

# FRONZ: JOURNAL

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

The weather is finally warming up, the Summer tourists and cruise ships are back, and we are heading into the peak of the running season.

If you are taking photos, or writing down details of excursions - send them through to me so we can share your progress and successes!

## Loco wanted:

An Australian based tourist and heritage railway is wanting to look in to the feasibility of obtaining a 0-4-0 or 0-6-0 steam locomotive from New Zealand with an axel load of less than 15.4t, preferably with Westinghouse brake gear onboard. This is following exhaustive searches for a locomotive of this description that may be available in Australia.

Please contact [robertshearer@live.com](mailto:robertshearer@live.com) with options if available.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Conference 2023
- Climate, Zoom talk with Brian Cox (CEO of the Bio Energy Association of New Zealand)
- News from around the Railways
- Upcoming Mainline Excursions



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The crews of the "Spring Steam Supreme"

Photo: Finn O'Regan

# FRONZ CONFERENCE 2023

**Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated**

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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-abouts 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](http://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 Paki 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](http://doc.govt.nz). Right: Ninety Mile Beach - [worldbeachguide.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://visitboi.co.nz) Right: Russell - [russellnz.co.nz](http://russellnz.co.nz)



Photos: Left: Tane Mahuta Walk - [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz) Right: Manea - Footprints Of Kupe - [aa.co.nz](http://aa.co.nz)



# CLIMATE

*Dan Armstrong - survey creator*

Kia ora everyone, it's a month since the survey results were released. I hope you found them interesting and thought provoking. I've got some updates:

- I've created a Google Drive with some content on sustainability/climate change for our sector. It has ideas on what you can do, funding sources and more. Pieces are slowly being added and everyone is welcome to it. Additionally, if there is something you'd like added in there let me know.

- On the 10th of November at 7pm there will be a Zoom talk with Brian Cox, CEO of the Bio Energy Association of New Zealand. He'll be discussing biodiesels and the future with question time too.

- I'm hoping to arrange a conversation with the Kent & East Sussex Railway in the UK who successfully swapped their heritage diesels to a 2nd generation bio diesel. Because of time zones we'll likely record it overnight so if you've got a question you'd like asked please email it to me at [danarmstrongnz@gmail.com](mailto:danarmstrongnz@gmail.com) and I'll post the video afterwards.

I'm planning on returning to normal work by the end of the year (currently on ACC) so will be less active in this field. Despite that I'm still eager to work on this subject and happy to chat with anyone interested.

Ngā mihi nui

Dan Armstrong

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE RAILWAYS

## STEAM TRAM KITTY BACK ON TRACK

*Otago Daily Times, 18 Oct 2022 - Geoff Sloan*

New Zealand's oldest steam-powered tram, and one of only three left in the world, is set to re-enter service at Labour Weekend.

After an extensive five-year restoration, The Tramway Historical Society's 141-year-old Kitson tram will hit tracks again at Ferrymead Heritage Park from October 22.

The society's project director, Alex Hunter, said the tram was repaired by some of its younger volunteers who were keen to see it going again.

"It's lovely to drive, especially now we've got a few less knocks and bangs in it."

Kitson Steam Tram number 7, or 'Kitty' as she's affectionately known, has had her boiler replaced and bodywork repaired and repainted.

The tram is the only survivor of eight imported from the United Kingdom in 1881 and the only working example of three left in the world.

In her past life, Kitty would haul trailers filled with Christchurch picnic-goers heading to Sumner Beach three times a day.

Hunter said it wouldn't have been a fast trip, as the steam-powered tram trundles along at an average speed of just 15km/h.

The tram will be the star of the Labour Weekend's Extravaganza event at Ferrymead Heritage Park.



Photo: Geoff Sloan

# TRAMWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## *Facebook*

Labour weekend is over and two major happenings in the THS.

Firstly, our Society relaunched our Kitson steam tram No.7 into service after a really comprehensive overhaul. This involved a complete rebuild of the chassis and the body. The boiler that the Kitson had carried was getting very tired. It had been built in 1928 by Andersons Foundry. So, the decision was made to replace it with the boiler from No.6. This had ended its days as a glasshouse heating boiler and was in much better condition than the one it replaced. Even so the team put a lot of hard work into getting it steam able. Once the Kitson was rebuilt to a stage where it could steam, and a large amount of testing and tuning was done. The body had a rebuild using a quantity of new timber and was refitted to the chassis. You could tell from the looks on the faces of the restoration team just how wonderful it was to see this project completed.

The other big project centred on the spray paint booth in tram barn 3. Bus 620 had been in there and was partially painted last weekend. It was then hidden in the trolleybus shed to protect it from the weather and returned on Friday for the painting to be completed. Following close on its heels was sister bus 628. This bus is owned privately and normally resides with our good friends at the Otago Heritage Bus Society (OHBS). With all the help that has been received for our fleet, we agreed to paint 628 as well. Buses 612, 620 and 628 are all heading to Dunedin tomorrow, so if you are on the highway south keep a lookout for us.

