



# JOURNAL

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## EDITORIAL

This month we feature the story of FRONZ President, Grant Craig's recent travels to the UK where he managed to visit several rail heritage sites.

Patsy and I also travelled on the "Ghan Expedition", a truly memorable trip of the highest rail touring standard anywhere. We will publish some thoughts on the Ghan in due course. Can't bore the readers with all the FRONZ Executive travel stories at once! Of course, in this day and age FRONZ business continued electronically, as we all had our "devices" with us to keep in touch with home.

## FRONZ CONFERENCE 2020

Readers will be aware our 2020 FRONZ Conference is being held in Gisborne over Queen's Birthday Weekend from Friday 29 May to Monday 1 June. Gisborne City Vintage Railway is our host group and will be running a rail trip for us behind Wa165 from Gisborne to Muriwai including the unique level crossing of the Gisborne Airport runway. Accommodation and Conference venue is secured for us at a central Gisborne venue so start thinking about joining us there.

## REID MCNAUGHT

We received the sad news that Reid McNaught died on 10 October in Dunedin Hospital, peacefully after a short illness.

Reid was an institution in the preservation movement, patron of Steam Incorporated and editor of NZ Railfan magazine.

NZ Railfan was probably the most public example of Reid's skills; he had the ability to tell a story that appealed to both rail fans and those with technical interest. He saw what we, in the rail world, were interested in and was able to put his vast knowledge of technical detail into a readable form for all to enjoy.

His keen eye for detail meant he was also an asset in his role as FRONZ awards convener, where until recently, he had the difficult job of judging the entries for the awards night at the annual FRONZ conference.

Reid's funeral was held in Mosgiel. A good turnout with many people making tributes of his life. Reid was cremated and as per his instructions his ashes will be scattered on the Taieri Gorge Railway.

*Photo J Bovis.*



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

## BRITISH TRAVELS BY GRANT CRAIG

Over my 4 weeks holiday in the United Kingdom in September I managed to visit the Bluebell Railway, Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway, North Yorkshire Moors Railway and the Severn Valley Railway. All have between 200,000 and 300,000 passengers per annum with full time staff of around 90 and a large volunteer base. I also travelled on a luxury rail tour around Ireland using steam. They are pure heritage and the English do it very well.

Issues they have are opening windows that allow passengers (and also railway staff as a recent death was a railway worker) egress outside the carriage confines, many have connections and access rights to the national network and have similar issues to NZ. These being wooden bodied cars operating on the mainline, and they are having congestion issues that restrict access to the mainline for heritage and tourist services.

People with whom I made contact and met:

- Graeme Aitken Chairman Bluebell Railway Preservation Society.
- Mike Ellis Operations Director Bluebell Railway/
- Chris Price General Manager North Yorkshire Moors Railway.
- Paul Lewin Director and General Manager of Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway
- Nick Ralls General Manager Severn Valley Railway (Holdings)
- Tim Litter President and Founder Golden Eagle Luxury Trains.
- Sire Peter Hendy CEO Network Rail UK.
- David Buck Owner Steam Dreams (Luxury Steam Excursion Operator)
- Marcus Robertson Founder Steam Dreams. (Who is planning a NZ tour in 2021.)
- Railway Preservation Society of Ireland.

I also travelled on a Virgin high-speed service London to Holyhead and London to York by LNER and the Eurostar from London to Brussels (At a max speed of 301kmph), with a connecting Thalys service to Amsterdam. Amazing the speeds they do!



*A day at Severn Valley Railway 8f loco.*



*Severn Valley Railway*



*Ffestiniog Railway*



*Welsh Highland Railway*



*National railway museum, Mallard the world's fastest steam loco was highlight*



*North Yorkshire Moors Railway*





*Left: London Transport Museum*

*Below: Now this was impressive! St Pancras station with 3 Eurostars lined up.*



*Killarney to Galway.*



*Killarney to Cork. Merlin ready to depart Killarney. Steam loco Merlin 4-4-0 built 1948 by Beyer Peacock.*

*Right: Her Majesty knew I was coming so rolled out the royal guards on horseback. What an amazing place.*

*Nice of you to dress up for her Grant! Editor.*



## 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)

### GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

I was thrilled to join in the celebration at GVR on 29 September when supporters who donated time, money, services, or materials for the restoration of DBR 1254 were invited to an official unveiling event.

