

FRONZ: JOURNAL



Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

It has been a busy few months with us now back in the peak of the tourism season, seeing the return of both independent tourists and cruise ships. We hope that you are having a great Summer season, we can see through the newsletters, postings online and via word of mouth that many railways are having successes. Please do send items through to me directly if there are specific things you would like added to the Journal!

Sticking to the theme of Christmas, and with my personal obsession for Christmas lights, I couldn't pick just one "Photo Of The Month".....

Have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Presidents Christmas Message
- Conference 2023
- News from around the Railways
- Upcoming Mainline Excursions



Photo: Glenbrook Vintage Railway Facebook

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

Top: the Counties Energy Christmas Lights - Trains At Night, taken by Sky View Photography.

Bottom: Xmas Lights at MOTAT – back in the barn after a nights work, taken by Albert Chan



PRESIDENTS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The year is almost over and I feel we are getting back to normal, funny thing a few weeks ago I was walking up town from work and as I passed Dunedin's Scenic Hotel a coach load of international tourists pulled up and this would have been a very regular occurrence prior to the pandemic but I had not seen it for 2 years and it hit me then that life is returning to normal! The influx of tourism to our shores will have a benefit to our industry, its been a long time coming!

It is pleasing to see recently Steam Inc and Glenbrook Vintage Railway getting out there with much publicity their recent North Island tours, the return of cruise ship trains, the Kingston Flyer returning to regular running and a number of railways and tramways getting into the Christmas spirit!

On behalf of the Executive and myself I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe, the new year will bring more challenges but that makes life more interesting and at the end of the day we do enjoy our hobby and showing that we can do it safely for the enjoyment of ourselves and the public.

Grant.

Speaking at the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Palmerston arriving in Dunedin, as well as the opening of the Dunedin and Port Chalmers railway line



CLIMATE CHANGE

I'd like to thank everyone involved with the sustainability effort this year. It isn't always easy and challenges us to think about our impact, our future, and how we can be better. 2022 saw the first heritage rail stock take of fuel use in some time, a talk on biofuels, and putting together resources and information for groups. All of that has been compiled into a [Google Drive right here](#). In the meantime, if you've got a question on the subject or have an idea/work you're undertaking that you'd like to share, send it through to me at danarmstrongnz@gmail.com.

Ngā mihi nui,
Dan Armstrong

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-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)

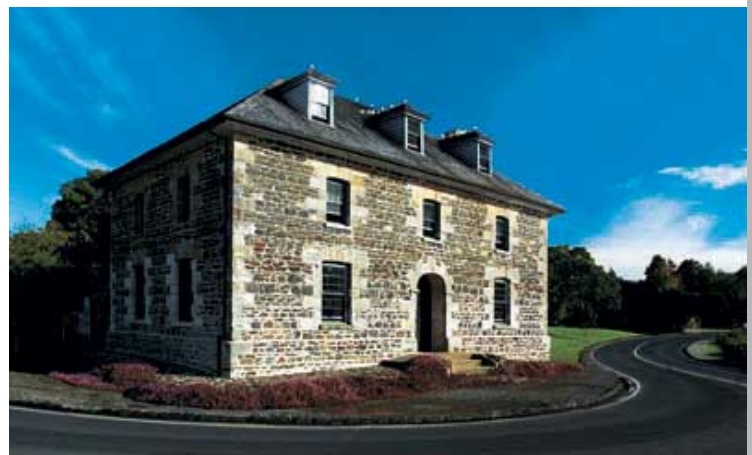
Margaret Gordon (the FRONZ Executive Officer) and husband John, together with Alan Verry (RES), will be the tour hosts for these few days.

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

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. 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

If you are interested in this option, can you please email the FRONZ Executive Officer Margaret Gordon directly. 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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE RAILWAYS

OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL DIGEST

December 2022

- We carried 664 passengers during November. This included: one charter, a very busy day with 275 passengers during the Victorian Heritage Weekend, and a miserable, brief, rainy day ...with four!
- B10 received its annual steam ticket, and had a number of adjustments and maintenance items seen to over the past month. It had a few operating days out on the railway over the last month.
- Work continues on TR 35's overhaul, with the roof now being worked upon.
- Alliance Lorneville's DSC continues to be dismantled, cleaned and painted.

