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FRONZ 2008 CONFERENCE - A SELL OUT EVENT !

As of Wednesday 7 May, still with 3 weeks to go, we have had to stop taking registrations for FRONZ 2008 Hamilton Conference as space at the Waikato Museum Theatre has **sold out**. The Conference facility holds 72 people. Over 80 people have registered for the Awards Dinner at the Hamilton Golf Club..

We would not want to turn delegates representing members away from the AGM, so if there is anyone out there who just wants to attend the AGM to represent a member not already registered, please contact Paul Dillicar and we will do what we can to accommodate you. There are limitations on seats under Fire Regulation Plans.

Everything that can be done to ensure the Conference runs according to plan is now in place and we look forward to seeing delegates on Friday evening or Saturday morning.

27 delegates have opted to travel to Conference by Coach from Auckland via Goldfields Railway & Victoria Battery Tramway on Friday 30 May.

The AGM Agenda and Annual Report have already been circulated. Annual Convenors' Reports will FOLLOW as a separate document circulated by EMAIL tomorrow.. We will also **include** a copy of the Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting and a **list of delegates** to the upcoming 2008 Conference.

WOULD ALL CONFERENCE DELEGATES PLEASE, print and bring with you to Conference

- 1- **AGM Agenda** (you already have this)
- 2- **FRONZ 2008 Annual Report** (you have this too !)
- 3- **Minutes of 2007 AGM** (sending tomorrow)
- 3- **2008 Convenors' Reports** (sending tomorrow)
- 4- **Conference Delegate List** (sending tomorrow)
- 5- **Conference Programme** (available on Net at <http://www.railfed.org.nz/conference/programme.pdf>)
which includes essential instructions and maps etc.

Further special instructions for Delegates will follow next week, addressed to them by E-Mail.

RAIL SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK CAMPAIGN

We have just been advised by LTNZ that July 21 to 27 has been declared Rail Safety Awareness Week. Heritage Operators will be asked (where possible) to join in on SUNDAY 27 JULY and hold an Open Day. The week is largely being sponsored by ONTRACK, Toll Rail (as was); VEOLIA, ARTA, GWRC, MoT & Chris Cairns Foundation. More information will be made available in due course and we have made LTNZ aware that this is a time of year when many Heritage Railways close for essential maintenance. Watch for more details.

NZ GOVERNMENT BUYS TOLL RAIL OPERATIONS & RAIL FERRIES

There is probably no-one reading this, at least in New Zealand, that is not aware that the Government purchased the rail operations of Toll Consolidated, together with rail ferries, Hillside Workshops, TranzScenic and Tranz Metro Wellington rail passenger services.. The re-nationalisation of rail operations was announced on Monday 5 May and is effective from 1 July 2008 with a 6-month transition period til February 2008 during which Toll will continue to make many management decisions. The purchase price was \$NZ 665 Million. As yet the Crown has not said whether the enterprise will be managed by a stand-alone SOE or if it will become part of ONTRACK (the Government's network track owner). Commentators are picking a separate organisation.

The main interest for FRONZ members will be the potential effect on the Heritage Operators who ply the national network. FRONZ President, Paul Dillicar, has been quoted as saying that he sees the move as being very positive. "Toll Rail were not noted for their interest in the rail heritage of their company, and had placed considerable barriers in the way of heritage operators on the Network", he said, adding that "The current Government has been very user-friendly toward heritage network access and the removal of monopoly rights to some corridors will be welcomed by entrepreneurial and innovative operators".

Watch this space !

NEW DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION BROCHURES ON DENNISTON

are available for downloading from the Internet at

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultiPageDocumentTOC.aspx?id=46355>

LTNZ RAIL SAFETY ADVISORY

LTNZ have asked us to draw to the Notice of Heritage Railway operators, a New South Wales Transport Regulators Notice related to Securing Redundant Air Brake Hoses on Locomotives.

Details can be downloaded here > <http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/publications/RISN/RISN2.2.pdf>

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please note the following Address changes to our recently issued Address Book >

- 1- **NIGEL HOGG**, a FRONZ Executive member, has a new private e-mail address nigel.hogg@gmail.com
- 2- **Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway** have a new Secretary, Sue Hamnett = suehamnett@xtra.co.nz

NEW STANDARDS IN PLACE

We are advised by Standards NZ

Fire Protection

New Publication

[NZS 4510:2008 - Fire hydrant systems for buildings](#)

Sets out the minimum technical and performance requirements for fire hydrant systems installed in buildings.

Supersedes NZS 4510:1998 -

SUSTAINABLE RAIL OPPORTUNITIES TO BE EXAMINED

Land Transport NZ Media Release >

New research commissioned by Land Transport NZ will look at how rail can play a key role in the move towards a sustainable transport industry in New Zealand.

Land Transport NZ National Manager, Rail Regulation, John Oldroyd, said Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner will undertake the research on how rail participants, in association with government transport agencies, can improve sustainability within the rail industry.

The primary purpose of the research is to identify opportunities and barriers to improving sustainability within the rail industry. This is a first step which may lead to further work as options that emerge from the research are explored in more depth".

Land Transport NZ is the government rail regulator responsible for implementing the requirements of the Railways Act 2005. There are more than 90 rail licensees in New Zealand, including TOLL, Veolia, and ONTRACK, as well as industry, heritage and tourism operators.

"We aim to be a smart regulator and to respond to the changing rail environment by encouraging awareness of rail as a significant player in the growth of land transport in New Zealand," Mr. Oldroyd said.

FRONZ has been advised that it will be consulted as part of this exercise. John Oldroyd is to deliver an address at our imminent Conference.

SKIMMING SCAM TARGETS CLUBS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Thursday, 1 May 2008, *Press Release: NZ Bankers' Association*

The New Zealand Bankers' Association has been made aware that bank customers in Northland and Auckland are being targeted by scammers for credit and debit card details and is advising the public to be wary of suspicious callers.

According to information provided by the Police, representatives of clubs & societies in Northland and Auckland are being called by persons expressing an interest in joining the organisation or providing items of interest to the club. The representatives are then told a courier driver will deliver the information or a package of articles, which must be paid for by EFTPOS.

We understand that paying in this manner is not standard practice for courier companies. It is also apparent that the portable EFTPOS device used by the scammers is more than likely to be a skimming device capturing and recording card details. Then very quickly, the information is being used to obtain cash from Automatic Teller Machines in Australia.

Our advice to the public in the area is to make sure they know the identity of the courier company making the delivery, that they request official identification from the courier driver, and if they are still suspicious to call the Police.

MORE WANTON DESTRUCTION HITS RAIL HERITAGE SITE

Is this really what the team at Mainline Steam
In Christchurch deserve for their efforts ?

URK 66 was struck by a graffiti vandal recently

Photo : Daniel Garland



IntroducingGEORGE KING

Arthur De Maine, Traffic Manager, Oamaru Steam and Rail, writes :

On Sunday 17th of February 2008, 18 year old Oamaru Steam and Rail member George King who was never really into railways until joining Oamaru Steam and Rail six years ago, became the youngest person to pass the NZQA qualification 11158, to be able to drive steam locomotives, after previously passing Unit Standard 21755.

Russell Glendinning the moderator/assessor who assessed George, comments that upon checking his files noted that George was in fact the youngest person in New Zealand to have passed this qualification and that he had just beaten a previous candidate by a few months.

A friend who was a member introduced George to the group six years ago while he was still at intermediate school and since then he has been hooked on trains and especially steam locomotives.

He soon became involved in learning the workings, maintenance and restoration of locomotives and carriages. He also worked on the maintenance of the buildings at the depot. His training on operating days commenced with him becoming a Crossing Keeper and Assistant Guard and when he turned sixteen, the age set down in the Safety System, he became a Guard and a regular Fireman on B 10 and K.92 since its arrival in Oamaru.

George also has been taking turns with the rostered Engine Driver driving B 10 and K 92 while rostered on as Fireman, this is a practice followed by the group in helping train people to become engine drivers. He has accumulated over 300 hours on the footplate. The position of Stationmaster on operating days is another position which George has been certified for recently.

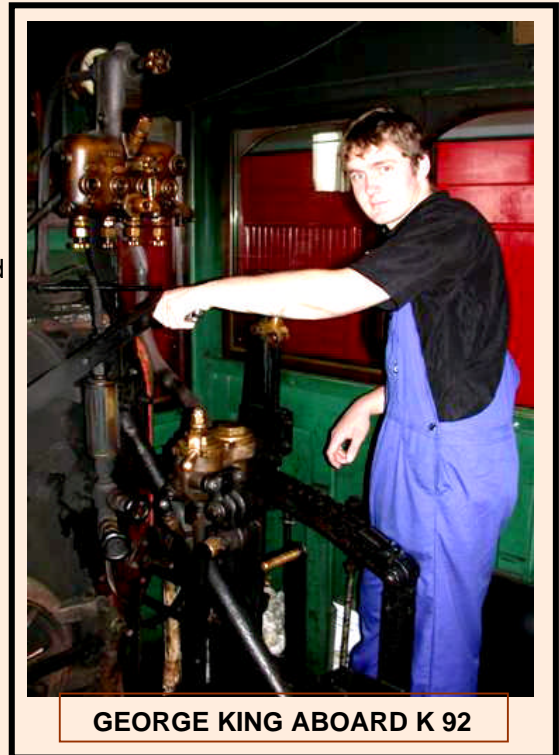
For George who started out with no real interest has now found that the hobby of railways can lead to much great things and in the long run hopes to turn his hobby into a career driving trains on Rail Network.

His next goal is to get Toll Rail to respond to his correspondence with regards to how he goes about being accepted for training as a Locomotive Engineer.

George is to be congratulated on obtaining this qualification.

At the other end of the age scale, two of our more mature members, John Paul and Arthur De Maine of Oamaru Steam and Rail and along with two other members Rick Ramsey and Mike McErlane obtained Unit Standard 21755 on the same day as George obtained his Unit Standard.

With these members obtaining these qualifications we are now starting to get a larger pool of qualified steam people in our railway and with continuing training the group is looking good for qualified Steam Drivers and Firemen to take us into the future.



GEORGE KING ABOARD K 92



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