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FESTIVE WISHES

The members of the FRONZ Executive extend wishes for a joyous festive season to all in the heritage rail fraternity.

May the coming year bring you happiness and prosperity.

Bay of Islands Vintage Railway's Gabriel and Santa take part in Kawakawa's Christmas Parade. Is this unique in NZ? Photo—BOIVR Newsletter

NZTA SYMPOSIUMS

The NZTA is proposing to hold symposiums for rail operators in the new year. The question they have asked of FRONZ is how and what do we want them to discuss?

Now is your opportunity to ask for those vexatious subjects that you can't quite get to grips with (eg risk management).

The feedback they are looking for includes:-

- What topics do you want discussed?
- How many days, one or two?
- Concentrate the symposiums in a few larger centres (with better resources) or spread them out to get as many operators as possible?
- Have a comprehensive bash at two or three topics or once over lightly of many?

Please send your answers to secretary@fronz.org.nz by 31 Jan 2011.

UTILITIES ACCESS ACT 2010

This Act controls the interaction between Utility Operators and transport corridors

Last year FRONZ made submissions to the Bill stating that we found the provisions in the draft onerous on our members and (in some clauses) unworkable. It was obvious that the Bill's drafters assumed that there was only one railway in NZ. The Select Committee agreed with much of our submission and proposed numerous changes.

The amended Act became law in August this year and bears no resemblance to the original. It takes 18 clauses to say that there will be a Code of Practice (and that everyone has to comply). It also states that the preparers of the CoP must consult with all operators likely to be affected.

The NZ Utilities Advisory Group is writing the CoP. Once again, they assumed that there is only one railway in NZ until KiwiRail told them otherwise. (KiwiRail also told them that the railway section that KR is involved in writing **does not** apply to other railways.)

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The Advisory Group were horrified to find out from NZTA that there are 90 rail operators in NZ and their first thought was to exempt all other railways but were told by the government that they can't.

The Group's Executive Officer then contacted FRONZ and we have agreed that, once they reach agreement with KiwiRail they will come back to us to draft a joint policy for FRONZ members. Hopefully we can come to an agreement that satisfies all our members. (Just how they will consult with the 40+ private siding operators is anybody's guess.)

HISTORIC PHOTOS ADDED TO HERITAGE DATABASE

Royal visits, soldiers departing for war and Auckland scenes and events from 1935 to 1944 are among the 15,645 photographs recently added to Auckland Libraries' Heritage Images Online database. The newly digitised images have been sourced from supplements of the Auckland Weekly News published during this time.

Heritage Images Online can be accessed through Auckland Libraries website at www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz

RAIL SAFETY UPDATE

The Summer 2010/2011 issue of the NZTA's Rail Safety Update can be found at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/rail-safety-news/index.html>

Of note in the newsletter:

- A new Police Level Crossing Complaint Form which can be used by all operators (not just national network).
- NZTA is calling for suggestions for a new catchy name for the newsletter.

BALLOON FUNNEL FOR SALE

For Sale Balloon Funnel formally fitted to C 132. Constructed of Stainless steel and in excellent condition. Open to offers. Please contact General Manager Jason Durry, General Manager, Silver Stream Railway at jasondurry@clear.net.nz.



Left—Brayshaw Park Station, Blenheim Riverside railway. Before and after.



Below—Co-operation. KiwiRail's DCP loco turns at Weka Pass's Glenmark Station.



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