The unveiling started with DBR1254 secretly hidden in the depot. It came out through a banner and we could see it in its wonderfully restored state. It disappeared down the yards at Pukeowhare and we were told to await a surprise. It returned pushing DC 4818 into the workshop, which GVR have decided to be the next project for the full mainline restoration. Great work by the team led by GVR General Manager, Tim Kerwin, to complete the restoration of DBR1254 in only 14 months. You can all be suitably proud of this outstanding achievement. After the unveiling we all boarded the GVR mainline train for a trip to Waiuku and back to Glenbrook with of course several photostops en-route. DBR1295 joined to provide a double-header for these runs.



*Above: Hidden behind the banner and door the excitement builds and we see DBR1254 break the ribbon and is seen by the waiting crowd. On left posing for all to admire.*

*Right above: The lineup of sponsors and benefactors for the project and below the workshop team who did the job.*

*Left. DC 4818 is gently ushered into the workshop by DBR1254 for the start of its restoration.*

*Bottom Left. Twin DBRs 1254 and 1295 passing the Waitangi Water Tank on a photo runby.*

*Photos: Scott Osmond*





## RIMUTAKA INCLINE RAILWAY

### *From September Newsletter*

Shortly we should be able to officially open our completed rail vehicle shed and workshop. A huge thank you to the many members and community funders who have helped us over the years in this undertaking.

The completion of the shed enables us as a Trust to focus on vehicle restoration, in particular, the Wb and Ohai No 1 projects, which are progressing.

Going forward within the Rail Heritage and Tourist movement, inter-group co-operation is essential. A fabulous example of such is the FRONZ Reclaim classified publication, through which we have been able to obtain a number of surplus seat parts and a bogie from Silver Stream Railway, this has been beneficial to both groups. We would recommend the Reclaim to other groups, it's a wonderful tool.



*Above Left: Tr189 nears the shed during 9 June 2019 operating day. Right: Concrete floors laid on the south side of the shed.*



*During the warm summer months, we took the opportunity to tidy up Baldwin steam locomotive boilers from Wb 292 and Wb 299. Ron Jones and Hugh McCracken cleaned down the steel work, applied two coats of steel primer and a finishing coat of black enamel.*

## KINGSTON FLYER

AB795 at the 136km peg on 11 August 2019. Track work is continuing with the first 4km being approved for work trains only at this stage. The track is now clear right to Fairlight and several sleepers have been replaced. Much work is being done to ensure a return to operations.





## STEAM INCORPORATED

### From "Steamline"

It has been a frantically busy winter for Steam Incorporated to ready Ab 608 and the wooden cars for another round of operations in Picton. The pressure being piled on our staff to not only complete maintenance tasks on all rolling stock but also complete necessary paperwork to regain their certification for mainline running. While a vast amount of work has happened within the workshop to meet a wide variety of deadlines – a lot has also occurred within the amenities block. With the ramping up of paperwork, the facilities to achieve this became a priority for the committee. The "back room" has been transformed into a usable and spacious office, becoming the "command station" for relevant recertification activities being undertaken by our staff.

At this current time, no excursions are due out of Paekakariki until early in the second quarter of 2020. This "down time" (in reality, not really!) gives members time to make sure everything is in order so we can restart our full operations again.

The committee has taken the drastic steps of cancelling the December Grand Circle Excursion, The North Pole Charters and the January excursion because of the uncertainty of having locomotives and carriages available due to the recertification process.

We are fortunate to have purchased a complete running 12-567 'C block' engine from KiwiRail. The engine began life in 1955 as a 12-567C engine for a Da locomotive but, had 645 power assemblies installed in the early 80's when the locomotive was rebuilt into a Dc but, they never reclassified the upgrade to 12-645C. The engine came out of Dc4939 which had been rebuilt for a short career on Auckland Transport commuter trains in the early 2000's.



Through the generosity of Macaulay Metals, Wellington, we were able to bring to our depot and strip the front and rear sections of Hutt Rebuild DC 4922. Lots of useful Da parts were removed including a Speed increaser gearbox and cooling fan (only Da's and Hutt Rebuild Dc's had these), relays, contactors, switches, dynamic brake grids, 26L brake rack (for 1410 one day) 2 radiators, cooling room shutters etc.. The bare bones were then taken back to scrap yard along with some old Da parts to help make up the weight.



