly Wednesdays.

There is a promotional video, click onto the following link and have a look on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ba8TfOjGyI>

Grand Pacific Tours

Our first tour party is due on 11 September with a further five groups due in the first month. The substantial income from these tours will be a great boost to funds and will enable us to progress with works that otherwise would be delayed or deferred.

Right: Tram 17 in position in the workshop. 20th March 2019. Photo: Keith McGavin

Trams

The partial repainting of Fiducia 239 after the major work on its "B" end cab in particular (removing and rebuilding rotten areas) has been completed. Mechanical and electrical checks are being done and the tram is being readied for service.



With tram 239 no longer occupying a space in road 6 of the barn the plan to move tram 17 into the workshop was implemented on 20 March. Tram 17 now occupies the north end of road 6 and tram 207 (the next to be restored) has been moved from the north to the south end.



Above: The contract with A&G Price at Thames, to re-construct two Brill 22E trucks for Tram 17 is now well underway with a multitude of parts being made ready for fitting, and assembly of the two trucks commenced. Photo: Steve Porter..

Tram journeys at WTM Nine Months Year-to-date to 31 March 2019 .

Passenger journeys this year 8,689, last year 8,398. Tram kms this year 3,399 , last year 3,370

Training Wanganui Tram Drivers

On Saturday 23 February a group of six Driver Trainees from Wanganui Tramways Trust, and their trainer (Jim Ennis), came to the site. They were briefed and then they assisted with the preparation of Tram 151 for service. The Wanganui trainees in turn drove 151 to the Beach and back. From what was seen, and heard, each benefited from the experience.

BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB

The monthly open day in April was an extraordinarily busy day. By 9.45am, we had enough passengers waiting to fill a train, so the first one left at 9.55am. When this train returned from the top end of the line, there were enough passengers waiting to fill another 2 trains. To stop the congestion of passengers getting off the train with those trying to get on the train, we stopped the train at the bottom end of the platform to unload, then pulled the train up to the station proper to load. As soon as the train was full, we were away again. We ran 3 extra trips with the last leaving at 3.55pm instead of 3pm as normal. The Mamaku jigger ran 14 trips; usually it runs about 6 or 7 trips.

The café ran out of food at about 1pm with just a few drinks left. We sold 35kg of chips alone between 10am and 1pm. In all, we carried 1051 passengers. They just never stopped arriving.

For the first time ever, we banked a 5 figure number (over \$10,000)!!

Right: Mark Prujean fried 35kg of chips at the April Open Day (G. Coker)



PLEASANT POINT RAILWAY AND MUSEUM

The annual "Kiwi the Engine" event was held at Easter and attracted good crowds of over 800 over three days. Our 2019 FRONZ Conference has promised a good visit to their railway on Monday 3 June. *Photos Bryan Blanchard.*



PLAINS RAILWAY

Another FRONZ member group we will be visiting during the 2019 FRONZ Conference is Plains Railway at Ashburton. This superb photo taken by Wayne Oakley at the early morning light-up of K88 for a recent running day. Similar weather has been ordered for the conference!



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.

Glenbrook Vintage Railway Scenic Rail

15 June	Feildays Flyer	Auckland—Te Awamutu	(KR Diesel)
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Steam Incorporated

9 June	Kapiti Family Express		(Steam)
23 June	Waipukurau		(Diesel)
4 August (TBC)	Heartland Flyer	Paekakariki-Woodville	(Steam)
8 September	Daffodil Express		(Steam)
1 December	Christmas Grand Circle		(Diesel)
4 January 2020	River City Express		(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. 2018-2019 concluded on 21 April 2019.

Mainline Steam

Tui Brewery future excursions.

28 July 2019. Vintage Car Day

10 November 2019. The popular Tui Express with lunch at the Tui Brewery.

15 December 2019. Christmas at the Brewery.

Pahiatua Railcar Society

No excursions currently advertised.

Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Gisborne to Muriwai—
Sunday 2 June 2019

Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

16 June 2019	Mid-Winter Xmas Dinner	Feilding—Masterton	(KR Diesel)
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11, 12 July 2019	Candlelight Express	Feilding Yard Runs	(F163)
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Dunedin Railways

Regular Taieri Gorge and North Line services plus rail tours.

Rail Touring details at <https://www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/our-journeys/rail-touring>

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



All readers will be aware of the momentous occasion in rail history celebrating the 150th anniversary of the North American Trans-Continental railway opened on 10 May 1869. Big Boy No. 4014 and 4-8-4 No. 844 form the backdrop as a giant Golden Spike is hammered in place at an Ogden, Utah, ceremony by officials and descendants of participants in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.

TRAINS: Jim Wrinn

**FRONZ CONFERENCE TIMARU
31 MAY– 3 JUNE 2019**

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