



JOURNAL

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FRONZ 2010 CONFERENCE PLANNING ALMOST COMPLETE

Early next month we will be releasing full details of Conference 2010 and commencing bookings for both Registration and Accommodation (separately), and all on our own FRONZ Conference website as usual. A FRONZ Broadcast Email will announce the date when bookings are open.

A varied programme has been put together, plus the usual Sessions with key Sponsors, NZTA & DoC, without whom, we would be unable to offer such an attractive value-for money Conference. The FRONZ Executive is offering a Saturday morning to Monday afternoon package for just \$ 145 including all teas, lunches and dinners (both on Saturday & Sunday) and transport. Also included is a generous Steam-hauled Excursion courtesy of the Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society (our official hosts for the weekend). Provision is also made for partners to reserve at unsubsidised rates (unless attending full Conference).

Several intending delegates have told us that they have already booked their transport to & from Palmerston North and among those are people who will use the Friday evening Capital Connection train from Wellington, returning by our charter coach and rail through the Wairarapa on Monday. This return offer is limited to the first 45 bookings (one coach load). First, in-first served basis.

It appears we can cope with much higher numbers this year as the facilities are reasonably flexible and we will take registrations up til 31 May (closing off for catering and Management). **However** we can only accept Accommodation bookings at FRONZ rates until **1st May** and only at our Travelodge venue, so please be organised to comply with that by sorting out now who your delegates are going to be.

There are one or two other surprises in the Programme too.

And in breaking news, it may be wise to pay our fee if GST is hiked to 15% in the May budget !

CRANES CODE OF PRACTICE UPDATED

The Department of Labour has now published the latest Code Of Practice for Cranes.

There should be no surprises in here

www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/10.shtml



In a recent Newsletter, NZTA asked all licensed rail operators who interact in any way with the KiwiRail Network to check their Safety case was up to date and named KiwiRail where appropriate, instead of any earlier corporate names like Toll Rail or TranzRail, especially on Joint Operating Plans and the like.

NZTA Rail Regulation team is also making it known that they prefer to receive correspondence by Electronic means (Email, etc) rather than written or typed (scans would be acceptable). Address correspondence to your allocated NZTA team member and copy the Rail Regulator, John Freeman > john.freeman@nzta.govt.nz . If needs must, "snail mail" will always be responded to !

Information for rail participant organisations regarding Audit reports >

What are conditions, recommendations and observations?

When you get your next assessment report there may be some or all of these terms in it. Here we clarify the differences between them:

Conditions

Conditions are findings of non-compliance which may arise in one of two ways. Firstly, the safety system procedures may meet the requirements of the Act but are not being implemented and complied with in practice.

Secondly, the organisation's procedures may not conform to the Act's requirements – even though those documented procedures may be being followed.

Conditions, indicated by a [C] code, are given either a high, medium or low rating and are included in the safety rating calculation.

Example: Evidence of a required annual track inspection not produced at assessment.

Safety Recommendations

Safety recommendations are actions that the organisation is strongly urged to implement in the interests of good safety management practice but are not considered non-compliances and are not included in the safety rating calculation. Safety recommendations are indicated by an [R] code.

Example: That the interval between refresher trainings could be decreased.

Observations

Observations are either conditions or safety recommendations that are applicable to another rail participant but need to be identified for follow up. It is not necessarily expected that the organisation being assessed address these observations, as they will be reviewed, managed and passed on by the NZTA to the parties concerned. Observations are indicated by an [O] code.

Example: That a visiting track maintainer is not signing in when attending the site.