Before the final paint was put onto 620 our friends at Coach Glazing came in and did some repairs to its destination sign glass, and replaced a cracked windscreen in Bristol Bus 538.

We have been working on levelling the dirt pile near the Trolleybus Shed. It has grown a crop of weeds, and these were attacked today.



Left: the crew preparing 628 for paint. A. Roi. Right: the Kitson with 3 trailers in the Ferrymead Township. A. McIntyre



# GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY

*Graeme Scott*

The 2022 AGM of the Gisborne City Vintage Railway Society Inc was held on Tuesday 11th October.

All of the existing GCVR officers and committee members were re-elected for another term.

After a lot of serious thought, realising that a delicate balance is required between what passengers are prepared to pay and how much we need to continue to operate, it was decided at the AGM to increase the Adult fares by \$5 to \$40 and the Family group fare by \$10 to \$90. The Child fares will remain the same. This decision was made in response to our rapidly increasing costs and is the first fare increase for over 3 years. The increases take effect on 1st January 2023.

There is not much new to report this month as the last 4 weeks have been busy finishing off the work detailed last month, getting ready for our 2022/2023 season. Wa165 has been steamed up and is ready to roll!

Additionally some of the SteamPunk Convention Carnage “passengers” (see photo) have been visiting the workshops to get a better idea of how to move about the train. The “Carnage” starts at Gisborne Station at 4:30pm on Saturday 22nd October.

As mentioned last month, it was intended to use boarding ramps to enable cruise ship passengers to board the train in front of the Senator Motor Inn as the train is not permitted to use the Tauranganui River bridge at the moment. However, a design change has meant that we will now be using steps instead of ramps.

See our website [www.gcvr.org.nz](http://www.gcvr.org.nz) for the latest updates, excursion information and our more detailed newsletters.



# THE BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB

## *Pukemiro Junction, The Glen Afton Line*

September: This Open Day was pretty well patronised so we had a reasonably busy day but we were able to stick to our hourly timetable.

October: This was slightly quieter than the previous one.

For both days as the last trip, the Peckett took the Mines car over the whole length of our line. It had to be followed by one of our Meremere diesel locos to take the train from Glen Afton to the bottom end of our line. The diesel loco then follows the train back to the Junction but stopping to lock the two gates on the way up.

The use of the Peckett for the October Open Day was in doubt because of dry conditions but on the Thursday before it started to rain & continued until early Sunday morning.

Many thanks to all who turn up & help make these days a success.

Charter trips: By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have run a charter trip for a group from Hamilton. We have also had another enquiry.



Left: Tr105 seen outside the woodwork shop for the first time in 2022. (R. Stratford). Right: Jan and Teresa in the busy souvenir shop (K. Kopa)



Left: Busy station scene with Stationmaster Ashley in control Right: A Meremere diesel shunts the carriages prior to a recent open day. (K. Kopa)



# THE PLAINS RAILWAY & HISTORICAL MUSEUM

## *Facebook*

On the evening of Tuesday 18th Oct we welcomed the arrival of the Shunter Shed, to the sites carpark area.

Built around the 1870's, this was originally from Bennetts. It was moved to Ashburton to be used as a Train examiner/repair shed. In later years, it housed the Shunt Loco until its departure from the yard, and has been sitting unoccupied.

Development plans for the land area meant an uncertain future for this Shed - demolition or be relocated.

Mid-Canterbury Building Removals maneuvered this over the Village gates and onto its new foundation on Wednesday morning. We extend our grateful thanks to Kiwi Rail, and to Brent and his team from Mid-Canterbury Building Removals.



Photos: David Oakley



# LABOUR DAY OPERATIONS AT THE PLAINS

*Tony Cameron*



# OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL

## *Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest*

- 303 passengers were carried during September.
- Work continues on the warrant of fitness for train vehicles.
- B10 is having its safety valves and injectors adjusted.
- The guards van's exterior moldings are nearing completion before its repaint.
- The bogies off Alliance Lorneville's DSC have been dismantled. Some parts are being cleaned, refinished and painted here, while specialised items like the traction motors and wheels will be sent away for refurbishment

### **Doug Ireland Award**

At the Society's recent Annual General Meeting, Ashok Ormandy was the recipient of the Doug Ireland Award, which is presented annually to a member for their outstanding contributions to the club. Congratulations Ashok!

### **Election of Officers from the AGM:**

President: Allan Killick

Vice President: Ken McCallum

Secretary: Arthur Mahan

Treasurer: John Dustin

Committee Members: Ashok Ormandy, Cooper Rowsell, Dave Clark, John Paul, Luke Paisley, Alister Paton, Geoff Ellis, John Paul, Mathew Harris and Dion Voyce.



