

# FRONZ: JOURNAL

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

## 2022 CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS

It has been a reasonably quiet month as we all take some time to unpack from Invercargill! The Executive will be meeting in person on the 13th & 14th of August in Wellington to discuss issues that came up at Conference, the Executive visiting member groups more, and to plan for the next year.

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FEDERATION  
of RAIL ORGANISATIONS  
of NEW ZEALAND  
INCORPORATED



### PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Taiki the Train (Ww480) as part of the Matariki Night Lights festival - Glenbrook Vintage Railway

*Photo: Aaron Wong*

# CONFERENCE 2022

Firstly, we would like to thank each and every person who made the trip down to Invercargill - this year has been one of the biggest turnouts so far for Conference. Whether it was by car or by plane, we definitely showed that no matter the location Conference is worth the trip!

Secondly, we would like to thank our host group Waimea Plains Railway, along with the Kingston Flyer and Lumsden Heritage Trust for their hard work and time in preparing for our visits, and being such wonderful hosts.

Friday kicked off on a high with a tour hosted by Allan Boyer visiting Hayes Hardware, Bill Richardson's Transport Mecca, Motorcycle World, Bluff, and checked out locomotive F150 being restored by Southern Steam Train Trust.

While the group was on its way back, Maeva and Colin Smith and I got the name tags and wonderfully presented information packs ready for collection.

The mood of the registration was fantastic- there were people mingling from all groups and a few of us brave ones tracked down the swimming pool!

Saturday was a mixed bag of information, with FRONZ President Grant Craig giving us the "pre flight" safety information, Waimea Plains Railway officially welcoming us, and local legend Marcus Lush opening the day with laughs, information and some deadly honest thoughts. He spoke of his TV show "Off The Rails", the 4 things to keep in mind when making a destination- food, accommodation, the Instagram opportunities, and being conscious of the climate.

We then had Lindsay Buckingham with an incredibly interesting presentation on the Southland Railway History. As someone who has been to Southland plenty of times, but was born "too late" for the peak railway era, trying to imagine a time when these lines were all operating is just mind blowing. There were plenty of images, but the major highlight for me was the map he had created which highlighted where the lines all were. As we went through the slideshow, the lines changed colours to represent their status (open, passenger services, closed etc). I have attached a copy of this map below.

Waka Kotahi filled us in on the new R3F framework, David Gordon (acting CEO for KiwiRail) ran us through KiwiRails current position including the redevelopment at Hillside Workshops in Dunedin, and Joseph Mooney (MP for Southland) discussed climate change policies.

Myles Manihira (in place of Neville Simpson who was unable to attend) gave us a bit of an update on the Kingston Flyer and the Kingston area, including developments happening in the area. Boiler inspections were discussed, as well as carbon emissions. This was followed by Michael Leefe and David Maciulaitis running us through a presentation on carbon emissions, carbon credits and offsetting them, and alternative energy supplies, such as solar panels on workshops/buildings and E-Coal. Other methods included things like using cardboard tickets rather than thermal paper (as it is not recyclable), and using wood for longer as a start up material.

Donald Ross updated us on Heritage Operational Training, including some of the challenges they faced with reduced opportunity for travel during Covid and how they overcame them. After afternoon tea, we divided into the three break out groups- Mainline, Tramways & Heritage.

On Sunday we launched straight into the big stuff with the AGM.

We began with a moments silence, for the members we lost during the past year.

Grant Craig was re-elected as President, with Jeff Tollan (Secretary) and Bruce Shalders (Treasurer) also re-elected.

Guy Wellwood and David Maciulaitis were both up for re-election, with Scott Osmond resigning. I (Courtney Kilner) was nominated to fill Scott's position, and was successfully elected. I'm very grateful to be the first woman elected on to the FRONZ Executive- and am excited to get to work alongside everyone.

