



JOURNAL

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WELCOME NEW YEAR 2010

We're hearing lots of positive remarks about the passenger and visitor numbers to rail heritage and tourism venues around the country this Summer. A few members even report staff "stretched" by the numbers of people at their sites. Though we are not about to start a lecture on the dangers of staff overdoing themselves under such circumstances, we do know that many volunteers will go the extra mile when they have to, without complaint, and that we all have a responsibility to watch out for their well-being in those circumstances. A couple of members report turning "hordes" of unreserved passengers away. Take it easy out there ! Let's hope your organisation is benefitting from what appears to be a rise in "stay at home" tourism.

FRONZ CONFERENCE 2010 - Update

All is now back on track again for our Annual Conference. Just before Christmas a few things started to become unstuck. As a direct result, and some hard negotiations on behalf of delegates we have kicked the Kingsgate Hotel "into touch" and will instead be going to a much more upmarket property (the **Travelodge**) adjacent to Palmerston North's "Square" - and at a better price than the Kingsgate.

The FRONZ Executive is having its usual annual (between conferences) physical meeting in Auckland on 24th January and while the costings are not yet complete, part-sponsorship by NZTA and DoC has again been generously confirmed, and we are still aiming for around \$ 135 as the remarkably low registration fee. And this year, that will include Saturday & Sunday night dinners.

We would like to encourage those who already want to take advantage of the incredibly low airfares on offer for advance bookings to do so, and to use Wellington if they prefer, as a through-point, rather than the more expensive Palmerston North airport (especially for in-bound travel). Together with delegates representing Wellington area members, we suggest using the "*Capital Connection*" for travel to Conference on Friday evening 4th June, and to get back to Wellington, use our connecting coach/train option via the Wairarapa on Monday 7 June. This is expected to have you back in Wellington on the train by 6.25pm (then allow sufficient time to get to Airport & meet your check-in time if flying elsewhere).

Northern North Island delegates might use the "*Overlander*" option to travel to Conference, and the same coach/rail option to Wellington to go home, or fly out of Palmerston North. Seats limited to one coach load. (45)

Hosts, the Feilding & District Steam Rail Society's magnanimous contribution to Conference is a steam-hauled train to Pahiatua on Monday 7 June. Passengers travelling by coach/rail to Wellington would make only a one-way journey on this train. Other delegates will return on this special to Palmerston North. *Paul Dillicar*

This event is being held in Budapest, Hungary between 22 and 28 April.

The schedule will feature visits to the MAV Nosztalgia Railway Heritage Park in Budapest and a wide range of railways and other museums. Extensive use will be made of the historic train fleet of our principal hosts, MAV Nosztalgia, with both travel in reserved coaches on a public excursion to a steam festival at Kosice in Slovakia and on two other special trains run specifically for the conference.

The main business themes will be:-

(a) value of economic impact surveys in providing evidence of the benefits which heritage railways and tramways bring to local economies and

(b) encouraging young people into the historic rail transport movement, featuring the well-established annual Fedecrail Youth Exchange

Any Kiwis interested in attending, can contact Paul Dillicar for detailed information & bookings. dillicar@ihug.co.nz

MORE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

FRONZ Secretary, Peter McCallum, recently had a request for information on the operation and maintenance of the Pyle-National K240-model steam generator. An internet search engine had indicated that FRONZ might hold some vital information desperately wanted by "a steam engine driver on the Furka Cogwheel Steam Railway in Switzerland (www.fu-be.ch) who wrote "At the moment I am reconditioning two generators for our steam engines, but it is not so easy without knowing the correct settings".

Peter worked quickly to digitise the information we had on hand, a task he had scheduled to do anyway as part of FRONZ Codes & Standards work. The information was despatched to Switzerland within days.

Back came the grateful reply:

"Thank you very much!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

That is exactly what I was searching. You sent me the best Christmas present.

I will send you some pictures when I have finished my reconditioning work on these two generators.

Best regards from Switzerland

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year

Roland Knoepfel

MORE USING LONG-DISTANCE (KIWIRAIL) TRAINS

KiwRail's long distance passenger train services have posted a rise in passenger numbers for the 2008/09 financial year. The four services, The Overlander, Tranz Coastal, Tranz Alpine, and Capital Connection carried a total of 492,000 passengers for the year compared with 487,000 for the preceding year. The Capital Connection, linking Palmerston North and Wellington, was the most popular (85,000 passengers).

SCOTT OSMOND JOINS FRONZ EXECUTIVE

Confirming our December "News Extra", Scott Osmond has joined the FRONZ Executive, replacing Neville Tobin. Scott is a Shift Manager Spokesperson for the NZ Fire Service based in the Auckland Control Room and is often quoted in the media about emergency callouts. Scott lives in Helensville where he is a Trustee of the Helensville Railway Station Trust. He can be contacted at patsy.scott@xtra.co.nz or (09) 420 8598 or at Home at 99 Rautawhiri Road, Helensville 0800.



