

FRONZ: JOURNAL

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

FRONZ CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN APRIL 1

Registration opens for the 2022 FRONZ Conference on April 1st.

This year we are heading to the deep South, with a loaded itinerary and plenty of optional add ons. Visit Bill Richardson's Transport World & Motorcycle Mecca, the Kingston Flyer, the Lumsden Railway Station, and of course our host group- Waimea Plains Railway.

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

- FRONZ Update
- Conference 2022
- News from around the Railways
- Upcoming Mainline Excursions



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

With one person in the smokebox, one person at the other end in the firebox, one person inside the boiler, and a team of four fetching and delivering, one by one the tubes were inserted into place.

Photo: Elsie Thompson

FRONZ UPDATE

The FRONZ Executive met by Zoom in March.

Heritage Technical Committee Update.

Mike Anderson presented an update.

- The end of the three-year "reset period" is approaching as we transition to normal business.
- Progressing work on funding options for the next financial year.

Other items discussed included:

- Training: About 30 people attended a Zoom session discussing Track Code Standards. The next discussion subject will be air brake testing.
- FRONZ insurance costs for the next financial year are now being finalised. As funding recalibration took place last year, only actual policy rises will be passed on to members.
- We are closely monitoring how KiwiRail will proceed their revamped passenger services with regard to any effect they may have on heritage operations.
- Final confirmation of all activities planned for FRONZ Annual Conference (details in the conference article).

CONFERENCE 2022



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

Conference bookings will open from the 1st April 2022. Keep an eye out for this at <https://www.fronz.org.nz/conferences>. Please get your registration in as early as possible in April. Registrations after May 1st will incur a late booking fee.

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.

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.

Saturday afternoon sessions include an update from KiwiRail, then speakers on the current hot topics including Climate Change, Carbon Emissions, Boiler Inspections and Alternative Energy.

CONFERENCE 2022



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.

The cost of the full conference package including all events on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June will be \$280.00. This includes the conference sessions on Saturday and Sunday with morning and afternoon tea, and lunch on both days, the trip to Waimea Plains Railway and Croydon Aviation Centre and of course the FRONZ Awards Dinner on Sunday night.

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

For those that want to join our tours of the Invercargill area on Friday 3rd of June, and the Kingston Flyer and Lumsden Railway Station on Monday 6th of June there will be a seperate cost for these two tours- \$70.00 each.



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

"IT'S ILLEGAL, IT'S NOT SAFE AND IT'S NOT WORTH THE SHOT."

TrackSAFE has launched a new campaign this month targeting members of the public who use train tracks as a backdrop for photography.

TrackSAFE Manager Megan Drayton says photography for creative campaigns on train tracks is a growing issue and the Trust is contacted frequently about people using railway tracks as a backdrop.

"Almost every week we are contacted about people using railway tracks as part of their fashion label launch, music video, wedding photos or media story," says Megan.

"While creatives may think train tracks provide the perfect backdrop, they don't realise that trespassing is the leading cause of rail deaths both in New Zealand, and overseas."

In 2021 fashion label Augustine removed photos from its social media account of a model taken on train tracks after members of the public complained, recognising that using the track as a backdrop was illegal, irresponsible, and did not set a good example.

New Zealand musician Stan Walker has also come under fire for filming one of his latest music videos on train tracks.

The safety campaign also discourages photography on mothballed lines, or those not in regular use.

"This kind of photography still sets a bad example and contributes to a culture that it is somehow ok to be on railway tracks."

Megan points out that rail enthusiasts have not been specifically targeted in this campaign, although the messages are still relevant. In 2013 a rail enthusiast died taking photos of a heritage train in the South Island.

"We know that there are a number of rail enthusiasts who love to photograph trains and the vast majority carry out their photography safely, outside of the rail corridor. But it's always good to have a reminder about how to behave safely."

TrackSAFE guidelines for rail photography:

- 1) Photos showing legal track work are okay.
 - 2) Do not pose for photographs while standing on tracks, or in front of a locomotive or other rail vehicle.
 - 3) When taking scenic corridor shots, stand well clear of the tracks (ie minimum five metres either side).
- Avoid photos that look directly down railway tracks. (This can encourage others to try for a 'copycat' photo in an unsafe way).
- 4) When on a station platform, ensure all people in the photograph are behind the yellow line.
 - 5) Never pose for a photo on a level crossing.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE RAILWAYS

GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY

Like many of the FRONZ member organisations, GCVR likes to be a “place of interest”, but not when it comes to Covid.

Unfortunately, being a “Covid place of interest” from an earlier excursion, disrupted some of our other excursion plans. Additionally with the current upsurge in positive Covid cases, we cancelled our March excursion as well. The hope is that Tairāwhiti (our local DHB area) will have passed the peak Covid infection rate before the end of March and by the time of our next excursion, we will be at a low risk level.

