



JOURNAL

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FRONZ CONFERENCE 2020

By now most readers will be aware that the decision has been made to cancel this year's Gisborne conference in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

For those of you who already had flights booked, your airline may provide a refund or credit.

We're still working out the shape the AGM - which we must hold by the end of June - will take, but it will likely be held electronically.

At this stage we plan to move conference venue plans ahead one year and hope to hold the next conference in Gisborne at Queen's Birthday Weekend, Friday 4 June to Monday 7 June 2021. That will then put the planned conference for 2022 in Invercargill.

FRONZ EXECUTIVE

On Saturday 14 March, the Executive met in Wellington and the following items were discussed.

Executive officer:

We're thrilled to announce the appointment of Margaret Gordon as Executive Officer, taking on the role after Trevor Burling's death.

Margaret is an accountant by trade and has worked in senior roles at KPMG, ANZ Bank - both in NZ and Australia. After declining the chance to work in London, Margaret took a job with Yarra Trams as a driver. From that position she ended up managing drivers at one of the depots and also became a check out instructor for that depot. Once Margaret is all set up, you'll be able to reach her at executive.officer@fronz.org.nz.

Coronavirus:

The pandemic was discussed and as readers will know the situation has changed since our meeting as we are now in Level 4. The appropriate official Government advice is kept fully up-to-date at <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Local councils:

Please make sure your organisation is aware of what your local council is up to, especially when it comes to district plans. FRONZ urges all groups to ensure they have a presence at council district plan talks.

Journal:

After seven years producing the popular FRONZ newsletter Journal, Scott Osmond would like to pass the reins over to someone else. If you would like to be the editor of Journal, or would like more information about what producing it entails, please email Scott at scottosmond54@gmail.com.

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

MIDDLEMARCH RAIL EXCURSIONS FACE FINANCIAL THREAT

The Otago Daily Times

28 February 2020

Fearing a future without trains in Middlemarch, an emotional crowd of about 70 heard Dunedin Railways chairman Kevin Winders explain how the “iconic Dunedin” tourism business needed to change last night.

A proposal to end trips to the Strath-Taieri town caught the community off guard earlier this month, but Mr Winders framed the Dunedin City Holdings company proposal at the Strath-Taieri Community Centre as short-term.

“We’re not looking to pull the track out,” Mr Winders said. “The natural human behaviour is to keep it open. But we are running a commercial organisation. “Railways are a hard business. We run trains every day, all year round.” But this year, of Dunedin Railways’ 500 trips, 19 made it to Middlemarch.

The 18km from Pukerangi to Middlemarch added two hours to the otherwise 4.5-hour journey and it would cost up to \$2 million to “clean up” that section of track and then another \$200,000 a year to maintain it.

Flattening tourism numbers

— down 10% on the year to date

— added to the challenge and the business in its current form was not sustainable.



He likened Dunedin Railways to a “mini KiwiRail” that operated on 60km of bridges, tunnels and tracks with a staff of 75 full-time equivalents.

Otago Excursion Train Trust founding member Clark Simonds said the trust (still a 28% shareholder of Dunedin Railways) was started in 1978 in part to keep that section of line in use; he urged the company to “persist”.

Rail and Maritime Transport Union Otago Rail Branch secretary Dave Kearns said he and the dozen union members present last night viewed the proposal as the “thin end of the wedge”.

Above: Otago Excursion Train Trust founding member Clark Simonds (left), trust life member Graeme Berry, New Zealand Railway and Locomotive Society secretary Colin Barry, and South Island field officer Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand Bruce Shalders. Photo: Stephen Jaquier

Jacquie Lucas presented on behalf of an “informal group” to test the community interest in a Strath-Taieri heritage park that featured the area’s railway, farming, ecology, and heritage buildings.

The survey distributed by Dunedin Railways last night was open until March 31. The company would present to the Dunedin City Council in April or May.

Notice to Fronz members.

You may be aware of a Dunedin Railway’s [proposal to end excursions to Middlemarch](#), and instead terminate trips at Pukerangi.