It was minuted at the AGM, but I would like to take another moment to thank Scott for his service not only to the committee but also to FRONZ's groups. He has put an amazing amount of effort in to organising many conferences, showing me the way of the Journal and now Conference too- I have massive boots to fill!

Our host group for Conference 2023 will be Kawakawa.

After the AGM, Barry O'Donnell from the Rail Heritage Trust updated us on their projects (complete, in progress, and up and coming!). These have a great spread of buildings, wagon movements, and technology including the Wingatui Station Signal Box, Moana, Greytown goods shed, the Cass Railway Station, a new website, carriages from Dunedin Railways to the National Railway Museum and Canterbury Railway Society and TR56s 85th birthday- celebrated with a fantastic colouring in story book!

Our last presentation for the day was the Tramways update with Henry Brittain. The slideshow had plenty of pictures showing us works that have been done on trams, but we were also filled in on how MOTAT had operated safely under the new Covid framework, the CAD designs on how Wanganui convertible tram trailer Number 21 will look once complete with its enclosed and open layouts, the positive impact Transmission Gully has had on passenger levels in Wellington, and the new tram loop in Christchurch. Also covered were updates on restoration at the Tramway Historical Society, and Dave Hinmans Queens Service Medal.

After a quick bite to eat, we jumped on the busses and headed off to Mandeville, to visit our host the Waimea Plains Railway and the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre.

It was a fantastic visit with K92 all polished up and in steam, and carriage A294 running for us to check out the restoration progress. A few lucky guests also took up the opportunity for a flight in the Tiger Moth. Thank you to the crew for being so welcoming- there were cab rides happening. great conversations with the Guard, the ladies in the gift shop, and guided tours around the yard by other members of the railway. We had our group photo taken, had unlimited rides up and down the line, checked out the Aviation Heritage Centre and then got back on the bus to return to the hotel for the awards dinner.

Thanks to David Maciulaitis for the write up for our 2022 award recipients:

**The Paul Heighton Award for Excellence 2022**

John Bovis for his leadership role and oversight over many years coordinating the talented and committed Steam Incorporated team.

**The Paul Dillicar Award for Innovation 2022**

The Glenbrook Vintage Railway team and Railway Enthusiast's Society; the management, employees and volunteers for the innovative ways that they have safely responded to and coped with the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic.

**KiwiRail Infrastructure Improvement Award**

The Bush Tramway Club for their Level Crossing Extension and track replacement.

**Non-Steam Motive Power Award**

Waitara Railway Preservation Society for the Restoration of Bagnall 3144 - Portland Cement No. 11.

**Carriage/Guards Van Restoration Award**

Lumsden Heritage Trust for the Static Restoration of carriage A 199

**Waka Kotahi Tourist and Heritage Railway Safety Award 2022**

Steam Incorporated for the implementation of a purpose-built comprehensive asset management system

**Rail Heritage Trust of NZ Restoration Award 2022**

Lauder Beautification Society for their relocation and restoration of Lauder Railway Station

The awards dinner was a great chance to get glammed up, have a fantastic meal, and mingle with other societies and groups.

On Monday we once again jumped on the busses, and headed off to the Kingston Flyer. As the same for many of our attendees, I had never had a chance to ride on the Kingston Flyer before, or even see it in steam so it was a great moment when we arrived. A few keen passengers (including myself) braved the standard southern winter weather conditions, and rode on the outdoor platforms the entire way. Hearing the whistle echo off the valley was great- not only for us, but as a marketing tool- everyone in Kingston knew the train was running! There were members of the public, and a few game conference attendees who chased us from Kingston to Fairlight. Once the locomotive had "turned" on the triangle and reattached to the set, we boarded the bus and headed back to Lumsden for lunch. On arrival at Lumsden however there was something very important to do before lunch- we were lucky enough to be involved in the official opening of Carriage A199 (winner of the Carriage/Guards Van Restoration Award) - cutting the ribbon and all! After lunch many of us headed our separate ways- some on the bus back to Invercargill, others by car back to Dunedin and further North.

