



Turntable

The bi-monthly Newsletter for members of the
New Zealand Railway and Locomotive Society Inc

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Member, Federation of
Rail Organisations of New Zealand

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As you read this message you, like myself, will be in lock down and adjusting to life in your bubble. I trust all is going well and that you are making the most of your time.

As a result of the Government directed lock down, our archive, and all other activities at Ava and Sliver Stream North End, have stopped until the Government advises that the nation can return to some form of normality. Like General McArthur – we will be back.

Our archivist, Mark Cole, retired from the role in early March. Mark has been having difficulties with his health and has recently shifted to a rest home in Lower Hutt. Mark has been a face of the Society for a number of years and has willingly supplied information to members during that time. We thank him for his dedicated service and will have a morning tea and a presentation once we are able to meet again.

The Society has appointed Graeme McClare as Archivist and we are pleased that he has accepted this position. Graeme has done much of the archival work at Ava in recent months and we are sure that all members will endorse this move.

At our recent Board meeting the Board decided that effective from 30 June 2021 a special subscription rate for UK members will not be offered and instead members in the UK will pay the overseas rate direct to Wellington like other overseas members do. We will be communicating direct with UK members about the changes.

The Society is trying to keep as many services operating during these challenging times and you will receive this message together with this *Observer* in electronic form. We hope you enjoy both publications. A printed format will follow later. Finally, if you have not renewed your subscription this will be the last *Observer* you receive, so please renew your membership today.

Keep safe,

Graeme Carter, President

NEW MEMBERS

We have five new members who we welcome to our Society in this issue of *Turntable*. We are pleased to greet the following:

5031	Tim Haldane	Victoria, Aust.
5032	Cindy Lewis	Hamilton
5033	Alan Upson	Onerahi, Whangarei
5034	Alexander Elzenaar,	Parnell, Auckland.
5035	Albert Voelkerling	Raetihi

Please join in with us and our activities. You are very welcome to come to meetings, to use our services and to buy our publications at the special prices we offer you as members.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Society's building at 1a North Street, Petone, is closed until further notice. Please check our Facebook page for any change of arrangements following the easing of restrictions.

This decision has been made based on the Prime Minister's announcement on 23 March.

Our accounting system and banking are carried out online, so the Society continues to run. Sandra and our team are keeping things going.

We thank everyone for your co-operation and hope that you all stay healthy and avoid the virus.

We will let you know through our Facebook page initially, when this cancellation is lifted.

For information on Groups' meetings, see the separate notice on page 4.

Graeme Carter, President

NOTICE TO UK MEMBERS

For sometime the Board has questioned the need for a separate subscription for members residing in the United Kingdom. A separate subscription was set up when it was difficult to transfer money overseas due to exchange controls, and having a fund in UK allowed the Society to purchase UK railway magazines which were circulated to members. With changing banking methods these needs no longer exist.

Effective from 1 July 2021, UK members will no longer be offered a subscription in sterling. Instead those members will be offered an overseas rate which will be in New Zealand dollars. This will bring UK members in line with our other overseas members. UK members will be asked to pay their subscriptions to Wellington, either by credit or debit card, or through Paypal. At the same time the UK bank account will be closed.

We trust UK members will still support the Society through these changes, as many of you do at present. If you feel you will have difficulties paying your subscription under these new arrangements, please contact the Society in New Zealand or our UK Representative. We want to make the changes as smooth as possible.

Colin Barry, Secretary

THOMAS McGAVIN RESEARCH GRANT

Members are reminded that the Society provides grants to authors to assist with expenses incurred on travel and accommodation during research such as interviews, obtaining images, photocopies and documents from archives, museums and other repositories. Please see our website for more information and to download an application form.

Synonym: (n) A word used in place of the one you can't spell.

PROGRESS WITH RESTORING OUR WMR CARRIAGES



This February we completed two major tasks in the restoration of WMR No. 48, a second class carriage built by the Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company in Thorndon, Wellington, 1906. Signwriting on the outside of the body was completed, as was the upholstery of the seats. See this issue of the *Observer* for fuller coverage of what has been achieved.

Another milestone was achieved early this month. The WMR had used patented safety gates developed in the USA, on the balconies of its carriages. The first of these made by our restoration team was erected on WMR 48 by Lionel Ford on Saturday, 7th. It took a number of trials to set the gate up correctly so it works as intended. We think is likely that this gate is the first of its kind to be assembled and fitted to a carriage in NZ since the WMR completed carriage No. 53 in April 1907.

There remains plenty more to do, both on 48 and on the other two carriages that we hold in our Hutt Valley workshop, WMR Nos. 42 and 52.

I take this opportunity at a landmark time to express our sincere thanks to all those people who, over the years, have contributed to our achieving this stage in the restoration of 48.

