



# JOURNAL

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## COULD FITNESS FOR DUTY BE AN ISSUE ON YOUR RAILWAY OR TRAMWAY ?

Staffing a heritage rail operation can be quite demanding as we all seem only too aware .... Or are we ?. It is nearly always a team effort that produces the best results, and few tasks are just a one-man or woman job.

In one or two cases reported recently, there may have been an element of not wanting to let other members of the team down by reporting ill, when, as it turned out, that might have been the right call.

A shunting operation being carried out in a small Yard is cited as one recent case in point. A normally very attentive driver failed to respond to hand signals. Fortunately, it wasn't that the locomotive failed to stop. In this case, it failed to move.

Upon investigation it was found that the operator had collapsed onto the floor, and was ill enough to warrant an ambulance being called to take him off for urgent medical attention. We don't know the circumstances, other than that the patient apparently reported having had a recent bout of dysentery which had left him weak and dehydrated. Had the locomotive been moving when he collapsed, the result could have been much more of a disaster.

In an earlier significant incident, also this year, a crew member on a heritage passenger train collapsed and died whilst on duty. In this case, the deceased' role was that of a carriage attendant. The Train Manager and all on-board crew dealt with the matter judiciously and professionally, but needless to say they (and some passengers), were all shocked not only by the event, but the loss of an esteemed and well-regarded colleague.

The message is that whilst unforeseen events can happen, you can do your bit by not pushing the boundaries on health issues and potentially endangering yourself and your team mates, as well as those who rely on your well-being and judgement, for their safety.

## 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](http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets/qualeff.htm)

By early next week your Email should include a post from Paul Dillicar with full details of our 2010 Conference, being held 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June at Travelodge Hotel, Palmerston North, with registration on Friday evening, 4<sup>th</sup> June.

We've introduced some new topics in our presentations, as well as the traditional favourites like the Rail Regulator's session, and the Convenors' Discussion Forum. New topics include a session with the FRONZ Insurance Broker, Emissions Trading issues, some interesting observations on "Heritage in the Modern Railway", and the wonderful new DoC "Banbury Mine" Project. We're also introducing an International flavour with presentations by speakers from heritage railway organisations in Japan and Australia, plus some offerings from the International Rail Heritage Conference held in Ipswich, Queensland last October. A Guest speaker bound to be listened to intently, is Jim Quinn, KiwiRail CEO.

This year, there are less restrictions on space, so we can take more delegates. We are essentially looking for people who are able to attend all Conference Sessions and so the subsidies we are able to offer to participants through the generosity of Cornerstone Sponsor, NZ Transport Agency and our partner, the Department of Conservation, will apply only to those people. Nonetheless, partners and part-time observers are welcome at higher prices, and are being offered a ride on the special FRONZ Steam-hauled train to Pahiatua at less than public prices. The 2010 Awards Dinner will be held in Feilding. Be careful to specify if you need our Coaches.

We are offering ONE coach of 45-seats between Pahiatua and Featherston (connecting with a Wellington train) after conference. This is **strictly** on a first-come first-served basis. Others will return on the train to Palmerston North. The train is complimentary to FULL-TIME Delegates, thanks to Feilding & Districts Steam Rail Society.

We've made a few changes to the format, dictated by 2010 circumstances, but which we believe will improve the flow of events & help Networking. The session for Mainline operators will be held on Saturday afternoon (restricted to 2-hours). At that time, other delegates are being offered a ride on the Esplanade Scenic Railway.

Closing date for Accommodation Bookings via FRONZ at our special rates is 30<sup>th</sup> April.  
Closing date for Registration is 31<sup>st</sup> May to allow for completion of catering arrangements.

The FRONZ Executive has decided FRONZ should become eligible for Charitable status, and we will therefore be proposing some minor Rule Changes to our Constitution at the AGM. ( *Details of what is proposed will appear in the AGM Notice* ). We propose that subs and levies be held at current levels (but probably only for another year unless funding can be increased).

The Programme we initially publish may be subject to minor alterations as time for Conference nears as one or two presenters have yet to confirm the time they will be available to present their Papers. Stay tuned to "JOURNAL" and when the registrations open next week, please be ready to make your bookings.

## **TRACK FIXTURES & FITTINGS**

We've experienced sudden upsurge in members maintaining and building heritage railways who have expressed deep concern about the lack of availability of track fixtures and fittings. One member alone has a wish list including : 100 number 70lb OB Fishplates; 100 number 70lb RB Fishplates; 800 number 70/72 fishplate bolts; 100 number 70lb Flat Bedplates; 100 number 70lb Canted Bedplates; 5 sets 70lb OB LH/RH Heel Blocks ; 5 sets 70lb RB LH/RH Heel Blocks; 2 sets 70lb OB LHL/LHS and RHS/RHL Double Slip Heelblocks; 2 # 1:7 1/2 70lb OB Frogs; 2 # 1:7 1/2 70lb RB Frogs; 4 sets 70lb OB 12' LH /RH Point Blades; 4 sets 70lb RB 12' LH/RH Point Blades; ....and so on

Contractors "recovering" or demolishing track-sets have been noted "gas cutting either right at the point of the switch or at the frog blocks, rendering the turnout completely useless....."

In order to gauge the extent of the problem and to consider even bulk-ordering special runs of bolts, fishplates and so on, together with an official approach to KiwiRail, would members who have a contribution to make to this discussion, or who have a "wish list" similar to the one above, please contact [dillicar@ihug.co.nz](mailto:dillicar@ihug.co.nz)

It may take some time before we have any answers to this problem !.

## ADDRESS CHANGES & UPDATES

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Otago Excursion Train Trust  
P O Box 2269  
South Dunedin 9044

Chairman : Trevor Buchanan  
Mail address: 18 Bush Road, Mosgiel  
email: [sierranz@es.co.nz](mailto:sierranz@es.co.nz)

Victoria Battery Tramway Society

*add this Email address*

GM : Mike Lathwell - 07-863-6169

[eilmik@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:eilmik@vodafone.co.nz)

## WANTED

From Mike Lathwell at Victoria Battery Tramway : could you please help me ? I am looking for a set of contacts for a BEV mine loco. Do you know of anyone who can help me obtain a set of these please?  
Reply to [eilmik@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:eilmik@vodafone.co.nz)

## AVAILABLE

This steam dome cover is available for sale or trade from

Oamaru Steam Rail Society.

Please contact George King if interested at

[letterbox51@gmail.com](mailto:letterbox51@gmail.com),



## MEASURE YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Envirostep is a web-based assessment tool that has been developed to help organisations determine their environmental performance. It provides:

- an environmental performance score and profile;
- recommendations for ways to reduce operating costs, environmental impacts & risk;
- an action plan; and
- over 300 links to other environmental tools, service providers & further information.

Envirostep is at: <http://www.eco-verification.med.govt.nz/envirostep>

## IPHONE CPR APPLICATION


St John and Marker have released a free iPhone application which could help you save a life. This CPR application is the first of its kind developed for NZ. The application reminds users of the steps in CPR. The information can be used at anytime to review CPR or to assist anyone helping a collapsed patient requiring CPR.

Information about first aid courses and an option to book a first aid course online can be found at [www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz)

*From the Charities Commission*

If you're a donee organisation, how do your receipts measure up ? Will your donors be able to quickly make a successful claim at the end of the year ?

You can help them by issuing valid receipts – like the example below:

<b>RECEIPT</b>		ABC Charity Inc	No 58
IRD number	12-345-678		
Date	10 / 2 / 2010		
Received from	Ben Smyth		
The sum of	Fifty dollars (donation)		
			
Signed	J. Benson		
Cheque	\$	/	
Cash	\$	50-00	
Total	\$	50-00	

Please note what you **must have** on your receipt to enable your donor to claim:

- § The date the receipt is issued
- § The donor's full name
- § The amount donated
- § Confirmation that the payment was a donation
- § The signature of an authorised person
- § The official stamp of the donee organisation. (Not needed if the receipt is printed on the organisation's official letterhead.)

**Now the 'nice to haves':**

It's a good idea to make sure the name of your organisation appearing on your receipts matches the name recorded in Inland Revenue's list of donee organisations. Consistent use of your name will help Inland Revenue's checking process, and may result in your contributor getting their tax credit sooner.

Including your organisation's IRD number and/or Charities Commission registration number on the receipt will also help speed up the checking process.

**YOU MUST ADVISE THE CHARITIES COMMISSION IF** *You are a Registered Charity and .....*

There are six occasions when charities must file a [Notice of Change](#) with the Commission and these are if the name of the organisation changes, the address for service changes, there is a change of officer or officers, the balance date for the charity has changed or there is a change to the rules or purposes of the organisation. By filing a Notice of Change and keeping your details up to date, it helps to maintain the integrity of the Register, and you can be sure that donors and supporters can find accurate information that they can rely on when searching for details about your charity.



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 CONTENTS MAY BE REPRODUCED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT