



JOURNAL

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INTERNATIONAL RAIL HERITAGE CONFERENCE : IPSWICH, QUEENSLAND



Executive members Grant Hjorth & Paul Dillicar, represented FRONZ at an important International Rail Heritage Conference hosted by The Workshops Rail Museum at Ipswich, Queensland, from 14 – 18 October and also attended the conjoint AGM of our affiliate ATHRA (Australian Tourist & Heritage Railway Association). Billed as “an opportunity to further the concept of forming a Global Association”, the Conference was more notable for the excellent range of Subjects and Speakers gathered together by the Organising Committee headed by The Workshops Rail Museum Director, Andrew Moritz.. Whilst Australians dominated the speakers’ schedules for obvious reasons (and made some excellent contributions), there were also speakers from UK, Germany, South Africa, Japan, Argentina , Sweden & NZ.

As with our FRONZ Conference, opportunities were available for delegates to make Field Trips and visits were made to the Brisbane Tramway Museum, QR’s Redbank Workshops, The Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway at Swanbank (*thanks for the excellent BBQ and night ride*) and “behind the scenes” at the magnificent host Workshops Rail Museum.

The Programme included :

Thursday 15 October: Day 1

Welcome by Andrew Moritz Director of The Workshops Rail Museum and The Hon Tim Fischer Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, Rome, Italy (former Australian Deputy-PM and well known aficionado– by video link)

How do we ensure the collection and preservation of railway heritage in all its forms?

“Ways in which Government may support railway heritage” by Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Spokesman in the House of Lords, UK, on Transport Legal Protection for Railway Heritage: (pre-recorded)

“Not Just Theory, But Making It Work -The UK Experience,” - Peter Ovenstone, Acting Chairman, and Neil Butters , UK Railway Heritage Commission.

“Sustaining Our Rail Heritage” - Marianne Hammerton, Director, Office of Rail Heritage, Rail Corporation of NSW

“The Lost Heritage Opportunity of Everleigh” - Guido Gouverneurs, Wrought Artworks, Everleigh Workshops, NSW

What creative solutions exist to meet training and staffing in an increasingly regulated environment?

“Facilitating Future Training and Assessment” - Warren Doubleday, Rail Safety Officer, ATHRA

“Keeping the Tourist and Heritage Sector in Victoria Sustainable” Jenny Gabriele, Manager Policy and Legislation Operations, DOT Legal, DoT Victoria)

"Things are looking up Down Under" -Paul Dillicar, President, Federation of Rail Organisations, New Zealand.

Friday 16 October:

Who are the environmental innovators and what can we learn from them?

"Climate Change" - Allan Gardner, Manager of Infrastructure and Engineering, Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board Australia.

"Environmental Challenges as an Opportunity in Steam Locomotive Operations on Museum and Tourist Railways" – a 'stand-out' Paper by Dr. Reinhardt W. Serchinger, PhD, Consultant in Applied Physics, Munich, Germany

"A New (Australian) Boiler Code", - Allan Gardner, Manager of Infrastructure and Engineering, RISSB, Australia

Theatre of the Railway - Operations

What do visitors take away from a heritage rail experience?

How do we ensure historical accuracy and authenticity?

Which stories should we be telling?

"Creating a Theatre of Railway - Bringing the Past Forward", Sarah Jane Brazil, Office of Rail Heritage, Railcorp, NSW and Richard Mulvaney, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Rail Transport Museum

"Evolving the National Railway Museum (South Australia) - a 20 Year Success Story" : Dr John C. Radcliffe, National Railway Museum, Port Adelaide

"All Aboard: Building an Audience via Public Programs" - Andrew Moritz, Director, The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich,

"Toyland Express" - A Case Study for Audience Engagement at The Workshops Rail Museum, Richelle Leane, Learning, Events and Activities Officer, The Workshops Rail Museum

"Inimitative Interpretation - The Storyline and the Railway line " - A Queensland Reflection, Greg Hallam, Queensland Railways Historian, QR

"Outside the Tin Fence - Beyond the Museum's Boundary", David Mewes, Curator, The Workshops Rail Museum

"Australian Marketing - Getting Backsides on Seats," - Emma Everett, Sales and Marketing, Bellarine Railway

"Site Tour of The Workshops Rail Museum" by Andrew Moritz (Director)

Friday Evening : Conference Dinner and ATHRA Awards

Saturday 17 October: Day 3

Theatre of the Railway - Performance

"Railway Culture: A Source of Railway Heritage Theatre" - Brian Dunnett,, Researcher in Australian Railway Heritage

"Writing the Stories of Torres Strait Islander Railway Men ""- Leah Lui-Chivizhe, Teacher and Researcher into Torres Strait Islander at the Koori Centre, University of Sydney

An Asia Pacific Perspective

""Railway Preservation Activities in Japan" -Tatsuhiko Suga, General Representative, Railway Preservation Society of Japan

"The Possibility and Formation of an Oceania & Asia Organisation", Kyoichi Oda, Japan

Training & Regulation

What creative solutions exist to meet training and staffing in an increasingly regulated environment?