Additional volunteer workers are always welcome!

Rob. Merrifield

MEMORIAL TO LATE MEMBER RUSSELL GLENDINNING

On Saturday 22 February a memorial seat marking the life and service of our late member Russell Glendinning was unveiled in the Garston Railway Precinct by representatives of his family, Kingston Flyer Ltd., and St John Ambulance Brigade. Russell had been a member of St John for 39 years. He worked out of the bases at Lumsden, Kingston, and Queenstown. His service was recognised by the award of Officer of the Order of St John in 2005. Russell drove the *Kingston Flyer* train for his last 30 years of his working life. Russell died in 2017, when he was accorded the unusual privilege of being carried to the crematorium by train.

Heard about the electrician
who, got sacked from the U.S. prison service for not
servicing the electric chair?
He said, in his professional opinion, it was a death trap!

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

What can you tell us about the image opposite? If this was to be used as a poster, what would be a suitable description to attach below it? Suppose you want a copy, so you search the NZR&LS Archive database to find it. The database has the loco number, and the description of the image, plus the location and date. Note that there are a very large number of images of this particular loco! So what sets this particular image apart from those others?

Send an email to locoarchive@actrix.co.nz with your description and the search terms you would use to find it in a database.

DIGITISATION PROJECT

The Digitisation Working Group is planning to get a process going in the next few days to send small batches of images by email to volunteers for them to describe the images. The descriptions should include as much specific detail as possible, written as if the image were to be printed in a magazine. It should include any infrastructure, such as signals, water vats, bridges etc. which may be visible. Each batch will have a spreadsheet attached, into which the description will be written; that spreadsheet will be returned to the Archive by email.

For further information, see the Society's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/NewZealandRailwayandLocomotiveSociety>.

Bob Bevan Smith,

Convenor, NZR&LS Digitisation Working Group

WANTED MATERIALS

North End Shed will require stocks of building type timber and steel for our WMR carriages restoration project. As the work programme changes on carriage 48, planning is starting for work on No. 52.

We have had some success in finding mahogany (Honduras) and oak but nowhere near enough. Can anyone help us obtain it, please? Old furniture can sometimes yield useful stock.

Also required are the following:-

1. Reasonable condition treated radiata pine, macrocarpa, or similar 2 x 4, 2 x 6 or wider/deeper, length not too important. Wanted to make heavy duty trestles.
2. Steel bar in round, square or hex. will also be required for the manufacture of period nuts, bolts and unobtainable fixings.
3. Should brass or bronze sections become available we will need to consider discussing price if required.
We are getting close to a situation where we can process the above materials in-house.
4. In order to complete work on our benches we need a Record 52 or Record 5.5 wood-working vise. We will discuss price if required.
5. Does anyone have a set of 10mm or 3/8" letter / number stamps we can have? We are trying to follow old practice by identifying wood and metal pieces with stamped on part numbers.

Please reply to Lionel Ford lionel.ford@xtra.co.nz
ph (04) 526 9446, 027 311 2335 or to

Rob. Merrifield linrobnz@gmail.com
ph 027 319 9631



OUR SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK

NZRLS has been on Facebook since September last year.

During that time we have featured articles on our publications, some photos from our extensive archives, updates on the restoration of WMR Carriage No. 48 and various other items.

Every week sees the number of people 'Following' us on Facebook increasing and we welcome you to 'come aboard'. If you already have a Facebook account simply type in the search bar - '[new zealand railway and locomotive society](#)' and that should take you to our page. If you don't have a Facebook account you will need to create one before you can search for our page.

We plan to use our Facebook page to promote the Society including our own publications as well as our range of surplus pre-loved books. Don't forget if you are looking for a specific book send us a message via Facebook and we can check whether we hold a surplus copy in our archives.

We will have regular updates on the work being done at our North End Workshop as well as photos from the archives, including some mystery photos, where we will seek more details.

We look forward to you 'Following' us on Facebook.

Sandra Knight, Administration Officer.

MEMBERS EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Society provides space on the membership renewal form for members to provide their current email address. Presently more than sixty percent of members provide their address. To date this has rarely been used.

With the increasing cost and lack of reliability of NZ Post to collect and deliver correspondence to members, aside of course from the regular bi-monthly posting of the *Observer*, we would like to use e-mails to members more for regular communications.

We would like to publish *Turntable* as an electronic newsletter, for example. First, we would like to use email to establish members' preferences as to whether or not you would welcome receiving this and other information by e-mail rather than the printed version.

Your opinions to me, please!

David Cuthbert, Chair, Administration Committee
dbcc4211@gmail.com

MAGAZINE GROUPS

The Society currently operates two magazine groups, where railway and related magazine, are circulated to members who have paid a subscription.

Stu Ingram (of the Manawatu Group) is the secretary of Magazine Group 'A' and until recently Ray Thomson (of the Wellington Group) was secretary of Magazine Group 'B'. Ray has resigned from that role and Stu has taken on Magazine Group 'B' too.

Stu is looking at add other titles to the magazines being circulated. If you want further information on the groups, magazines circulated contact Stu at sandbingram@yahoo.com.

If you want to join one or both groups contact Bill McGavin, the Society's Membership Administrator at locotreasurer@actrix.co.nz.

David Cuthbert, Chair Administration Committee

**LOCAL GROUPS
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

In view of the rapidly developing situation over the spread of Covid-19 virus, we have published Groups' notices, but please be aware that for the immediate future, meetings are unlikely to take place.

Before planning to go to any meeting, please confirm with the convener that that it will actually take place.

AUCKLAND

The Auckland Group meetings are suspended until further notice.

Enquiries to Sean Millar ph (09) 815-3885, or seanmillar@orcon.net.nz.

WAIKATO RAILWAY SOCIETY

All meetings are cancelled until further notice.

For further details, contact

Chairman Ashley Turner, Ph 027 446-4732 or

Secretary, David Cumming, Ph 07 839-7850,

e-mail David.cumming@xtra.co.nz

BAY OF PLENTY

Normally meets on the third Monday of each month February-November at 7.30 pm. in Wesley Church Centre, 100 13th Avenue, Tauranga. This is a new venue. All enquiries to and details of next meeting from:

David Kent, 33 Gunbar Drive,

Welcome Bay,

RD 5, Tauranga, 3175 Ph (07) 544-6144

ROTORUA

All enquiries to Murray Farquhar at 91H Turner Road, Rotorua, 3097, phone 027 466 9014, email: mfarquhar@xtra.co.nz

Rotorua Group normally meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Ngongotaha Rail Park clubrooms.

MANAWATU

April's Group meeting is cancelled. Group members will be advised of May's, etc., meetings in due course.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the visit to the Society's premises at Ava and the Silverstream Workshop to view the WMR carriages had to be postponed in February.

Stu Ingram ph (06) 357-5216,

E-mail sandbingram@yahoo.com

HAWKES BAY

Contact person is David Pryor, 5A Avondale Rd, Taradale, phone(06)-844-8795.

E-mail dandspryor@xtra.co.nz

WAIRARAPA

Wairarapa Group's monthly meetings have had to be cancelled until further notice.

To find out more about Wairarapa Group, contact Malcolm Brodie, 230 Waiohine Valley Road, Greytown, malcolm.brodie230@gmail.com

WELLINGTON

Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of the even numbered months.

The summer field trip took place February 16, when members visited the Kapiti Miniature Railway and Wellington Tramway Museum where former Wellington trams operate to the beach at Queen Elizabeth II Park. The March meeting had 26 members attend to view slides taken by the late Keith Cullen in

the 1950s and 1960s. Some of these pictures generated a good debate, mainly about locations.



Demetrius Christoforou of Wellington Group tries driving a ganger's trolley on the Kapiti Miniature Railway during the Group's visit.

Photo: Bob Bevan-Smith.

Contact people for Wellington Group are:

Len Chisholm: nzrailways@len.nz ;

PO Box 50724, Porirua, 5240. Ph (04) 235-5462

Chris. Benson: Ph (04) 971-8934.

CANTERBURY

Society members in Canterbury are reminded that they are welcome to attend the Canterbury Railway Society meetings Meetings are normally on the last Thursday of the month, Please check with Colin Barry , ph (03) 358 368, for further information.

The February presentation was by Liam Griffiths "Adventures of a Young Railfan" including some pictures and information about his recent trip to Asia & their railways, along with other interesting information,

DUNEDIN

Dunedin Group meetings have been suspended until further notice.

The previous meeting watched a video featuring the London Underground Piccadilly Line, presented by Dale Jonker which was very interesting.

Contact Ian Wylie at (03) 455-5521,

email ian.edith.wylie@gmail.com

INVERCARGILL

Invercargill Group meetings are bi-monthly on the fourth Sunday evening of odd numbered months. Meetings are held in members' homes – essentially in rotation. Check as below for details of the next meeting.

Contacts are Noel Joyce ph (03) 215-4324 or Peter Lankshear ph (03) 217-5515

E-mail peemel13@gmail.com

Copy for Turntable 183 closes on 13 May, 2020.

This issue was edited by Rob. Merrifield.

Turntable is the official newsletter of the Society and its Members. Coverage includes news items and other topics of mutual interest within the Society.

Contributions are welcome. Any views expressed will only be those of the contributor, who will be identified.

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