

FRONZ: JOURNAL

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

FRONZ UPDATE

Happy New Year, from the FRONZ Executive!

Grant, David, Scott, Jeff, Bruce, Guy, Margaret and I hope all member groups and their many hard workers have had a good holiday, and have a fantastic upcoming season.

FACEBOOK PAGES

Social media is a large part of the online world now, and when used can be an amazing tool for advertising. Lots of groups have great pages, and keep us up to date on there- if you aren't, it may be a good thing to consider! It is a free tool where you can post updates on your progress, advertise upcoming events, and grow interest in your societies. A lot of the information I use for the Journal also comes from there- thank you to the groups who use theirs regularly.

If you need help setting one up, reach out!

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(Light Rail Network
Safeworking)
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Dave Hinman



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Dg 770 silhouette - Glenmark arrival. 15th January, 2022.

Photo: Ethan Trumper

CONFERENCE 2022



Planning is continuing for our 2022 conference in Invercargill from Friday 3rd to Monday 6th June.

This is the first time the FRONZ conference has been held in Invercargill and we will be offering a great experience including rail heritage information which all members should share, as well as several field trips and tours of the Southland area including rail heritage sites and the great unspoilt Southland country.

The conference venue is the Ascot Park Hotel which offers various accommodation options. Conference bookings will open from the 1st of April 2022.

Please note that under the Government COVID PROTECTION FRAMEWORK, all delegates, guests and partners attending the FRONZ Conference are required to have a current Covid Vaccine Certificate. Please note the information below from Ascot Park Hotel.

Our host group, Waimea Plains Railway are looking forward to welcoming us to conference.

We will be highlighting the theme of climate change and how it will affect rail heritage operations.

We cannot visit Invercargill without visiting the world renown Bill Richardson's Transport World and Motorcycle Mecca, and the Burt Munro motorcycle display at Hayes Hardware department store. We are planning to see some of these attractions with a local tour on Friday 3rd June where numbers will be limited, you will need to arrive on Thursday 2nd June to join this as it will be a full day.

Well known Bluff resident, local councillor, and presenter of the "Off the Rails" TV documentary series, Marcus Lush, will be our keynote speaker on Saturday morning. This will be followed by an introduction to Southland Railway History by local member of the Southern Steam Train Trust, Lindsay Buckingham.

Our Rail Safety Regulator, Waka Kotahi, will present in the main morning session. On Saturday afternoon we have presentations from KiwiRail, and speakers on alternative fuels as well as how organisations can best adapt to the requirements of impending climate change legislation and actual effects. Saturday sessions will conclude with breakout groups meeting to discuss the various issues of Tramway, Rail Heritage, Mainline rail groups.

Sunday morning will start with the FRONZ Annual General Meeting then several presentations from RailSafe, NZ Rail Heritage Trust, Tramways update, and a video view of Southland railway history with a presentation from Lindsay Benbrook from Majik Video Systems.

On Monday June 6th have we planned a day trip to visit and ride the Kingston Flyer and Lumsden Railway Station. We will be back in Invercargill in time for Air NZ flights to Christchurch and other cities currently timetabled to depart at 1625 and 1815.

CONFERENCE 2022

continued

at this time the proposed cost of the full conference package option including all events on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June will be \$280. This will include conference sessions all day Saturday and Sunday morning with morning, afternoon teas and lunches both days plus the trip to Waimea Plains Railway and Croydon Aviation Centre Sunday afternoon and the FRONZ Awards Dinner Sunday night.

Individual days, events, and tours will also be priced separately.

For those that also want to join our tours of Invercargill area on Friday 3rd June and the Kingston Flyer, Lumsden Monday 6th June there will be a separate cost for these two tours of \$70 each.



Waimea Plains Railway Trust.
Photo: Got It In One Photography



The Kingston Flyer.
Photo: NZ Herald



Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre.
Photo: Stuff

COVID PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

All delegates, guests, partners attending the FRONZ Conference are required to have a current Covid Vaccine Certificate.

The Invercargill Licencing Trust has implemented a vaccination policy that means from the 3rd December 2021 all visitors (including contractors, suppliers and customers) must provide their vaccination certificate, or alternatively hold a valid exemption or be under the age of 12 years.

It is recommended that you have the following ready each time you are visiting us:

- Covid Tracer App – for contact tracing purposes. Manual sign in is also available.
- The 'My Vaccine Pass' – either on their phone/tablet or paper copy.
- Photo ID

Although we recognise and respect that everyone has the right to choose whether to be vaccinated or not, in order to ensure the safety of our team and community we must follow these rules.

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding as we follow the governments lead to protect our guests and team against Covid-19.