FRONZ records its gratitude to Neville Tobin for his 2 years serving our team.

TARANAKI FLYER SOCIETY JOINS FRONZ

As reported in our December "EXTRA" Newscast, the Taranaki Flyer Society Inc, formed to eventually return AB 645 to service, has commenced the long challenge from their base in the former Stratford Goods Shed. 745 took a dive into a washout near Hawera back in 1956 and was retrieved many years later minus front bogie and tender by a small band led by Tony Batchelor. Subsequently the loco came into the possession of Keith Hancock who has contributed it to the fledgling Society to get the project underway. Chairman Peter Hancock (no relation) has assembled an enthusiastic but small band of people who want to help restore 745 to active duty. The ultimate aim is for the loco to run on the Network, though in the meantime they have for now concentrated on its rebuild, rather than worry about when or where it might eventually run.



FRONZ is assisting with information on assessment of the loco, especially areas such as professional boiler exam, frame and wheel/axle crack testing etc., and support for funding that important first step.

TARANAKI FLYER SOC. INC.
21b SILVAN PLACE
BELL BLOCK
NEW PLYMOUTH 4312
Chairman : Peter Hancock. Phone (06) 0755 1255
ngamihi@xtra.co.nz

FRONZ ADDRESS BOOK CHANGES

Please amend the following address details

Victoria Battery Tramway Society Inc
Chair : George Capper - 07 863 6315
GM : Mike Lathwell - 07-863-6169
Vice Pres; Dennis Jones
den03@ymail.com

Goldfields Railway Inc.,
30 WRIGLEY ST
WAIHI 3610
Railway : (07) 863 9020
goldfieldsrailway@xtra.co.nz
Chair : Graeme Martin
grajac@ihug.co.nz

Nelson Railway Society Inc
Now have a Website at
www.Nelsonrailwaysociety.co.nz
Email address is
nelsonrailway@hotmail.com

'KINGSTON FLYER ' FAILS TO SELL IN FIRST ROUND MORTGAGEE SALE

All bids for the "Kingston Flyer" were rejected by the Mortgagee after Tenders closed on December 11, 2009 for the package of train, tracks, tavern and land parcels . Some bidders, (of which there was no shortage) were advised that the Receivers would be in touch early this year with invitations to resubmit offers.

The Receiver, acknowledging that a dispute had now broken out which resulted, reportedly, in principals of the Kingston Flyer Steam Train Ltd being issued with trespass Notices, said that they were taking steps to clarify any confusion regarding existing leases and ownership of chattels "once these matters have been resolved, with an updated list of property, plant and equipment" said the letter from Bayleys Queenstown.

Bids came from as far away as the USA, and several domestic charitable organisations. It was not immediately clear whether the mortgagee or receiver would entertain bids for any one, or only all, of the inventory.

Meantime, concern has been expressed at the deterioration in the assets through lack of operation.

FRONZ will continue to monitor developments, but is taking no "sides" on the matter.

SOBERING NEWS ITEM FOR ALL PEOPLE IN MANAGEMENT

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School trustees liable for any fine from boiler death : The Dominion Post : 22/12/2009

Trustees of an Auckland school being prosecuted for a boiler explosion that killed its caretaker must pay any fine imposed, which will not be covered by insurance.

The board of trustees of Orewa College, north of Auckland, was charged by the Labour Department yesterday with failing "to take all practicable steps to provide a safe workplace". The charge was laid under the Health and Safety in Employment Act.

In June, Zimbabwe-born caretaker Richard Louis Nel received burns to 90 per cent of his body when the coal-fired burner exploded. He later died in Middlemore Hospital. Robin Tubman, a contractor, suffered a fractured skull and shattered facial bones. A third man suffered shock.

The maximum penalty for foreseeable serious harm under the legislation is a \$500,000 fine and for unforeseeable incidents \$250,000.

Orewa board of trustees chairman Phil Pickford said if the school was fined he did not know who would be liable. "I am trying to find out, as you can well imagine." He said the board had insurance, but Ray Newport, general manager of the School Trustees Association, said that would not save the board.

The Education Act protected individual trustees against personal liability but the board as a Crown entity was liable for any fine and would have to pay it out of the school's operational funding from the ministry.

Terry Jordan, a spokesman for the Insurance Council, said the school could insure for the cost of legal fees, but not against any fine.

Mr Newport said it was a highly unusual situation and he could not recall any other board being prosecuted in this way.

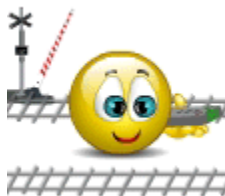
Schools could not technically go bankrupt and if the board could not pay a fine it would have to ask the ministry for a loan, which it would have to pay back over some years.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/3184096/School-trustees-liable-for-any-fine-from-boiler-death>

WANTED !!

Work is starting in earnest on the rehabilitation of several kilometres (first stage) of the old Rotorua Branch line. Hundreds (and hundreds) of new timber sleepers are being installed and the Rotorua-Ngongotaha Rail Trust urgently need to source thousands of screw spikes and 145 mm associated clips

If you can assist in any way, please contact :
Jim Ross at jim.betty@xtra.co.nz
phone ... (07) 357 5484 at the Railway or
(07) 357 4246 reasonable hours at home.



Just some sign-writing and minor adjustments to finish, and Tramway Historical Society members can proudly recommission former CTB Double Decker Tram # 26 on Saturday 23rd January. (DLA Turner photo)

NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION REPORTING RULES :

have your say: two discussion papers - one from the Ministry of Economic Development and one from the Accounting Standards Review Board consider the law covering financial reporting of not-for-profit organisations. Submissions close on 29 January 2010. The papers and more information about making a submission are at

www.med.govt.nz/templates/StandardSummary_187.aspx

or www.asrb.co.nz.

ACC LEVIES FOR 2010-11

New ACC levies for this year are:

- the Earners' Account Levy (paid by all employees and self employed to cover their non-work, non-motor vehicle injuries) will increase from \$1.70 to \$2.00 (including GST) per \$100 of liable earnings from 1 April 2010;
- the average employer/self-employed levy will increase from \$1.31 to \$1.47 per \$100 of payroll from 1 April 2010 (individual rates for industry groups may be higher or lower, excludes GST);
- the ACC part of the motor vehicle license fee for a petrol car will increase from \$168.46 to \$198.46 from 1 July 2010 while the ACC petrol levy will stay at 9.90 cents per litre; and
- mopeds 50cc and under will pay \$129.24; motorbikes up to 600cc will pay \$327.70; and bikes over 600cc will pay \$426.92.

Other minor changes include removing the exemption for hearses, collecting the ACC levy on biofuels, small changes in Work Account classifications, and adjusting maximum and minimum liable earnings in line with the labour cost index and minimum wage increases.

NEW DEFINITION OF ‘SERIOUS HARM’

If “serious harm” occurs, employers or people in control of a workplace are required to immediately notify the Department of Labour, the Civil Aviation Authority, or Maritime NZ.

A proposed new definition of the term “serious harm” would include physical injuries leading to an employee being unable to perform their normal duties for 10 or more calendar days. It would also include any permanent injuries, specified events such as electrocution or loss of consciousness, and diagnosed occupational illnesses.

BE SUN-SMART THIS SUMMER !

The Cancer Society has developed a sun smart resource kit for Kiwis who work outside, and their employers, to encourage the adoption of sound sun safety practices. It's estimated that around 15% of our workforce works outdoors, and these workers are at higher risk of developing a range of skin cancers including melanoma. More information is at

<http://www.cancernz.org.nz/reducing-your-cancerrisk/sunsmart/sunsmart-workplaces/>

SENIORNET : HOW SENIORS LEARN

The results of a project aimed at identifying the factors contributing to Seniornet's* effectiveness in meeting the learning needs of older people in new technology were recently published in a report called “Improving Our Understanding of the Older Person's Needs in Learning New Technology”. In the project, Seniornet tested the proposition that older people prefer, and are better able to learn new technology, through “older people helping older people” *Seniornet brings older adults and computers together. There are now over 100 Seniornet Societies, or Learning Centres, throughout NZ with well over 20,000 members. The report is at www.seniornet.org.nz/researchreport.asp

EFFECTIVE CHARITIES

The Charities Commission has developed a statement of the qualities that it considers contribute to making a charity efficient and effective, and best able to achieve its purposes.

The information sheet is available at:

www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets/qualeff.htm

IRD GUIDELINE : REIMBURSING VOLUNTEERS

The Department of Inland Revenue has published a set of guidelines about payments to volunteers in reimbursement of their expenses. It spells out: when can someone receive reimbursement, kinds of reimbursement, tax status of reimbursements, a definition of honorarium, what “schedular payments” are, and what happens when someone gets both an honorarium and a reimbursement.

The guideline is at

<http://taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz/publications/files/Volunteersip.pdf>

Once again, we are indebted to Rural Women NZ for help in compiling this round-up of recent “Government Bumpf”



Your eyes don't deceive you ! It is former Sydney Tram # 1808 now running on MOTAT's Western Springs Tramway in Auckland. 29 December 2009.



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