A very special fan

Here is James, age 4, wearing his Halloween costume of Mavis (Husky) – he is a huge fan of Oamaru Steam and Rail. Thanks James! We hope he will come down to the railway again for a look around inside the cab of the real Mavis.



Left: James with Mavis (Husky). Right: Victorian Heritage Weekend

FERRYMEAD TRAM TRACTS

December 2022

THS Social Visit to the Canterbury Railway Society Workshops.

Evan Batchelor reports.

On Wednesday 23rd November found a good sized group of THS members venturing forth from the Bridle Path Barns to visit one of our sister societies in the Ferrymead Heritage Park, the Canterbury Railway Society. After a quick briefing from CRS President David Maciulaitis at the Moorhouse Railway Station, our group was first ushered to the Moorhouse signal box and shown through the marvels and the intricacies of NZR signalling. As someone who works in the industry, I was very surprised at the breadth and depth of the collection that the CRS has been able to install as part of their operational railway. It almost looked like they had one of everything from all of the period correct equipment in the signal box to the signal and rodding runs out on the ground.

Its something I have vowed to return to see in operation one day after having learnt so much about the older style signaling gear in theory.

From there our visit progressed to the locomotive and carriages sheds with many of the CRS treasures being swooned over by the THS members. The opportunity to see some of the rarer items in the collection was one not to be missed and some members reported feeling emotional at seeing some of the items for the first time having only read about them since childhood. The walk through the sheds was almost overwhelming at times; turning each corner bought up more cries of recognition and interesting conversations abounded.

The final visit was the main workshop space where Ec 7 was the star attraction and this again bought back many memories of one of the main players in the saving of Ec 7, our own Joe Pickering. For your scribe to stand in the cab of a locomotive he can vividly remember first seeing at age 8 was a wonderful occasion, and a quick Question and Answer session helped uncover some of the mysteries of the 1500V DC side of our all encompassing hobby.

We finally retired to the CRS tea rooms (with not too many spare seats!) for another one of Phyllis Belworthy's brilliant suppers. A few formal words of thanks were exchanged and we were soon off into the night back to home base.

Discussions are now underway for us to host the CRS members at our tram barns sometime in the new year.

A big thanks to David, Michael and Peter who were gracious and knowledgeable hosts.



Left: all assembled at the Moorhouse Signal Box. Right: Looking through the Steam Loco shed.

LUMSDEN HERITAGE TRUST

Facebook

There is a Santa!

Massive thanks to the Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand for their generosity and fantastic support of the Lumsden Heritage Trust we were able to purchase the T&G required for the cladding of C100.

Rodney & Amanda Lonneker along with the awesome team at Pankhurst Sawmill (Riverton) whilst under huge pre Christmas rush somehow managed to run the timber for us for pick up today - just amazing.

We are so lucky for this opportunity as now trusty Gordon can get started on the window frames and outer cladding whilst we have the summer (when it arrives)

Thanks again to all those involved who have made this happen.

Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy and Safe New Year



DIESEL TRACTION GROUP

Facebook

There's something just a little bit special when you can hook up your own beautifully preserved diesel-electric to your friend's rolling stock and go for a whirl. And that's just what Diesel Traction Group did yesterday, spending a fantastic afternoon between Waipara and Waikari with the support of Weka Pass Railway. Thank you! And special thanks to Craig Baikie for organising a fun Christmas outing for our members and supporters.



Photo: Glen Anthony

WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM

Tramlines, Nov-Dec 2022

Railex

The Tramway had its usual stall at the Model Railway Show - RAILEX - over the weekend of 19/20 November, held in the Walter Nash Stadium at Taita.

Volunteer members ensured that our presence was maintained over both days and we were able to sell 2023 WTM calendars and various tram related books and magazines plus publicise our activities at Queen Elizabeth Park.

Immediately adjacent to our table was Graeme Bennett who had on display three of his immaculate model trams; Auckland 207, Wellington 233 and New Plymouth 7 which was an added attraction to our display.