Ascot Park Hotel

CALL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION- LIGHT RAIL NETWORK SAFEWORKING CODE OF PRACTICE

Light rail network safeworking – Code of Practice is now available for a 4-week public consultation.

This Code of Practice provides rail transport operators operating light rail networks a consistent approach to safeworking. This Code should be read in conjunction with AS 7601.1 which provides requirements and recommendations for the management of light rail vehicle movements.

To access the draft, please download it here:

[Light rail network safeworking – Code of Practice](#)

To make comments on the draft, please use the commenting tools in Adobe Acrobat or Acrobat Reader to comment in-line with the text.

Please return your PDF with comments to cfitzhardinge@rissb.com.au by Wednesday, 16 February 2022.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE RAILWAYS

TALKING POINT

Pleasant Point Railway- Bryan Blanchard

The steaming days held so far have been well attended and our Ford railcar running days, we get the usual visitors coming to ride in it and have a guided tour of our site, The big 1922 steam locomotive, Ab699 is used on our steaming days, but we had to use our 1878 smaller steam locomotive, D16 due to a left hand cylinder problem that developed on the 9 th January on Ab699. All fixed now by our Dowell Mcleod and Daniel Smith. Our working bees continue, mainly on the Wednesday and Saturday, but some members come out to work on our site on other days. Replacing a few railway sleepers, where needed is an on going job, latterly in front of our Keanes Crossing big shed. Longer plastic sleepers are now used on the cross overs – all sleepers now are purchased of KiwiRail in Christchurch. When fitted on our track, new ballast is used and then tamped down. Our Ford 5000 and International H30 Hough loader come in handy when we do this work and on the work train, it is either one of the 2 diesel locomotives used, Tr18 or the smaller, Ruston Hornsby.

Well our steaming days over for the holiday period have just about finished, but the last one is on the 6th February, 10.30am to the last train at 4pm but the next one after that is on the 6th March, 10.30.am to the last train at 4pm. The 1925 Ford Model T railcar will be operating daily to the 27th February, leaving from the Pleasant Point Railway Station on the hour from 11am to the last one at 3pm. This includes a ride in the railcar, a guided tour of our site, view our exhibits, our rolling stock, our 4 locomotives, seeing our very popular operating model railway running and a short historic movie in our 50 seat vintage movie theatre.

Our next popular Saturday evening movie night is on the 20 th February in our Keanes Crossing movie theatre, starting at 7.30pm. Every one welcome. We will have the usual first half and the main movie is 1995 Hollywood documentary, hosted by Shirley Jones = “Rodgers & Hammerstein – the Sound of the Movies “. Introducing excerpts from well know movies, including “ State Fair “, “ Oklahoma “, “ Carousel “, “ The King and I “,” South Pacific “, “ Flower Drum Song “, and of course, “ The Sound of Music “, Well know movie actors of the past are in this Documentary including : Deborah Kerr, Yul Brynner, Mitzi Gaynor, Christopher Plummer, plus more. Entry fee, is \$2 plus a plate for supper after the screening. Remember, every one welcome to come to this movie night. Trumpet ice creams will be on sale for those who want one at half time, only \$1.50 each.

RUNNING DAYS A PLENTY AT THE PLAINS

K88 and RM50 operating on the 9th of January, 2022

Photos- Tony Cameron



OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL

The Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest

The railway ran at “full steam” over the holiday break, carrying 1521 passengers with 41 return trips made between 27 December and 4 January.

- Steam loco B10 was in action for much of the peak, with the Dsa helping out.
- For the full month of December, we carried 1197 passengers.
- Congrats to Dion Voyce who recently qualified as a Guard.



Dion, Harry, Mike, John, Matthew, Cooper and Ashok- the crew on 29 December



GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

Photos provided by Aaron Wong (GVR)

- DSA 483/246 poses at Glenbrook after a heavy service and repaint conducted by the GVR team for the WPI Mill at Ohakune
- Sister DSA 243 arrives back at Pukeoware after being hired to WPI to shunt their siding
- Ww 644, fitted with new boiler undergoing its first steam test
- Passengers enjoy the natural air conditioning of open carriage Vb 624 behind Ww 480
- The great summer weather has seen good passenger loadings over the holidays\
- Tank wagon UC 686 is undergoing an overhaul in preparation for Ww 644 to return to the mainline this year



A FITTING SERVICE FOR A FRIEND

Remembering Mike Lynch

On January 4th the rail heritage community lost an extremely involved member. Mike Lynch was in many rail heritage groups; the Otago Excursion Train Trust, Weka Pass, Oamaru Steam and Rail, Ocean Beach Railway, and of course Dunedin Railways.

