

FRONZ CONFERENCE 2023

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

The FRONZ conference over King's Birthday weekend next year (doesn't that sound strange!), is confirmed as being in the Bay of Islands, with the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway being our hosts.

We appreciate that, like Invercargill, it is a long way for many of our members to travel. However, this part of the country is so rich in New Zealand history, that for those of you that haven't been that far north before, it is definitely worth making the effort. Rather than just coming for the three days of conference, why not take a mini-holiday with us beforehand, and enjoy a few days of touring and socialising pre-conference.

For the FRONZ conference in 2023 FRONZ is proud to offer the following options:

1. Join our mini-holiday (see details below) and arrive in Kerikeri on Monday 29th May 2023 for four days exploring Northland before conference.
2. Arrive on Thursday 1st June and on Friday visit the historic sights of Waitangi Treaty Grounds and Russell, visiting the birthplace of our nation.
3. Attend for the conference only, arriving on Friday 2nd June and staying through to Monday 5th June. (Options as per past conferences)

CONFERENCE VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The venue for the conference is the Copthorne Hotel at Waitangi. Many of you may know this hotel by its former name of Waitangi Hotel. It is right on the waterfront next to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds and has beautiful gardens and view across the harbour to Russell. It is an international four-star hotel, and has ideal conference facilities to host our event. We have been able to negotiate good room rates which include breakfast, with rooms being held for us at these rates until mid-April only. (See below for details).

The Copthorne Hotel is close to Paihia, although it is two kilometres to the heart of Paihia where most of the restaurants and bars are. We have been able to negotiate a courtesy coach which will be available to take you into (and from) the heart of Paihia each half hour between five and nine o'clock at night. In addition, FRONZ will be hiring a van so we can do airport transfers to and from Kerikeri Airport and run-arounds as required. There is a Countdown supermarket within easy walking distance of the hotel should you want to get any supplies. If preferred, you can book accommodation elsewhere in Paihia, but you will be responsible for making your own way to and from the conference venue.

Whichever conference option you intend to take we strongly recommend that if you will be flying to the conference, that you book your flights as early as possible. Kerikeri is the closest airport, which is 22 kilometres from the venue. Currently return fares to and from Kerikeri from Wellington and Christchurch can be attained in the low \$300 range. There are only four or five flights into and out of Kerikeri each day, so fares will increase if you purchase your flight closer to the time of travel.

Please be aware, the minimum number of people needed to make the mini-holiday viable is twenty, so if we get less than that it will not proceed.



Photo: Millenium Hotels website

OPTION 1 - MINI HOLIDAY – HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTHLAND (MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY)

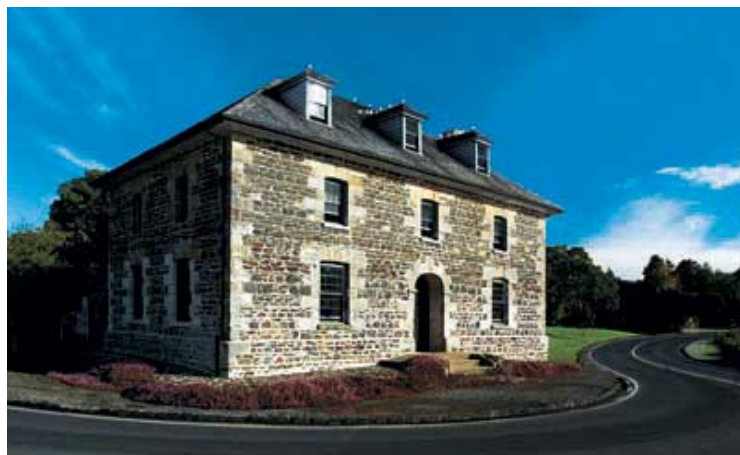
Margaret Gordon (the FRONZ Executive Officer) and husband John, together with Alan Verry (RES), will be the tour hosts for these few days.

The itinerary is as follows:

Day 1 – Monday 29th May – Arrive in Bay of Islands. If you are flying in, you will be picked up and transported to your accommodation.

Day 2 – Tuesday 30th May – In the morning we will embark upon the four and a half hour “Dolphin Cruise to the Hole in the Rock”. This will take in the stunning views of the island in the bay and glide through the islands and along the Rakaumangamanga Peninsula to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over Piercy Island, or as it is popularly known as the “Hole in the Rock”. The cruise will include a BBQ lunch. In the afternoon you will have free time to explore Paihia, or you may wish to visit the iconic Kerikeri Stone Store. We will have a hire van available for transport as required. Built in 1832, the Georgian-style Stone Store was originally a Missionary Society warehouse but assumed various roles including a trading post, library, barracks and boys’ school. It also served as a general store, a tradition that continues today in the atmospheric ground-floor gift shop.

A browser’s delight, the shop stocks an amazing range of authentic goods reminiscent of those traded in the early 19th century, alongside unique New Zealand merchandise. Museum displays can be viewed upstairs.



Photos: Left: Hole In The Rock - Stuff. Right: Kerikeri Stone Store - honeheke.co.nz

Day 3 – Wednesday 31st May – Cape Reinga and Ninety Mile Beach Tour – this will be an early morning start which will take us on a journey to the very tip of the North Island, uncovering a region of rich Maori tradition along the way. We will travel along the sand-swept shore of Ninety Mile Beach in a purpose-built coach. For those that are adventurous, there is the opportunity to climb the massive sand dunes at Te Pahi Stream and experience the thrill of sand boarding.

