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PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITOR, SCOTT OSMOND, BY E-MAIL : scottosmond54@gmail.com

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FRONZ UPDATE

The FRONZ Executive missed our planned Zoom meeting for December due to unavailability of several members but will be catching up as soon as possible.



Issues of note this month:

- We have received several queries from members questioning the unexpectedly high accounts received from the Rail Regulator, Waka Kotahi NZTA, for Safety Assessment work recently. We will be approaching Waka Kotahi to discuss this issue further.
- Waka Kotahi have just produced an annual review document which can be found at [Signal-a-year-in-rail-safety-2019-20](#). This is a well-rounded document and has had input by FRONZ. It also highlights, in the statistical sections, how significant the role played by heritage operators is in the New Zealand rail passenger scene.
- Many readers will have seen circulated through various social media and e-mail, the document that Kiwirail produced to brief the new Minister of Transport. Unsurprisingly it does not include heritage operators in their list of "stakeholders" or anywhere in the document.
- Following the cabinet appointments announced by the Prime Minister, FRONZ has approached the new Minister of Transport for an opportunity to discuss our role with him and will be doing so as soon as we can arrange an appointment. In our regular discussions with the Ministry of Transport it has been suggested we should prepare a briefing paper for him prior to our meeting, as the MOT will do also.
- Our MOT contact, Erin Wynne, has also suggested we should write a letter to Greg Miller (CEO Kiwirail) setting out our issues and concerns. Erin has also offered to host a meeting to bring together senior KiwiRail and NZTA parties as a format where we can make our concerns known and agree how we go forward on resolving our issues. The suggested timing for this is March, after we have had our own executive conference, and we have a clearer path on our priorities.
- The above-mentioned two documents will provide good reference points and information for these ongoing communications.
- As mentioned last month, the FRONZ Executive are planning a 2-day meeting in Wellington in February at which future planning will be a major topic for consideration. FRONZ member groups and individuals are asked to make any submissions on how FRONZ could assist them. Feel free to share your concerns and how you see FRONZ working for you in the future in writing, or by discussing with any Executive Member.
- Finally, the FRONZ Executive team have had an exciting year with the challenges presented. We have become "Zoomies" with many more regular online meetings throughout the year – at no cost to FRONZ! We have recovered from the unexpected sad loss of our long-serving Executive Officer, Trevor Burling in January and been well supported by the engagement of Margaret Gordon as Executive Officer. We have also welcomed Guy Wellwood to the FRONZ Executive Team.
- To all readers of Journal, the FRONZ Executive wish you a Merry Christmas. Grant, Margaret, David, Scott, Jeff, Bruce, Rob, Clark, and Guy, wish all busy FRONZ member groups and their many hard workers, best wishes for a pleasant family Christmas, and a successful season in whatever heritage rail activities you are involved with.

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

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

STEAM INCORPORATED

Steam Incorporated were on the mainline twice this month.

On 6 December the Grand Circle Rail Cruise, double DA hauled excursion circumnavigating the Tararuas. The train ran north from Paekakariki to Palmerston North then through the Manawatu Gorge and down the Wairarapa to Wellington and back to Palmerston via the NIMT. *Photos from Steam Inc Facebook page.*



*Left: Forest Lakes. Photo: Marty Melville.
Above: Fine dining for some of our guests. Photo: John Bovis*



Above Right: Masterton. Photo: John Bovis

*Above: After a successful first day's running of the "North Pole Express" on 12 December, as chartered by Ontrack Events - both Ab 608 and Da 1431 can be seen running the train between Paraparaumu and "The North Pole". The train is carrying plenty of festive cheer onboard!
Photo: Tommy Secker.*

*Right: DA1431 returns through Waikanae with the second shuttle.
Photo: A. J. Palmer*



PAHIATUA RAILCAR SOCIETY

One of the biggest rail heritage stories this year is the transfer of the three much loved Silver Fern railcars from Kiwirail ownership to the Pahiatua Railcar Society. There is no doubt this will be such a huge project for our mainline railcar group but so many of us have grown up with these iconic units that we all hope the necessary restoration work can commence soon and be successful so we can see the Silver Fern back on the New Zealand railway mainline.

Here are several images of their trip from Wellington to Pahiatua on Friday 18 December.

Right: The Ferns leaving Wellington. Photo: Ben Smith.