Dunedin Railways are seeking feedback about the proposal and we encourage you and your members to add your voice to the debate around this important issue. You can do so here: <https://www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/middlemarch-consultation>

RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

On 6 March, some of our member groups have had the chance to upskill in the area of risk management.

With an increasing focus on managing risk and safety, the Heritage Technical Committee ran this day-long workshop. It benefits not only volunteers and workers, but the people who travel on our railways and tramways. We owe a big thanks to KiwiRail and the NZ Transport Agency who helped sponsor this event, along with FRONZ. While it was aimed at national network heritage operators, there was enough room to offer several heritage groups a seat too. The demand was so great that we couldn't give everyone a spot, so it's highly likely you'll be seeing more workshops like this in the future.



TRACKSAFE NEWS

Extracts from Autumn 2020 Newsletter

We'll be putting out this newsletter three times a year to keep you up to date with what's happening with TrackSAFE and in the wider industry in relation to safety at level crossings. If you have any news you want shared in this area, please get in touch. As we head well into 2020 (albeit focused on safety issues of a different kind) we are pleased to report that last year had the lowest number of collisions between vehicles and trains on record. While obviously one collision is one too many, it's encouraging to see this number come down to this level when use of the rail network is continuing to increase.

Sadly, there have been five collisions between vehicles and trains in 2020, resulting in one death. This incident will be investigated by the Transport Accident Investigation Commission. TAIC are also investigating the collision last year at SH26 in the Waikato, where two people died.

We are pleased to announce that John Holland has joined TrackSAFE as a sponsor, with General Manager New Zealand Anthony McFadden being appointed to the Board last week. John Holland's support will enable us to carry out more public safety campaigns, events and advocacy. (Photo: Rob Evans, Anthony McFadden and Steve Butcher from John Holland with TrackSAFE Manager Megan Drayton).



Entries open for safety award

Entries are now open for the TrackSAFE Safety Leadership Award, which recognises significant leadership in railway safety in New Zealand. Last year the winner of this award was the team from Integrated Safety Limited - Steven Crump, Greg Hackett, Brendon Judd and Martin Durnley. The team was recognised for its work on the rebuild of the Main North Line after the Kaikoura earthquake. Please see our website for the award criteria for 2020 and the nomination form. We have extended the deadline for entries to 30 May 2020.

Rail Safety Week success

Last year was one of our most successful Rail Safety Weeks, with the launch video being viewed more than 2.6 million times. If you missed it, you can [view it here](#). The video focused on the impact that near misses have on our locomotive engineers. Research following the campaign showed that people liked the campaign and the great majority of people were aware of the risks and protocols of crossing railway tracks safely. Around 84 per cent of those surveyed strongly agreed that near misses have a large impact on locomotive engineers. One respondent said "it horrifies me, seeing people stopping at the lights while sitting on the railway lines. I was well-aware of the risks, but not the impact it had on the drivers. Thank you for showing me how stressful it can be for them. I have a new appreciation for them." Mark your diaries for this year's Rail Safety Week 10-17 August and email us if you'd like to be involved. tracksafe@tracksafe.co.nz

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

CANTERBURY RAILWAY SOCIETY

From Branchlines

Nostalgia Festival. This festival has attracted many visitors to the Park over the last few years, and 15th February this year was no exception, with a journalist from The Press reporting there were 6,000 people attending this musical and food event. Park Management, however, has stated the official count for the day was 3708 visitors. No doubt this event provides a lot of good publicity both for the Park and the Ferrymead Railway which could attract return visits.

Railway huts. The railway hut at the south end of Moorhouse Railway Station at Ferrymead symbolises an era during the 1920s when managers of the New Zealand Government Railways Department (NZGRD) realised their responsibility to provide suitable accommodation for married and single employees transferred to isolated rural parts of New Zealand. At that time the NZGRD began manufacturing kit-set houses for families at its factory in Frankton, and by the end of the decade suitably designed huts were also being produced for single men.



Left: Unrestored Hut & TBC671 on Ub478 at Ferrymead. 15 December 2016. Right: Restored Railway Hut (S87) at Moorhouse Station. 9 February 2020. Photos: Wayne McClintock.

