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PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITOR BY E-MAIL : secretary@fronz.org.nz

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DUNEDIN STEAM FESTIVAL 2012

To commemorate the centennial of the TSS Earnslaw various heritage and historic organizations in Dunedin are coming together at Labour Weekend to hold the Dunedin Steam Festival. Programme of events and other information can be found at <http://www.steamfestival.org.nz/>

PREVENTING FALLS PROJECT ENTERS PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT STAGE

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 25 July 2012

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has launched a project to raise awareness about working safely at height and reduce the human and financial toll caused by falls from height. The Preventing Falls from Height project focuses on ladder and roof safety in the construction sector.

"Builders, roofers, electrical workers, painters and decorators are the most likely to fall from height and get seriously hurt while they are working," says Francois Barton, the Labour Group's Manager – Harm Reduction.

The Best Practice Guidelines for Working at Height were released earlier this year and since 1 July 2012 health and safety inspectors have been visiting worksites to target enforcement where there is significant visible non-compliance.

"These visits are not at random. Inspectors use information and knowledge from various sources to target duty holders and worksites. **They will challenge any workplace that supports a view that no height hazard exists below three metres,**" Mr Barton says.

Inspectors will be assessing if equipment and workplace practices comply with the HSE Act and are adequate to prevent falls from height. Compliance will be assessed across three key areas:

- Hazard management (including hazard identification and control)
- Selection, use and maintenance of equipment
- Systems for the selection and control of contractors.

Health and safety inspectors will stop any work at height not being carried out safely and will not allow the work to carry on until they are happy that the job can be completed safely.

"Investigations into construction falls from height show more than 50 percent of falls are from less than three metres and most of those are off ladders and single-storey roofs," says Mr Barton.

"Everyone has a part to play in preventing falls. The principal, the self-employed contractor and the subcontractor, the employer and the worker each have a responsibility to ensure we cut the human and financial cost of these preventable accidents. All aspects of working safely at height should be considered. Doing nothing is not an option," says Mr Barton.

Information about the [proactive enforcement approach](#) can be found on our website. More information about the [Preventing Falls from Height Project](#).

If you would like to talk to someone about the Preventing Falls from Height project or notify the Ministry about unsafe work practices while working at height contact the Labour Group on 0800 20 90 20.

REVIEW OF SEVEN COMMUNITY FUNDING SCHEMES

Seven non-departmental funding schemes are currently being reviewed. They are the Community Development Scheme (CDS), the Community Internship Programme (CIP), Support for Volunteering Fund (SVF), Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS), Digital Literacy and Connection (DLC), Disarmament Education Grants (DEG), and the Youth Workers Training Scheme (YWTS).

CIP funding (currently \$331,000) is to be reduced by 30% - a drop of \$100,000, and this amount will go to the Support for Volunteering Fund.

It is proposed that the seven organisations be merged into one, although the COGS scheme and community-led development initiatives (those the Department of Internal Affairs is piloting in five communities) are likely to be ring-fenced.

The results of the review will be reported back in November 2012.

A Cabinet Paper is at [http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/vwluResources/publications-CabinetPaperReprioritisingFunding/\\$file/CabinetPaperReprioritisingFunding.pdf](http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/vwluResources/publications-CabinetPaperReprioritisingFunding/$file/CabinetPaperReprioritisingFunding.pdf)

Source: Rural Women NZ—Bulletin Aotearoa

RESTORATION OF PASSCHENDAELE

The “News” page of the Passchendaele Society records progress on the restoration of Ab608 by Steam Incorporated. The Society exists to remember NZ’s darkest day, the Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium, and to provide a channel to e-sources and resources on the First World War.

Ab608 was named Passchendaele “in memory of all those members of the New Zealand Railways who fell in the Great War” and the Society hopes it can be one of the highlights of the World War One Commemoration Programme in 2014 to 2018. More at <http://passchendaelesociety.org/news/>

IPENZ HERITAGE NEWS

The “News & Events” page of the Engineering Heritage NZ website of the Institution of Professional Engineers NZ carries several items of interest.

Included on the page are the following (plus links to more information):-

Trainspotters' last chance

Hear Euan McQueen (former Chairman of the New Zealand Rail Heritage Trust) on Radio New Zealand talking about Wellington's 74 year old English Electric Trains, only recently taken out of service.

Kiss of life for old railway

The Taranaki Daily News recently featured an article on an exciting tourism venture that will revitalise the disused railway between Stratford and Taumarunui.

Celebrating the 150 year anniversary of Drury tramway

In early May the IPENZ Engineering Heritage Auckland Chapter participated in the celebration of Drury's 1862 tramway and heard about its history.

New United Kingdom railway Virtual Archive

Network Rail in the United Kingdom has recently launched its website's Virtual Archive. This digital collection means you can learn more about the history of Britain's rail network through archival material, like the original drawings for the Forth Rail Bridge and many other structures.