Below Left: Welcoming the Ferns to Pahiatua. Photo: Jarrod Colville.



Left and above photos: David Chisholm

See [here](#) for a recent news story.

BLenheim RIVERSIDE RAILWAY

Our Facebook page and website has been updated with our running days for the remainder of December and all of January. See <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideRailway/events> We look forward to seeing you come for a visit and a ride on the railway.



WAITARA RAILWAY SOCIETY

From Facebook

Dsa Portland 11 is out of the scaffolds long enough to take an unencumbered front-end photo. Not long now before it will be in service again.

DUNEDIN RAILWAYS

From Otago Daily Times 18 December

Strong early demand suggests a summer trial of Sunday train trips from Dunedin is on track for success.

Dunedin Venues Management Ltd business development manager Kim Dodds said all 300 seats were sold for this Sunday's Inlander pre-Christmas Santa Express train trip, to Hindon and return.

The assets of Dunedin Railways Ltd have been in hibernation since July and the summer trial will return them to use.

The Dunedin City Council has underwritten the limited season. The next Inlander trip, on December 27, was also sold out, and only a few seats were left on the first Seaside return trip to Waitati on the same day.

The remaining 13 trial Sundays, both morning trains and afternoon, were at least half booked.



Right: Summer train trial project manager Troy Williams (left) and Dunedin Railways Ltd health, safety, environmental and training co-ordinator Donald Ross get into the spirit for the first trip in an upcoming Sunday train trip trial. Photo: Christine O'Connor



Above Left: The two Dj's returning from Waitati on 17 December on their "road knowledge" trip for the crews. Seen coming back down through Upper Port Chalmers. Photo: Gary Hodson. Right: The train crew for the first run on 20 December.

GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY



The Gisborne City Vintage Railway had a very successful "Steam, Spies & Sabotage" WW2-era murder mystery trip to Muriwai and back on the evening of Saturday 12th December. Dorothy Fletcher wrote the murder mystery and Paula Hatten organised a group of actors from various theatrical groups in Gisborne to participate. Their performance was well-received by the train passengers.

Meanwhile, we have also run a few public and charter excursions to Muriwai. The lack of cruise ships and other international visitors is very noticeable this year, but of course we are not the only organisation being affected by this.

At the time of writing, it is intended to hold public excursions to Muriwai on both the Wellington and Auckland Anniversary Sundays – check our website for confirmation of these and other public excursions.

Photo: From the "Steam, Spies & Sabotage" event, a person (claiming to be an English investigator) grilling a train crew member.

GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

Another successful season of Counties Power Christmas Lights was had by GVR. Meanwhile GVR scored another fundraising project to move two "retired" Auckland Transport DMUs from Henderson to Pukekohe for storage to enable more EMUs to be stabled at Henderson. Credit to the team at GVR for being able to provide a service and their expertise to achieve these unconventional operations for a heritage railway!



Above photos: Sean Heenan.



Above photo: Ryan Brinkley

WAIMEA PLAINS RAILWAY

From Facebook

Good to see Santa having a bit of fun while at Mandeville on Saturday, ahead of the Gore Christmas Parade on the Sunday & a very busy night on the 24th. Health & Safety Note: (



) Santa was not harmed in the taking of this pic and he was under supervision of the Rail Crew at all times.



Got It In One Photography

TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ferrymead-based Tramway Historical Society's steam tram locomotive # 7, built in 1881, was one of eight supplied by Kitson & Company's Airedale Foundry of Leeds, in England.

They hauled passengers in trailers until electrification (starting from June 1905) of the various routes of Christchurch's tramway system.

Nicknamed "Kitty" the locomotive's current boiler has reached the end of its economic life and is being replaced by a boiler recovered a few years ago from its role of steam heating two glasshouses. This boiler too has needed repairs, including separating the inner and outer skins of the firebox to allow a badly corroded and so weakened portion to be replaced. It is also being retubed and when fitted back on the locomotive will be Kitty's fifth boiler.

In the THS workshop early in November 2020, the two skins, held back together again by temporary fastening bolts, had these bolts replaced by rivets.

Thanks to Graeme Richardson and Alex Hunter for providing background information to D.L.A. Turner who edited this story and took the pictures.



Above left: Gap Riveting Kitty's Replacement Boiler. Removing a temporary fastening bolt, a length of pipe providing the necessary extra leverage.