All in all it was a great conference- the facilities, people, and experiences all together made it a great weekend.

More information from the slideshows are available.



**FRONZ INVERCARGILL CONFERENCE 2022 GROUP with K 92 @ MANDEVILLE**

*The official group photo. Photo: D. L. A. Turner*



*The 2022 Awards recipients (Grant Craig on behalf of the Waitara Railway Preservation Society & Alistair Buckingham and Tommy Secker on behalf of John Bovis). Photos: D. J Maciulaitis*



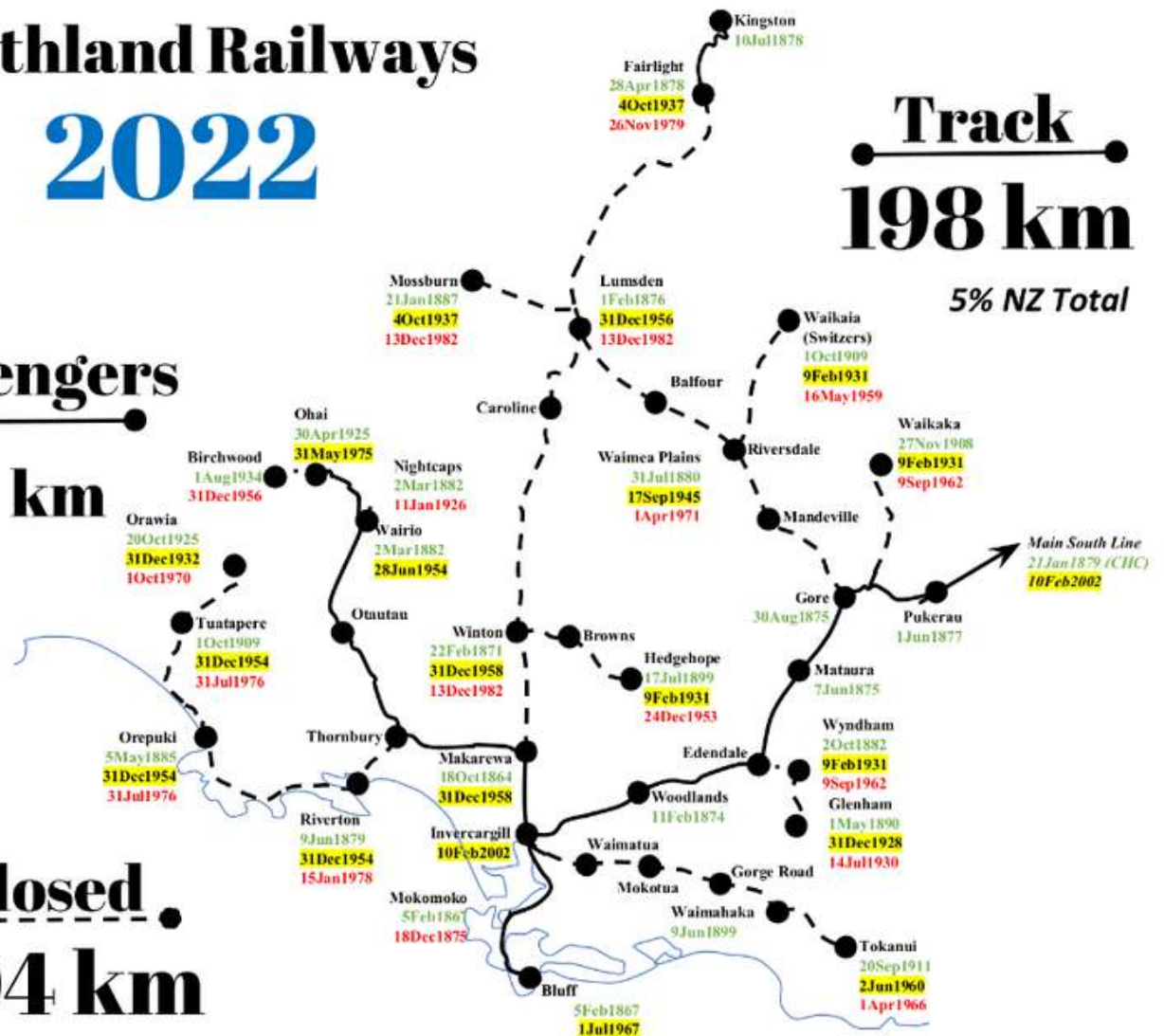
# Southland Railways

## 2022

**5% NZ Total**

**Passengers**  
●————●  
**14 km**

**●\_Closed\_●**  
**404 km**





*K92 & A294 at Waimea Plains Railway. Photos: Left- Finn O'Regan, Right- David Oakley*



*Left: Local MP Joseph Mooney speaks at Car A199 dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony, with John Titter & Rob Scott to his side (Lumsden Heritage Trust President and Secretary). Right: Lindsay Buckingham of the Southern Steam Train Charitable Trust presents on Southland Railway History. Photos: D.L.A. Turner*



*AB795 heading the Kingston Flyer. Left- at Kingston. Photo: Courtney Kilner. Right- at Fairlight. Photo: Finn O'Regan*

# PUKEKOHE RAILWAY STATION LEVER FRAME/SWITCH GEAR

*On behalf of the Railway Heritage Trust*

The Rail Heritage Trust has been contacted by Dave Butler, Auckland Metro Programme Property Manager – Capital Projects & Asset Development, about donating the old lever frame/switch gear in Pukekohe Railway Station (see attached photos) to a suitable party for removal prior to the building's pending relocation.

Any interested party would have to:

- arrange safe removal of the lever frame/switch gear from the Pukekohe site at its own cost.
- remove the lever frame/switch gear a.s.a.p. (and no later than mid-August) to meet the construction programme timetable.

For further information or to arrange access, please contact Dave Butler at: E: [dave.butler@kiwirail.co.nz](mailto:dave.butler@kiwirail.co.nz) Mob: 027 5415782.