Stand at the northernmost part of New Zealand and take in the panoramic views. From beneath the iconic lighthouse watch the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean collide far below, and take in the power of this special place.

The tour will include a delicious lunch prepared from locally prepared produce.

Day 4 – Thursday 1st June – Explore the Hokianga – we will be hiring a coach just for our party and travelling from the east coast to the west coast of Northland to visit the beautiful Hokianga Harbour, with its beaches of golden sand. We will visit Tane Mahuta, the awe-inspiring giant kauri tree in the Waipoua Forest. Lunch, which is included, will be at The Head Hotel on the waterfront on the harbour.

In the afternoon we will visit Manea: Footprints of Kupe, which offers a unique cultural encounter sharing the stories and traditions of Kupe and his descendants.

Day 5 – Friday 2nd June – Historic Northland – the Birth of our Nation – from the hotel we will stroll across to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds next door, and have a few hours to enjoy all that this historic place has to offer including a guided tour, cultural performances and a carving studio. Visit the Treaty House, Te Whare Runanga (a carved meeting house), see the iconic flagstaff and take in all that this site has to offer. Around midday we will catch the ferry across to Russell. You will have time for lunch in one of the numerous cafes or other eating places (own expense) before embarking on a minibus tour of Russell, taking you around all the famous sights and providing details of Russell's rich history. There will be time to cruise the lovely shops there, visit Pompallier Mission House or perhaps just enjoy a quiet one on the veranda of the famous Duke of Marlborough Hotel. We return late afternoon in time to register for the conference.



Photos: Left: Cape Reinga - doc.govt.nz. Right: Ninety Mile Beach - worldbeachguide.com

OPTION 2 – FRIDAY 2ND JUNE – WAITANGI TREATY GROUNDS AND RUSSELL

This is the same as Day 5 of the mini-holiday.

OPTION 3 – CONFERENCE ONLY (SATURDAY TO MONDAY)

The conference will follow the normal format of sessions all day Saturday, the AGM and further sessions on Sunday morning, followed by a tour to one of our members in the afternoon. This will involve taking a coach to Whangarei to visit the Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club. There we will be able to ride their trains, trams and get absorbed with their model railway exhibition. On the way back we will swing by the old Whangarei Railway Station and see the amazing restoration that has recently been completed thanks to the hard work of the local Menzshed supported by funding from the Rail Heritage Trust.

Monday will be a visit to our conference hosts, the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway at Kawakawa. Take time to ride the train and wander through their workshops and hear about the future developments that are in the planning stage.



Photos: Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway - Facebook



Photos: Left: Whangarei Railway Station - nzherald.co.nz. Right - Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club - steamnorth.co.nz

COSTS

Accommodation

The table below shows the various options that are available at the Copthorne Hotel at Waitangi, as long as you book before Friday 14th April. After that time the rooms that are being held for FRONZ will be released back to the market. Note that these special rates will apply from Monday 29th May to Tuesday 6th June inclusive. All rates INCLUDE breakfast. Prices include GST.

Room Type	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy
Standard Garden View Room	\$178	\$215
Superior Harbour View Room	\$191	\$228
Superior Plus Water View Room	\$210	\$247
Suite	\$268	\$305

Mini-Holiday

The cost per person for days one to five inclusive is \$650. This includes the tours outlined for the four days from Tuesday to Friday, and the airport transfer to the Copthorne Hotel (if required). Three lunches (Tuesday to Thursday) are included. It does not include the accommodation cost or the cost of travel to the Bay of Islands.

Historic Northland (Friday only)

The cost is \$75 for the day and includes entry to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the ferry to Russell and the minibus tour in Russell. Lunch is at your own expense.

Conference

The conference costs are not yet completely finalised, but indicative costs for the full conference, including the Sunday excursion to Whangarei and the Awards Night dinner, but excluding the Monday trip to Kawakawa, will be approximately \$330 per head.

Saturday option for partners not attending conference

We will have a van available that will seat 10-12 passengers. Partners may enjoy a trip to visit Kerikeri for shopping and a long lunch. This will be complimentary (but not the lunch!). There is also Parrot World in Kerikeri that is worth a visit, if anyone is interested.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

For booking purposes, we need to know numbers for the people that are interested in going on the mini-holiday prior to the conference. As stated earlier, this tour will not go ahead unless there are at least twenty people.

If you are interested in this option, can you please email the FRONZ Executive Officer Margaret Gordon by no later than Friday 11th November. Let her know how many of you will be travelling, and whether you intend to fly to Kerikeri or arrive by car. This will help in determining airport logistics. Margaret's email address is marjohnzoe@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about the holiday then feel free to contact her directly on 0278329777.

This trip will require a non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person prior to Christmas.

All prices quoted include GST.

For everyone else, hold tight at this stage. We plan to open registration for the conference earlier than usual so that you can make your plans and book flights early.



Photos: Left: Hokianga Harbour - visitboi.co.nz Right: Russell - russellnz.co.nz



Photos: Left: Tane Mahuta Walk - doc.govt.nz Right: Manea - Footprints Of Kupe - aa.co.nz