Right: Alex Hunter shapes a rivet to match the hole once occupied by a fastening bolt, while Allan Famliton heats now shaped rivets in a Porta Forge.



Above: Alex Hunter delivers a molten rivet to Allan Famliton operating a Gap Riveter.



The molten rivet, heated in the adjacent Porta Forge, is used to replace a temporary fastening bolt.

Continued next page.



The molten rivet is then compressed by the Gap Riveter into the hole, so permanently joining the inner and outer plates of the firebox.

From December Tram Tracts.

Noted by President Stephen Taylor.

In a not so positive piece of news, I would also like to mention that Society Secretary Dave Hinman has been unwell recently and spent a couple of stints in hospital. We hope he is starting to come right and will soon be back to his normal self, but I understand is under doctor's orders to take things quietly for a while. On behalf of all our members, I would like to extend a "get well soon" to Dave.

Lottery Grants Board grant for completion of the restoration of Christchurch Hills Car #24.

As reported in the November 2020 Tram Tracts, the Society has been successful in our application to the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund for a grant of \$255,875 to complete the restoration of Christchurch 'Hills' Car 24. This will allow the Society to pay the Heritage Tramways Trust (HTT) to work on this tram, and should also cover other expenses such as materials. And the Society again wants to acknowledge our thanks to the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund for making this grant available.

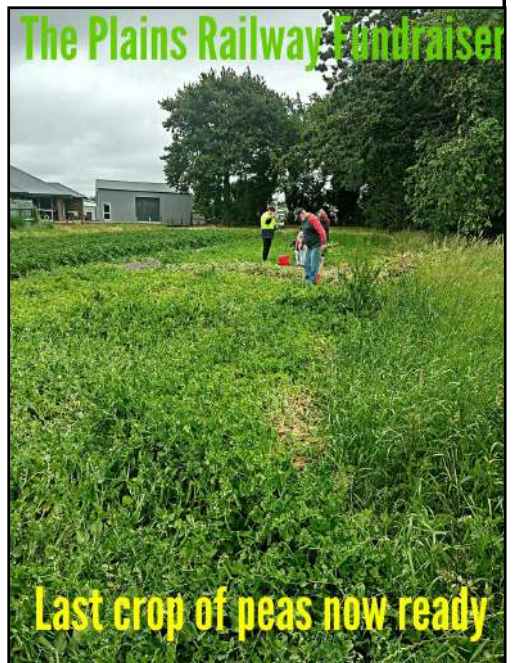
THE PLAINS RAILWAY



From Facebook

Our new potato (Nadine) fundraiser is well underway. Sold onsite (Maronan Road, Tinwald) at the Railway Station from 9am - 3pm daily (weather permitting), pick up a 5kg bag for \$12 or you will find these at both of the local 'Z' Stations. Orders taken.

The second crop of Peas should be ready leading up to Christmas. head down to the Lagmhor Road Paddock to pick your own Fresh Peas for Christmas Lunch! \$5 per 10L bucket.



WEKA PASS RAILWAY

From "Frog Rock Times"

The continuing concern for heritage railways is the recruitment, and even more importantly, the retention of younger members to assume all the responsibilities of keeping alive traditions, skills and knowledge needed to keep these railways running. Not one of the crew in the photo ever saw steam as an everyday occurrence on NZR, but they have come to us because of their abiding interest in railways and what they have seen of preservation efforts everywhere.



It is the responsibility of every long term and senior member of our various organisations to foster and grow this interest by encouragement, teaching and ensuring that both general and specific knowledge is passed on. If we are to successfully upskill our replacements, we need to wholeheartedly adopt and believe in our new members and not jealously guard or hoard what we know.

Also worthy of note is that three of the crew have positions of responsibility within WPR: Harry Mathwin is Rolling Stock Manager; Matthew Morison is Training and Certification Manager, and Will Stringer is Manager, Steam Locos. Not in the crew on that day is another of our younger members with a position of responsibility: Mick Latham who is Manager, Diesel Locos. Both Loco Managers are under the oversight of Manager, Locos, James Whyte.

I believe that being able to put together this crew is possibly the greatest of our recent achievements and can give us all great heart for the future.

Chairman, Neil Burt.

Pictured above, from left to right: Guard - Harry Mathwin (20), Fireman - Matthew Morison (19), Assistant Guard - Claire Burnett (17), Trainee Fireman - Travis Wiki (18) and Driver - Will Stringer (25) giving a combined age of 99 years.