A service was held for him at Ferrymead Heritage Park, with the wonderful crew at Diesel Traction Group arranging his final ride behind Di 1102.

A special thanks goes to the Baikie family, who designed and constructed the headboard for the loco (which also went for a trip at Weka Pass).



The headboard, and Henare, Mikes son with the loco in preparation for his last ride.
Photos: Left- DTG Facebook, right: Rhys Goodman.



Weka Pass Railway. Photo: Will Stringer

THE BATTLE OF THE WOODEN CARRIAGE

Articles- Otago Daily Times, Grant Miller

In the space of a week, Dunedin Railways went from planning to divesting rolling stock (including the iconic wooden cars, and various other locomotives/shells) to withdrawing the sale.

"A plan to sell Dunedin rail heritage assets has shocked a city councillor and blindsided an Otago trains trust.

Cr Sophie Barker said imagery of heritage carriages passing through Otago's striking landscapes was immensely valuable for Dunedin's brand.

Cr Barker said she was shocked Dunedin Railways was seeking to shed such cherished assets when it had not yet been determined what strategy the company might operate under in future.

The Otago Excursion Train Trust, founder of the original Taieri Gorge Railway, is opposed to any sale of assets from Dunedin Railways.

It had been expected assets would be retained until a decision was made about the company's future, trust chairman Murray Schofield said.

..

The company issued a request for proposals yesterday for acquisition of assets that included six wooden heritage carriages, built between 1912 and 1923, a diesel-electric locomotive built in the 1950s and the body of a locomotive that was the first from the DJ class to arrive in New Zealand."

"A sell-off of Dunedin rail heritage assets has come to a screeching halt. Dunedin Railways Ltd announced today it was withdrawing its request for proposals to acquire its rolling stock after the company accepted it was possible the assets could be useful in future scenarios.

The U-turn came just a week after Dunedin Railways had proposed to sell assets such as six heritage wooden carriages and a diesel-electric locomotive.

Company chairman Keith Cooper said the board's position about heritage rolling stock being unsuitable for Dunedin Railways journeys had not changed.

However, the company's owner, the Dunedin City Council, had been evaluating operating models.

The company board accepted future governors or operators of Dunedin Railways could take a different view about the usefulness of the heritage rolling stock, Mr Cooper said.

The heritage carriages included in the cancelled sale proposal would not be operated under the company's current model, because of their risk profile."

As a member of the Otago Excursion Train Trust myself, it was definitely a shock to see the proposed sale- especially with the statements made about the fact they were "unsafe". The carriages in question were used right up until the business was put into hibernation, similar cars are used by other organisations, and there is a rail tour currently advertised for the South Island using heritage rolling stock! The halt of the sale is definitely a positive.

NELSON RAILWAY SOCIETY

Facebook

It has been a busy festive season at the Nelson Railway Society, with the train running almost every day from Boxing Day onwards.



Photos: Nelson Railway Society Founders Park Facebook

WAITARA RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC

Facebook

Our newly-restored Dsa class loco Portland 11 made its public running debut on Sunday January 2, effortlessly pulling its small consist between Waitara and Lepperton. Carriage A56568 will be added when some certification work has been completed.

A very busy day last Saturday, tidying up the yard with help from Michielsen Nursery's Hiab, and spreading ballast at Lepperton Yard with the YH wagon and Portland 11 loco.



Photos: Waitara Rail Facebook

LUMSDEN HERITAGE TRUST

Facebook

"A199 got her new number plates today and a couple of other pieces of bling (finishing touches)

Thanks to Clark McCarthy for organizing those for the Trust and those others involved"



Photos: Lumsden Heritage Trust Facebook



LUMSDEN HERITAGE TRUST

Continued

Here it is the first project for 2022.

Massive thanks to Ocean Beach Railway for the opportunity to be able to preserve the 1880 Steam Locomotive D6 for static display in Lumsden.

Yesterday thanks to the OBR team especially Gary Hodson, Clark McCarthy & Mike Kilsby with the organization involved readying D6 for transportation including the team at Titian Cranes who ensured the lift was seem-less.

Once again Southland Machine Hire Services with driver Pete were on board for the transportation to Invercargill last night then onto Winton this morning where she was lifted by Gerry and his crew (once again) from Smiths Cranes Invercargill.

Mark Hindle and his team at Bulleid Engineering - Winton who have taken on the job of stripping D6 down so we can start the presentation process as funding allows in Winton.

This marks the return of a working Southland Steam Locomotive to its original service province from which it left in 1917 approximately.

D6 served with NZR from 1880 to 1917, 1917 to 1940 Coal Mine in Clutha and from 1940 to 1965 with Mc Donald Lime Co and then to OBR.