Our partners at Pounamu Travel Group recently announced that there are plans to run a one-off train from Blenheim to Kekerengu on 10 November to partner up with "The Store".

Bookings available at [www.marlbroughflyer.co.nz/book-now](http://www.marlbroughflyer.co.nz/book-now)

## WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM

The two Brill-type 22E trucks for our Tram No.17 restoration project were handed over by A & G Price Limited to the Wellington Tramway Museum at Thames on 7 August. In the photograph are, from left, John Donnelly (A&G Price Ltd Fitter), Leyton Chan (WTM's Engineer to the Contract), Allan Neilson (WTM's Vice-President, Maintenance & Engineering), Peter Yates (A&G Price Ltd. Managing Director), Dave Sharpe (A&G Price Ltd. Mechanical Engineer and Project Manager for the Trucks Project), Keith McGavin (Chair, WTM Tram 17 Sub-Committee) and Steve Porter (WTM President). *Leyton Chan photo.*



Operations are being "ramped up" with Tour Groups now coming through at regular intervals and exciting developments with Tram 17's restoration. We have now had four Grand Pacific Tour Groups visit the museum to experience a tram ride through the park, followed by afternoon tea and coffee in the Fiducia Centre. Initial feedback from the Tour Leaders indicates that the visitors have enjoyed their visit and we hope that this level of satisfaction continues.

## WEKA PASS RAILWAY

*From "Frog Rock Times"*

The WPR Executive have recently agreed on the unusual step of charging pre-schoolers to ride on our trains. In a move that goes against other Canterbury tourist attractions, pre-schoolers (0-4 years) will now be charged \$2 to sit on a parents/caregivers lap for a return trip.

A popular attraction for many of our passengers once they reach Waikari is a visit to the historic Star & Garter Hotel. It was with shock that we learnt in May that the hotel was closing with the departure of the tenants. However, there is renewed hope that it may open again as WPR received an email from the owners in June stating their intention to reopen and that they are working with the Hurunui District Council to relicence. WPR hopes for a positive outcome with this and looks forward to the day that our passengers can once again quench their thirst during the stopover.

A428 was out of service again after a brake pull rod had to be replaced. This was made by Terry Gibson, Blacksmith at Whitecliffs, to the original forged pattern. Thanks to William, Blair and Harry for their work under the loco. This included cleaning and crack testing all the brake rods in the engine. It was back in service on 21 July.

We had a visit from Marcus Stocks of SGS Ltd, as we had asked him to visit to give the boiler on the steam loco an extension of three months before an internal dry inspection. This would take the steam ticket through to November, when we would have to open the boiler for internal survey. After much discussion with Marcus and as we needed the loco for the Christmas season, he agreed to extend the ticket till December 31. Normally the extension would not be granted,

however the boiler had been in steam only 127 hours during the previous year. This is a great relief to us. The work required for the survey can take place at a slower pace during the dry season, January/February.

Our General Manager Gary Kelly issued a "Block of Line" on August 7 till August 16. This was for a big relay of sleepers at the big curve 7.5km. This was all finished by Wednesday August 14.

Through May the team was working on stripping down carriage A1732 in preparation for its restoration. Then we were informed of the gloomy news that carriages A1733 (50ft car) and AC3548 (56ft car with tables) had both failed the COF inspection with severe structural issues and had been removed from operations. The news with A1733 was not completely unexpected, as temporary repairs to the wall had been carried out some years ago, involving some internal steel bracing. But it was only after the outer cladding was removed that the sorry state of the timber framing was revealed. The decision was made to concentrate all our efforts on repairing A1733.

A special train was run on Sunday 26th of May for suppliers and invited guests to commemorate the long-awaited return to service of Addington-built carriage A1730. Although the carriage has been in use since its restoration was completed in August 2018, this was a small way to thank and acknowledge the people who supplied materials, skills and time to WPR over the last seven years during the ground-up rebuild of the 88 year old carriage.