Workshop Project.

Major work continues at our Waipara depot with track realignment and the laying of track to the new workshop which is currently under construction. The project is complex and includes the removal of power lines, which is now due to happen this month. Once completed, WPR will be able to boast a total of ten roads in the depot, seven of which will have some form of undercover storage. For operational purposes, the depot will be 'divided' by an imaginary line with a 'top/north yard' and 'bottom/south yard'.

The new workshop facility will provide our carriage restoration teams a designated and specialised area to work on their projects. A proper woodshop is long overdue! Our fleet of 50 foot carriages, guards vans, and service wagons will be able to be worked on separately, freeing up space in our main workshop which is better suited for our mechanical engineering team. The current, cramped woodshop in the main workshop will be able to be replaced by a machine shop and workbench, increasing the productivity of both teams. In addition, the shed will provide us with more undercover storage, to preserve the finish of our restored rolling stock.



Above left: The new turnout installed. This will lead to the new workshop (Roads 8 and 9) and also a storage road (Road 10) which will run alongside the western side of the new workshop. Right: Some of the boxing being prepared for the second concrete pour. 16 October 2020.

MAINLINE STEAM

From Facebook

Another busy day at the GVR. J 1211 is fast approaching its final preparation for repainting, and the Bagnall is moving quickly through its 10-year survey.



After many years of storage at Plimmerton the time has come to part ways with one out tank cars. The UC tank car is free to a good just having to pay for its removal. It is one of 2 believed to be in existence which is part of the reason we don't want to see it cut up. Please message the FB [Mainline Steam Plimmerton](#) page if you are interested.

CANTERBURY RAILWAY SOCIETY/STEAM SCENE

From Facebook

Across town road trip. The Gobbe digger and 4 CRS members spent Saturday out at Steam Scene to help replace sleepers around their railway.



CANTERBURY RAILWAY SOCIETY/

From Facebook



Clockwise from above left: Another track set added, this will be extended further in the future. Exterior skirting boards being replaced on Ferryhead station. Planning to have the station repainted over summer. Ballast has been ordered for the project and general maintenance. Another afternoon of weed spraying the main, loop and dock siding at Ferryhead.



DIESEL TRACTION GROUP

From Facebook.

Busy afternoon 13 December on site, with the rest of our locomotives and rolling stock removed from the shelter and moved onto Canterbury Railway Society premises, which will be their home for the next couple of months at this stage.

Di 1102 was given a much-needed wash-down, its first after returning from Dunedin this year.

The Lc roof project is pretty much completed, with just a lick of paint to finish it off.

The start of the track relaying project will be the end of an era, as the bullheaded laid rail, a rarity in New Zealand will be replaced.

We would like to thank the CRS for their assistance yesterday and we look forward to working alongside them over the summer months to come!

Below from Left. D1 1102 newly washed. An empty shed, with the bullheaded rail in place. The lineup of our wagon fleet in storage on one of the sidings the Canterbury Railway Society has kindly freed up for us! We greatly appreciate this!



OCEAN BEACH RAILWAY

From Facebook.

Thank you to The Star for the article.

We look forward to welcoming you all for a ride on Sunday. Fares are by gold coin donation OR bring a can of food and we will swap it for a train ride.

100% of all proceeds go towards our local food banks 100% sharing the community love.

Train rides in return for canned and non-perishable food for our local food banks.



GOLDFIELDS RAILWAY



Christmas trains . . . The Ocean Beach Railway will operate its first Christmas-themed train this Sunday, raising funds and gathering food for local food banks. PHOTO: OBT FILES

Special Ocean Beach train to support local food banks

STAFF REPORTER

Dunedin's Ocean Beach Railway will operate its first Christmas-themed train this weekend, in support of local food banks.

The special Christmas train trips will run this Sunday at the Ocean Beach Railway, next to Marlow Park at St Kilda, from 11am to 4pm.

Instead of paying the usual fare, passengers will hand over a gold coin donation or a can of food for a train ride.

Donations and proceeds will be presented to the city's food banks, to help them meet high seasonal demand and the

additional challenges of Covid-19 and unemployment.

A group of volunteers will decorate the heritage train to give the Ocean Beach Railway more Christmas cheer.

A remembrance tree will also be displayed in the restored station, with families of New Zealand Railway/Kiwi Rail staff who have died welcome to hang a decoration in their memory.

Ocean Beach Railway operations and marketing manager Philip Riley said the organisation was "so overwhelmed with community support" that it made sense to "share the love" with those in need.

RIMUTAKA INCLINE RAILWAY

January Operating Day

Tr189 and carriage D2411 will be out offering rides along our line. Trips will depart on demand and take about 10 minutes. The workshop and rail vehicle shed are open to visitors, so that you can see the progress on our other projects. Entry is \$5 per person, or \$15 per family (usually 2 adults and up to 3 children). Cash only, as there are no EFTPOS facilities available as yet.

HERITAGE TRUST



GOLDFIELDS RAILWAY

Goldfields Railway founding member looks back on 40 years of heritage rail

Dave Rowe joined Goldfields Railway at top speed when he first moved to Waihi.

Dave, 79, is the last active founding member of the Goldfields Railway Society group. He still drives the train twice a week and tinkers in the shed.

Dave moved to Waihi in 1979 and worked as postmaster at the post office. He rushed to join the team of young train enthusiasts forming the society.

Whether you have a van, motorhome, caravan or even a tent, you'll find our overnight parking facility the ideal place to base yourself over the summer holidays.



Find out more at: www.waihirail.co.nz/campground

In addition to our overnight parking at Waihi Station, we offer holiday accommodation in an original NZR railway house. To learn more, visit: www.waihirail.co.nz



Dave Rowe in front of the Goldfields Railway loco. Photo: Rebecca Mauger, Bay of Plenty Times



Waihi's best-kept campsite secret is out!

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 scottos-mond54@gmail.com.

Glenbrook Vintage Railway

9-21 April 2021

“East N West” North Island Rail Tour. Napier, New Plymouth and Central North Island.

Steam Incorporated

10 January 2021

River City Express. Paekakariki to Wanganui return. Steam.

20 February 2021

Deco Delights. Paekakariki to Napier return. Diesel.

14 March 2021

Ekatahuna Express. Paekakariki to Ekatahuna return. Details TBC.

24 April 2021

Anzac Express. Paekakariki to Woodville return. Steam.

14 March 2021

Ekatahuna Express. Paekakariki to Ekatahuna return. Details TBC.

9 May 2021

Heartland Flyer. Paekakariki to Woodville return. Steam.

12 June 2021

Crafty Feilding. Paekakariki to Feilding return. Details TBC.

30 June 2021

Kapiti Family Express. Paraparaumu to Paekakariki shuttles. Steam.

Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Gisborne to Muriwai

27, 28 December

3, 4 January 2021

23, 24 January 2021

8 February 2021

20, 21 February 2021

13 March 2021

3,4 April 2021

26 April 2021

1,2 May 2021

9 May 2021

5 June 2021

Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

16 January 2021

Feilding to Wellington via Wairarapa return via Manawatu.

21 March 2021

Palmerston North to Napier return.

27 March 2021

Feilding to Wellington via Wairarapa return via Manawatu.

10 April 2021

Feilding to Wellington via Wairarapa return via Manawatu.

Pahiatua Railcar Society

13 February 2021

Manawatu Gorge Shuttles x 3 and Dannevirke Viaducts x 2. Stabling Napier.

18-21 February 2021

Art Deco Napier.

13 February 2021

Manawatu Gorge Shuttles x 3 and Dannevirke Viaducts x 2. Stabling Napier.

5-8 March 2021

Taranaki.

28 March 2021

Manawatu Gorge Shuttles.

All trips on RM31.

Dunedin Railways

Dunedin Railways running some limited summer services to Hindon and Waitati. For details go to [Dunedin Railways](#).

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



W W Stewart Photo,
NZRLS Archive

A Train for Christmas.

The NZR Otahuhu Workshops near Auckland held their annual staff children's Christmas Party during the afternoon of Saturday 17 December 1932. This event was reported in the newspapers on the following Monday, with estimates of 1,000 or 1,500 children being present. Most of these people travelled from Auckland to Otahuhu in a substantial special train, hauled by brand-new steam locomotive K 900. W. W. Stewart was there with his camera, and this picture shows the decorated engine before the train left Auckland.

Photo published on New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society Facebook page.

***** **FRONZ CONFERENCE GISBORNE** *****
***** **4—7 JUNE 2021** *****

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