



# JOURNAL

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## FRONZ UPDATE

On 24 May, the FRONZ President, Executive Officer and Ministry of Transport advisors had a scheduled 30-minute meeting, in the Parliamentary office, with Minister of Transport, Michael Wood.

Our briefing paper included an introduction to FRONZ, including our past challenges and achievements.

More importantly, we also discussed the challenges we currently face which were;

- Covid 19 recovery
- Environmental uncertainty
- Crewing mainline excursions and certainty of operation
- Upkeep of heritage infrastructure
- Escalating compliance costs
- Uncertainty of funding
- Knowledge transfer to younger generations

We felt the Minister was fully engaged with us throughout the meeting. He made reference to having three sons and having taken them out to GVR Thomas days a few times when they were younger. He also said his grandfather worked his whole life on the railways, and his mother grew up in a railway house. He gave the impression of having a natural affiliation with the railways.

Overall, we thought the meeting had achieved the purpose of making the Minister aware of FRONZ and the importance of the rail heritage movement.

On the same day we also met with senior Kiwirail staff to discuss mainline running issues. KiwiRail now certainly appear very engaged with supporting heritage and are putting in place the right people to help move things forward.

## FRONZ CONFERENCE 2021

The 2021 FRONZ Conference is being held in Gisborne from 4-7 June 2021. Our host group is Gisborne City Vintage Rail.

We will be gathering on Friday evening 4 June 2020. Saturday 5 June will consist of Conference Presentations all day including local speakers and a session with Waka Kotahi (NZTA) plus the regular contributions from Kiwirail, Rail Heritage Trust, Tramway update, and others. On Sunday 6 June the AGM will be held followed by a discussion on how FRONZ can improve engagement and provide a better service for our member groups. We will be taking a trip on the Gisborne City Vintage Rail on Sunday afternoon, and a visit to the East Coast Museum of Technology on Monday morning 7 June. Our annual FRONZ Awards dinner will be held Sunday evening.

The full programme can be seen and downloaded at [programme](#).

Registration is now closed for Conference. Any late enquiries please contact Scott Osmond at email [scottosmond54@gmail.com](mailto:scottosmond54@gmail.com) or phone 021 0261 4495.

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

**GREAT RAIL EXPERIENCES TASMANIA TOUR FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER – SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER**

**GREAT RAIL EXPERIENCES**

10 DAYS  
**\$4,990**

**TASMANIA**  
OCTOBER 2021

To register your interest:  
Call 0454 846 697 or email [admin@greatrailexperiencetasmania.com.au](mailto:admin@greatrailexperiencetasmania.com.au)

*This Tasmania Tour includes plenty of rail heritage and also other attractions. Your Editor is planning to go and take advantage of the new direct flights Auckland to Hobart on Air New Zealand. The tour organiser is looking at organising a transfer from Hobart to Launceston from the Hobart flight if there are enough people interested as the tour starts in Launceston on Friday 8 October. I have the full itinerary details if any readers want to take a look. Request one at [scottosmond54@gmail.com](mailto:scottosmond54@gmail.com).*

Tasmania has long been a drawcard for those seeking a wilderness experience in land famed for good food and fine wines. The Great Rail Experiences Tasmania Tour 2021 packages all of this in with the State's industrial and agricultural heritage with visits to preserved operating railways and many of Tasmania's most popular tourist attractions.

You'll discover the State's rich collection of heritage railways: - Don River Railway, Wee Georgie Wood Steam Railway, Redwater Creek Tramway, West Coast Wilderness Railway, Derwent Valley and Hobart attractions, as well as the serene cruise on the magnificent Gordon River in the south west.

Tasmania has much to offer for those interested in steam era railways, history and heritage, beautiful scenery, and exceptional food and wine. This tour has been especially tailored to meet those interests.

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

- Visit Beaconsfield's historic gold mine heritage museum
- Explore Queen Victoria Museum incorporating the former major State railway workshops
- Travel on a genuine Launceston tram
- See and feel all manners of old age machinery, particularly steam engines
- Take many trips on a variety of steam-hauled trains
- Indulge in the colourful fields of tulips at Table Cape
- Cruise the mighty and serene
- Gordon River through part of Tasmania's World Heritage Area
- Experience the remoteness of the notorious penal settlement of Sarah Island
- Peddle your way along a scenic railway line
- Browse Hobart's famous Salamanca Market
- Surprise yourself at the infamous Museum of Old and New Art (MONA)
- Take in the delights of Hobart and Launceston
- Wonder at English history in the many colonial towns
- Be mesmerised by magnificent and ever-changing scenery
- Appreciate the huge wooden carving of Tasmanian history at The Wall in the Wilderness

**TOUR INCLUSIONS**

10 nights accommodation, daily breakfasts, services of an experienced and well-versed tour coach captain, meals and admissions specified in itinerary.

