

FRONZ: JOURNAL

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

DEVELOPMENT OF A FRONZ 3'6" TRACK STANDARD

Meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/2096048550?pwd=dmRRSE5xc3pZRzk3amtMZUVnSnV3QT09>

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The Zoom meeting would initially discuss the feeling around having a standard established, the possible uptake by members, and then go into the 'needs' of the track standard. We will record the meeting for those who cannot make it. If this is relevant for your organisation, please circulate around your working members, especially those who work on your track.

Joining by the Zoom app: Meeting ID: 209 604 8550 Password: fronz

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Da 1410 and Da 1431 climbing the Waiouru Bank heading the Summer Spiral.

Photo: Bobby Boulton



FRONZ UPDATE

The FRONZ Executive met in Wellington for a day early in February.

Heritage Technical Committee Update.

Mike Anderson presented an update.

- This is the third year of the three-year reset of the HTC. We are transitioning from reactionary reset activities to normal business.
- New inspectors are to be trained which will include “buddying” with existing inspectors.
- There is a lot of code review work to be done updating outdated codes to make them appropriate for all operators under the FRONZ agreement with KiwiRail.

KiwiRail meeting

A recent regular quarterly meeting was held with KiwiRail

- Items discussed included:
- Unregistered vehicle tows.
- Resourcing for steam crews
- Access to branchlines
- NRSS 11 update
- New technology in the network and compatibility with heritage.
- Tunnel training.
- We plan to have more discussion with KiwiRail Property department regarding leases.

These regular meetings are a great step forward as FRONZ now has good lines of communication with KiwiRail.

Other items discussed included:

- FRONZ insurance which we believe is now fit for purpose and we have the right model.
- Infrastructure codes. Members are working off adhoc NZR track codes. We are looking at the possibility of developing a FRONZ track code, which would define minimum standards. At the moment groups are likely maintaining their track at full-speed NZR standards when they're only operating at 15mph.



Photo: Grant Craig

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 April 1.

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 renowned 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 June 3rd where numbers will be limited- you will need to arrive on Thursday June 2nd 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 a 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, a Tramways update, and a video view of Southland railway history with a presentation from Lindsay Benbrook from Majik Video Systems.

On Monday June 6th we have 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.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE RAILWAYS

"A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WORK.."

Pukemiro Junction, The Glen Afton Line March 2022

Trev T4 & Rob B have been out & repaired the radio in 402. The step down transformer that converts 24 volts into 12 volts to work the radio wasn't working. It was taken away to get a new one.

There was an issue with positive/negative earth to solve. After that, Trev & Rob came down to help with the track work.

The pine trees up the line that had either fallen down or been dropped by us & that were easily accessible have been cut up into rings & transported to the Junction. We now have a very large heap waiting to be split into firewood.

The CW crews have been out twice since we went to an orange light – one visit they raked up the pine needles on the track at both ends of Pukemiro yard & the other time, with just 2 bods in the crew, replaced 6 sleepers to support a rail that was due to be replaced. The old rail had already been removed by Dave M.

Unfortunately the CW crews are not permitted to work while we are in the current red light setting.

Bruce McL repaired a section of the wooden edging of the station platform that had become loose.

He then went on to help Ian J, Richard S & Pete C who were constructing the side wall of the extension to the shed behind the wood work shop.

Russell W has continued with keeping the lawns mowed & the gardens in reasonable order. Maarten & Lesley R have also been doing some gardening. Dave M & CJ have weed sprayed the whole line on one day & spent another spraying the whole line for gorse. We have also continued the job of replacing fish plate bolts that are loose or have broken spring washers.



Dave Mann working on the woodwork shop side lean-to extension. Photo: T. Townsend



The woodwork shop lean-to a work in progress. Photo: T. Townsend

RECOVERY OF C100

Lumsden Heritage Trust - Facebook, Feb 14

Good start today towards the recovery of C100 .

Thanks to Chris and Ruth Mc Dermott for access to their property and once again Russell Bradley and Linton Contracting. We managed to clear the site ready for the removal.

We were meant to be transporting tomorrow but unfortunately through circumstances beyond our control we are on hold.

As we had a bit of time C100 had a bit of a clean up inside revealing what such good condition she is in considering her 144 years.

Looking forward to when we can transport her to Lumsden to start the preservation.



C100. Photos: Lumsden Heritage Trust Facebook

WORK CONTINUES ON MERCER SITE

Mainline Steam Heritage Trust, Facebook

Filling of the site continues at Mercer with the fill now 2m high in some places. With the good summer weather filling of the site will continue in earnest. Photos taken last week



Photos: Mainline Steam Heritage Trust Facebook

FEILDING STEAM RAIL SOCIETY

Harlan Summers; photos provided

Kia Ora Everyone

Well, we have had a busy few weeks at Feilding Steam Rail.

The diesel team has really been getting stuck into DA1401. The forward and rear headstocks are having major repairs done to them after years of hard shunting while in service. Both cowcatchers have been removed and are being repaired, and recently the radiator section was removed from the long hood.