The Commissioning of Combination Tram No. 17 (Henry Brittain's report)

The Museum took the opportunity of introducing tram 17 to members immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 26th November. This was a convenient time, not only to let members see the final product, but to conduct some loading and electrical performance tests while the tram was loaded with passengers. This testing was required before seeking final acceptance approval from NZTA that the tram meets our required operational standards.

Invited guests included:

Our Patron & Mayor of Kāpiti, Janet Holborow; The Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council, Daran Ponter; Renowned Tramway Historian and WTM member, Graham Stewart; Wheelwright shop proprietors Greg and Ali Lang - who undertook the contract for restoration of 17's body & chassis;

Representatives of the family that donated the tram in 1986, Mr & Mrs Steve Mitchell; Zitan Group Ltd. principal engineer and Western Springs Tramway member Mr Leyton Chan. Leyton prepared the technical specifications for both the body and chassis restoration and for the Wellington style Brill-type 22E trucks constructed by A & G Price Ltd., Thames, and managed the contract for the trucks. He also prepared plans and specifications for various items of mechanical equipment.

Mr Porter welcomed guests and members to the occasion and thanked all those who been involved in the project. He was followed by Mr Ponter who outlined what the Tramway had done not only to preserve Wellington's Transport Heritage, but the impact it had on Queen Elizabeth Park and the numbers of people it brought into the Park.

WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM

Continued

Graham Stewart then took centre stage, outlining the history of 17 and congratulating Museum members and the many others who had been involved in its restoration. Graham welcomed the tram back into service.

Mr Porter then invited those present to board 17 and take a celebratory ride to the beach. A full load of seated passengers proceeded to the end of the line, followed by tram 159 with overflow passengers.

Tram 17 performed faultlessly and passengers were very enthusiastic and complimentary about its smoothness of operation and overall performance.

On return, afternoon was served in the Fiducia Centre.



Left: Above: At RAILEX 2022. Graeme Bennett's trams. Standing behind is Graeme Bennett (left) and Trevor Bettany on the right. The seated gentleman was visiting from another stand. On the far right, partially out of the frame, is Alan Smith who is manning the WTM stand. Tramway calendars were a sell-out at RAILEX but a modest reprint has been arranged. Photo: Henry Brittain

Right: A scene received from Alan Smith who says, "I took this on Sunday 4th December, with a big 'Wellington Eventing' equestrian event on both sides of Whareroa Rd. (see sign on nearest overhead pole). All motormen had been briefed re "no gongs" and being alert to extra people and horses crossing the tracks. 159 approaches on a regular service; in later use that day was also 260 with a charter hire for a 30+ tour group from Thames who thoroughly enjoyed their time on site and lunch in the Fiducia Centre – and being shown the "A&G Price Thames" maker's plates on the Brill 22E bogie frames of 17 in the barn."

THE BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB

Pukemiro Junction, The Glen Afton Line

November: We were very short of members to help run this day. The Peckett wasn't lit up as we had no crew. The day was reasonably busy.

December: Despite a lot of rain in the early part of the week, the end of the week was very hot with strong winds so it was decided not to run the Peckett outside Pukemiro yard.

We had a good crowd of people wanting to ride on our railway so the day was pretty busy with all trains up until 2pm full. The Mamaku jigger was giving rides, the first for quite a long time.

After the last train & all the gear was put away, we had our usual end of year "nosh up". Most of the members who had worked that day stayed on enjoyed the feast.



Left: Pete attends to the removal of excess growth from up the line. Photo: J. Soffe

Right: New volunteer Fraser R has been working on the Heisler – here we see a temporary wheelset keeping the bogie "on the rails". Photo: C. Mann



Left: Members enjoy the December "nosh up". Photo: C. Mann.

Right: Richard S in action with the Heisler bogie strip down. Photo: C. Mann

UPDATE ON POLICE RAIL LEVEL CROSSING COMPLAINT PROCESS

Megan Drayton, TrackSAFE

nAt our KiwiRail/TrackSAFE level crossing hui in December in September, a couple of FRONZ members raised concerns that they were not receiving feedback from Police after they had reported near misses at their level crossings.

We also recently emailed some FRONZ operators and from the responses we received it is clear that near misses are an issue for some heritage organisations.