DIESEL TRACTION GROUP

The Return to Service of De 511!!!

On Good Friday - April 10, 2020, after a couple of years of work undertaken by our youngest member Pete Weir, his dedicated efforts will be on show to the public for the first time!

The Diesel Traction Group, in conjunction with the Canterbury Railway Society will be operating heritage mixed trains on the Ferrymead Railway with De 511 being the main focus of motive power for the evening.



Commencing at around 5:30pm, 511 will haul the mixed train running the whole length of track via the turning triangle into the night, when there will be some night photography opportunities along with Dg 772, plus some of the CRS's Tr shunting tractors.

Price to attend this rare evening of diesel nostalgia will be \$25.

This event has been postponed due to Covid-19.



OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL

From March Newsletter

We carried 550 passengers in February. As always, a huge thank -you to the volunteer operating crews who make this happen.

A shelter to house trollies and the weed sprayer has sprouted up over the new track in the yard. This will free up space in the main workshop building and eliminate the need to shuffle these small vehicles out of the way when moving trains in and out of the shed. Concrete is being poured in the workshop to raise the differing floor heights so they will all be level with the rails. This will provide a flat floor surface that is safer, and easier to move things about on.



MAINLINE STEAM HERITAGE TRUST

From Facebook

By now it is probably well known that we are in the process of moving the South African locomotives from the Port Yard in downtown Auckland to Mercer. This has been brought about by the plans to redevelop that area for extra unit storage. We are documenting the move in photographs and will put an album together next week. In the meantime, here are a couple of shots by Michael Tolich.

The Mercer site of Mainline Steam has now gained the necessary consents to move ahead.



Here are the locos at their new home at Mercer on 6 March with a north-bound Metro Port train passing. Photo: Linda Malcolm.

PLEASANT POINT RAILWAY

February 29 was a training day at Pleasant Point Railway. Donald Ross From Dunedin Railways giving instructions on stationary shunting before a practical instruction later in the day. Also discussed the Safety case, rules and regulations and instruction on the No. 4 brake. One of the many things FRONZ can help our members with.

With something as fit as our Ab is, she gets ill at times. Her tender has a few leaky problems. Daniel is seen here all dressed up to do the job of removing the rust, patching the holes and painting with a special paint. The fan is used to keep fresh air in the tender while the work is done. As you will see in the photos baffles in the tender are getting very thin and some with a rust hole. This happens when air, water and metal meet causing the metal to rust. The baffles are there to stop the water splashing around when the Ab is moving and stopping.



Left: Daniel enjoying his time inside the tender. Right: Fresh air.

GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

From Facebook.

Here are some lovely images of another great day at the GVR. Unfortunately, this day could be the last of the "Great Days" at the GVR for some time thanks to Covid-19. Much of our earnings come from charters for tourists during the week, and our overseas tours for our members, both of which have been cancelled as this pandemic spreads. That is a lot of money for our organisation. In the meantime enjoy some images of what we do best - provide some family fun!

Story and photos by Niall Robertson. Right: Thomas (Bagnall No 2475 on loan from Mainline Steam) with two resplendent 'not so troublesome trucks' and the 6 wheeler carriage C472. Below left: Toby (or is it Terry?) (alias Ww480) arrives at Glenbrook with another load of happy punters. Centre: Very pleasant young "Acting Stationmaster" about to ring the bell before our train left. Right: Dbr1295 (don't know his name??) arriving at Glenbrook Sun 15.3.20.



LUMSDEN HERITAGE TRUST

From Facebook

Due to popular demand we are back at it again 'recovery # 2'. After all those involved in # 1 had expressed massive enthusiasm to have another go - awesome team can't hold them back.

After nearly a month of planning we went back into the site on 26 February to attempt to recover V126 and her tender. Had a big go at it and with what we learnt last time have made good progress. We are reasonably confident we can recover 126 from her current resting place.

