



JOURNAL

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FRONZ CONFERENCE 2019

Another successful FRONZ Conference was held over Queen's Birthday weekend in Timaru. Our venue was The Landing Conference Centre, a beautifully preserved old commercial warehouse which provided warm and comfortable surroundings and well as excellent catering.

Many of the delegates and Observers have noted how many younger people were at the conference, many for the first, and hopefully not last, time. Well done to our members for encouraging the younger workers to attend where they all got a good insight about FRONZ, and how it operates to support the rail heritage industry in New Zealand.

This edition of Journal contains full reports of all conference activities. In many ways this conference was a watershed event as on Thursday before conference Government announced a \$1billion cash injection for Kiwirail to restore the network and facilities to its prominent place in the New Zealand transport infrastructure. This was featured in presentations from Kiwirail. Also our network heritage operators are going through a period of significant change in the way mainline rail vehicles are inspected and managed and this provided a forum for discussion on the way forward.

Tramway and heritage railway operators were not left out with their own discussion forums.



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

FRONZ THANKS OUR SPONSORS

Before we look at our conference activities in review, we wish to again thank our sponsors. Our two main conference sponsors contribute an amount that means a saving of nearly \$100 to each delegate. For this we thank the New Zealand Transport Agency and New Zealand Rail Heritage Trust.



RAIL HERITAGE TRUST
OF NEW ZEALAND

Our other sponsors help with prizes and funds towards the prizes for our awards.



MOTAT



SINOPEC®



A very sincere thank you to all sponsors who help our conference each year.

FRONZ AWARDS 2019

The showpiece of our annual conference is of course our Awards dinner at which we salute the best achievements in rail heritage in New Zealand for the past year.

Award Winners

The Paul Dillicar Memorial Award for Innovation.

Sean Heenan and his team of Glenbrook Vintage Railway Volunteers for their inaugural 'Counties Power' Christmas Lights Event.

Photo Right: Alex Burgess - Flickr



The Paul Heighton Memorial Award for Excellence.

Bryan and Marian Blanchard of The Pleasant Point Museum and Railway.

Photo Left: D.L.A. Turner



AON - Young Achiever's Award

Bradley Hill of Dunedin Railways and Ocean Beach Railway

Photo Right: Facebook



Z Mini Tankers – Motive Power Award (Non-Steam)

Goldfields Railway for the restoration of locomotive Dsa 253 (DSA551)

Photo below left supplied by Goldfields Railway. Right: Grant Craig presents Peter Cooper from Goldfields Railway with the Locomotive (Non-Steam) Restoration Award as D.L.A. Turner smiles his approval behind. Photo: D. J. Maciulaitis





MOTAT Society – Steam Locomotive Restoration Award

MOTAT, Western Springs Railway for the restoration of locomotive F 180.

Above Left: Jim Savage and Graham Anderson from MOTAT receive the Steam Locomotive Restoration Award from Grant Craig. Photo: D. J. Maciulaitis. Above Right: F180. Photo: Graham Anderson

Pounamu Tourism Group – Carriage/Guards Van Restoration Award

Mainline Steam Heritage Trust for the restoration of carriage AO60.

Photo Right: AO60. Bobby Boulton



Tramway Restoration Award

Dunedin Heritage Light Rail Trust for repatriating and displaying restored cable cars to Dunedin. *Neville Jemmet (right) after receiving the Tramway Restoration Award on behalf of The Dunedin Heritage Light Rail Trust. Photos: D. J. Maciulaitis*



Rail Heritage Trust of NZ

Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society for restoration of Palmerston (South) Turntable.

Right: Gary Nicholls receives the NZ Rail Heritage Trust Award from Barry O'Donnell. Photo: D. J. Maciulaitis
Below: The restored turntable. Photo: Facebook



New Zealand Transport Agency Rail Safety Award

Glenbrook Vintage Railway Charitable Trust for modernising their Health & Safety System to improve compliance and build a stronger safety culture

Photo Left: Tim Kerwin (GM GVR), Aaron Wong (GVR), Rob Gould (NZTA)
Photo: D. J. Maciulaitis

Dunedin Railways - Goods Wagon Restoration Award

No Entries

Kiwi Rail – Infrastructure Improvement Award

No Entries

FRONZ OFFICE HOLDERS

The Annual General Meeting was held as usual during the Conference and the following people were appointed to the Executive and Convenor positions.