"3801 Limited: The Way Forward:" - Dr John Glastonbury, Chairman and General Manager, 3801 Limited

"How to Ensure Your Heritage Organisation's Sustainable by Securing the Right Capability and Capacity in the 'Human Capital' Area" - Chris Le Marshall, Director, Linqage International

Office of Rail Heritage Churchill Fellowship "Steam Locomotives in Preservation", Jennifer Edmonds, Seconded to Rail Transport Museum, Thirlmere, NSW

"The Benalla Rail Collision - Cause, Effects and Lessons Learned", Stuart Thyer, Member, Steamrail Victoria Inc

"Retaining Skills and Heritage Railways for the Future - An Overview," Nathan Williams, Member, Australian Sugar-Cane Railway

Financial Sustainability & Economics

What partnership opportunities exist which might ensure the continued prosperity and long term financial sustainability of railway heritage? How do we measure and quantify our economic benefit to the community?

"The Development of the Sierra Leone Railway Museum": Setting up a Railway Museum in a Developing Country" -Steve Davies, Director of the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester

"Tourist Trains and Tourism: A Positive Impact on the Community" Sergio Rodriguez Zubieta, Las Hayas Resort and El Tren del Fin del Mundo (End of the World Train), Argentina

"The Impact of the West Somerset Railway" and "The Impact of the Severn Railway Closure" Mark Smith, Chairman, West Somerset Railway

"Impact of the Welsh Highland Railway " Gordon Rushton, Welsh Highland Railway

Sunday 18 October – Day 4

Annual General Meeting and General Meeting, ATHRA

Whilst generally supportive of the concept of a Global Rail Tourist & Heritage Rail Organisation, in the opinion of both Paul & Grant, there was far too little information presented about the business case and costs, together with an overly-ambitious list of potential achievements, for any quality decision to be reached as to whether FRONZ should join such an alliance, especially as it was envisaged that both National Peak organisations and any individual rail organisations would be eligible for membership. We found ourselves reaching the same view as the Australians in ATHRA, who also remained unconvinced. The proponents nonetheless went away happily declaring the outcome a success. A further meeting is to be held in the UK in 2012.

Existing FRONZ Affiliations still remain in place and can be extended (e.g.: Japan).

A review of some of the Ipswich presentations will be made to the 2010 FRONZ Conference.

FRONZ acknowledges the generosity of the MOTAT Society in making \$ 1,000 travel funds available to the FRONZ Delegates.



RAIL HERITAGE CONFERENCE, IPSWICH, QUEENSLAND, OCTOBER 2009
Image courtesy of The Workshops Rail Museum / Queensland Museum

TAX TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTEERS

Notes kindly provided by FRONZ Auditor, Alan Spencer

The income tax laws have been changed so as to clear up any past confusion over the tax position of payments to volunteers in connection with their voluntary activities. As from **1 April 2009**, which means that the change is already in force, the position is that for income tax purposes a payment to a **volunteer** is either:

A **reimbursement payment**, which is exempt income of the volunteer and therefore non-taxable, or

An **honorarium**, which is taxable income of the volunteer and from which the paying organisation must deduct tax at the rate of 33c in the \$** and pay the tax deducted to IRD in accordance with PAYE rules.

*** This is the rate if the volunteer has completed an IR 330 Tax code declaration. Otherwise, the 'no declaration' rate of 48c in the \$ applies*

Definitions

A **volunteer** is a person who freely undertakes an activity in New Zealand – chosen either by themselves or by a group of which they are a member; and that provides a benefit to a community or another person; and for which there is no purpose or intention of private pecuniary profit for the person.

["another person" in paragraph (b) will, in relation to FRONZ members, usually mean the paying organisation – in other words, the voluntary activity must be of benefit to someone other than the volunteer]

A **reimbursement payment** is a payment to a volunteer to cover actual expenses incurred by them. The amount paid can be either the amount of expenditure incurred or a reasonable estimate of that amount.