*While ticket sales were down on this year's night train compared to previous night runs, passengers still enjoyed the experience. Above, the train hauled by DG791 has arrived at Waikari on 15 June. Photo: Tony Cameron*



*Above: A1733 with its wall, seats, etc removed for rebuilding. Photo: Scott Eastwick*



*Below: Interior and exterior shots of A1730. Photos: Scott Eastwick*





## OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL

*From October Newsletter.*

We carried 357 passengers in September, including a BestStart Kindergarten charter. Annual WOFs have been completed for our rolling stock. A new pedestrian crossing/footpath is being installed across the track at Harbourside Station.



Congratulations to Luke Paisley (left), who was recently awarded the D.A. Ireland Trophy at the Society's AGM for his outstanding contributions to Oamaru Steam and Rail in so many areas over the past year.

The Yb Ballast Wagon (right) has undergone a transformation since it arrived at OSR just over a year ago. Its rusted body has been cleaned, repaired and repainted and then fitted with roller bearing wheelsets along with refurbished springs and brakes. It has just had its hopper doors refitted and a new closing mechanism is being fabricated.



## PLEASANT POINT RAILWAY

### Three arrests over Pleasant Point railway chainsaw thefts

*From Stuff 20 October*

The news that three people have been arrested in connection with the theft of four chainsaws from the Pleasant Point Railway and Historical Society has been greeted with relief and elation by members.

Police confirmed on Saturday that two men, aged 21 and 37, and an 18-year-old woman, have been charged with three recent burglaries, including the one in Pleasant Point last weekend.

Sergeant Nerida Manson of the Aoraki Tactical Crime Unit said the trio have been jointly charged in relation to burglaries of the Pleasant Point railway, Riverside Food Bar in Ashburton and the Four Square at Kurow.

"Three chainsaws from the [railway] have been recovered, along with other stolen property.

"This is particularly pleasing because they are a volunteer organisation and losing those items put a significant dent in their operation."

Museum president Bryan Blanchard said the members were relieved the stolen chainsaws, valued at almost \$5000, had been recovered and the alleged thieves arrested.

"We couldn't believe we'd been broken into. They had gone through a bit of trouble to break in."

He said the society needed the chainsaws to cut wood for the steam engines as coal was too expensive and too messy.

"It also blows black smoke through the town, which wood doesn't do.

"We're just so grateful for the response we've had from the people out there."

Blanchard said police called him on Friday night saying the suspects had been arrested and would appear in court on Monday.

"It is really good news."

Blanchard said the members were devastated when they found out the museum had been broken into and what had been taken.

"Three of the chainsaws were ours and one belonged to a member. The chainsaws have not been returned as yet. It's really the big one we're after."

He said the museum appreciated all the help offered and given since the burglary, particularly the Pleasant Point Rugby Club which has offered eight of its players to saw and chop wood for the society.

"I know there's some very kind people out there and in two instances they've given us brand new [chainsaws].

"It is just unbelievable, the support there is out there. It just shows even though there are a few rat bags around there's a lot of good people around too."



*Bill Noble shows the padlock and lock, both prised open during a forced entry. John Bisset/Stuff*



## WAIMEA PLAINS RAILWAY

*Facebook accounts of the October open day at Mandeville.*

It was very happy and enjoyable weekend at Mandeville with the K92 Rogers Locomotive and the crew - I was lucky enough to actually go down to the yard to see what happens before paying passengers get to go riding on board - Yes oil - greasing - check - check and more tweaking with the controls - these engineers know what they're doing for sure - great to see so many come to experience the K92 steam engine in her finest looking gear - She is stunning - We are so lucky to have this in our own back yard as the saying goes - I know theres a lot of photos but hey they tell a story of the love train people have for this beautiful old train - The Waimea Plains Railway Trust people care with loving hands every time she runs on these tracks - Hopefully



with more donations you will one day be able to travel the railway line right round the Mandeville Airport - That will be a vision completed by the trust members - So by coming now and going for a paid ride is helping support more work being carried out - Remember to tag yourselves or your friends - share or save - enjoy and relive that the moment - Great crew to be around Bronwyn & Michael - Matthew & Nicola - George - Duncan - Graham - & the man who makes it all worth while Colin Smith the Trust Chairman & his delightful wife Maeva who bakes wonderful scones.  
*Story and photo: "Got it in One Photography"*

Remember next 'Experience Mandeville' running weekend is 16/17 November.