THE NZTA RAIL REGULATION TEAM IS

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ADDRESS BOOK ADDITION

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Midland Rail Heritage Trust
Allan Campbell is now Net-Connected on Email : allan@mrht.org.nz
Cellphone # 027 211 3172

NEW BROCHURES FROM DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DoC as FRONZ Conference-goers will attest, are one of our two cornerstone Sponsors. They have recently added some more Brochures featuring their historic rail estate to their comprehensive range. Viz >

* Valleys of Gold* : Featuring the Coromandel & Kaimai Ranges tracks (2 pages)

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/bay-of-plenty/valleys-of-gold/>

* Kaimai to Coast* : A 58-page guide to walks and tramps in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park guide
Download it from this site >

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/bay-of-plenty/kaimai-to-coast-brochure/>

Karangahake Gorge Brochure 2 pages

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/waikato/karangahake-gorge-brochure.pdf>

ON THE SUBJECT OF LOCOMOTIVE BOILERS

Alan Bailey writes:

Furthering my interest in this vast subject I recently came across the FRA's Official report into the firebox explosion on Gettysburg Railway Co's # 1278 (June 16th 1995). I have passed it on to FRONZ as not only is it an interesting read, but also a future reference work for all those that might wish to have access to it. (Available as a PDF Attachment on request to Paul Dillicar)

ABSTRACT "Abstract: On June 16, 1995, the firebox crownsheet of Gettysburg Passenger Services, Inc., steam locomotive 1278 failed while the locomotive was pulling a six-car excursion train about 15 mph near Gardners, Pennsylvania. The failure resulted in an instantaneous release (explosion) of steam through the firebox door and into the locomotive cab, seriously burning the engineer and the two firemen. This accident illustrates the hazards that are always present in the operation of steam locomotives. The Safety Board is concerned that these hazards may be becoming more significant because Federal regulatory controls are outdated and because expertise in operating and maintaining steam locomotives is diminishing steadily. As a result of its investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board issued safety recommendations to the Federal Railroad Administration, the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, and the Tourist Railway Association, Inc.

For the interest of FRONZ members, the current 300-pages requirements of all the USA states for boilers and pressure vessels can also be accessed via the Internet here

<http://www.nationalboard.org/SiteDocuments/NB-370.pdf>

Many thanks Alan, for forwarding these references

CONSERVATION OF LARGE METAL OBJECTS DISPLAYED OUTDOORS : SEMINARS

A Series of 2-day Seminars being run by Te Papa Museum Te Paerangi Services is scheduled as below :

[Whangarei](#) 17–18 February, 9am–4pm, Whangarei Museum & Kiwi House Heritage Park

[Waiouru](#) 20–21 February, 9am–4pm, National Army Museum Te Mata Toa

[Blenheim](#) 24–25 February, 9am–4pm, Brayshaw Heritage Park

[Taieri](#) 27–28 February, 9am–4pm, Taieri Historical Park

Costs are \$ 50. Bookings Essential. Details Freephone **0508 678 743**

Please register with Tamara Patten: email tamarap@tepapa.govt.nz or call 04 381 7246. Please provide your name, position, organisation, and contact details, and specify which workshop you would like to attend.

CRACKDOWN ON POKIE MACHINE OPERATORS

The Dominion Post 8TH February 2010

The Government's gambling watchdog is promising a crackdown on the billion-dollar pokie industry, saying many organisations are running "rorts" and pocketing gambling money that should go to legitimate community groups.

The Internal Affairs Department gambling compliance unit is also worried operators are cooking the books and over-claiming expenses such as electricity, insurance, security and staff costs for the pubs and clubs where they keep the pokies.

In the latest move, the country's biggest gaming charity, New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT), has been forced to turn off its pokie machines for a day, on January 11, losing a day's earnings of \$290,000, after Internal Affairs auditors questioned its expense claims. Internal Affairs gambling compliance acting director Heather McShane said this was a "very serious" penalty.

Each year, \$1.3 billion is gambled away in pokie machines. There are nearly 20,000 pokie machines in 1486 pubs and clubs across the country. Gaming machines can only be run by non-commercial bodies to raise money for community groups. The societies that run them, and the pubs and clubs that host them, can only claim actual, reasonable and necessary costs. Ms McShane said the department was worried at the potential for inflated expenses to be paid to venues. Almost all operators recently audited had failed to supply all the documents to support venue payments. NZCT chief executive Mike Knell said he was confident none of the venues were claiming inflated expenses, but that "some of the documentation was not kept afresh". "We've got to accept some liability there."