FRONZ Executive

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Grant Graig | President | grant@dunedinrailways.co.nz |
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FRONZ Convenors

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Clark Simmonds | RAIL Director | simmondsc@xtra.co.nz | |
| D. L. A. Turner | Awards Convenor | dla.turner@xtra.co.nz | |
| Henry Brittain | Insurance Convenor | henry.brittain@outlook.co.nz | |
| Graeme Clover | Network Operations Communications & Data Recorders | graeme.clover@gmail.com | |
| Chris Mann | Rail Planz Database | ChrisM@mtlnz.co.nz | chrismann829@gmail.com |
| Jason Durry | Boiler Code Update | jason@durry.nz | |
| Don Selby | Rail Retention Advocate | d.selby@actrix.co.nz | |
| Collin Jenner | Steam Driven Vehicle Qualifications | secretary@bushtramwayclub.com | hooksandjan@actrix.co.nz |
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| Dave Hinman | Tramway Matters | d.hinman@kinect.co.nz | |
| David Maciulaitis | Heritage Operators Matters (new Convenorship) | djmaciulaitis@gmail.com | |
| (vacant) | Infrastructure & Track Advisor | | |
| (vacant) | Occupational Health Adviser | | |



Attentive members at the AGM in the historic Landing Conference Centre, Timaru. Photo: D.L.A. Turner

FRONZ CONFERENCE NOTES

Jeff Tollan kindly made notes of our Conference Speaker's Presentations on Saturday. Here is an edited version which will be of interest to readers and those who could not attend. Photos of speakers by D.L.A. Turner

David Gordon. Kiwirail. Group General Manager Investment, Planning and Risk

DG said cost had got a little out of control in some areas.

85% of KR staff were unionised. DG said he regarded RMTU as one of the best unions in the country.

DG said there was a high probability of KR getting access to National Land Transport Fund for below-rail activities. There could be some resistance.

He said KR couldn't keep moaning about not having enough money - it had to earn the right to get the funding. "The pressure is on us to deliver."

Upgrading the EFs was not a good commercial investment, but it was an environmental investment that would be in line with the Crown's 2050 Carbon Zero goal (though there is no guarantee EFs will be any more reliable than they are now). With the \$35m allocated to updating the EF fleet, KR is going to trial reconditioning of an EF to assess the likely cost and effectiveness. It was not known what it would cost.

There was talk about splitting KR into above and below-rail firms, like On Track and Toll, but that was unlikely. KR would, however, have two sets of financial books "like the mafia".

KR is looking to buy 70ha of land near Palmerston North and put in a road/rail freight hub, a \$40m investment - "that is the future and having that investment is great". This is a similar idea that KiwiRail wanted to do at Rolleston, but didn't have the funds to do. DG said while KR lost Rolleston, it didn't want to lose the Central North Island Freight Hub.

The City Rail Link in Auckland will allow for 70m pax per annum - *The Auckland rail system is currently carrying 20m per year and rising – Editor.*

It's hoped to have the Upper Hutt-Trentham double track open by Christmas next year.

Looking forward from Budget 2019:

- Final payment on current tranche of DLs
- Placing orders for:
 1. Replacing SI mainline loco fleet (48)
 2. Replacing short-haul mainline locos
 3. 900 new CT wagons
 4. New and retrofit forestry wagons
 5. ESVs
 - 6.

Depot upgrades.

The investment into two new rail ferries will require major upgrades to ferry terminals and will also require double ramps.

New Zealand Transport Agency Chris Ballantyne, Rob Gould.

Groups have been using NZTA's online form to report accidents and incidents. It's also mobile-friendly. He encouraged people to report every incident when they happen to prevent a major accident. He said it helps the agency prevent accidents that haven't happened yet.



Gave a rundown of the new severity guidelines, which are about a month old.

They range from Severity 1 - serious injury or significant property damage, to Severity 4, where it may or may not be reportable.

NZTA has put examples on their website of what to report, including a near-collision at a LX (Severity 2). He said if groups were in doubt about what to report, they should send a form through anyway.

There's still no outcome on the funding of the Rail Safety Regulator.

Rob Gould

A lot of people thought NZTA was going to be charging if there was an investigation that arose from a reported accident or incident. That's not the case. He welcomed the strong feedback from the heritage sector.

A team of people have read all submissions that were filed to NZTA, however the agency is waiting on government's



David Gordon

decision. Until Cabinet make a decision, NZTA and groups are in limbo.

He said groups should prepare to be hit with a fee increase in the coming financial year, but hope for the best case scenario.

Logan Aves - KiwiRail—Access provision

Last-minute requests for access rights for excursions will likely not happen anymore and KR will move towards a more planned structure.

KR will be providing process guidance for access to the network. Logan said the aim was to make life easier for both KR and heritage operators.

The response to the certification review has been positive.

KiwiRail has agreed to provide \$20,000 into supporting and resourcing the Heritage Technical Committee.



Logan Aves

Megan Drayton - TrackSafe

Geographically, Canterbury has the highest number of vehicle collisions in the past five years, followed by Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty.



To date, there have been no collisions with heavy vehicles in 2019.

There are 2700 crossings - approx. half are on private land.

There are 700 passive crossings and more than 400 with short stacking area.

Level crossings are on the TAIC watch list, as of 2016.

This year's rail safety week in August will focus on near misses, of which there is almost one every day of the year.

Megan Drayton

Nic Doncaster

In his morning session, Nic talked about common sense and how it varies compared to the experience a person has.....

In the afternoon, Nic spoke about the importance of sleep and the effects a lack of it has on the body. He said caffeine, alcohol, and using phones before bed all affect sleep and can lead to people being fatigued, which increases risks when driving.



Nic Doncaster

Dave Hinman. Tramways Update.

Dave Hinman gave an in-depth report about Tramways, the COTMA conference held in Perth last year, some Australian tramways, and tramways around New Zealand.

New Zealand Rail Heritage Trust.

After the AGM on Sunday Barry O'Donnell gave conference an update on the many activities RHT are currently working on including; restoring a baggage and ganger's trolley at the Greytown Goods Shed, earthquake strengthening and refurbishment of the Wingatui Station, assessing the numerous wagons held at various member groups for future use or disposal, World War Two Roll of Honour to be unveiled at the Wellington Railway Station, Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company plaque on the abutment of Bridge No.1, Hutt Road, Johnsonville Line, a museum exhibition telling the story of New Zealand railway houses.

Also several grants were made notably sponsorship for the FRONZ conference, movement of several FRONZ member's rolling stock and assistance with preservation projects. Working with the Wellington Multiple Unit Preservation Trust, finding somewhere to store the Ganz unit and the wider issue of where and how to store heritage rolling stock.

*Right: The interpretation panels in the Addington Railway Workshops WWII Memorial Rose Garden at Ferrymead Heritage Park. Photo: Bruce Shalders
Far Right: RM34 being unloaded at Pahiatua following its journey from Silver Stream Railway. Photo: Doug Johnston*



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

PLEASANT POINT RAILWAY

This month we are only featuring the two FRONZ member groups that featured at our conference in Timaru. Pleasant Point Railway were wonderful hosts who entertained us on Monday morning on a perfect winter's day. The train was run by Ab699 and also a goods train consist was operated. Also most guests took the chance to ride on the unique Model T Ford railcar.

We will catch up with all the other news from our members in our next edition

Pleasant Point Photos from D.L.A. Turner.



Above: Railcar driver Les Coombes was turning RM 4 on the wagon turntable located at the end of the museum's railway in Pleasant Point.



Above: Photographed by a gallery of conference attendees, Josh Granger drives the now just-turned Ab off the turntable at Keanes Crossing. The turntable was originally built early in the 20th century and located at Cromwell, the terminus of the former railway into Central Otago.

Below. Overseen by Station Master Lloyd Robertson, Ab 699, lit by low-angle winter evening light, propelled a train of vintage wooden stock away from the museum station at Pleasant Point to the Keanes Crossing end of their railway that runs along the formation of the former branch line to Fairlie.

The Ab is the only survivor of 20 built by A & G Price in Thames and first entered service on New Zealand Railways on 2 August 1922. The Pleasant Point Railway and Historical Society built a veranda over the platform of the original Pleasant Point station, the second oldest surviving station building in New Zealand. Inside are displays illustrating the story of the branch line to Fairlie and some vintage printing equipment, along with a ticket office and souvenir shop.

The distinctive skyline feature of the spire of Roman Catholic church of St Mary in the background awaits its fate (probably demolition) after being rendered unsafe by the 2011/2012 Christchurch earthquakes.



D.L.A. Turner



Big steaming weekend capped by major award



Josh Granger and Daniel Smith load the train with wood as the Pleasant Point Railway hosted a steaming day yesterday, with special guests including delegates to the annual conference of the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand. GEJON HAWWELL/STUFF

Alice Geary

A couple who have dedicated many hours to the Pleasant Point Railway and Historical Society have been recognised for their service.

Bryan Blanchard, president of the society and the last of the society's foundation members, and his wife Marian Blanchard, were awarded on Sunday night for their years of work to the Pleasant Point Museum and Railway.

Bryan said he knew nothing about the award ahead of the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand (FRONZ) award ceremony but was "really proud of what we've achieved out there".

He said the support of his wife was key to everything he has done with the railway so it was natural they should both be named on the The Paul Heighton

Memorial Award for Excellence.

"I couldn't have done what I've done without the support of my wife. You've got to have your wife behind you otherwise it would be really hard going," Blanchard said.

"You've got to work as a team, and we're a team with the people at the station too."

The Fairlie Flyer train line was closed in 1968 and in 1970 the society began, taking the run-down station in Pleasant Point and "putting it on the world map" as a visitor attraction.

It was a busy weekend for the Pleasant Point Museum and Railway as this year's host of the annual FRONZ conference.

The society also held a steaming day yesterday as part of Queen's Birthday Weekend celebrations.

"They've got a superb setup there, very well run and

"They've got a superb setup there, very well run and maintained."

Scott Osmond

maintained," FRONZ executive Scott Osmond said.

"Its old carriages and locomotives have been beautifully restored and it really was notable what a good condition they were in."

Pleasant Point Museum and Railway is home to New Zealand's only fully restored Victorian halfbirdcage carriage and the last surviving Ab 699 engine.

About 80 delegates attended the FRONZ conference and were treated to trips on Ashburton's Plains Railway on Sunday and Pleasant Point's Railway yesterday.

The annual conference is hosted by a member railway each year, alternating between the North and South Island, and this is the second time it has come to Pleasant Point, first visiting in 1979.

THE PLAINS RAILWAY



© 2019 - D. J. Maciulaitis



Above: On Sunday afternoon we went to Ashburton to visit the Plains Railway, here we enjoyed riding their train hauled by Rogers K88 seen here, and David Oakley on the "footplate" driving railcar RM50. Photos: D. J. Maciulaitis

Below: Plains Railway boasts a unique "Photo Stand". Here we have a number of FRONZ delegates and observers well dressed for the cool conditions, some engaged in serious conversation, while waiting for K88, in the distance, to come past on its run-by. Photo: Facebook.

CLASSIFIEDS

THE RECLAIM

The place where FRONZ members can place buy, sell, swap, wanted requests.

This is distributed to the FRONZ Journal mailing list for free.

To place you request, please sent details to djmaciulaitis@gmail.com by 20 July 2019.

DARGAVILLE RAIL & RIVER

Dargaville Rail & River Cruises have a new acquisition and are looking for a starter for a 6LXB Gardner "dead or alive".

Enquiries to John Hansen

Tel: 021 238 7869

portdargavillerrailandriver@gmail.com



"ON THE BUS"

One final word of conference thanks to Michael Boyton. Michael has a number of "vintage", well maintained coaches and has now helped us out with transport at three South Island conferences. Michael's newest acquisition which we had this year is ex New Zealand Railways Road Services 6021, a Hino BG100, and this one was in fact the prototype for the Tourliner bodies, so although it is a 1981 chassis, it did not enter RRS service until May 1982 with the then new body, superseding the Emslie (Dunedin built) bodied similar Hino coaches. Thanks Michael for making the trek from Nelson. And providing your great service.

Photo: Scott Osmond.



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

No trips currently advertised

Steam Incorporated

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|----------|
| 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. 2019-2020 season commences 6 October 2019.

Mainline Steam

Tui Brewery future excursions.

28 July 2019. Vintage Car Day—*Postponed*

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—Season closed

Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 11, 12 July 2019 | Candlelight Express | Feilding Yard Runs | (F163) |
| 27 July 2019 | Around The Block to Wellington | | KR Diesel (Sold Out) |
| 24 August 2019 | Around The Block to Wellington | | KR Diesel |

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



On Monday 3 June D.L.A. Turner took this image of the Pleasant Point Railway train hauled by Ab699 leaving Pleasant Point station looking west toward Fairlie and the recent snow is highlighted.

**FRONZ CONFERENCE GISBORNE
29 MAY– 1 JUNE 2020**

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