**TOUR PRICE**

\$AUD4,990 per person twin share.

**TOUR MANAGER**

Coach Captain for the tour is Mr. Tony Coen, whom many in the steam scene will know. Tony was formerly a train driver with the Tasmanian Government Railways (TGR) and in later years was the Tasmanian representative at and founding member of ATHRA, the Assoc. of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia.

**BOOKING A RESERVATION**

A refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required on initial booking. Once minimum numbers of 10 passengers has been reached, the tour is declared active and the tour deposit becomes non-refundable. The final tour payment shall be due on 20 August 2021.

Should the tour not be able to operate for whatever reason beyond GRET control, then travellers shall have the option of transferring to another tour or receive a full refund. It is recommended that all passengers organize their Covid-19 vaccinations prior to travelling.

All enquiries to 0458 190 591 or e-mail [tours.greatrailexperiencetasmania.com.au](mailto:tours.greatrailexperiencetasmania.com.au)

## PROPOSED INCORPORATED SOCIETY LEGISLATION

FRONZ has been keeping an eye on this and support some change for Incorporated Societies to get more into line with the processes of the Charities Act such as annual reporting, officer status, membership, and management. There was lots of angst as the Charities Act was put together and no doubt that will be repeated here.

I have been involved with the Charities Commission reporting for a number of organisations and don't see it as too onerous. A pretty simple exercise that takes half an hour or so online. Lions Clubs for example need to have both a Registered Charity AND an Incorporated Society to handle separately their charitable and administration funds.

Since the introduction of the Charities Act many Incorporated Societies have got away with little or no reporting at all so I don't see this as a bad move to increase accountability. In theory Incorporated Societies have been expected to submit annual accounts just the same as Charitable Trusts but I suspect that does not always happen, so this will encourage accountability for both financial and people aspects. Societies will probably need to alter their constitutions to comply with the new legislation and there will also be a minimum number of ten members for any Society.

What would be advantageous would be to see where both similarities and differences from the Charities Act occur and why.

A more detailed article on the proposal can be seen at <https://www.iod.org.nz/news/articles/what-leaders-of-incorporated-societies-need-to-know-about-the-new-bill/#>

## COTMA CONFERENCE 2021

The biennial conference of the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia (COTMA), cancelled last year because of COVID-19, will now be hosted by the Ballarat Tramway Museum, also celebrating its 50th anniversary. The programme will run from the evening of Wednesday 15 September to Monday 20th September and will include a partners' programme.

It is anticipated that some pre-conference activities in Melbourne will be arranged by Melbourne based members, and it is expected that some delegates may wish to follow up the conference with visits to new tram systems in Eastern Australia.

For further information, go to [www.cotma.org.au/conference.html](http://www.cotma.org.au/conference.html).



Following successful level crossing stakeholder seminars in 2016 and 2018, KiwiRail and TrackSAFE are pleased to invite you to the next round of regional hui at six locations throughout the country.

This is an opportunity to come together with those involved in using, planning, funding, designing, maintaining and upgrading New Zealand's 1300 public level crossings. Representatives will be attending from KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, road controlling authorities, consultants, NGOs, TrackSAFE, NZ Police and more. There is no cost to attend these hui.

If you have not already previously registered (from the placeholder email), please contact [megan.drayton@tracksafe.co.nz](mailto:megan.drayton@tracksafe.co.nz) to secure your spot.

**Registrations are limited and close on Friday 4 June.**

## Venues

Christchurch Mon 21 June	Dunedin Tues 22 June	Wellington Thu 24 June	Palmerston North Mon 28 June	Hamilton Wed 30 June	Auckland Thurs 1 July
Rydges Latimer 30 Latimer Square Christchurch Central City	Heritage Dunedin Leisure Lodge 30 Duke Street North Dunedin	Te Papa 55 Cable Street Te Aro Wellington	Copthorne Hotel 110 Fitzherbert Avenue Palmerston North	The Atrium Wintec Tristram Street Whitiora	Ellerslie Event Centre 100 Ascot Ave Ellerslie Auckland





## 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)

### STEAM INCORPORATED

*From "Steamline"*

Our society was formed back in 1972 with next year 2022 marking our fiftieth anniversary. The committee are busy planning a series of events to appropriately celebrate this milestone. Watch out for future updates but in the interim please keep Saturday evening 25th June 2022 free. A special anniversary dinner is being arranged on this date to be held at Southwards.