Some groups also didn't realise that there is a specific level crossing complaint form which is the best way to let Police know about these incidents.

We know it is often difficult to obtain a licence plate number, but Police have advised that without a plate number, they are unlikely to be able to take action.

Where locomotive engineers or onboard staff can identify the vehicle, we encourage you to email the complaint form to Police. We have asked Police to please provide feedback in the same that they do for KiwiRail and the metro operators.

If you have any questions about the Police rail level crossing complaint process , or would like some forms emailed or posted to you, please feel free to get in touch with us (tracksafe@tracksafe.co.nz).

We wish all FRONZ organisations a safe and happy festive season and look forward to connecting again in 2023.



THE PLAINS - CHRISTMAS RUNNING

Tony Cameron



SIGNAL - SAFER RAIL UPDATE

Waka Kotahi/NZTA, 15 November - Gini Welch

Rail conference produces positive outlook

The New Zealand Rail Conference, held in Auckland on 10 and 11 October, generated a positive, optimistic feeling.

The conference was supported by the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) and featured excellent presentations and panel discussion on both days.

The overarching feeling from all attendees and exhibitors was that the future of rail in New Zealand is bright. Everyone seemed to agree that rail is in a renaissance period and there was a generally positive outlook for the future of rail in New Zealand.

ARA Chief Executive Officer Caroline Wilkie noted that the New Zealand Government is investing NZ\$54 billion in land transport over the next decade and will be overseeing the delivery transformational projects, including the City Rail Link in Auckland, while continuing the transition to a resilient and reliable rail system.

The conference was three times delayed due to Covid and it was clear from the 300 attendees that the rail industry is ready to talk, network and work together to create a safe and modern transport solution.

In addition to key senior industry leaders, members of Waka Kotahi featured prominently and speakers included Kane Patena (Director of Land Transport), Gini Welch (Senior Manager Safer Rail), Deb Hume (National Manager Multimodal and Innovation) and Barbara Tebbs (National Manager Policy and System Planning).

Other highlights included contributions from City Rail Link Chief Executive Officer Dr Sean Sweeney, Auckland Light Rail board member Leigh Auton and returning KiwiRail CEO Peter Reidy, who signalled his intent to focus on safety while delivering a first-class service to New Zealand.

Future opportunities and the massive investment in rail was the main theme of the conference and attendees heard about topics ranging from safety, infrastructure and major project updates to sustainability, freight and innovation.

The challenges facing the industry in response to the climate emergency were also high on the conference agenda, with discussion on how rail will contribute to meeting government emissions goals as part of a modern multi-modal, decarbonised transport system.

Three new rail licence holders

The Waka Kotahi Licensing and Assessment team has had another busy year, with a full schedule of ordinary safety assessments as well as numerous safety case variations and other engagement with licence holders.

One of the highlights of the work the team does is dealing with licence applications from rail participants.

SIGNAL - SAFER RAIL UPDATE

Continued

Three rail participants have recently been through the application process and obtained a rail licence. This brings the number of rail licence holders in New Zealand to 80.

The activities conducted by the three new rail licence holders show the range of rail licence holders the Safer Rail Team deals with. Here's a quick introduction to the newcomers.

Martinus Rail NZ Ltd

Martinus is an Australian-owned company specialising in the delivery of medium to large-scale rail infrastructure and systems.

This includes the operation of specialist rail vehicles for rail construction and maintenance as well as infrastructure work on the national rail system. Martinus is one of several entities working on the construction of the City Rail Link in Auckland.

Midland Rail Heritage Trust

Midland is a tourist and heritage group with facilities next to the Midland Line in Springfield, Canterbury. The picturesque location is close to the Southern Alps.

The group's purpose is the preservation, overhaul and servicing of equipment associated with the region. The current focus is on improving the infrastructure on the site with a long-term goal of operating passenger trains for the public.

Link Alliance

Link Alliance is an infrastructure provider that has been licensed since August.

It's contracted to design and construct the main works contract for the City Rail Link.

This is a massive infrastructure project in Auckland that involves a 3.45km rail line extension, including twin 3.2km tunnels connecting Britomart station with Mount Eden station and the North Auckland Line.



Left: Kane Patena, Director of Land Transport, opens the second day of the conference.

Right: Australian and New Zealand rail regulators meet. Back, from left: Dieter Wakelin, Steve MacMillan, Paul Butler, Greg Wagner, Ewald Eisele, Ty Graham, Dane Newton. Front: Andreas Kornusch, Ruben Puertos Martinez, Peter Doggett, Gini Welch, Nat Wyatt-Renney, Paul Cockerton. Video screen: Cindia Chiu

GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY

Graeme Scott

Our BIG NEWS of the month is that Theo Drager is now a fully qualified steam engine driver. Phil Wagener (aka Teapot) came down from Glenbrook and examined Theo driving the NZ Cadillac/public excursion on 6th November. As expected, Theo passed with “flying” colours! At his presentation, Theo paid tribute to the help given to him by Danny Greene and the late Fred Hamer.

Talking of the NZ Cadillac Club, the train was reversed to the boarding point opposite the Senator Motor Inn where the club members were staying. A few of their machines could be seen in and around the area. The train then proceeded to the Gisborne Railway Station and acted like a proper passenger train by stopping at an “intermediate” station to take on more passengers!

An earlier excursion, the “SteamPunk Convention Carnage” at Labour Weekend, was well patronised. So many of the passengers had dressed up that it was hard to tell who were the actors and who were the passengers!

Our cruise ship excursions have started, with 2 charter trips to Muriwai on the same day by the Vista-class cruise ship MS Westerdam, which can carry 1,964 passengers with 800 crew. We had a total of 197 passengers on the 2 excursions – a long day for the train crew, but enjoyed by all. Two days later we were chartered by the Seabourn Odyssey which carries 450 passengers and 335 crew. At Muriwai, the passengers on all 3 excursions were treated to a Kapa Haka performed by the local Muriwai School (a year 1-8 primary school). Since Wa165 has been running to Muriwai, Muriwai School has performed many times for cruise ship charter trips. The funds raised from those performances have enabled the small rural school to purchase items for use by the pupils, which it would not have been able to afford otherwise. Like us, they are certainly pleased to see the cruise ships back. We have another 11 confirmed cruise ship charters before the end of March with 2 more awaiting confirmation.

Just to make things more interesting, the day of the 2 Westerdam charters was also the day set for the Wa165 in-steam boiler inspection. Fortunately the steam engine arrived back in Gisborne at the end of the second charter trip before the inspector arrived.

Two sets of our new passenger boarding steps are now available for use at our Senator Motor Inn boarding point. Wa165 is not able to cross to the port, due to the poor condition of the Tauranganui River bridge, which was built in 1923, so passengers are now being transferred by bus from the port to the train.

See our website www.gcvr.org.nz for the latest updates, excursion information and our more detailed newsletters.

GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAILWAY



Left: Presentation to Theo. Right: Senator Motor Inn loading point



Left: Teapot, Theo and Denis. Right: Muriwai School Kapa Haka



The Steampunk group. Photo: Sarah Olsen

MAINLINE STEAM HERITAGE TRUST

Mainline Steam Heritage Trust Newsletter

MERCER. TDM Construction Ltd, who laid the groundwork of the fill for the first building site, has handed over the site management to Rock & Rubble who will now be responsible for the filling of the Mercer site. Rock and Rubble have access to large quantities of clean fill which will accelerate the filling of the site. The Waikato Regional Council are happy with the contractor change and they also approved a winter works program although the very wet winter did stop work at the site for many days. TDM will assist with the culvert installation for the rail crossing which we hope to complete in the next 1 to 2 months. Clan fill is currently been stock piled on site and a start has been made on filling to the north of for the back shunt.

Rock & Rubble are now in complete control of the site and are responsible for HSE entry on the site. To this extent we, as MLST members are inducted under their requirements if wanting to visit the site. Rock & Rubble have also acquired some extra heavy machinery on site to help with the earthworks.

The first building has arrived on site which was kindly donated by McMullen and Wing and are extremely grateful for this generous donation. It measures 12m x 8m and has been used as offices in the past. We will use it for a site office during construction works and then give it a refurbishment before using it as our permanent office and lunch room for the team.

We will be organising a working bee to give the building a bit of a spruce-up and ensure that it is 100% watertight, etc.

During July, Grant, Michael, Tom and Les did some work on the turnouts that had previously delivered to site.

The locos and rolling stock at Mission Bush (Glenbrook) Steel Mill have been covered by tarpaulins but they never last that long before we need to replace the tarps again. We have decided to use shrink wrapping to protect the locos and Ja1267 was successfully shrink wrapped in August. The Ba and Bb locos will follow next.

While on site the DSB shunter was started up and run for while with brake applications made through the entire consist to keep everything working.



WHANGANUI TRAM LINES

Photo Hunt

Later this year Mike Mellor from Wellington will be attending the Heritage Tram Convention in Turin, Italy and asked us and the Waimarie if we could come up with a photo for his presentation, of the Waimarie and Mable together. This combination of coal fired Paddle steamer and heritage tram would be something rather unique in the world today. Well, I searched through my photo files, Phil Pollero from the Waimarie searched through his and the I-site was approached to see if they had any publicity shots on file. Nothing !

It was decided that we would try and get a suitable photo when the Waimarie commenced its summer season in September. It wouldn't be easy as the trees on the riverbank tended to come between Mable and the Waimarie. Well, the 1st Sunday of the Summer season was a failure - the Waimarie sailing had to be cancelled because of strong winds !

The following Sunday, success. Phil managed to get a couple of photos from across the other side of the river of the Waimarie coming back into its berth, with our Tram in the background.



OTAGO EXCURSION TRAIN TRUST

The OETT were approached to take part in the celebrations for both the 150th anniversary of the first Polish settlers (arriving on the sailing ship Palmerston - along with the well known Fairlie Locomotives Josephine and Rose), and the opening of the Dunedin and Port Chalmers railway line. We (along with the Rail Heritage Trust, KiwiRail and Port Otago) were sponsors, the event included a train ride to Port Chalmers for the Polish community, plaque unveilings, and of course cake!



Photos: Courtney Kilner

NELSON RAILWAY SOCIETY (INC)

Out On The Track

Work at the Railway over the last three to four months has mainly been out on the track, checking and upgrading the line between Wakefield Quay Station and north to Tui Station, and from Tui Station along the west line towards Grove Station. Sleepers have been replaced along the west line and the rail crew have reached the first cycle crossing coming from Tui. The two Erics and Basil have been working hard on this task and are making good progress.

We have been able to extend the railcar run to the cycle crossing, so that makes the ride in the railcar a few minutes longer, much to the enjoyment of our many loyal passengers.

At the moment the train is still only able to go from Wakefield Quay Station to Tui Station and back but we are hopeful that this can soon be extended for the train as well.

The next job will be to finish checking and updating the line from the cycle crossing to Grove Station. The aim is to hopefully finish this section by the end of the year. During this time checking has been done on the section between Wakefield Quay Station and the workshop.



Left: On the West line alongside QEII Drive , near the cycle crossing between Tui Station and Grove.

UPCOMING MAINLINE EXCURSIONS

Glenbrook Vintage Railway

GVR have multiple trips available, including the Steam Train Experience and First Class Experience

For more details visit - www.gvr.org.nz/events/whats-on

Steam Incorporated

Steam Incorporated have their Open Weekend from the 21st-23rd January. There are also the Wairarapa Wine Harvest Festival Special, the Hawkes Bay Wine & Dine by Rail and the Heartland Flyer Steam Experience over the next few months.

More information is available at- 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

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

There are multiple excursions over the next few months, including the Manawatu Gorge Excursions, Taumaranui on the Main Trunk Line 2023 and Around the Block 1 - To Wellington 2023.

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

Pahiatua Railcar Society

Fancy a long weekend in the Taranaki region? Check out the Taranaki Tourer, departing Friday 13th January, returning Monday the 16th. Alternatively, the Puke Ariki Explorer is running on Saturday the 14th from Puke Ariki to Inglewood, and Sunday the 15th from Puke Ariki to Lepperton.

More information is available at - <https://www.railcars.co.nz/events>

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CONTENTS MAY BE REPUBLISHED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.