*Local lads Lachie and Darcy on another visit to their favourite place. Pictured with Waimea Plains Railway Chairman Colin Smith and Dad Josh Cairns.*

## GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY

*From Facebook*

Tuia 250- Steam train shuttles

Gisborne City Vintage Rail is ready to start the new operating season with a special shuttle service during the Tuia 250 open days to visit the Displays on Sunday the 6th and Wednesday the 9th of October.

**\*\*No parking will available at the Harbour, so the public are asked to park at the railway station and catch the steam hauled shuttle trains to the wharf - a gold coin donation appreciated.\*\***

there will be interactive workshops & exhibitions, entertainments, kai & more all from 10am - 4pm at the Inner Harbour.

Tours of the Waka on the Sunday  
Replica Endeavour & Tall Ships on the  
Wednesday the train departs the Gisborne station- 10am, 11am, noon, 2pm and 3pm

Returns from harbour at 10.30, 11.30, 12.30, 2.30 and last one at 3.30pm.

Sadly, there appears to be someone scamming tickets to this Sunday's Onboard trip to Muriwai as part of Te Tairāwhiti Arts Festival. Just advice, the trip is sold out but GCVR's first public trip is on Saturday 26 October for Labour Weekend.





## NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM

Photos of new acquisition DC4876, the last of the Clyde rebuilt Da to DC locomotives.  
The locomotive is currently stored off site.



*Left: Dc 4876 brand new, crossing the Waiwhetu Stream between Gracefield and Hutt Workshops on 2 December 1983. Photo Graeme McClare. Right: A more recent photo from David Maciulaitis on the Hokitika shunt 9 November 2010.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

### WESTINGHOUSE BRAKE HOSES

Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway request where they can buy seals for Westinghouse brake hoses.

Responses to Mike Bradshaw at [miketheteam@hotmail.com](mailto:miketheteam@hotmail.com).

Paul Markholm has already answered this enquiry and the response is shared here for other groups information.

Brake Hose Coupling rubber seals/washers, can be purchased from  
L.E.P. Ltd. 18 Sonter Road, Sockburn, Christchurch. Ph (03) 3437950  
email, [unni.george@lep.net.nz](mailto:unni.george@lep.net.nz)

Their part number is: Air Coupling Seal RQ0215

Around \$6 - 7 each.

Thanks Paul.

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





## 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

No trips currently advertised

### Steam Incorporated

No planned trips due to rolling stock re-certification programme.

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

Marlborough Flyer trip to Kekerengu 10 October.

The two-hour outbound journey from Blenheim departing at 1010, winds its way through the Dashwood Pass and majestic Awatere Valley, then taking in magnificent coastal views of the Pacific Ocean en route to Kekerengu. Disembark at The Store, Kekerengu, NZ to enjoy lunch, refreshments or join a tour of the renowned Winterhome Garden. The Marlborough Flyer then departs "The Store" in Kekerengu for the return journey, arriving back in Blenheim at 1715.

Bookings and further details are available at [www.marlboroughflyer.co.nz/train-trips/kekerengu-train-trip](http://www.marlboroughflyer.co.nz/train-trips/kekerengu-train-trip)

### Mainline Steam

**Tui Brewery future excursions (postponed).**

### Pahiatua Railcar Society

28, 29 December. Manawatu Gorge shuttles re-commence

### Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Gisborne to Muriwai  
27 December 2019  
28 December 2019  
4 January 2020  
5 January 2020  
26 January 2020  
15 February 2020  
15 March 2020  
11 April 2020  
12 April 2020  
10 May 2020  
30 May 2020

### Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

16 November 2019	Around The Block to Wellington	KR Diesel
17 November 2019	Mad Hatters Market—Woodville	KR Diesel
1 December 2019	Around The Block to Wellington	KR Diesel
1 February 2020	Around The Block to Wellington	KR Diesel
16 February 2020	The Chateau Tongariro and Sky Waka Rail Excursion	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>



# PICTURE OF THE MONTH



*Passhendaale, Ab 608, awaiting shipment south to run as this season's Marlborough Flyer. Sunday, 15 September 2019 at 5:42 am. Photo: D.L.A. Turner.*

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

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