NZCT made \$105 million last year from pokie machines, and gives \$41m - 39 per cent of proceeds - to community groups.

The department has moved to better regulate the venue costs for pokie operators, with a new form for recording costs due out this year. It is also concerned about rorts that see people who run the machines or own the pokie pubs channelling money into their own pockets or their own clubs. Last year, the department took action against three gaming societies for granting pokies funds to four trotting clubs after investigating conflicts of interest between the societies, the trotting clubs and the pokie venues. Other investigations are ongoing, Ms McShane said.

Gambling compliance director Mike Hill wrote of his concerns in the latest issue of the Internal Affairs magazine Gambits. "Unfortunately, what we have discovered tends to support the view that many individuals and operators within the sector capture gambling money, either for personal gain or particular interest groups. "As we move into 2010, we will pay attention to these rorts."

Graham Aitken, from the Problem Gambling Foundation, congratulated the department for getting "stuck in" and said pokies caused a huge amount of suffering among problem gamblers. "Eighty per cent of people who present to the help services have a problem with the pokie machines. "We know they're dangerous machines."

POKIE FACTS

- * Gaming machines are run by non-commercial organisations to raise money for the community.
- * There are nearly 20,000 pokie machines in New Zealand. Each makes \$47,520 a year.
- * \$2.5 million is lost every day in pokie machines
- * In every \$1 gambled, 87 cents is returned to players.
- * Of the proceeds, a minimum 37 per cent must be returned to the community.

HISTORIC PLACES TRUST REVIEW ANNOUNCED

New Zealand Government Press Release 27 Jan 2010

Preliminary findings of the 2009 review of the New Zealand Historic Places Act will help to focus the Historic Places Trust on its significant regulatory responsibilities while providing opportunities for more effective advocacy in local communities, Arts Culture and Heritage Minister Christopher Finlayson announced today.

The National Party arts, culture and heritage policy during the 2008 election campaign promised a review of the Historic Places Act. The Ministry for Culture and Heritage is undertaking the review and the Government is considering changes to the way the New Zealand Historic Places Trust operates, as well as archaeological consenting processes.

"The Government intends for the Historic Places Trust to focus on its important regulatory role while allowing for better advocacy in local communities," Mr Finlayson said. "The Trust has been a Crown entity since 2005, and exercises significant regulatory powers to effectively protect and preserve heritage sites on behalf of the Crown, which contributes around 80% of its funding."

The review confirmed the Trust will remain a mass membership organisation providing access to heritage sites and education (the Trust currently has about 23,000 subscriber members, who contribute around 5% of its funding). However, the new arrangement would clarify the respective roles of the Trust and its membership. Under the proposals local branch committees, which are involved in advocacy by members, would be disestablished. The Trust will discuss with branch committees ways in which new arrangements might be put in place for local heritage advocacy.

"Separating the local advocacy interests of branch committees from the regulatory functions of the Trust along the lines of the British model means better outcomes for both," Mr Finlayson said. "For example, local activists will not be constrained by having to work within the priority-setting framework of a Crown entity."

The size of the Trust's national board would be reduced from nine members to eight. All members of the new board would be appointed by Government. Currently, three positions are elected by the wider membership of the Trust. The preliminary review concluded that this change would clear up confused accountabilities on the board. Letters have been sent to all members and branch committee chairs advising them of the proposed changes, and meetings will be held with committees across the country to discuss and present the changes.

ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON FREE PUBLICITY ?

We've mentioned here before that National Services, National Museum of NZ, has a free website on which to list your Museum or Museum activities. It seems not many of our Members are listening as only FOUR (out of 70) FRONZ member organisations have thus far taken advantage to list under the "RAIL" category. . Congratulations

Paekakariki Rail & Heritage Museum
Glenbrook Vintage Railway
Ocean Beach Railway &
Ormondville Railway Museum

for being switched on.:

For the rest of you, please visit <http://www.nzmuseums.co.nz/>

They even have a freephone at 0508 678 743. or Email: natserv@tepapa.govt.nz

FRONZ hopes that we can report a huge uptake in the numbers of Members utilising this service. Sometimes we don't need to look too far to find help at an economic price !