In this new book, published this month by the Museum of Transport and Technology Society (MOTAT Society), you will learn of the incredible sagas, successes, and near failures that the Baldwin Steam Tram N°100 endured on its travels from Philadelphia, U.S.A. to New Zealand via Australia. This certainly is a *Wonderful Story* of the tram's successes, trials and tribulations over 131 years.

For some 40 years, the tram successfully served the communities of Sydney, Rockdale and Wanganui. After spending another 30 years either in storage or awaiting the scrapper's torch, in 1958 it was purchased by two tramway volunteers who donated it to the Old Time Transport Preservation League (OTTPL). The OTTPL who arranged for the Tram's storage in Auckland, was one of the forerunners of Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT).

Meticulous record keeping by people who have been involved in its life, particularly tramway historians and specialist museum restoration volunteers, the Book is able to follow the Tram's life, in detail, from its construction in 1891, to the Western Springs Tramway, some 131 years later, where it now happily runs.

The Book is priced at \$35.00 (Postage paid in NZ), and at NZD 46.00 (Postage paid Australia).

Confirmed stockists at the time of writing are the Wellington Tramway Museum ([info@wellingtontramway.org.nz](mailto:info@wellingtontramway.org.nz)),  
The Ferrymead Tramway ([secretary@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz)),  
and the MOTAT Society ([admin@motatsociety.org.nz](mailto:admin@motatsociety.org.nz)).

# The Wonderful Story of Baldwin Steam Tram N°100

Edited by Christopher Cameron



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE RAILWAYS

## GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

*Finn O'Regan*

June has been a very busy month for the GVR.

After a complete 4 year overhaul including a new boiler, Ww 644 has been undergoing a series of testing on GVR tracks, and has already travelled over 300 kilometres since being steamed for the first time. As of the time of writing, 644 will undergo her first test run on the National Rail Network this coming Thursday (30/06) - an exciting and historic moment for both the GVR and the preservation movement.