What an incredible effort the following day by the A Team who after a challenging start to the day with the tender recovery and a 135 year old locomotive not too keen to budge after 92 years in the river the team managed to get V126 to the side of the bank for a lift and unexpectedly Jerry & his men from Smith Cranes and Russell Bradley's team from Linton Contracting lifted this wonderful locomotive out of the hole and onto the banks for a big clean ready for transporting tomorrow.



Earlier today none of us imagined the success we achieved with the progress at 3.30 pm just amazing .

We will be transporting V126 & her tender into Lumsden to join V127 on display at the Lumsden Railway Precinct.



MIDLAND RAIL HERITAGE TRUST

From Facebook

Unfortunately, we have to advise that there have been incidences of vandalism and arson at Springfield site. This will cause significant costs to the trust to repair and replace items damaged/destroyed.

The Sheffield station building (used as a site office) has suffered smoke and heat damage from a fire set in it, this very luckily self-extinguished and has not damaged the structure only destroyed the items stored in there, including several photos of which we do not have copies.

The A1 class Carriage has been broken into, with some windows smashed, graffiti painted around the inside, and attempts made to set the upholstery on fire. This will be the biggest cost to repair.

Both Ds Locomotives have had windows smashed on them.

And finally, the site runaround car has had its windscreen smashed out, doors hinges broken and the interior trashed with fires set in the car. This vehicle is not owned by the trust but was on long-term loan to the and the loss of its use will make an impact.

SILVER STREAM RAILWAY

From Facebook

Thanks to everyone who came to our Children's Day Special on 1 March. It was another outstanding day with plenty of smiling faces.



Left: Equipment on display. The scaffolding currently erected around the water vat provided the perfect photo position. Right: De508 taking the first train of the day out.



Left: Tablet exchange. Right: Busy times.



CLASSIFIEDS

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAY AND LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY



Here is an opportunity perhaps for those that might be stuck indoors at a llose end over the next few weeks/ months. Editor.

How knowledgeable are you?

We have a small, but eager, team here who are busy working on the big photo digitising project at the Society's Ava Archive. We are scanning thousands of colour slides which have been donated to the Society; the majority of them from the steam era, as well as a large number of diesel and electric locomotives.

We need your help to identify the locomotive types, locations, other railway infrastructure and equipment, plus any other relevant information which can be garnered from each image.

Would you be able to help?

The idea would be to send you, by email, a small batch of images and just ask that you write a description of each image, including details as above.

If you are able to help please go to the NZRLS Facebook page at [NZRLS Facebook](#) and PM us with your details and we will pass them on the Convener of the Digitisation Group. Or go to railsoc.org.nz/contact/ and send a message.

THE RECLAIM

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

The Reclaim has been developed so that any Fronz member can send us information about items they want to sell or buy (preferably with pictures, and deadlines if applicable), and that will be circulated to all members. This benefits the rail heritage movement as a whole by promoting a greater sharing of resources, as well as the opportunity to save useful items from scrapping.

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

To place your request, please send details to djmaciulaitis@gmail.com.

FUTURE MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

It appears all mainline excursions will be cancelled during the Covid-19 pandemic. This feature will return when trips again begin running.

FUTURE JOURNALS AND COVID-19

During the pandemic there is virtually no activity at all our members sites so very little news. I will continue to produce a truncated edition probably monthly as usual if I have something to report either from the FRONZ Team or our members.

Keep calm and above all keep well and keep safe.

Scott

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Restoration during a pandemic

D.L.A. Turner has found a way to continue with his rail heritage restoration work by working on his old slides. Here is a fine example of my two favourite train things. Railcars and especially Twinsets. Ed.

Twinsets at Woodville.

Another image now in digital form, ~ pretty much finished.

This slide, like most of its mates is stuffed Purple patches, mould spots, scratches from being projector screened, very grainy from the bad kiwi processing of the times, no shadow detail, wrong railcar red.....

But reasonable now after proper scanning and some tiresome hours of subsequent trial-and-error restoration.

I would love to take my modern digital camera back to these past times. What one could do that one could never do with film!

***** FRONZ CONFERENCE GISBORNE *****

***** 4—7 JUNE 2021 *****

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