In a “Special Update” dated early February, the Commission made special mention that >

All charities registered with the Commission are required to file an [Annual Return](#) (form available at http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/forms/form_4.pdf) within six months of their balance date. **Failing to file your Annual Return can lead to deregistration and the resulting loss of tax exempt status.**

It is important to complete your Annual Return form as accurately as possible, because the information provided is uploaded onto the Charities Register and helps the public to make better-informed decisions about supporting their favoured charities.

Annual Return information also contributes to relevant and specific data about the charitable sector and its work, used to help government decision-making about the sector.

An example of the data now becoming available from the Register and Annual Returns filed by charities is the recently released [A snapshot of New Zealand’s charitable sector](#).

See http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets/stats.htm

This is the first time that such specific information “from charities, about charities”, has been available.

The snapshot provides a detailed picture of who is involved in the charitable sector in New Zealand, what they are doing, and who they are helping. It also gives clear indications of the significance and contribution of the New Zealand charitable sector, both to our economy and to our society as a whole.

FRONZ has previously made mention of the new PAYROLL GIVING tax relief that is now available. The Charities Commission has this to say >

The start of the New Year brought with it the introduction of payroll giving. It is a voluntary scheme that – if offered by their employer – enables employees to make donations directly from their pay to a chosen “donee organisation”.

People who donate through payroll giving receive immediate tax credits relating to the donations they make each payday.

Before signing up to Payroll giving, the Commission (and Inland Revenue, who administer the scheme) are encouraging members of the public to visit the [Charities Register](#) at <http://www.register.charities.govt.nz/CharitiesRegister/> to find more information about their charity or charities of choice.

It’s a good reason to make sure that your entry on the Register remains as accurate and up to date as possible. We suggest you check your entry from time to time to be sure your information remains up to date. We also suggest making sure you file your Annual Return on or before the due date, as these are also visible to the public.

For more information about the scheme’s possible impact on your charity, read the information sheet http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets/new%20info%20sheets/HOW_PAYROLL_JAN10.pdf

There are six occasions when charities *must* file a [Notice of Change](#) – you must tell us if you change your:

- § name
- § address for service
- § balance date
- § rules
- § purposes
- § officers (including new appointments).

A form is available here > http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/forms/form_3.pdf

Fair Trading While Fundraising

The Fair Trading (Soliciting on Behalf of Charities) Amendment Bill would require people who fundraise for charities to make sure consumers know a portion of any donation will be held back to cover fees. If more than half the donation goes to the fundraiser, they will be compelled to tell the donor the amount. Any fundraising carried out directly by charities using their own employees/volunteers will not be affected.

Go for Payroll Giving

The payroll giving scheme offering workers the chance to make ongoing charitable donations is now available to all employers who file their employer monthly schedules electronically.

With the scheme, employers deduct the donation from workers' pay, reduce their PAYE tax by the appropriate tax credit at the time (rather than at the end of the tax year), and send the donation to the chosen organisation/s.

More about payroll giving is at www.ird.govt.nz

Something for Nothing

The December issue of "Insight" from the NZ Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) looks at what motivates people to volunteer their time. The report includes a table explaining the three broad motivations for volunteering: consumption (the "here and now", the enjoyment and benefits of volunteering); investment (the future rewards from investing today's volunteer hours); and altruism (a genuine selfless act benefiting others).

The article is at

http://www.nzier.org.nz/Site/Publications/NZIER_Insight.aspx

Lottery Regional Community Committees

Lottery Community consists of 11 regional committees and one national committee. Funding is available for projects, activities, resources or services that have a community/social service focus, for example developmental or preventative projects, and welfare and support services.