Meanwhile, Gisborne Railway Station has taken on a new function as a Covid RAT collection centre. Their vehicle exit plan included driving across all of the railway tracks (which GCVR has to maintain) to exit the station area. Fortunately the traffic management organiser appreciated our concerns and quickly re-routed their exit, so that vehicles only cross one track instead of driving across the whole shunting yard. GCVR has laid some gravel where the vehicles are crossing the track.

Wa165 is scheduled to haul the rest of our excursions this season – hopefully fire restrictions, Covid and any other unexpected problems will enable that to happen. See our website www.gcvr.org.nz for more details.

We had a very welcome visit from some of the Land Rover Series 1 Enthusiasts Group members, who arrived in 14 Landrovers. They were passing through Gisborne as part of a tour of the region and had asked if it would be possible to have a look at Wa165. Just after we had pulled it out of the shed, the rain started! Nevertheless, the club members were very happy to get the chance to have a look at our operation. In response to many questions, Joe Campbell gave them an impromptu run-down on the restoration of Wa165 and Geoff Joyce detailed some of the history of the GCVR.



Left: Gisborne Station RAT Collection. Right: Land Rover Series 1 Enthusiasts Group at GCVR. Photos: Graeme Scott

THE OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL DIGEST

March 2022

- We carried 813 passengers in January and 298 in February, with ups and downs in our loadings and in the weather!
- TR 35's motor looks tidy, the radiator and fan are back in, the drive rods have been machined so they have round openings for the bearings again, a rewiring is underway and the gearbox/final drive overhaul is nearing completion.
- The DSA is running cleaner now that a new air filter has been fitted.
- Trackwork continues in the yard.
- The Smoko room received a thorough clean!

Situations Vacant

We are still looking for a Ticket Seller, and an Administration Manager (to record and manage stocks of consumables, monitor the calendar for scheduled tasks, and a few other jobs).

Coffee and a Chat

Our monthly Coffee Chats are held from 10:30am on the second Friday of the month at The Brydone. Vaccine passports are required at The Brydone.



The new normal



B10 running on Waitangi Day

BRANCHLINES

Newsletter of the Canterbury Railway Society, March 2022

..On another positive note, we have been operating a shunting demonstration in the Moorhouse Yard on running days. The public enjoy watching this demonstration from the station platform, as newly qualified shunters and drivers of the Tr improve their skills and knowledge while coupling and uncoupling wagons, use and respond to shunting signals, and drive the locomotive.

..Recently the Ferrymead Railway received three wagons from Dunedin Railways. These wagons are Uk1413, for the National Railway Museum, as well as Uks136 and Nak6283 for our Society. On the day they arrived at the Park we were able to move the TBC container off the Ub wagon it had been sitting on for over 12 years, and place it on Uks136. All three of the wagons require some TLC, but nothing too serious. This also applies to the Ub wagon, which will need a new steel deck and rust repairs. So another huge thank you; this time to the Rail Heritage Trust, Dunedin Railways and A&K Cranes, for helping us to save these wagons.



The latest three wagons safely on the rail. Uks136 with the TBC container, 4-wheel flat wagon Nak6283 and the NRM's Uk1413. The wagon numbers are their TMS numbers. 1st March 2022.



Tr111 shunting in the Moorhouse Yard as Di 1102 arrives at the station platform. 20th February 2022.

DAVE HINMAN: REWARDED FOR HIS PASSION FOR THE PAST

St Albans News: March 2022

Trams and heritage pretty much sum up Dave Hinman who was awarded a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) in the New Years Honours List. It is a special acknowledgement to this long term St Albans resident for an outstanding contribution stretching back decades.

While working for the Christchurch City Council, he was instrumental in the planning and construction of the City Tourist Tramway.

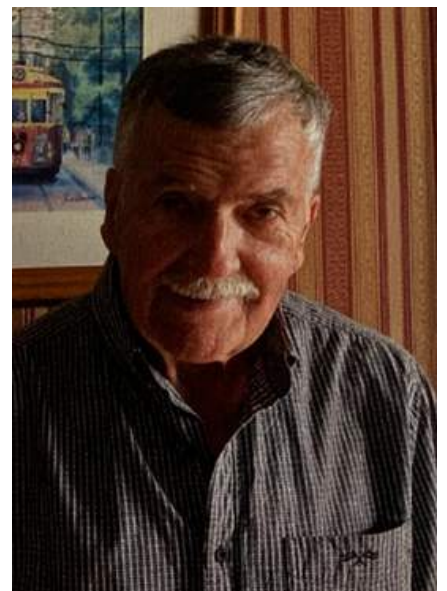
His efforts in engaging the three vested parties, the Christchurch City Council, Heritage Tramways Trust and Christchurch Tramway Ltd, led to the doubling of the original 1995 route. Dave held various positions in the Tramway Historical Society (THS), including a stint as president during the 1970s.

After the earthquakes he was part of the Christchurch Council's Heritage Response Team focusing on retaining heritage and character buildings in the central city. A former trustee of the Ferrymead Trust, he played a key role in the planning and development of the Ferrymead museum complex and is a past Canterbury Branch Chair of the NZ Historic Places Trust. He's still got his hands on the controls, driving one of the trams at the weekends and the restaurant car on Sunday nights. It's a family affair too. He met and later married Dorothy (Dot) at the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) in Auckland.

Another heritage passion has been restoring vintage homes, including their early 1900s St Albans character home.

Dave has made major contributions to the community in other fields. as a scout leader in both the St Matthews LLO (St Albans) and the St Martins groups. Another passion has been skiing with an involvement in many roles at the Mt Cheeseman Ski Club since 1979, including patron in 2018.

In 2019, following 50 years with the Christchurch City Council Dave retired. He is a past president of the NZ Planning Institute and a current fellow. A long term St Albans resident, he attended St Albans Primary School (before going to Christchurch Boys High School) and was a founding member of the St Albans History Group.



FEILDING AND DISTRICTS STEAM RAIL SOCIETY

Michelle Thompson - Facebook

Today, at the depot, some exciting progress was made on Wab794 with the new tubes finally being inserted. Now that they are in place, the next job is expanding them.



Photos: Left: Elsie Thompson. Right: Michelle Thompson

DIESEL TRACTION GROUP

DTG - Facebook

..This weekend the final two piston and connecting rod assemblies were installed in the engine of De 511. Next step is to install and time the fuel injection pumps, and refit the reconditioned cylinder heads.

..At Waipara, body preparation continues on De 1429. Sanding, filling and other tasks required before painting. At Ferrymead, a 6 month service was carried out on Di 1102, and engine assembly work continues on De 511



Left: No. 3 and 4 big ends awaiting refitting of caps. Right: Prep work continues
Photos: DTG Facebook

LUMSDEN HERITAGE TRUST

Lumsden Heritage Trust - Facebook

Massive thank you to Kings House Removals today, Warren Willis and his awesome team Jake (Warrens Son), Henry & Brian have done a brilliant job in the recovery and transportation of C100 from Winton into Lumsden ready for preservation.

We believe C100 the 1877 passenger carriage one of the last of the imported carriage's to NZ retired from NZR service 1925 and served at OBR until approximately 1941. We think C100 was possibly transported to Winton around then therefore hasn't moved for 81 years or there about's?

Thanks again to Chris and Ruth Mc Dermott for gifting this wonderful carriage to the Lumsden Heritage Trust and the access to their property for this project.

Once again Russell Bradley (Linton Contracting) was there to lend a hand this morning as well. All pieces of the 'Heritage Train' puzzle are now in place for the preservation work to begin. Looking forward to sharing the progress with you all over the coming months thanks to the local funding agencies who have contributed to the current projects.



Photos: Lumsden Heritage Trust Facebook



TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tramway Historical Society Facebook

As I always seem to say another busy time at Ferrymead. There has been some good progress on many fronts. Often a project will seem to not be making progress then suddenly a whole lot happens. As anyone involved in restoration will know, there is a lot of menial work done e.g. sanding timbers, then suddenly that timber is painted or varnished and you see real progress. That's the way with tram 24. We have suddenly seen paint appearing on the ends, the saloon sides masked up and undercoated and this part of the restoration looks spectacular. Of course the restorers have been "at it" all the time.

The steam tram crew are making steady progress to get the Kitson up and running. They have assembled a lot of the connecting rods etc on the right hand side. The left hand cylinder is refitted now after machining.

Steady progress is also being made with Dunedin Cable Car 103 as you will see in the attached picture.

At the trolleybus shed a guest diesel bus has arrived. Ex Christchurch MAN bus 628 is visiting. It is owned privately by Anthony, a member of both societies, and is intended to be used by our sister organisation the Otago Heritage Bus Society. However with it's owner living in Christchurch, it is up here for some TLC. We took it for a "test run" last Saturday.

Our MAN No. 612 is still receiving work to the steps. The rear steps had rust removed and new pieces welded in. Since then, one of our keenest volunteers, Dylan, has drilled out old rivets and painted the steelwork ready for refitting the steps. Since then our welder has been in and done the front steps. Hopefully there will be pictures next posting. At the same time work is carrying on to finish the exterior of bus 452. But guess who forgot a photo of progress.

Our trolleybus line crew are continuing work on the overhead replacing time expired overhead fittings with good ones.



Left: The "Ä"end of Tram 24 showing current progress. Right: Progress is being made on Cable Car 103.
Photos: Alan Roi

HAERE RĀ TR56

KiwiRail - Facebook

Haere rā TR56!