An **honorarium** is an amount paid to a volunteer for providing services to the paying organisation that – is paid at a rate that is less than the market rate for providing the services; and is an amount for which, in the normal course, no payment is fixed for the services provided.

The term "services" is not defined, but it would include, for example, time spent in the service of the paying organisation by a President/Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, etc who is not a paid employee.

Payments to volunteers therefore **exclude** salary or wages paid to employees to which the PAYE rules apply and payments to contractors to which other income tax obligations apply.

Combined Payments

If a payment to a volunteer is only partly a reimbursement of expenses, the paying organisation must identify the portion of the amount that is the reimbursement, and treat the remainder as an honorarium taxable as described above.

This is the rate if the volunteer has completed an IR 330 Tax code declaration. Otherwise, the 'no declaration' rate of 48c in the \$ applies.

PAYROLL GIVING : A new way to donate

The Government continues to try to encourage a culture of generosity in New Zealand, and has introduced a new payroll giving scheme, due to take effect early next year.

Last year, the \$1,890 cap for which individuals could claim a tax rebate for cash donations to donee organisations was removed (the caps for companies and Maori authorities were also lifted). Now, individuals can claim a rebate of one-third (33.33%) of all donations they make, limited only by the level of their annual taxable income.

The Charities Commission is working with Inland Revenue, the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector, and other agencies, to provide ongoing information to the sector about the new scheme.

Inland Revenue is mailing a pack to employers starting on 9 November, explaining how to set up a Payroll Giving scheme.

In brief though:

Voluntary payroll giving scheme introduced – from 7 January 2010

The Taxation (International Taxation, Life Insurance, and Remedial Matters) Bill was signed into law on 6 October 2009. This introduced a voluntary payroll giving scheme that will allow employees to make regular charitable donations directly from their pay, as part of an employer-initiated workplace giving scheme.

The scheme will be available to employers who wish to offer it to their employees from 7 January 2010. Only employers who electronically file their employer monthly schedule (EMS) and deduction form can choose to offer payroll giving to their employees.

Where offered by an employer, payroll giving gives employees the opportunity to donate to approved donee organisations direct from their pay, and to receive immediate tax credits that reduces the total tax payable. This means employees don't need to wait until the end of the year to claim the tax credit.

RURAL BROADBAND PROPOSALS

The Government has released two papers on rural telecommunications for public comment, one on rural broadband coverage, and the other on funding and the Telecommunications Service Obligations (TSO) levy.

- The rural broadband programme would connect rural schools to ultra-fast broadband, and use those connections for local rural communities as well. It is aiming to have ultrafast broadband to 97% of NZ schools (serving 99.7% of NZ students); and
- have 97% of NZ households and enterprises able to access broadband services of 5Mbps or better.

There would be progressive network upgrades over 10 years (beginning in 2009/10), focusing in the first six years on connecting schools to ultra-fast broadband.

Funding of \$300 million for rural broadband would come from a combination of direct government funding of \$48 million, short term funding of \$52 million, and revenue from a levy replacing the current TSO levy which would contribute around \$50 million per annum over the next six years (about \$20 million less than is currently the case).

The Government says the changes would not affect free local area phone calling. ...

EMISSIONS TRADING AMENDMENT BILL

Public submissions are now being invited on the Climate Change Response (Moderated Emissions Trading) Amendment Bill. This Bill amends the Climate Change Response Act 2002 to: reduce competitiveness impacts of the NZ ETS; make sure the NZ ETS is affordable in today's economic climate; make it flexible enough to respond to possible changes in post-2012 international climate change arrangements; and have it fit with the Australian Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

Submissions closed on 13 October 2009. The Bill is at

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0085/12.0/versions.aspx>

CLIMATE CHANGE INDUSTRY GROWS

Industries involved in responses to climate change now outstrip the global aeronautics or defence industries, according to a new study by HSBC Global Research, which forecasts global revenues from climate-related businesses will surpass US\$2 trillion by 2020. Citing the 2006 Stern Review, which predicted US\$500 billion in climate-related business activity by 2020,

HSBC says the world passed that mark in 2008, with a 75% increase in revenues in the sector in one year, to \$US530 billion.