644's first public outing was on the GVR's Steam Train Experience, double heading with sister engine Ww 480 over Queens Birthday weekend, and a few weeks later for the Matariki Night Lights.

Two lit-up trains hauled by both Ww's carried over 2700 passengers between Victoria Avenue and Pukeoware, with all trains filled to capacity.

On the National Rail Network, the team has also been very busy with DBR 1254 and the yellow GVR Scenic Rail carriages with two separate tours to Ohakune.

The monthly 'Discover Ruapehu Rail Tours' are proving quite popular - especially for the winter season.

The GVR has also been assisting the contractors of the City Rail Link.

June 2022 Fun Facts:

- \*Over 4200 passengers carried on GVR services.

- \*GVR trains have travelled over 2000kms, both on GVR and KiwiRail tracks

- \*estimated 1000 volunteer hours in Operations - this excludes Mechanical, B&F and W&W volunteers hours maintaining our wonderful equipment, infrastructure and buildings!

None of this has been easy considering inflationary pressures and the skyrocketing prices of emission taxes, as well as the scarcity of specialist oils that rail equipment requires to operate.

These are certainly busy and exciting times for the GVR - be sure to keep an eye out on our website and Facebook page for steam & diesel tours and events!

*Photos: left & middle- Aaron Wong right- Finn O'Regan*



# STEAM INCORPORATED CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

*Tommy Secker*

Steam Incorporated celebrated its 50th year in a superb fashion, by operating a pair of excursions out of Wellington, with the same destination but two different routes.

Ja 1271 & Ab 608 headed their train out of Wellington's Platform 9 heading up the NIMT to Woodville, whilst Da's 1431 & 1410 headed their train out of Platform 8, through the Hutt Valley and Wairarapa to Woodville.

Both trains departed their respective platforms at the same time, playing out an absolutely unforgettable tandem departure from Wellington.

The logistics in organising this series of movements were crazy! In total we carried close to 500 passengers over the course of the day, over the two trains, one carriage carrying some distinguished guests including founding members of the society back in 1972. An overall successful day of operation, involving our entire fleet of rolling stock and our entire crew.

The rest of 2022 and the beginning of 2023 look to be incredibly busy for Steam Incorporated with over 40 operating days before Christmas!

Stay tuned to our future excursions list to see where we are operating next. We have plenty of exciting destinations and experiences planned, and would love for you to get involved.



*Left: the trains depart in tandem from Wellington. Photo: Bobby Boulton. Right: just out of Woodville. Photo: George King.*



*Left: Upper Hutt dock crossing. Right: Woodville. Photos: John Bovis.*

# CHRISTCHURCH TRAM LINE EXTENSION

## *Ferrymead Tram Tracts*

Its been a busy month on the Track Extension to Poplar Lane, the contractors are basically finished now with track all in place and tested, the only thing to sort is the planting behind the new tram shelter. With the track being completed, we could now commence the driver training and get all the staff familiar with the new surroundings. This was completed over 2-3 days and all the staff have quite enjoyed trying out the new piece of track! And what is more the whole trip can be completed now without changing the trolley pole or changing any of the side barriers.

Additionally the timetable can remain the same. The time used in changing driving ends will be now be used to drive along the new loop.

The Track is due to be open to the public from 2 June.

More next month on the opening.

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Top left and right- the official opening of the 500m extension, the Poplar Loop of the Christchurch Tram.

Lady of the Hon Lianne Dalziel Mayor of Christchurch, and Managing Director of Christchurch Attractions Michael Esposito.

Bottom left and right- Tram 152 as part of the Christchurch Pride Festival, along with a Firth Certified cement truck.

Photos: David Maciulaitis



# THE BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB

## *Pukemiro Junction- The Glen Afton Line*

Our first open day since August 2021 was held on May 1st. This proved to be an exceptionally busy day with 550 passengers coming for rides. This was our 4th busiest open day ever. A very helpful takings amount was banked. We just ran the trains, as soon as one lot of passengers got off the trains, the next group were loaded on & we were away again.

Our June open day was also pretty busy with 330 passengers coming for rides. We were extremely short of members to help run our June open day. Again a very healthy banking followed.

These two very good open days have meant we can purchase some things that we have been putting off.

Thanks to all members who turn up to help run these days & charters but we need more members to train in all aspects of our railway.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have run a charter for Senior citizens from Ngaruawahia. At this stage, we have no further enquiries for charters. If you know of any group that may be interested in a charter, please contact us.



Left: Passengers enjoy the new awning outside the PJ café. Right: The Peckett looking very clean with the Cb behind it at the recent open day. Photos: C.Mann



Left: Tr459 is lowered by crane onto the BTC track Photo- R. Webb Right: & Pukemiro Junction station scene around 1980, found in a drawer

# DIESEL TRACTION GROUP

## *DTG- Facebook*

Today's effort focussed on some safety improvements for De 511. First, the engine has been fitted with automatic low oil pressure shutdown. De locomotives did not have this function previously, only a gauge in the cab to alert the operator. This involved moving the existing pressure switches to a new mounting, and fitting a new switch to allow this function.

Second, a water sight glass has been added in the radiator room. Staff will no longer have to climb the roof ladder to check the radiator water level.

Both these improvements will be added to De 1429 at Waipara as well.



Left: Sight glass in place in radiator room. Right: New wiring being run for pressure switches. Photos: DTG Facebook

# KIWI THE ENGINE AND FRIENDS

## *Pleasant Point Museum & Railway Facebook. Photos: Tony Cameron*

Kiwi the Engine and friends are back again. Meet Kiwi the Engine, Percy the Penguin, Polly the Pukeko, and Wally the Weta.



# WEKA PASS RAILWAY

## *Facebook*

An update on some of the work our hard working volunteers have been up to behind the scenes.

Firstly we would like to thank those who have gone for a ride on our last few public runs, it's provided a much needed source of income to help pay the bills, and general maintenance costs of running a railway!

The Suzuki has found it's way into the workshop to be given some TLC to make it a reliable backup for the Wickham track inspection car. This is how the Waikari Station master gets up the track from Glenmark station.

The track gang did an extra day this week to repair the turntable at Glenmark Station. A huge effort put in which saw it nearly completed.

Our carriages over the last two Saturday's have been given their annual certification. The new air brake bench in our recently gained workshop space got a steel top put on it by one of our new members.

Last but not least our steam locomotive has been prepped for the boiler inspector who is turning up in a couple of weeks. All going well it'll be back in service soon! Yesterday a pressure reducing valve for the train brake was given a service and tested.



Left: Gary, Steve and Neville having a debrief about the turntable repairs to the ring rail..Right: One of our cars over the pit for inspection. They all got the big tick from Deven! Photos: Weka Pass Railway Facebook.

# THE PLAINS RAILWAY AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

*Queens Birthday weekend running. Photos- Tony Cameron*



# FEILDING STEAM RAIL

*Harlan Summers*

Kia Ora

We've had a busy few weeks at Feilding Steam Rail. The Diesel Team are diligently working on DA1401. The majority of work over the last few months has been on the main reservoir tank, battery boxes, brake components, as well as the radiator and other long hood components. So as you can see there is plenty of work happening on the diesel front with lots of development being made in this restoration project. Wire brush-by-wire brush, step-by-step, DA1401 continues to move further towards mainline running.

Meanwhile, The Steam Team are hard at work on the WAB794 restoration project. Great progress has been made recently on getting 794 back up to mainline running. Recently the boiler tubes were placed and expanded. This is quite a laborious task even with 21st-century equipment and the members involved have done very well. The team are now working on welding the tubes and stepping ever closer to hydrostatic testing the boiler.

