



# Turntable

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

member, Federation of  
Rail Organisations of New Zealand

NUMBER 189  
May 2021

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Since writing my last column NZRLS has continued to make solid progress as it consolidates its position as one of the leading rail enthusiast groups in the country. Of particular note is the increasing number of people joining the Society. It is great to welcome new members as this means that our services are much appreciated by all who enjoy trains.

At the same time there has also been an increase in members who have volunteered to work for the Society, particularly at the Thomas McGavin Building in Petone. All work is greatly appreciated and if you would like to join the team please contact us. Should you not live in the Wellington area, but would like to do work for the Society, please also contact us for you will be able to work remotely.

With this issue of *Turntable*, is a flyer for our latest book, *Alpine Thunder*. This is a great publication, and will be sought after so I suggest you order your copy promptly. Thank you to Jonathan Shingleton as author for his detailed research and also Bill Prebble for his considerable time in putting the manuscript and illustrations into book form. Following on from *Alpine Thunder* are three other publications that are planned to be published over the next 12 months. The Society's publication programme is very busy and exciting.

Also with this issue is the subscription renewal notice for the 12 months starting 1 July. This is the first full year since the Society adopted a July to June subscription year. The subscription rates are the same as the previous year. Please renew your subscription promptly. With the arrival of the subscription notice inevitably members will ask should I renew my subscription – will it be worth it? While only you can answer that question, the activities the Society is involved in, particularly new publications, should clearly demonstrate that the answer should be yes. We look forward to receiving your subscription renewal.

*Graeme Carter, President.*

## NEW MEMBERS

We have six new members who have joined our Society since the last issue of *Turntable*. We are pleased to greet the following:

5095	Mrs Alison McKee	Napier
5096	Mr James Butler	Auckland
5097	Mr Denis Nugent	Papamoa
5098	Mr Chris Saunders	Palmerston North
5099	Mr Carl Perkin	Nelson
5100	Mr Paul Williams	Tokoroa

Welcome to our Society, all of you. We look forward to seeing you join in our activities and taking advantage of the benefits of membership. Good to see you on board!

## NEW ZEALAND BANKS' END PROCESSING CHEQUES THIS MONTH (MAY)

### New Zealand members:

**Trading banks have announced that they will cease to accept and process cheques at the end of this month (May). We will not be able to accept cheques we receive after their cut-off date of 31 May.**

**Members who have been accustomed to pay us by cheque will no longer be able to do so.**

Options available to members pay money to the Society, whether for subscriptions, purchases, donations, or for any other reason after 1 June are,

1. To use internet or on-line transfer from your own account to the Society's account, No. 02-0500-0019277-00 We prefer this option, as it is flexible and convenient for the majority of members.
2. To use your credit card or the PayPal system. Note: under these systems the Society has to pay a fee for each transaction made thus.
3. To arrange a transfer to the Society's account from either your bank account or by cash payment over the counter at your nearest branch of your bank.

### Members living outside New Zealand:

1. Options 1 & 2 above are available, ie, electronic transfer of funds or use of your credit card. **For you to pay direct into our NZ bank account, you will have to add the SWIFT BIC code for the Bank of New Zealand, BKNZ NZ22.** This has to be used whenever funds are sent from overseas to BNZ bank accounts for the transaction to find the right bank and account.
2. Your own bank will be able to make a telegraphic transfer of funds for your payments. There is likely to be a charge for this service.
3. Members who pay into our English bank account will still be able to do so using local procedures. Note: Overseas cheques will not be able to be processed in New Zealand.

**For electronic payments, in all cases you will need to state your name, membership number, and the purpose of the payment, ie,**

#### Members living outside New Zealand (cont'd)

- subscription payment;
- purchase of stated goods, eg, a specific book;
- donations for your specified Society activity; or
- for any other purpose.

If you have problems making your payment by these means, please contact our administration officer, Bill McGavin at [locotreasurer@actrix.co.nz](mailto:locotreasurer@actrix.co.nz) or phone him at 029 460 1187. (International callers, 0064 29 460 1187.)

*Ken Lankshear, Treasurer*

#### DISTRIBUTING TURNTABLE

We are now sending *Turntable* to as many members as possible electronically, only sending a printed version to those members who either do not use e-mail, or who have not advised the Secretary of their e-mail address.

Comments and suggestions for style and content are welcome. Just remember that I can't print what I don't receive from other Society members. To print Society news, I need to receive the copy in the first place!

With your help, I want to be able to develop *E-Turntable* further in coming editions. We would like it to be possible for all members to be receiving news of our own Society in the enhanced electronic version.

*Rob. Merrifield.*

#### MAGAZINE GROUPS: URGENT

A plea from the organizer of the magazine distribution groups – please send on magazines that you have received as quickly as possible, other members await their turn.

Someone is holding up distribution and the magazines are taking a very, very long time to circulate.

Please look around your study, lounge and magazine reading area in case there is a packet of magazines that you have overlooked. Other members are missing out on reading packets they can't get because of stoppages in distribution lists.

Thank you,

*Colin Barry, Secretary.*

#### ARCHIVES OPEN TIMES

Just a reminder that our Society's archive at 1a North Street, Petone, is still open for business on three days per week, these being Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, with the hours being from 9.30 am until 2.30 pm.

Do come and see us as there are lots of photographs, correspondence files, books, timetables, small artefacts, etc, etc, to see. If there is a spare computer terminal available when you visit, then you might like to view some of the many thousands of images which have been scanned as part of our digitisation program.

If further details are required, then please email us on [locoarchive@actrix.co.nz](mailto:locoarchive@actrix.co.nz), or telephone our office on 04 568 4938, or Graeme McClare on 027 240 4559, or Bill Prebble on 0274 682 655.

*Graeme McClare, Honorary Archivist.*

#### WMR CARRIAGES RESTORATION

Work since our last report work has been concentrated on the windows for WMR 48, with Mike Dutton and I continuing preparing to be able to put them in place. Mike is preparing guide strips and I have been finish painting and varnishing the sashes for one side of the carriage. This work is continuing.

Lionel Ford is working on obtaining castings we will need for doors and windows. In recent days he has machined a trial pair of castings for reproduction door hinges. Some problems have been found that need to be fixed before we order the full quantity needed for 48.

Lionel has been completing setting up the small machines in a purpose-made table, including a router Tom Halliburton donated some time ago, that we will use as a spindle moulder. This has been needed so we can make the mouldings needed to complete restoring recovered entry doors and to make a set of new interior doors for WMR 48.

Gilbert Coom has donated a very welcome bench vise for attachment to one of our work benches. This is in response to an earlier appeal in *Turntable*. Thank you, Gilbert.

*Rob. Merrifield.*

#### NOTABLE DEATH A Tribute to John Yonge

Thanks to Alan Smith for noting the passing of John Roger Basil Yonge in Devon, UK on 18 January 2021, aged 89. John prepared the *New Zealand Railway & Tramway Atlas* published by his Quail Map Co. This is an essential book as the atlas contains a lot of information about our railways, street tramways and bush tramways.

John was an Englishman who lived in New Zealand for some time and returned to the UK in March 1965 to live in Devon. His hand drawn maps required a considerable amount of research and in his New Zealand atlas he acknowledges the considerable help gained from issues of *NZ Railway Observer*. Back in the UK he teamed up with Gerald Jacobs and published railway atlases covering the whole of Britain, Ireland, China and Tasmania.

We are indebted to Mr Yonge for his eye to detail and his mapping skills. We know little of Mr Yonge. Any reader who can tell us more please let us know so we can give a fuller tribute to Mr Yonge.

*Graeme Carter, Editor. NZRO.*

## PRESERVING AND DESCRIBING YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE FUTURE



Do you have any photographs taken with a film camera? What will happen to your photos when you are no longer around? Your family or relevant others need to know you want to do with your collection. It is easy to copy your collection while you are in sound health and able to provide copies or originals to the Society. Families can disagree very strongly about the fate of collections, or individuals can destroy them without thought.

How can they be preserved for the future? Please talk to our Archives team for advice.

You need to start with a short description of each photo, using an identity code as an index. Make a diary, a text file set out as a table, or a spreadsheet, with column 1) being the photo identity code, 2) locomotive number and type, 3) a description of the image as a whole, 4) location, 5) date, and 6) any other information of note. Your description should be as full as possible. If there are people in the image, please give their.

For example, what would you write to describe this image? Giving additional information on detail shown is always valuable in the future:

“The Great Western Railway Gloucester - Swindon line. Collet 2-8-0 steam Gloucester - Swindon line. Collet 2-8-0 steam locomotive 3812, is heading towards Swindon with a mixed goods train.

The branch to Tetbury is seen at left in the distance. A plume of steam is from an arriving branch passenger train. The branch to Cirencester is on the right, with a new PWD track recording car on trial at right. The Signal Box is just visible alongside the water tower. The stationmaster's house is seen beyond the station on the right.”

If minimal information is available, please do your best to have Photo ID; Locomotive ID; Description; Location; Date your photo was taken.

*Bob Bevan Smith, Convenor,  
Digitisation Working Group.*

### GETTING YOUR TURNTABLE SOONER

Do you use e-mails for your correspondence?

Get your enlarged copy of *E-Turntable* by e-mail – it comes more quickly, has fuller content and uses a bigger font. Change now: just tell us your e-mail address when you renew your subscription and we'll do the rest.

*Rob. Merrifield.*

## ONE MEMBER'S CHOICE OF A SIGNIFICANT PHOTOGRAPH



Sean Millar values this photograph Bill Prebble took at the launch of his book, *The NZR Steam Locomotive*, as published by our Society and launched at the Silver Stream Railway in October 2011.

Sean said, “Despite the wet weather, it was a wonderful event, which I will remember fondly until the day I die. Not only was it a great gathering of noted fellow enthusiasts and personal friends, some of whom had even come down from Auckland especially. But, I was also hugely honoured to have two personal heroes of mine, Euan McQueen and Graham Stewart speak about the significance of the book.”

Sean's book is still in print and is available online or from the Society at our office and archive at Ava, Lower Hutt.

**A correction:** Ron Allison advises that his photograph of the Trevithick replica locomotive was taken at Blists Hill Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire. Our apologies for our error.

### AUCKLAND GROUP

The Auckland Group is scheduled to meet on the third Wednesdays of February, April, June, August and October, and the second Wednesday of December. The next meeting will be held on 21 April at 18 Lloyd Avenue, Mt Albert (on the corner of Thomas Avenue), commencing 8.00pm.

Enquiries to Sean Millar directly: ph (09) 815-3885 or e-mail [seanmillar@orcon.net.nz](mailto:seanmillar@orcon.net.nz)

Attendance and supper are free of charge. Wives, partners, and new and out-of-town members are all welcome.

## WAIKATO RAILWAY SOCIETY

Meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of alternate months January to November.

The next meetings will be held on 27 March and 23 May, commencing at 7:30pm. Please note the change in venue to the staff lounge of the Te Rapa School, 61 Ashurst Avenue, Te Rapa, Hamilton.



At the last meeting Ken Ashman gave an interesting talk that included the development of radio control of level crossing alarms for the protection of KiwiRail maintenance workers using hi-rail vehicles.

The WRS membership subscription is \$2 per year.

Members bring a plate, please.

For further details of meetings, contact Chairman Ashley Turner, Ph 027 358 4049 or Secretary, David Cumming, Ph (07) 839 7850,

E-mail [David.cumming@xtra.co.nz](mailto:David.cumming@xtra.co.nz)

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## BAY OF PLENTY

Normally meets on the third Monday of each month February-November at 7.30 pm. in Wesley Church Centre, 100 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tauranga. All enquiries to and details of next meeting from:

David Kent, 33 Gunbar Drive,

Welcome Bay,

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

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## ROTORUA

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

Our Rotorua Group will meet on the second Monday of the month at the Ngongotaha Rail Park clubrooms. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 12 April.

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## MANAWATU

The first meeting for 2021 was held on Saturday, 16 January 2021, when Len Chisholm showed further images from the NZRL&S collection, during which members helped to add "what, when where" captions to those pictures requiring them.

In early March, the Group visited the Society's Thomas McGavin Building at Ava, and the North End restoration workshop at Silverstream to see the progress on our WMR carriage No 48.

For all information, contact Stu Ingram

ph (06) 357-5216,

E-mail [sandbingram@yahoo.com](mailto:sandbingram@yahoo.com)

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## HAWKES BAY

Next meeting of Hawkes Bay Rail will be on Monday, 12 April at 19.30 in the old Customhouse, Ahuriri, Napier. There will be a talk on Auckland suburban train services.

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

E-mail [dandspryor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dandspryor@xtra.co.nz)

## WAIRARAPA

Wairarapa Group meets at the Fell Museum, Featherston, Group meetings are from 1.00 pm until 4.00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month

Next meeting Tuesday, 27 April.

Contact Malcolm Brodie, 230 Waiohine Valley Road, Greytown, [malcolm.brodie230@gmail.com](mailto:malcolm.brodie230@gmail.com)

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## WELLINGTON

Group meetings are held in the Brian Davis Room, at St. Paul's Cathedral, on the corner of Molesworth and Hill Streets.

Next meeting will be held on 12 July.

Last meeting heard Bruce Taylor talk about the Wellington & Manawatu Railway and its influence on communities along the line.

In March Rob Merrifield gave a presentation on the restoration of our Wellington & Manawatu Railway carriages. Achievements, challenges and problems were all discussed.

Contact people for Wellington Group are:

Len Chisholm: [nzrailways@len.nz](mailto:nzrailways@len.nz)

ph (04) 235-5462

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

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## CANTERBURY

NZRLS members are welcome to come to meetings of the Canterbury Railway Society. \$2 hall hire charge, please.

Thursday 25 March, 7pm Colin Barry. NZRLS mystery slides night.

Thursday 29 April Canterbury Railway Society AGM.

Meetings are held at the City Council South Library, Colombo Street. Do not use the main library door. Go to the far end (rear of the building) and use the service door which will be open just before 7pm. You will need to be on time as it is a security door and will be closed after 7.00 pm.

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## DUNEDIN

The Dunedin Group's next meeting will be held at Bill Cowan's home, 12 Cornwall Street, at 7.30 pm. on Tuesday, 20 April. Ian Wylie will present a selection of slides from the Wylie photo vault.

Enquiries to Bill Cowan on (03) 454-5673

email [cowanwj@gmail.com](mailto:cowanwj@gmail.com)

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## INVERCARGILL

Invercargill Group's next meetings are due on 28 March and 23 May.

Group meetings will be held at members' homes in the afternoon of the 4th Sunday of alternate, odd-numbered months, starting at 1.30pm. This is to suit those members who are older.

Contacts are Noel Joyce ph (03) 215-4324 or 027 820 3303, or

Peter Lankshear ph (03) 217-5515

E-mail [peemel13@gmail.com](mailto:peemel13@gmail.com)

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**Copy for Turntable 190 closes on 16 June, 2021.**

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 and members' advertisements are welcome. Any views expressed will only be those of the contributor, who will be identified.

New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society, Inc., 1A North Street, Petone, Lower Hutt, 5012