New to the IPENZ Engineering Heritage Register

- Kopu Bridge, Waihou River
- Makohine Viaduct, North Island Main Trunk railway
- Raurimu Spiral, North Island Main Trunk railway

Engineering sites recently added to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust register

- Willowbank Railway Windmill and Water Tank
- Cargill's Castle
- Bullendale Hydro Electric Dynamo and Mining Site

The “News and Events” page can be viewed at <http://www.ipenz.org.nz/heritage/events.cfm>

MEAT WAGON LOOKING FOR A HOME

Recently the Bush Tramway Club was contacted by a person who has for disposal a Meat wagon (less wheels) free to anybody who wishes to take it away. It has been used as storage on a life style block for approx 20 years. The wagon is located at Matangi just out of Hamilton. Access to it is good with plenty of room for a Hiab truck to pick it up.



Bruce McLuckie, Chairman of the BTC, has offered to find out if Railway groups or individuals would be interested in this vehicle.

Bruce reports that three sides are in reasonable condition with the far side having a small bit of rotten timber. The roof has started to leak. The interior looks to be in reasonable condition. Hopefully someone might be keen.

If interested, or wanting further details, contact Bruce at pecket@xtra.co.nz



COMMUNITY LAW HANDBOOK ONLINE

The Community Law Manual has always been a valuable print resource used by community, private and public sector agencies, and by individuals, to understand common legal problems and take the first steps to solving them. Now, it is available, free-of-charge, online. By doing this, Community Law wants to ensure that high-quality, accessible, plain English legal information can be accessed and shared freely throughout the community. Community Law's longer-term goal is to create a community business model (where those who pay for the printed copy are directly helping those who cannot afford the printed version) which sees the release of a new and improved edition of the Manual each year, to respond directly to the community's needs and styles of accessing information.

In the immediate future, new chapters will be written, including about Maori legal issues, legal issues for charities, a benefit rights chapter, and a chapter on immigration law. There will soon be a Community Law Manual smartphone app.

The printed manual is available directly from Wellington Community Law Centre by emailing info@wclc.org.nz and is available for free online at www.communitylaw.org.nz

Source: Rural Women NZ—Bulletin Aotearoa

NZTA RAIL SAFETY UPDATE

The August 2012 edition is now available at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/rail-safety-news/docs/rail-safety-update-issue-11.pdf>

Item of interest include

- Guideline on the procedures to be followed when updating your drug and alcohol policy
- A reminder about taking care before starting any equipment or locomotives that emit fumes in enclosed spaces such as loco sheds.
- The return of John Freeman, Manager, Rail Systems from secondment.

BATTERY DO'S AND DON'TS

A recent battery explosion at KiwiRail has led Ben Calcott of the Rimutaka Incline Railway Heritage Trust to compile the following information for the Trust management. The explosion occurred in a standby battery and it is thought that an internal connection failed when the starting load was applied and ignited the gas in the battery. Two employees were showered with acid and suffered ringing in their ears for several hours. Had they been closer their injuries could have been much worse. (Taieri Gorge Railway had a similar explosion several years ago when a DE loco battery failed in a similar fashion, fortunately without injury.)

Ben's recommendations for the Trust are as follows:

1. The Trust should be installing all lead acid batteries in a battery box (I'm told they cost \$18 for standalone applications but most of our rail vehicles have battery boxes already) to reduce the risk to volunteers, visitors and property around the batteries in the event of a failure.
2. The Trust may also want to look into ensuring that there is eyewash in the first aid kit at site for use in the event of an incident.
3. The Trust should remind people about safely handling batteries and wearing the correct PPE.

Recommended safety equipment when working with batteries:

- Use non-vented safety goggles or a Face shield
- Wear acid resistant gloves (neoprene is sufficient)
- Wear an apron (If there is a potential to spill acid)
- Steel-toe boots or foot guards if the battery is lifted

Lead-Acid battery Basics:

- The electrolyte is a generally a solution of sulphuric acid and water. This solution can cause chemical burns to the skin and especially to the eyes.
- During normal operation, water is lost from a non-sealed (or flooded) battery due to evaporation.
- During charging, lead acid batteries produce hydrogen and oxygen gases (highly flammable/explosive) as electrolysis occurs.

Many lead acid explosions are believed to occur when electrolytes are below the plates in the battery and thus, allowing space for hydrogen/oxygen to accumulate. When the battery is engaged, it may create a spark that ignites the accumulated gases and causes the battery to explode.

Some Recommended Precautions:

- Always store or recharge batteries in a well-ventilated area away from sparks or open flames
- Use only chargers that are designed for the battery being charged.
- Always keep lead acid battery vent caps securely in place.
- If acid gets into your eyes, flush immediately with water for 15 minutes, and then promptly seek medical attention.
- If acid gets on your skin, rinse the affected area immediately with large amounts of water. Seek medical attention if the chemical burns appears to be a second degree or greater.
- Neutralise spilled or splashed sulphuric acid solution with a baking soda solution, and rinse the spill area with clean water.

What to do when working with batteries:

- Keep metal tools and jewellery away from the battery.
- Inspect for defective cables, loose connections, corroded cable connectors or battery terminals, cracked cases or covers, loose hold-down clamps and deformed or loosed terminal posts.
- Replace worn or unserviceable parts.
- Check the state of charge of non-sealed and sealed batteries with an accurate digital voltmeter while the load is not running, and lights and other electrically-powered equipment are turned off. Also check the electrolyte levels and specific gravity in each cell of non-sealed batteries.
- Follow the battery manufacturer's recommendations about when to recharge or replace batteries.
- Tighten cable clamp nuts with the proper size wrench. Avoid subjecting battery terminals to excessive twisting forces.

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- Use a cable puller to remove a cable clamp from the battery terminal.
- Remove corrosion on the terminal posts, hold-down tray and hold-down parts.
- When battery cables are removed, ensure that they are clearly marked "positive" and "negative" so that they are reconnected with the correct polarity.
- Use a battery carrier to lift a battery, or place hands at opposite corners. Remember batteries are heavy so practice safe lifting and carrying procedures to prevent back injuries

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Otago Excursion Train Trust

Congratulations to the OETT which won the Supreme Award for the Otago region in the 2012 TrustPower Volunteer Awards. The OETT will now represent Otago at the final awards selection at the Bay of Islands in March 2013.

The winning of the regional award is a public recognition of the huge contribution that the volunteer members of the OETT in the hosting of the many charter trains run by the Taieri Gorge Railway for the cruise ships which call at Port Chalmers. This fact was highlighted at the award ceremony by the speakers presenting the Supreme Award to the OETT. References were made that the hosts on these cruise ship trains were 'ambassadors for the City of Dunedin' and that the expanding cruise ship market has 'continuing financial advantages for business sector in the city'.

Steam Rail Wanganui

The Society's newsletter reports that a significant event happened recently when, after weeks of freeing up the engine on the old East Town Steam Crane, a compressor was hired and ran the crane's engine for the first time since it was written off when the East Town Workshops closed in 1988. This included lifting the hook and boom up and down as well as turning it from side to side a little bit.



Although there is still a lot of work to be done with the crane it was surprising how freely it ran considering how long it's been stored, especially with a lot of that time outside in the weather.

Photos: Blair Jordan?

Tramway Historical Society

Remember those glorious days when you went to the pictures by tram?

Members were treated to something of the past when they travelled to Graeme Johnson's picturesque little theatrette for an evening of films

Source: Tracts; Photo: Roy Sinclair



MORE NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Ferrymead Railway

Branchlines reports the return to Ferrymead of Dm 27 from its sojourn in Wellington.

Unfortunately room in the carriage shed is once again at a premium, a situation which will hopefully be corrected once the Rail Museum is constructed.

Right—Dm 27 moves gingerly back onto Ferrymead metals.

Photo: D Hansen



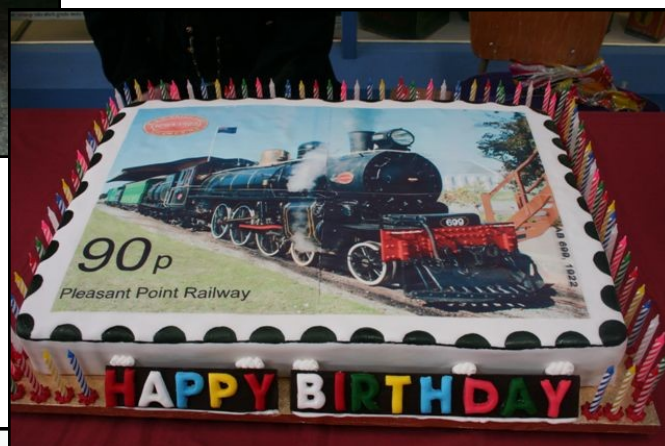
Pleasant Point Railway

On Saturday 18th August the railway had a 90th birthday party for Ab699 with public running during the afternoon and evening.

Left—Night running

Below—The unusual birthday cake.

Photos: Bryan Blanchard



Steam Incorporated

Steam Inc have continued their 40th Anniversary them with an open weekend



Sunday saw Da 1431 parked up on display with the long hood doors opened along one side to display the inner workings of the locomotive, and periodically the locomotive was fired up. Here Peter Steer explains some of the finer mechanical details about the 567C-equipped Da 1431.

Da 1431 will shortly be heading south for the SI leg of the South by North Railtour.

Photo: John Bovis

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