On the excursion front, we have run our first few trips of the year successfully. The excursion team are currently planning for our busy excursion schedule ahead of us. This includes multiple trips within the north island. If you'd like to find out more head over to our site [steamrail.org.nz](http://steamrail.org.nz)

V Underframe

Would you like to adopt a V Class underframe and pony truck? This relic of New Zealand railways could have some great restoration potential for your society. If you'd like to find out more please contact [harlan.s@steamrail.nz](mailto:harlan.s@steamrail.nz)



Left: Burt and Mark working on DA1401. Right: DA1401 Longhood. Photos: Harlan Summers

# GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY

*Graeme Scott*

Our final charter excursion for our 2021-2022 was the Chardonnay Affair, an excursion enjoyed by all. In addition to wine appreciation samples on the train, local wine growers and suppliers had set up displays at our Muriwai stop and a good time was had by all of our passengers.

Unfortunately, that also turned out to be our last excursion of the year as Covid intervened again and we had to cancel both of our Queen's Birthday Weekend excursions. We worked on the "better to be safe than sorry" principle.

We have now started our Winter maintenance program with all of the water being drained out of Wa165 in preparation for the replacement of the sacrificial anodes that are fitted to some of the boiler plugs. The water has also been drained out of the 10,000 litre tank on our service wagon to enable some inspection work to be carried out inside the tank. All of the water that we use in Wa165 is collected from our rather large roof area and held in storage tanks. On the rare occasions that this supply runs low, we can also purify water from the town supply before using it in Wa165. Our aim is simply to keep the boiler in as good a condition as possible.

We also have some bridge maintenance work planned. New timber clamps that are being manufactured in accordance with approved engineering drawings are nearly ready to be fitted.

Our 2022-2023 excursion season is due to start in October 2022, with the possibility of another Murder Mystery trip one of the first runs. More details later as the plans are finalised.



Left: Timber clamps. Right: Passengers enjoying the Chardonnay Affair. Photos: Graeme Scott

# WESTERN SPRINGS TRAMWAY, MOTAT

## *The Controller*

### **Worldwide Knit in Public Day**

On Saturday 12th June our tram stops and tram No.321 were "yarn bombed" for "Worldwide Knit in Public Day". This was celebrated at MOTAT by riding on a tram decorated with bunting and the tram stops were also decorated. The public were encouraged to bring their knitting and crochet and to ride the trams. There were also workshops inside MOTAT making it a great event.

### **906 & 893 get new Feet (Wheels) - March 2021**

Late 2020, the brand-new wheel sets and axles from A&G Price arrived back at MOTAT for our two "workhorses", trams No's 893 and 906. It should be noted that during late 2019 and 2020, Wayne and his team of volunteers had painstakingly overhauled all components on two tram sets of No.15 Melbourne tram trucks - one set for 893 and 906 respectively. This included overhauled traction motors, so for all intents and purposes, these were the equivalent of "brand-new" No.15 trucks. 906 was chosen to be fitted out first, so the job started over the pit, where Paul Gourley disconnected the traction motor leads and Wayne the braking system.

The MOTAT Tug then towed 906 out of the Workshop and pushed her on to Road 2 and into position where the newly purchased hydraulic lifting hoists were set up under the tram. Within seconds 906 was up in the air and her old trucks towed out and the new overhauled trucks dragged into place.

With the wonderful precise manoeuvring features of the new hoists, they gently lowered the tram to enable the king-pin to be slipped into the location holes on the two trucks, and 906 then sat with all her weight on the bolsters of her new trucks. Back over the pit, 906 had motor leads connected, brake system reinstated and with fingers-crossed, a trip was made down to MOTAT2 and back with no issues - job completed in two days!!

Now it was 893's turn to go through the same process as it was running on a set of No.1 Melbourne trucks (similar to the set under No.321) and these trucks have smaller dimension wheels, which made 893 much lower to the ground. Once the new overhauled

No.15's were installed, Janna Herle, our weekday Motorman, mentioned that a ladder was now needed to climb up into the tram as she now sat much higher on her correct 33" wheels. Another success story for Wayne, Andy, Paul and the volunteer team of the tramway Workshop.