Meanwhile, the steam team have had to do some repairs on the dry pipe of WAB794 due to corrosion and sealing issues. The dry pipe has been tested and passed, and now resides back inside WAB794. Some boiler cracks were discovered by the steam outlet for the brake pump. The repair for that is now well underway with the cracked area being removed and a patch is being welded in place currently. Looking forward the next major focus for 794 is getting all the boiler tubes in place and expanded.

The excursion team are working diligently to get us back on the rails. We have a year of exciting trips planned but the fluidity of the Covid-19 situation poses some challenges. Due to how easily the situation can change the most up to date information on our excursions is available on our site steamrail.org.nz



WAB794 resting in the engine shed



The EMD Prime mover getting some fresh air



DA1401's headstock following removal of the cowcatcher

WANGANUI MODEL RAILWAY AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY INC & STEAM RAIL WANGANUI INC

The official combined newsletter, Feb - April 2022

After plenty of work organising this weekend, it basically didn't happen. As mentioned in last newsletter we were not coming under the Vintage Weekend umbrella but had planned to still do our thing. The Vintage weekend ended up getting cancelled altogether, due to Covid restrictions. Because of this we decided to still do our open day and Trolley rides but only on the Monday.

We had everything planned and ready to go the day before, when the Government announced we were moving into the red Traffic light due to the Omicron (Covid) outbreak, that night. After a quick talk to all members involved, we all decided our best option was to cancel our next day's open day. There were a few upset people on Facebook when we cancelled but our members, families and the public's well being comes first. When riding a trolley there is no way we can keep the required social distance, even if we kept the public in their family bubbles, it would mean our drivers would be entering all the bubbles. Without having Eftpos we also could not offer contactless payment for rides etc. We will look at another date to do our public open day and rides.

However, all was not lost. Due to us having the block of line with KiwiRail and all members involved we were already in each other's bubbles; we decide to have a members training and fun day instead on the Monday. This gave us the opportunity to finish off the training we started back in October. A big congratulations to Trevor F, John P, Eddie F, Leone T and Keith H for passing their Trolley Drivers certs and to the other members who also past the refresher courses. Our Trollies got a good work out during the day. A fun day was had by all. Trevor F's car was also a hot topic for a while on the day too.



Photos: Ewan Pound & Blair Jordan

PLEASANT POINT RAILWAY

Pleasant Point Gazette- annual report, Bryan Blanchard

This year again has been none like the Society has struck since it was formed in February, 1970. We, like other railway / tramway museums in New Zealand could not operate with the Covid-19 Delta Pandemic affecting New Zealand, specially the Auckland area plus more. We did not operate for some weeks which meant that no money was coming in – but the bills still did. Insurance, NZTA, SGS, Electric power are some of the large accounts that affect us. We have a very good band of members who help the museum in many ways with their skills they can help the Society with. Also we get help from outside our membership and we thank these people and firms who help the Society.

As informed in my 2020 Annual report – I've been in the Society since it was founded in February 1970 as well as being in the Executive all those years and seen the museum grow from when we started with an old run down railway station, and just north of it where the car park is now, a faded red N Z Railways goods shed, which we dismantled, with a loading bank plus a short piece of railway track in front of the railway station platform, which we had to pay for at scrap value, so much a foot. A lot of members plus interest helpers and firms have helped us in many ways over the years, and if a numbers of members and helpers were still with us, would be very proud of what we have achieved over the years since 1970. The museum and some members, over the years has won a number of awards, local and New Zealand wide. The working bees are hard work most of the time, but there is always a lot of laughs and friendly cheek tossed round members. When we look back over the years, from a rundown railways station, our first job was putting a veranda on to it – then doing the station up in 3 stages inside – Purchasing a Ab steam locomotive – was only going to be a stationary exhibit - extending the railway line to Khan street after we had got Ab699 steaming – Extending the railway line further eastwards to Raynor Street and then on to Keanes Crossing – building the big shed there – getting a former N Z Railways water tower from Hinds - Getting a turntable from Cromwell – some NZR railway signal pole units from Washdyke & Timaru – the Strathallan railway crossing keepers hut – N Z Railways gangers huts – a NZR signal box that came from Washdyke - 2 large former petrol tanks, used now for our fire water sprinkler system – a spare Ab locomotive boiler assembly, for Ab699 if needed in the future, - and the list goes on.

I thank you all for your support you have given me and the Society over the last “ trying “ 12 months, plus the help and support my wife, Marian gives me. It makes the job of being President so much easier. All of us are a year older than out last Annual meeting – and as our late Patron, George Frame put it – the job we do today, will probably take a bit longer to do than it took a few years back.

It will be good to get the overseas tour groups and visitors back – we hope soon, will have to wait and see what happens. I wish you all the best for the 2021 – 2022 period, and the many challenges it may bring.

DRIVING CREEK RAILWAY

Driving Creek Railway - Facebook

We are all super stoked to be awarded the GOLD Qualmark award!!

