



# JOURNAL

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### 2009 CONFERENCE UPDATE :

We've had an excellent response to the launch of our 2009 FRONZ Conference website with almost 65% of places snapped up in the first two weeks. The popularity of the Friday Coach Trip to the Mainline Steam Depot and to ride the Weka Pass Railway behind steam is also evident, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Coach now being sold out !. We MAY hire a second one so long as we don't lose money by doing so, so continue to book for it if you want to come, and we will get back to you. The message to those intent on coming, but as yet unregistered, is to get a move on ! We will publish an updated programme on the Website after a few minor changes forced on us by the unexpected availability of a couple of speakers. A very full programme remains.



The AGM Notice will be issued later this month when the Executive have tidied up one or two outstanding advisory matters. The Annual Report is under preparation, as are the Annual Reports from our Convenors. The Audit of our Annual Accounts has been delayed by the sudden illness and hospitalisation whilst overseas, of our appointed auditor. We are working to resolve that problem. You should by now have the Entry Forms for the Annual FRONZ & Rail Heritage Trust Awards. Please ensure you meet the closing dates if entering.

FRONZ CONFERENCE WEBSITE : <http://www.railfed.org.nz/conference/introduction.htm>

### WANTED to BUY:

**DOG SPIKES** for the **BLenheim RIVERSIDE RAILWAY** BRANCH LINE TO THE OMAKA AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE. Many railway groups have changed to screw spikes. If you have unwanted dog spikes, we use them with our concrete sleepers. We are keen to buy any quantity. We also straighten bent spikes. Please contact John Orchard at 03 5781716 or [johnno@marlboroughmuseum.org.nz](mailto:johnno@marlboroughmuseum.org.nz)

**70 LB RB FISHPLATES** are wanted by **MIDLAND RAIL HERITAGE TRUST**. Please contact Alan Campbell on (03) 313 5763

### ADDRESS BOOK CHANGE

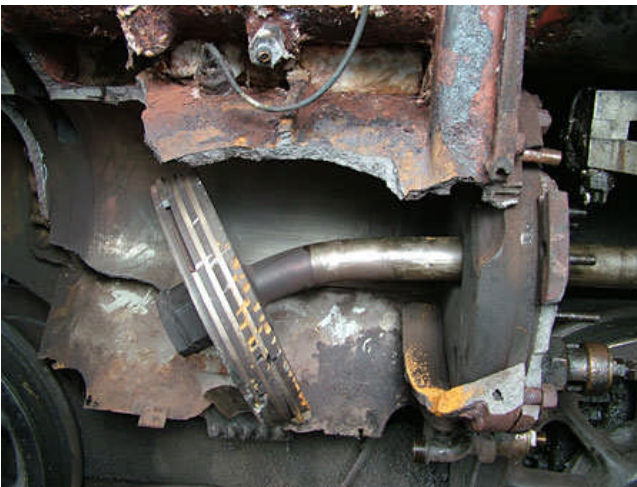
The **OTAGO EXCURSION TRAIN TRUST** has changed its Postal Address with immediate effect and can now be contacted at P O Box 2269, South Dunedin, 9044

British Railways standard 5 4-6-0 No.73096 got in to diabolical trouble at the Mid Hants Railway in England on 14<sup>TH</sup> March. .A severe priming incident is suspected. - Left hand cylinder destroyed. Valve gear "modified"

Check out the video from the train.

Nothing exciting at the point of disaster because the camera man was on the other side, but look at the trail of debris left along the line side, including the end of the cylinder lying in the grass 50 feet from the line!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFDWpaC9OIM>



### RAILWAY BOILER CODE OF PRACTICE ( *Australia* )

As all FRONZ member railway boiler owners & operators will know, FRONZ has its own Boilers Code of Practice widely used and quoted in Railway Safety Cases and Systems in New Zealand. The (*Australian*) Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) have now released the draft "*Boilers for Rail Code of Practice*" for Open Review. This draft Code of Practice has been prepared in association with ATHRA by a Development Group comprising very experienced locomotive boiler and pressure vessel practitioners. The draft code uses good practice and procedures of the state government railways who maintained steam locomotive boilers with reference to Australian Standards and other international practices. Though there is NO affect on NZ practices, FRONZ would nevertheless value your comments on this Document as a review of best practice. Its 151 pages can be accessed here: <http://tinyurl.com/dm2m8r>

Your feedback should be sent to Nigel Hogg [nigel.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.hogg@gmail.com) and copied to Grant Hjorth [grant@nelsonstud.co.nz](mailto:grant@nelsonstud.co.nz)

### RECORDING ORAL HISTORY – OR EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT ?

Recording Oral history is a growing phenomenon and is particularly advantageous when you might need to get an interview with an old-timer, but don't have the time to transcribe it into print form straight away. A lot of former rail and tramway identities prefer the informality of a chat in their own surroundings, rather than a formal interview with someone so obviously taking notes. There is some vital information within untold stories that can often prove invaluable to future researchers and restorers.

Here's something you may not know : More than \$ 1.25 Million has been awarded to over 300 NZ Oral history projects since 1991 by the Australian Sesquicentennial Gift Trust for Awards in Oral History. Almost \$ 76,000 is available for allocation each year. Projects must be about the history of New Zealand.

The Awards are decided by a committee of oral historians and are administered by the Ministry for Culture & Heritage. Applications for the 2009 Awards close on April 30<sup>th</sup>

More information : see <http://www.mch.govt.nz/awards/history/oral.html>

THE LATEST EDITION OF THE FRONZ PURCHASING GUIDE CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH THE FRONZ WEBSITE : SELECT IT FROM THE MENU ON <http://www.railfed.org.nz/information.html>

### ADVICE & SUPPORT FOR (YOUR ?) SMALL BUSINESS

The Government has come up with a series of measures designed to give assistance to NZ firms, including:

- an 0800 hotline (0800 42 49 46, operating 24/7);
- free business health checks: this online tool - [www.bizhealth.co.nz](http://www.bizhealth.co.nz) - enables a business to get an independent, confidential assessment of the actual position of their firm. Once the business identifies where help is needed they can submit a request for specific information, or they can ring 0800 42 49 46 and talk to the trained adviser who can assist them; and
- free seminars on managing in an economic downturn: to help established small and medium sized businesses understand what best business practice is, how to mitigate risk and, when the difficult times are over, how they can emerge as better and stronger businesses. The new seminars started running at different times around the country from the end of February.

A fact sheet that gives more details about these measures is at

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/brownleefactsheetfinal.pdf>

### HELPING HANDS GRANTS AVAILABLE !

National Museum Te Papa has Grants of up to \$ 1,000 (including GST) available for SMALL Museums to (for example) assist in upgrading displays and purchase conservation materials. You can find out more, and how to apply at

<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/NationalServices/SupportingMuseums/HelpingHandsGrants.htm>

### OHAKUNE OLD COACH ROAD PROJECT & HAPUAWHENUA VIADUCT

The Hapuawhenua Viaduct Walkway in the Central North Island, just to the North of Ohakune was recently opened in conjunction with the Centennial of NIMT Express services. Working in tandem with local interests, the Department of Conservation has taken major responsibility for this project and the connection with the Old Coach Road rehabilitation to Horopito. More details can be found at

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/tongariro-taupo/ruapehu-area/ohakune-old-coach-road/>

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER FRONZ PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY

If your organisation is one of those REGISTERED with FRONZ as benefiting from our Public Liability Insurance Policy, then you have certain obligations to tell us if you believe that a Claim under the Policy MAY be coming. We, in turn, will notify the Broker that a claim is potentially outstanding. This should be done within 48 hours of the circumstances which may lead to a claim.

In a couple of cases recently, FRONZ members who have registered with us as covered by the Policy, have been advised that fires started on or near their property are alleged to perhaps have been caused, by their activities. These fires have been reported in the media or we have heard of them through people in the organisations, yet there have been no notifications from the management of the railways concerned.

At the potential of any claim you MUST register that occurrence with us, or you stand to lose your cover. It is the same as is required under most domestic policies.

There is an Excess of \$ 2,000 on any claims.

## NEW REST BREAK LAWS ARE NOW IN FORCE

New regulations regarding breaks and infant feeding at work came into force from Wednesday 1 April. The legislation requires employers to provide employees with paid rest breaks and unpaid meal breaks. Where reasonable and practical, employees are entitled to:

- \*\* one paid 10-minute rest break if their work period is between two and four hours
- \*\* one paid 10-minute rest break and one unpaid 30-minute meal break if their work period is between four and six hours
- \*\* two paid 10-minute rest breaks and one unpaid 30-minute meal break if their work period is between six and eight hours.

## ALL CHANGE ON DRINKING WATER REQUIREMENTS ?

The Government is reviewing rules on drinking water quality which it says are costing councils and communities tens of thousands of dollars.

A law change two years ago means council compliance on the standards is now mandatory. Local Government Minister, Rodney Hide, says the rules need to be reviewed so the Government has a clear understanding of their cost. He says there should be a moratorium until the review is complete and expects to hear back from the ministry in the next fortnight.

Labour's water quality spokesperson, Brendon Burns, is accusing the Government of ignoring a Ministry of Health review last month that found 800,000 New Zealanders are drinking water that is not safe. Mr Hide is questioning the ministry's statistics. *Report dated 24 March 2009*

## NRSS-3 : NOTE TO HERITAGE NETWORK OPERATORS

The Chair of each current Network Heritage Operator is to receive a draft copy of the proposed new Network Rail Safety Standard # 3 (*the missing Chapter*) which deals with Medical Standards and Task Assessments. FRONZ is required to comment on this large document by 30 June and it will be discussed in some detail at the Network Operators' Meeting on Friday 29 May.



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