Left: MOTAT 1 tram stop "yarn bombed". Right: Tram No.321 on the inside with Motorman Doug Stewart and passengers enjoying the occasion. Photos: Phillip Anderson.

# CANTERBURY RAILWAY SOCIETY

*Branchlines - Wayne McClintock - text & photos*

## A VISIT TO THE WORKSHOP OF THE FERRYMEAD RAILWAY

Anyone visiting our site at Ferrymead on Thursday mornings will meet an energetic team of our volunteers undertaking a variety of tasks at the Workshop itself, or in one of other buildings, or somewhere outdoors. Around 10am they are usually enjoying a hot beverage and a snack in the lunch room. The discussion is usually lively, and sometimes punctuated by reminiscences from the past. When I visited the team during the morning of 19th May I was able to catch up with some of their current activities.

Danny is assisting Ken by removing the steam pipes from carriage A1552. He is the general roustabout/handyman on Thursdays. Recently he has cleared the land between the Workshop and the Carriage Shed. He also has been weed spraying around the other buildings. So visitors can now see the unrestored locomotives, and other equipment which are located outside. Shortly before I arrived that day he had washed the floor of the lunch room, and it was being dried out as the sun emerged from the clouds. Later Danny informed me that when he was employed by New Zealand Railways, he often worked alone as his supervisors knew they could rely on him to get his assigned tasks completed. Occasionally they would reassign him to urgent tasks at some distance from his usual place of work; sometimes they would do so for two days or more at a time.

Maurice and Keith were sanding down Ec7 in preparation for its repainting when I spoke to them. By trade Maurice is a metal worker and Keith is a painter. They told me the locomotive needs a repaint before eventually being towed to Arthurs Pass. There Ec7 is expected to be displayed during the centennial celebration of the opening of the Otira Tunnel in 2023.

Ken is currently overseeing the refurbishment of Carriage A1552, and is being assisted by Danny and Ian Fisher. They have stripped all the fittings out. The linoleum is being pulled off and eventually it will be replaced. The seats are to be refurbished, and were stacked in the carriage ready to be moved into storage. There are two ceiling panels to be removed which are either to be restored or replaced. The luggage racks are currently in storage and eventually will need new netting. Sometimes Ken takes doors; window frames etc. to his home where they can be refurbished more efficiently.



Left: Maurice sanding down Ec7 for its repainting, 19th May 2022. Right: Interior of Carriage A1552. 19th May 2022.

## UPCOMING MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

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

### **Glenbrook Vintage Railway**

GVR have many upcoming trips, including: East and West Rail Tour, The Spiral Express, The Dannevirke Scenic Delight, Manawatu Gorge Explorer, Rangitikei Viaduct Voyager, Taranaki Mountaineer, Mountain Thunder (with Steam Inc), and monthly Discover Ruapehu Rail Tours. For more details visit - [www.gvr.org.nz/events/whats-on](http://www.gvr.org.nz/events/whats-on)

### **Steam Incorporated**

Steam Incorporated have the Mountain Thunder (with GVR) on August 6th, and the Daffodil Express on September 11th.  
More information is available at- [www.steaminc.org.nz/book-train-trip](http://www.steaminc.org.nz/book-train-trip)

### **Feilding and District Steam Rail Society Inc**

Around the Block 2 - To Wellington is operating on the 23rd of July, along with 2 departures on the Manawatu Gorge Excursion on the 21st of August.  
More information is available at- [https://events.steamrail.org.nz/?page\\_id=4](https://events.steamrail.org.nz/?page_id=4)

### **Dunedin Railways**

The Seaside, Inlander and Victorian are all operating on various dates between 26th June & 27th November.  
More information is available at- <https://www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/journeys/dunedin-railways-winter-journeys>

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