This award recognises that we are among the best sustainable tourism businesses in New Zealand and are leading the way in making the New Zealand tourism industry a world class sustainable visitor destination

Big thanks to all the staff at Driving Creek and everyone who has supported us by coming on our experiences



Photos: Driving Creek Railway Facebook

TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tramway Historical Society - Facebook

In one of our recent posts, I showed the "B" end of tram 24 with it's final livery on. There may still be another coat to go. Here we see the "A" end receiving the same treatment. Cable car 103 is sitting close to 24 so has been masked to prevent getting stray paint on it.

There is also progress in the Cranmer Building. Our previous Secretary, Dave Hinman, has taken on the role of archivist. In the display hall, we are awaiting more flooring. Also one of our display cabinets is being modified to suit the new design of the display area.



Left: first stage of painting the A end of 24. Right: The B end of 24
Photos: Alan Roi

RAILCAR TRIP THROUGH MANAWATŪ GORGE STIRS MEMORIES

Hawkes Bay Today; 28 Feb

On Saturday, February 19, the Pahiatua Railcar Society ran five shuttles through the Manawātū Gorge as fundraisers for more development of its rolling stock.

Passengers were privileged to ride on ex-NZ Railways standard railcar RM 31 – Tokomaru - which was the first for the society to be restored.

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The view from the railcar was great on a beautiful day and highlighted the massive road constructions firstly to support the road and secondly to protect it from slips that had been carried out over its time.

Owing to the red traffic light setting, the society had to make some changes to the normal shuttles with reduced capacity but compensating with two additional shuttles at 1.55pm and 3.05pm.

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It departed Woodville, making its way through the spectacular Manawātū Gorge which did not seem changed at all. It gave the youngsters the experience of travelling through the two tunnels and everyone the opportunity to see the construction progress of the new bridge crossing over the Manawātū River forming part of the Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawātū Tararua Highway.

Upon arriving at Ashhurst, the crew changed ends for the return journey to Woodville. These shuttles are fundraisers for the ongoing restoration of other rolling stock. The society is at present restoring Wairarapa railcar RM 5 and twinset railcar, RM 121. Volunteers come from Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Wairarapa, Whanganui and beyond, every Sunday, to work on projects with the Pahiatua Railcar Society.

In April 2021 the Pahiatua Railcar Society took possession of three Silver Fern Railcars. The Bush Telegraph reported:

"For the first time known, all members of one class of New Zealand railway rolling stock (Silver Fern railcars) have been completely retired to be put in for restoration, thanks to the endeavours of the Pahiatua Railcar Society.

"They are now stored at the Pahiatua Railway Station at Mangamutu near Pahiatua, with two of the three railcars already having been driven under their own power in the yard."

The society says, "We are keen to continue to fundraise. We are amongst a select group of railway museums that is fortunate enough to enjoy the privilege of having a railway station and mainline access."

Next in the planning stage is a day return trip to Chateau Tongariro.



Left: Bush Telegraph
Right: Hawkes Bay Today



DIESEL TRACTION GROUP

DTG - Facebook

A huge amount of work has been done over the past few weekends.

"Whilst some of the team were at Waipara working on De512 today, we also took the opportunity to change out a problematic cylinder head on Di1102. Massive thanks to long time DTG supporter Cam Lill from CBL Contracting for the use of his HIAB truck. Cheers Cam"

"As posted earlier, some of the DTG team were busy at Waipara today with ongoing cab steelwork repairs and preparation for painting. Here a section of damaged steel is cut out and replaced, and the cab side tidied up."

"This weekend more progress has been made on De 1429 at Waipara. Ongoing preparation for repainting included sanding and preparing the cab interior, running board and cab exterior areas."

"Today's work: At Waipara, work on De 1429 involved more body repairs and preparation in readiness for repainting, relocation of the Independent Brake release to a more user friendly location, and replacement of the engine fuel injectors. At Ferrymead, work on De 511's engine overhaul continued, with cylinder head valve lapping completed and preparation and installation of three piston/connecting rod assemblies, complete with new piston rings and bearings."



Photos: DTG Facebook.

Above: Investigating the cylinder head on Di1102; and steelwork repairs.

Below: Lapping valves in cylinder head; and sanding and preparation of long hood



SUMMER SPIRAL A HIT

Steam Incorporated

On Sunday 31st January 2022, Steam Incorporated operated their first excursion for the year, under Covid traffic light red. It ran up the central North Island from Paekakariki to Raurimu and return, headed by Da 1410 and 1431.



Left: Makatote. Right: Hapuawhenua. Photos: Bobby Boulton



Left: at Otaki. Right: at Mangaweka. Photos: Tommy Mortimer



Left: Hapuawhenua. Right: South of Hunterville. Photos (left to right): Morgz Tukariri & Chris Carran

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 and the East and West Railtour departing 7 July 2022; for more details visit - www.gvr.org.nz/events/whats-on

Steam Incorporated

Steam Incorporated have the Anzac Day Special operating on Sunday, 24 April 2022. 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, with available dates including Easter weekend, ANZAC weekend, and Mothers Day. There is also the Chardonnay Express on the 29th of May. More information is available at- www.gcvr.org.nz/bookings/

Feilding and District Steam Rail Society Inc

Around the Block 1 - To Wellington is operating on the 14th of May. More information is available at- https://events.steamrail.org.nz/?page_id=4

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