The Business plan for D6 is to preserve the locomotive to a high standard upon completion it will then be transported to the Lumsden Railway Precinct at the front of the current carriages to create a pre 1900's Heritage Train consisting of carriages ranging from 1877 (C 100) to 1883 (A199) to 1896 (A525) and the steam locomotive 1880 (D6)

A heritage line up such as this not seen for possibly 70 + years.

There are other aspects to this project that the LHT will share with you as funding and progress allows.



Photos: Lumsden Heritage Trust Facebook

RUNNERS RETURN TO RACE THE KINGSTON FLYER

Otago Daily Times, Cass Marrett

Kingston's Race the Train event was full steam ahead today with scores of runners and their families turning out to take on the famous Kingston Flyer.

The race originally ran in 2012 and 2013 but was stymied when the historic train was taken out of action due to the passing of its owner in early 2014.

Organiser Adrian Bailey said the turnout today was "great".

"There's been such a buzz of excitement here with the local community embracing the event.

"It would have been nice to have a few more travelling from further afield... [but] we did have people travel a reasonable distance to come today to be part of the event."

Runners took part in either a 24km race from Kingston to Fairlight and back, a 12km race from Fairlight to Kingston or a 5km race starting from Kingston, and run on a trail adjacent to the train tracks.

Early on in the race, the train was snaffled by a rogue sheep on the tracks, but quickly gathered steam to make up the lost distance.

Spectators filled almost every seat onboard and young children screamed at their parents to "run faster!".

About a quarter of the total number of runners beat the train across the finish line and one man, at a sprint, crossed the line just as the train pulled into Kingston station.

Runner Deanna Sheriff, who beat the train said "it was quite a hard case" and an "awesome event".

"The headwind was a bit strong coming back but the scenery was beautiful."

Speaking at the end of the day Mr Bailey was already looking ahead next year's race.

"Hopefully we will have a positive step forward with all this Covid-related drama going on, so hopefully next year we will see a huge rise in numbers."



Photos: left- the train prepped for the big race. Neville Simpson; right: Cass Marrett

UPCOMING MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

Excursions are subject to Covid Restrictions- check directly with operators prior to travel

Glenbrook Vintage Railway

GVR have multiple First Class Experience & Steam Train Experience dates available, along with Discover Ruapehu Rail Tours; for more details visit - www.gvr.org.nz/events/whats-on

Steam Incorporated

Steam Incorporated have the Summer Spiral Limited on the 30th of January. More information is available at- www.steaminc.org.nz/book-train-trip

Gisborne City Vintage Railway

Running days for the summer from Gisborne to Muriwai are now being advertised. More information is available at- www.gcvr.org.nz/bookings/

Fielding and District Steam Rail Society Inc

The Chateau Tongariro Rail Excursion is operating on the 13th of February. More information is available at- https://events.steamrail.org.nz/?page_id=4#page-content

Pahiatua Railcar Society

Manawatu Gorge Shuttles are operating on Saturday 19th February; departing at 10:00, 11:10, 12:45, 13:55 and 15:05

More information is available at: <https://www.railcars.co.nz/excursions>

THE QUEEN'S SERVICE MEDAL

HINMAN, Mr David Dennis (Dave)

For services to tramways and heritage

Mr Dave Hinman retired in 2019 following 50 years with Christchurch City Council.

Mr Hinman was instrumental in the planning and construction of the City Tourist Tramway in Christchurch, acting as Project Manager from 1993 to 1994. The tramway has almost doubled the original 1995 route length from his efforts in engaging with Christchurch City Council, Heritage Tramways Trust and Christchurch Tramway Limited. He recently retired as Secretary of Tramway Historical Society (THS), having held positions on the Management Committee since 1966, and been President from 1972 to 1979. He was THS delegate on the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia, an Executive member from 1986 and was Chairman until recently. He was Canterbury Branch Chairman of New Zealand Historic Places Trust from 1994 to 2002. He was instrumental in working with Christchurch Council and Christchurch Tramway Limited to reopen the tracks in 2013, following their destruction due to the 2011 earthquake. He was employed to be part of the Christchurch Council's Heritage Response Team, which focused on retaining Heritage and Character buildings in the central city. He is former Trustee of the Ferrymead Trust, having played a key role in the planning and development of the Ferrymead museum complex. Mr Hinman is a past President of the New Zealand Planning Institute and a current Fellow.



Dave Hinman at the 2021 FRONZ Conference presenting the Tramway Award Restoration. Photo David Maciulaitis

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CONTENTS MAY BE REPUBLISHED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.