#### Arrival of DC 4375

Steam Incorporated have been considering adding a DC to our heritage fleet of EMD locomotives for several years. Eventually we were able to purchase DC 4375 from KiwiRail. The loco was delivered to our Paekakariki site on 1st April 2021. It is an ideal candidate.

Since arriving at our depot on 1st April Dc4375 has been given a quick inspection and appears to be in better condition than initially thought. It has been started and has been able to move around our yard under its own power. Going forward it will serve as an ideal locomotive in a strong existing stable of EMD's, either solo or in multiple with the Da's, and has the advantage of being single manned - cutting down on crew costs and makes logistics of excursions easier to deal with.

Steam Inc. have recently spent many hours developing in-house training courses essential for mainline operating. These courses include modules on First Aid, Tunnel Gas Awareness, Electrical Awareness, Fire Extinguishers and Depot basics.

A Guards Course has also been held recently as well as Buffet Crew and Excursion Manager training.



*Highlight of the last month for Steam Incorporated was of course running the Pounamu Tourism Group South Island rail tour with the two Da locomotives for the most part along with a guest appearance from Ab 609 north of Kaikoura. Many thousands of photos and videos of the tour were taken and flashed all over social media. Here is one of the best from Chris Dawson.*



## GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

*From Facebook*

### **Making History.**

The first heritage train to use the new Rotokauri station, DBR 1254 stops en-route to Waharoa to drop off passengers. From here, passengers could either spend a day at the Base or travel onwards to Vilagrad winery for lunch. *Photos: Alex Burgess.*



## TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*From: "Tracts".*

On the trolleybus front we have been busy. We have taken both 79 and 103 around the trolleybus circuit both to test the buses and the overhead. The new overhead performed faultlessly, and we were really pleased.

*Right: Progress at the Trolleybus Shed. Harnessed to Dunedin 79's trolley bridge, Philip Murphy water blasts 79 as Jack Crooks watches on. Photo Alan Roi.*



**Kitson Steam Tram.** Alex Hunter and Bob Williams of HTT have got all the small fire tubes expanded into the boiler and that just leaves the stay tubes to be caulked over to seal them in place. *Photo left: Alex Hunter.*



**Cable Car News.** Gavin Townsend looks over the completed clerestory roof with an original roof vent sitting in place, and also the bell that we will be using. The mechanism for the bell is currently under investigation, and no work has been done yet on the vent. *Photo Right: Don McAra*



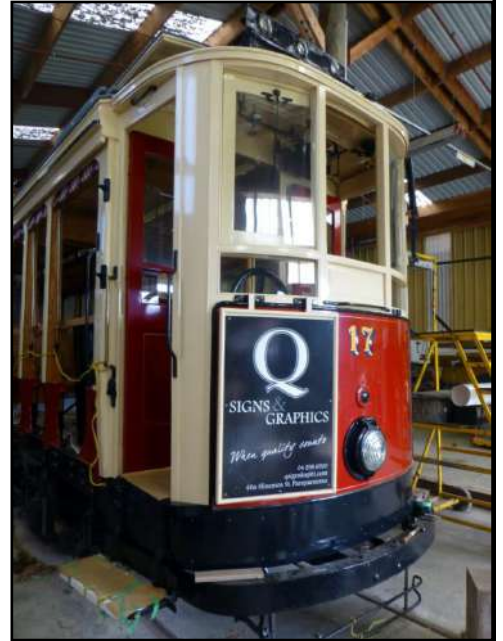
## WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM

### From "Tramlines"

We now have five Fiducia trams in our Barn. Our total number of Wellington trams now stands at eleven. In numerical order they are: Former four-wheel single decker rebuilt as Combination #17, former Palace tram #86 (ex Te Marua), Series one Double Saloon trams #151 and 159, Series two Double Saloons 185 and 207, and Fiducias #235, 238, 239, 244, and 2601. Trams 151, 159, 239 and 260 are the normally available service trams.

Tram 244, formerly in the care of MOTAT, is now in the back of our Tram Barn on road three.

In March, a crew from TVNZ Blacksands Productions visited the Tramway to record a 30 second commercial to be shown on Television and Social Media as part of the "Wild Weekends in Wellington" promotion by Wellington NZ, the body responsible for promoting tourism in the Wellington Region. Take a look at the completed video [here](#).



Top Left: 244 departing MOTAT on 20 April. Photo: Albert Chan. Left: 207 secured to the low-loader and Machinery Movers truck ready to depart. Photo: Mike Flinn. Right: Tram 17 now sports apron brackets for advertising boards. Photo: Keith McGavin.

## FEILDING STEAM RAIL

Kia Ora everyone, we've had a busy few weeks here at Feilding Steam Rail.

WAB794 received a fresh coat of paint on some valve gear components. The welding of the boiler patch is nearing completion, all while electrolysis is done on the side water tanks to remove rust.

DA1401 is having old wiring stripped out and replaced. The cab floor and wall panels are being refurbished and a section of the nose will be coming off for better access to components of the dynamic brakes.

DSA227 Is getting closer to joining our active diesel fleet every week. Minor mechanical problems we have come across while running are being fixed, and the cab still requires some final touches and windows.

Ahead of our trip to Masterton on June 20th, the excursions managers have organised training for our onboard crew. This provides our crew with the requisite skills for operating on and around trains while ensuring our passengers have a great experience. *Article and photo supplied from FDSR.*





## GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY

The highlight of the ANZAC Monday excursion to Muriwai was NOT having to wait for Air New Zealand Flight 8161 to land but having Flight 8161 wait on the runway while Wa165 crossed the runway ahead of the aircraft! A rare experience for both the aircraft and train passengers. Our thanks to the pilot of the aircraft for allowing it to happen.

Trevor Jukes, a long-time supporter of the GCVR has helped out yet again. This time he provided a HIAB equipped truck to position a Joshua Heap & Co thread cutting machine in the workshop. The machine was too tall to fit into the workshop on the back of the truck, so it was lifted onto a rail cart, which was then pushed into the workshop by hand (6 hands actually!). It was a tight fit getting the truck through the carriage shed into the workshop, but once in there, the long arm of the HIAB was able to lift the thread cutting machine off the railway cart and move it to the required position in the workshop.

We are now working towards our final excursions of the 2020/2021 season and also the FRONZ conference which is being held here in Gisborne at Queen's Birthday Weekend. Hope to see you here! You will be able to see for yourself what we have been and are currently working on! *Article and photo supplied from GCVR.*



## OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL

*. From May "Digest"*

We carried 628 passengers in April, and 427 in March.

Trackwork continues on the lines east of the workshop, with 70lb rail laid on concrete sleepers in the loop. New concrete pipes have been laid and some re-sleepering done at some of the culverts on the line.

New brake blocks were fitted to the Husky, and linkages adjusted.

Work continues on TR 35's overhaul.



Steam Incorporated red train overnights in Oamaru in recent weeks during the Pounamu Tourism Great Southern Train Tour. Society members provided security during the two cold nights. As the train was only partially full on its trip south, Harry arranged for locals to be able to buy tickets between Oamaru and Palmerston on Tuesday the 27th of April, with buses returning our passengers to Oamaru. All tickets sold out, giving Oamaruvians the rare opportunity to sample a trip beside the Otago coastline by rail, while also raising funds for the railway.

## 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

GVR are running several three-day package tours from Pukekohe to the Ruapehu area with various options for two-night stays and tours.

Departures are scheduled for 11 June, 9 July, 13 August, 10 September.

More details at <https://www.gvr.org.nz/trips-events/ruapehu>.

### Steam Incorporated

30 May 2021	Kapiti Family Express. Paraparaumu to Paekakariki shuttles. Steam.
12 June 2021	Crafty Feilding. Paekakariki to Feilding return. Steam.
12 September 2021	Daffodil Express.
17 October 2021	Heartland Flyer.
Early December 2021	Grand Circle Rail Cruise.

### Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Gisborne to Muriwai  
 30 May 2021  
 5 June 2021  
 24 October 2021

### Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society Inc

20 June 2021	Mid Winter Christmas Dinner Express to Masterton.
17 July 2021	Round The Block to Wellington.

All trips Kiwirail "Capital Connection" carriages and locomotives.

### Pahiatua Railcar Society

24 December 2021	Tangiwai Memorial Excursion. Palmerston North to Tangiwai return.
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All trips on RM31.



PICTURE OF THE MONTH



RHepburn



This month we are acknowledging the FRONZ Conference coming up in Gisborne. *From NZ Railway Geography Facebook page posted by Steve Watts. PNGL Gisborne Station Ab702 has an NZRLS Excursion and Drewry RM117 (at a dock I was previously unaware of), the shot was taken on the 2nd of April 1961- this magnificent shot is another Bob Hepburn and was contributor J Agnew.* Your Journal Editor spent a lot of time train-spotting at the Gisborne railway station in the 60s and I do not recollect the dock either. I do remember watching railcars filling up with diesel at the pump. The goods yard was always busy then and I remember J class freight trains as well. When I wasn't at the station, I was playing on Wa 165 which was then just down the road (opposite my Grandma's home) in Grey Street.

The bottom three pictures are your nine-year-old Editor on Wa 165 in January 1964 (left and centre) and (right) with a cousin in January 1965.

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

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