Photos: The Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest

# OTIRA TUNNEL COMMEMORATIONS 2023

## *Facebook*

Hello fellow followers - below is a 'loose draft plan' of how the 4th August 2023 is likely to unfold, all going well. There will be parking wardens for those travelling by car - head into the village.

- \* From 10.00am people will be arriving - registrations, welcoming, tea and coffee in marquee (either on the station or through the subway and short walk to Kiwirail yard)

- \* There will be historical displays to view and buses will begin to take people to the tunnel observation area.

- \*At the tunnel observation area, there will be 5-10-minute guided walk/s. There will be toilets in the area and, if it is raining, shelter will have been set up. The ceremony will be back at Ōtira on or near the station so visitors at the tunnel viewing area can hop on another bus to come back to the town when they are ready. All people will be out of the tunnel viewing area by 1.00pm.

- \*11.15 trains will arrive at Ōtira station.

- \*Buses continue to shuttle people to the tunnel observation area.

- \*Packed lunch and hot drinks at the marquee (these and the bus trip will have been paid for in advance through your registration on the Eventbrite site (search Ōtira). There is no charge for any pre-school or school age children.

- \*2.00pm. There will be around 7 speeches by prominent notable people in relation to the tunnel, workers and the reason we will all be gathered in Ōtira for the celebrations.

- \* National anthem in te reo Māori and English (words will be on the programme).

- \*A call for three cheers in remembrance.

- \*There will be three panels and a plaque unveiled and to be viewed.

- \* A ribbon and cake to be cut.

- \* Cake and tea.

- \* 3.45pm, trains depart.

The actual may see a minute change or two, but this is how the committee would like to see the day unfold. We look forward to your company at the event in celebration of one of the most fascinating railway ventures in the world.



# PAHIATUA RAILCAR SOCIETY

## *Facebook*

It's been a couple of months so time for another update around the depot. The recent great weather has allowed some well overdue activities such as yard spraying and washing down of the Standard railcars.



Left: Lee & Robin boxing up the last section of track beam in the long No 2 workshop for concrete pouring. Experienced local contractor Brian McKail has made a great job preparing base floor and pouring the prepared beams.

Right: Ken and Doug washing down the sunny side of 31 ahead of 2 days of running this weekend.

# WHANGANUI TRAMWAYS

## *Facebook*

Today we held a driver's examination for our new motormen. The two examiners in the yellow vests are Henry & Russel from Wellington Tramways Museum. The three new motormen in the front row are (from L to R) Simon, Brian & Trevor.



# DIESEL TRACTION GROUP

## *Facebook*

A quick mission to Waipara today to apply black on the headstocks and bogies on De 512! The stripe outline is started to be applied... getting closer to the end!



# KINGSTON FLYER STEAM TRAIN

## *Facebook*

It's so lovely to have our little train station at Fairlight fully renovated ... we are thinking of opening her up for private hire for small groups. If you are interested, please contact us for more info at [info@thekingstonflyer.nz](mailto:info@thekingstonflyer.nz) .

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The Kingston Flyer 2022 season will end on 18 December. The train will be CLOSED over Christmas and New Years and will re-open on Sunday the 22nd of January 2023. We aim to run most Sundays through 2023.

Tickets and the schedule for 2023 will be released at the end of the month. Bookings will be essential as tickets have been selling out fast, and will be available to be made in advance up until Easter 2023. Tickets beyond Easter will be released at the end of January.

At this stage we are only able to offer return trips, and are not able to offer one way trips. Please visit our website for more information [www.thekingstonflyer.nz](http://www.thekingstonflyer.nz) .





# UPCOMING MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

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

## **Glenbrook Vintage Railway**

GVR have multiple trips available, including the Steam Train Experience, First Class Experience, and the Counties Energy Christmas Lights - Trains at Night on the 9th-11th and 16th-22nd of December

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 City to Port and The Whanganui Wanderer trips operating in November.

More information is available at- [www.steaminc.org.nz/book-train-trip](http://www.steaminc.org.nz/book-train-trip)

## **Dunedin Railways**

Another Summer of "Trains not Planes" is underway, with the Seaside and Inlander both operating regularly over the summer. There are also special trips including the Victorian.

More information is available at- [www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/journeys](http://www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/journeys)

## **Gisborne City Vintage Railway**

There are plenty of trips coming up over the Summer to Muriwai.

More details available at- <https://www.gcvr.org.nz/bookings/>

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

A Day in Taranaki 2022 on the 13th of November is operating, as long as Around the Block 4 - To Wellington is operating on the 3rd of December, and the Manawatu Gorge Excursions on the 22nd of January.

More information is available at- [https://events.steamrail.org.nz/?page\\_id=4](https://events.steamrail.org.nz/?page_id=4)

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CONTENTS MAY BE REPUBLISHED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.