KiwiRail marks the retirement of our oldest, 85-year-old diesel shunt locomotive and it's replacement with a new, electric shunt.

This is part of our work to reduce emissions across our business, like the purchase of new low-emissions mail line locomotives and new ferries, which will reduce Interislander's emissions by 40 per cent.



Photos: KiwiRail Facebook



Photos: Silver Stream Railway Facebook

Silver Stream Railway - Facebook

While we have been a bit quiet recently, that doesn't mean we have not been busy behind the scenes. One of the more exciting developments has been the decision made jointly by KiwiRail and the Rail Heritage Trust to select Silver Stream Railway as the new home for Tr17/56, KiwiRail's oldest serving locomotive, which has spent the last 50+ years at the Hutt Railway Workshops in Lower Hutt. SSR offered to take the locomotive into our collection on behalf of the Rail Heritage Trust in an application made last year. Covid has delayed both the arrival of the replacement "locomotive" and also the official function originally scheduled to celebrate 17's 85th birthday and to mark its retirement which is now scheduled for next week.

We felt it is fitting that 17 will be preserved just up the valley from where it served for so long rather than being relocated away from the Wellington Region.

We are running a fundraising appeal to assist with transporting 17 to its new home as soon as it is officially retired and released from service. If you can help us out with this please follow this link, any support you can give will be greatly appreciated. <https://tr17.raisely.com/>

NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND

National Railway Museum of New Zealand - Facebook

It's deja vu all over again. Yesterday the Museum took delivery of another wagon, EVS23, in a massive combined operation involving Dunedin Railways, Rail Heritage Trust, AK Cranes Ltd, Canterbury Railway Society, Tramway Historical Society and our own people. EVS23 is owned by Rail Heritage Trust and had been stored at the Dunedin Railways site.

EVS23 was built by Kinki Sharyo Co Japan and started life as refrigerated meat wagon VR51 in 1964. In 1985 it was transferred to Way and Works as EA6669 and latterly EVS23. As EVS23 it was used to transport chemicals as part of the weed spraying train.

It's an interesting wagon from several points of view:

- 1) As a step in increasingly capable wagons for the frozen meat industry
- 2) As an example of recycle/reuse; an obsolete wagon that found a new use for maintaining our railway network.

Thank you to all concerned in getting this wagon into preservation.

Photos: National Railway Museum of New Zealand Facebook



Left: Approaching Ferrymead Heritage Park. There was concern that the wagon would not fit under Tramway Historical Society's trolleybus overhead wires but THS staff were on hand to ensure all went safely and well.

Right: Up and away!



Left: The bogies were shipped separately. Here the wagon is being lowered onto its bogies.

Right: Here it is! EVS23.

KINGSTON FLYER MARCH 2022 UPDATE

Kingston Flyer Steam Train - Facebook

Hello friends ...

The restoration of The Kingston Flyer has been coming along nicely. We now have AB795 and 4 historical carriages fully refurbished, with some mechanical work planned for the buffet cart over the winter. The Fairlight train station has also been upgraded with the addition of an inside bar and outdoor area.

Our Director and Senior Engine Driver, Neville Simpson is representing the Kingston Flyer at the 2022 FRONZ (Federation of Rail Organisations of NZ) Conference in Invercargill during the Queen's Birthday Weekend in June.

Due to COVID-19, current restrictions and border closures we will not be running public train rides until August. We are however able to offer private charters for those who are interested. We thank you for all of your support and look forward to having you on board in the near future.

Regards,
The Team

Photo: Kingston Flyer Steam Train Facebook



THE PLAINS RAILWAY AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Plains Railway and Historical Museum- Facebook

Thrilled to read today, of the Governments announcements , removing for the present time Vaccine Passports, QR Scanning and outdoor Gathering Limits along with the review of the Traffic Light Setting early April.

We look forward to resuming our Public Open Days over Easter;

Saturday (16th April) and Sunday (17th April) with Rides operating both days from 11am - 4pm. Planning is underway, and we'll keep you posted with updates.

UPCOMING MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

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

Pahiatua Railcar Society Incorporated

The Manawatu Gorge Shuttles are returning on Saturday 7th of May, along with a Mother's Day Railcar Trip on Sunday 8th of May. More details-

<https://www.railcars.co.nz/excursions>

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 Raitour 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, the Heartland Flyer Rail Journey on Sunday 7 May and the Expressway Shuttles Train Trips on Sunday 5 June.

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. There is also the Coach trip to Mangatainoka

More information is available at- https://events.steamrail.org.nz/?page_id=4

**FRONZ JOURNAL #221 WAS PUBLISHED 28
MARCH 2022.**

CONTENTS MAY BE REPUBLISHED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.