The US, Japan, France, Germany, and Spain account for 76% of global climate revenues, with low-carbon energy production, energy efficiency, control of water, waste and pollution, and climate finance leading the way. Energy efficiency recorded the highest investment returns for the 2008 year, followed by carbon finance at 24%. More is at <http://tiny.cc/erMTN>

NEW NZ ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Major resource consent applicants can now apply directly to the new national Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) rather than submitting their applications to regional and local authorities. Decisions would be made through a single process involving both local and national considerations, with the aim of speeding up decision-making on important projects.

The EPA is a statutory body currently sited within the Ministry for the Environment. However, the Government says it could be the national regulator on environmental issues, with possible briefs of environmental responsibility for NZ 's exclusive economic zone, oversight of hazardous substances and new organisms, and the administrative functions of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). The Ministry for the Environment would then become a smaller policy agency.

More is at www.epa.govt.nz



JUMP START TO YOUTH GUARANTEE

A "jump-start to the Youth Guarantee" is aimed at young people who are ready to move beyond school, but who still want to study and learn practical skills. They will get the opportunity to participate in a range of free vocational programmes provided by private training establishments, institutes of technology and polytechnics (including courses in tourism and travel, agriculture, building, plumbing, hospitality and catering). Around 2000 student places are to be allocated across NZ in 2010 and again in 2011. Places have been allocated to regions of high need, based on the number of unemployed young people in the population, and on the quality of proposals.

For more information on the 28 providers that have been approved, and on the Youth Guarantee, go to www.tec.govt.nz

THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Philanthropy NZ, Volunteering NZ, and the OCVS have developed a Generosity Project which looks at ways to encourage individuals and businesses to give time, money, in kind donations, and "acts of kindness" to local community organisations. Amongst these are:

- using social networking sites to promote generosity;
- promoting the "three money box initiative" for children – one for spending, one for saving, one to give to charity;
- encouraging "giving circles" to encourage people to be involved in giving money and time; and
- establishing a corporate social responsibility network.

More, including contact details for the seven main projects is at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/>

FOR SALE !!

Two sets of 55lb rail turnouts, rail only - no sleepers.

X class locomotive boiler, ex Otahuhu Rail Workshops

Offers at ,or above, scrap value will be considered.

Both available ex Parnell.

Phone or email Grant 0274 483 089 or nelsonstud@xtra.co.nz

NZQA's QUALIFICATIONS SYSTEM

The NZ Qualifications Authority (NZQA) is seeking feedback on proposed changes to NZ's qualifications system aimed at developing a unified NZ qualifications framework. These would: alter the design rules for National (standards-based) and NZ (course-based) qualifications to allow for more inclusion of local material; involve regular reviews of qualifications to find out whether they are still "fit-for-purpose"; strengthen and standardise qualification outcome statement requirements; introduce a compulsory pre-development assessment stage for qualification developers; strengthen industry involvement in qualification development; and provide the public with clear Information about whether a qualification is active, inactive or closed.

Submissions close on 10 November 2009. An online submission form and more information about the review are at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications/review/index.html>

REVIEW OF FOOD ACT

The Government is reviewing the Food Act. (*again !*) Proposed changes include:

- a shift in responsibility from Government to food business operators (most will be required to have either custom-made food control plans or off-the-peg Food Control Plans depending on the complexity of their operation - unless they are low risk e.g. fundraisers, bed and breakfast businesses);
- clarification of the NZ Standard for all food sold within, and exported from, this country;
- a national restaurant grading system;
- replacement of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974; and
- improvement of penalty provisions.

Local councils will provide a "one stop shop" advisory service for all new businesses.

The food sector has an estimated annual turnover of \$22 billion and employs more than 20 percent of working NZers. Food accounts for exports of \$18 billion and this is expected to continue to grow over the next 10 years with the support of a new Act.

A copy of the relevant Cabinet paper is at www.nzfsa.govt.nz

We gratefully acknowledge Rural Women NZ as the source for numerous Government advisories used in this Bulletin

FRONZ 2010 CONFERENCE PAPERS

We are interested in receiving offers of Papers & Presentations at our 2010 Conference in Palmerston North, 5 – 7 June. As there is no particular theme for Conference, we would be pleased to have offers on any subject appropriate for our audience. Help may be available in preparing conference slides etc. Please contact Paul Dillicar if you have a topic to offer.

UP AGAINST THE BUFFERS

FRONZ farewells the "Project Steam Society" who, having transferred their locomotive P 107 to the Midland Rail Heritage Trust site at Springfield, have decided not to renew their FRONZ subscription.

All other (69) members are now currently Financial.