Applications close on 1 March 2010. More is at

http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/availablegrants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_14

Community Facilities Fund

The Lottery Community Facilities Committee makes grants for projects to build/improve community facilities that support participation in community activities and social interaction. The aim is to foster cohesion and strengthen communities.

Applications close on 5 March 2010. More is at

http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/availablegrants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_24

Environment and Heritage Committee

This committee makes grants for projects that promote, protect and conserve NZ's natural, physical, and cultural heritage.

Applications close on 19 March 2010. More is at

http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/availablegrants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_7

Effective Charities

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

- is clear about its purposes and direction;
- has a strong board;
- has the right people for its activities;
- shows fitness for purpose;
- maintains a focus on learning and improving;
- is sound and prudent; and
- is accountable and transparent.

More is at www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets/qualeff.htm

Historic Place Trust: Changes

Following a review last year the Historic Places Trust's will focus more on its regulatory work of protecting and preserving heritage sites on behalf of the Crown (which contributes around 80% of its funding), rather than local heritage advocacy. Its national board will be reduced from nine members to eight, all of, whom will be appointed by Government (currently, three positions are elected by the wider membership of the Trust). Local branch committees will be disestablished.

The Trust currently has about 23,000 subscriber members who contribute around 5% of its funding.

An Older Population...

The estimated resident population of NZ was 4,331,600 at 30 September 2009, up by 51,700 (1.2%) in the September 2009 year, the highest growth in three years. What was also interesting was that the higher growth compared with the September 2008 year was due to increased net migration.

Over the last decade the proportion of children (aged 0–14 years) has fallen from 23% to 21%, while the proportion of people aged 15–39 years has fallen from 37% to 34%. In contrast, the proportion of people aged 40–64 years has increased, from 29% to 32%, and the proportion aged 65 years and over is also up, from 12% to 13%. The median age at death was 77 years for males and 83 years for females.

A One-Stop Event Shop

Two NZ online event calendar websites - privately operated Eventfinder and government-operated NZLive.com - are to combine their 162,000 and 85,000 visitors per month respectively under the Eventfinder name. The move means artists and arts organisations will gain maximum exposure by entering their events at no cost in one place (and have them appear in many places); and consumers here and overseas need to visit just one site where they can find out what's on. The events information will go to a number of other websites, including Stuff, the NZ Herald, Yahoo!Xtra, MSN NZ, AA Travel, Jasons, Tourism NZ, Air NZ and the MetService.

IN MEMORIAM : RECENT DEPARTURES



DON ASHFORD

Pictured above is the late Don Ashford who passed away on 27 December 2009, aged 77. Don had little time for any other passions than railway subjects and was dedicated for decades, especially to narrow-gauge lines, where he successfully guided the Waitakere Tramway Society ("Dam Tram") and the Victoria Battery Tramway Society in their earlier days. When living in Waihi, Don also became attached to the Goldfields Railway where he was a reliable powerhouse behind many projects. His loss will be felt widely.

Don attended number of FRONZ Conferences and capably represented the narrower-gauge railways with whom he bonded so well. To his friends in those members he served FRONZ extends its condolences.

(Thanks to Waitakere Tramway Society for the photograph)



TOM MCGAVIN

The man most refer to as the doyen and instigator of the organised rail enthusiast communities in New Zealand, Thomas McGavin of Lower Hutt, passed away on Sunday 7 February 2010, in his 90th year. Tom and a handful of others first started the NZ Railway Correspondence Society back in 1944, the genesis of today's NZ Railway & Locomotive Society. As founding Editor of the "NZ Railway Observer" (a role he held for a stunning 54 years) and renowned author of dozens of historic books on NZ railways subjects, Tom was uniquely placed as Manager of NZ Railways Publicity & Advertising Branch to source material. To his many relatives, friends and colleagues we extend our deepest sympathy and record our thanks for his huge legacy to NZ's rail history in the form of the Thomas McGavin Archive at Ava, Lower Hutt.

(Photograph courtesy NZR&LS Archives, Lower Hutt)



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CONTENTS MAY BE REPRODUCED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT