

# NEW ZEALAND RAILWAY AND LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY INC

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

### THE PRESIDENT

When I wrote last year's report I was hoping that the last 12 months would be considerably less challenging than the year ending 30 June 2020 had been. Like the majority of New Zealanders I was disappointed as the ongoing disruptions caused by Covid are still with us. In spite of the frustrations, it has been a year of steady progress for the Society.

In late May we lost Mark Cole, who died at age 88. Mark devoted himself to the Society for 60 years and after retirement from NZR became a 'full time' volunteer at our Ava offices. In later years he was our archivist, and supplied information to members willingly. This commitment to the Society was a truly impressive record. Mark was one of the last former NZR employees who retired with 40 years service in their late 50s and was able to use their new-found 'spare time' on Society matters.

For many years the Society's administration was done by retired members who having spent 40 years in the employment of a government department and retiring in their mid to late 50s. These members willingly devoted many hours to the needs of the Society. With the abandonment of a compulsory retirement age and changes in the structure of government departments, this labour pool became increasingly unavailable to the Society. At the same time the administration needs of the Society became more challenging.

Over the last ten years the board has wrestled with the challenge of volunteer services, and with much apprehension began employing contractors to carry out some administration functions. It has not been an easy transition and has been costly financially. However, having made the change, I believe the Society is a stronger organisation than it was ten years ago. To Sandra Knight, Bill McGavin and Ken Lankshear, thank you for the work you are doing.

The Society has had a successful year financially and we have a strong balance sheet. We have maintained our membership base with a small increase in total membership over the previous year (771 members against 769 in 2020). This is a heartening trend, when so many similar 'hobby type' organisations are struggling with membership. We are unable to be complacent and must continue to provide good service to members and potential members.

For most members the benefits of membership are receiving *Observer* each second month and having access to quality publications. This last year *Observer* has

continued to contain informative articles about rail in New Zealand and the books produced have been excellent. The year ending 30 June 2022 will maintain a similar high standard.

*Graeme Carter*  
*President*

## **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, MEMBERSHIP and FINANCE**

### **Administration Committee**

The Administration Committee comprises David Cuthbert (Chairman), Colin Barry (Secretary), Ken Lankshear (Treasurer), Chris Benson, Graeme McClare, Bruce Taylor, Ray Thomson and Glen Summers (Minute Secretary). The committee is required to meet not less than six times a year, normally at Ava but aims to hold at least one meeting at Silverstream North End. In the last year the impact of Covid meant the committee met five times, all at Ava.

The committee is responsible to the board for the day to day running of the Society. A key part of this is financial oversight with particular attention given to payments made to the suppliers of services. Ken Lankshear provides detailed reports on these, he also provides reports on the Society's financial performance.

Regular reports were received on the state of and improvements to the Society's buildings (the Thomas McGavin Building at Ava) from Bill Prebble and (Silverstream North End Shed) from Rob Merrifield. Rob Merrifield provides regular reports on the preservation work on the former Wellington and Manawatu Railway (WMR) carriages (refer to Rob's Preservation report).

The committee receives regular reports from Bill McGavin (Membership Administrator) on membership details and it approves new membership applications. It is pleasing to note that in the last year 74 new and returning membership applications were approved. (Refer to Bill's Membership report). The committee records its appreciation of Bill's work to follow up on unpaid memberships.

The Society has been seeking to communicate with members via their individual email address, at present about 77% of members have provided address. In the last year members began to receive copies of *Turntable* and their membership renewal application by email as well as information on the availability of papers for the annual general meeting.

Stu Ingram reports regularly on the operation of the two magazine groups. There have been difficulties caused by the impact of Covid on the receipt of magazines

from overseas, erratic deliveries by NZ Post and slow bag turn-around in some cases. (Refer Stu's Magazine Groups report).

Sandra Knight (Publication Administrator) has continued ably to process the orders for publications, she is assisted by John Dwyer, a volunteer who does an outstanding job dispatching these.

Sandra as the Society's Web Master has continued to improved the site to promote the sale of publications and other services as well as to provide information to members. Sandra has used the Facebook Page to increase the number of followers, the posting of historic photographs from the archives continues to generate positive feedback as does the use of the page to promote new publications. (Refer to Sandra's Website and Facebook Page report).

I want to thank committee members and contractors, Bill McGavin and Sandra Knight for their work during the year to ensure the efficient administration of the Society.

*David Cuthbert, Chairman Administration Committee*

### **Membership**

As at 30 June 2021 there were 771 members, being 731 paid up members and 40 unpaid members. There were 658 New Zealand members, 33 UK members and 80 members for the rest of the world.

During the year we enrolled 74 new members, with seven of those members returning to the Society.

### **Lost to the Society**

The following deaths are recorded with our sympathy

5003	Bill Falconer Dunedin
492	Bill Lloyd Port Chalmers
759	Brian Swiney Porirua
4838	Pat Manning Colorado, USA
1542	David Leitch Waikanae
4936	Les Head Timaru
4722	Morrie Bryson Mosgiel
667	Derek Albrechtsen Invercargill
938	Malcolm Thomas Wellington
686	Alister McKenzie Christchurch
682	Mark Cole, Lower Hutt
3927	John Stewart Mosgiel
4789	Roy Sinclair Christchurch

## Life Members

The Society has 9 Life Members.

*Bill McGavin*

*Membership Administrator*

## **Finance**

There is no denying that 2020/21 has presented challenges that we haven't faced before. Despite lockdowns and closed borders, the Society made a small surplus of \$5,523 for the year to 30 June 2021. This is much less than the \$36,770 surplus we made in the 2019/20 year, but it should be noted that income from grants, bequests and donations was down \$51,000 in the 2020/21 year. This highlights just how important the generosity of our members and benefactors is to the Society's continued operations.

Operating revenue has held up well, especially *Observer* magazine income. Where they could, the board managed costs to keep them at similar levels to the previous year.

The balance sheet of the Society remains healthy. Investments have decreased slightly, matched to some extent in a decrease in the amount of membership fees we received in advance and the purchase of a high quality 44-inch plan scanner.

I would like to thank the Society Administration Officers, Bill McGavin and Sandra Knight, for the sterling work they do during the year, processing memberships, publications sales, and invoices, plus a multitude of other transactions.

*Ken Lankshear*

*Treasurer*

## **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

The publications committee comprises of Bill Prebble (Chairman), Graeme Carter (Editor of the *Observer*), Graeme Jupp and Rob Merrifield. The Publications Committee largely communicates by email, optimizing committee members' time and providing a more efficient process of meeting immediate needs than timetabled meetings can deliver.

## **New Zealand Railway Observer**

Throughout the last year *Observer* was published on time and covered a varied range of articles about rail in New Zealand. It is the aim of the editor to have at least one article in each issue covering new rail developments. Although the magazine tends to concentrate on historical articles, current events are much appreciated by readers. This shows the wide range of rail related interests of readers.

Reminiscence articles by former railway workers are always popular, particularly with reflections by non-locomotive staff members. To maintain the popularity of the magazine it is important to feature articles covering a wide variety of interests.

It has been a difficult year for sales of magazines in retail outlets, but *Observer* has held up well and sales have been very encouraging. In view of the difficulties due to lockdowns, *Observer* has had a good year.

One of the successes of *Observer* has been the input of mainly members in contributing articles. This is greatly appreciated with more articles always welcome. Rob Merrifield continues to do an excellent job in producing an index of the previous volume as soon as the last issue of the magazine has been issued.

### **Calendar**

As advised last year, sadly NZR&LS abandoned the annual desk calendar that was produced by the Society over many decades. This was principally caused by a gradual decline in sales coupled with toughening economics of producing and posting calendars.

We joined forces last year with *NZ Railfan* who produced a calendar for 2021, to provide members a discount when purchasing the *Passing Trains* calendar direct from NZ Railfan. However, the economics has caught up with the production of the *Passing Trains* calendar and unfortunately *NZ Railfan* has now withdrawn from the calendar market.

### **Other Publications**

It is pleasing to report that people within the book trade and our membership remark positively about the content and quality of the Society books. We continue to maintain our position as New Zealand's eminent producer of high-quality rail-interest books, something that continues to lift the profile of the Society and enhances the membership base. Through this process we provide interesting and enjoyable reading, fulfilling the Society objectives, and generate a modest income which helps fund future publications and other activities of the Society.

As reported in last years report, publication of *Alpine Thunder* was delayed due to our author being trapped at sea for nine months during the Covid-19 pandemic. Once back in New Zealand, we were able to complete the book and get it to our printers.

Long-awaited by many, the book landed at our Ava office in mid-June. *Alpine Thunder* was soon literally flying off the shelves, with the print-run half sold through within seven weeks. Positive feedback on the book as a whole and the information it contains, has been exceptional.

Readers will be pleased to learn that Jon Shingleton has another locomotive manuscript well advanced, this time on the interesting 4-6-2 G class. This will be another book to watch out for in future.

The next book currently in production is Graham Stewart's *Trams Still Around New Zealand*. At 160 pages and over 500 photos, this book has a huge amount of interesting information and is a visual feast. Like all of Graham's books, we are certain that this will be another sell-out. It is currently in production and is expected to land late this October.

Additionally, we have two other titles in various stages of completion. The first of these is a manuscript penned by a guard, covering the period 1947 to 1957. It is rare to get stories from the back of the train and this book will be unique in New Zealand's railway reading. We foresee this becoming available mid-2022.

During the year we have spoken with authors and potential authors that have approached us about various manuscripts, but if you have in mind a book or even a short article, please make contact so we can assist you with the concept and discuss options.

As usual, through our publications policy we continue to ensure our members receive value from their membership by offering generous member discounts off our publications.

In closing, I wish to thank members, photographers, authors, and the Publications Committee for their support. We look forward to bringing you more high-quality New Zealand railway reading during the year ahead.

*Bill Prebble*  
*Chairman of Publications*

## **TURNTABLE**

Covid restrictions last year caused us to reconsider the idea of distributing *Turntable 182* as an electronic newsletter. Members appreciated our forwarding of this with a low resolution version of the relevant *New Zealand Railway Observer*, so the Board decided to produce an electronic version of *Turntable*, distributing this electronically to as many members as possible. This gave us the opportunity to enhance both style and content, beginning with issue 187 in January 2021. Members have welcomed this. More members continue to advise us of their e-mail addresses so they can receive their *Turntable* in the enhanced electronic format. If you don't get it that way yet and could, let us know what your e-address is!

Electronic publishing has eased the perpetual problem of giving copy and illustrations better space by reducing the need for keeping within a limit of 4 pages

per issue. *E-Turntable* has been able to be expanded to 10 and 11 pages each, which has allowed the use of larger fonts and illustrations as well as enhanced contents. A total of 31 pages have been produced in the first three issues of *E-Turntable*, issues 187-189.

I have edited 6 issues of *Turntable* (Nos 184 – 189) with 4 pages each for a total of 24 pages. These issues were distributed with successive issues of the *Observer*. After the introduction of *E-Turntable*, the smaller paper copies have only gone to those members who have not advised us of their having an electronic address.

We welcomed some 64 new members through the year.

A number of important notices to members have been published through the year. These have included details of subscriptions payment changes following our alignment of financial, subscription, and *Observer* publishing calendars. The ending of handling and cashing cheques by New Zealand banks was a particularly significant notice. Regular reports have recorded progress with our archival digitisation project and with the restoration work on our Wellington & Manawatu Railway carriages.

We covered the retirement of Mark Cole as Archivist and the Society's presentation to him as an appreciation of his many years of work for us. This was reported in issue 185.

Some groups provide good copy that we can publish advertising their regular meetings. There are also some groups we never hear from. I would like to give more specific coverage to their meetings when I can get reports.

*Rob Merrifield*

## **SILVERSTREAM NORTH END PREMISES**



Progress is slow, mostly because our work team is very small. I am grateful to members John Churchouse, Mike Dutton, Lionel Ford, and Selwyn Roberts for their contributions through the year. I would like to record my thanks to all.

We would welcome additional workers! Our main Society member-workers are over 70 years old, two of whom are in their 80s. These people cannot continue for ever. Any member who lives within a reasonable distance of our workshop and is looking for a project would be very welcome to join in.

Lionel's overhauling, painting and setting up of our machine tools has been completed. John Churchouse obtained and fitted a 3-phase starter to the bandsaw. Safety covers on this machine are complete except for the fitting of a dust extraction outlet on the lower flywheel. Some further donations of hand equipment and materials have been received during the year. These were in response to earlier advertisements in *Turntable*. We are grateful for the generosity of those members who have helped us. Two new lights have been installed over the bandsaw and the thicknesser.

Early in 2021 a large sign carrying the Society's badge, name, and the purpose of the workshop, was made and erected on the end gable of our building where it can be read from the street. Society members Mike Dutton, Lionel Ford, Rob. Merrifield and Selwyn Roberts have done much good work through the year. No meeting of the joint NZRLS/SSR management committee has been held in the past year.

### **Preservation: WMR Carriages**

Progress has been slow this year, as our on-site team has been shrinking further. Our active workers are busy people, getting on in years, and we need recruits before we can get serious about working on WMR 52 or 42. This seems to be an issue common to most groups I talk to. Interested and motivated volunteers are an endangered species! Who is available and willing to give a hand with this satisfying work?

Lionel, having moved away from the Hutt Valley, continues to work on foundry patterns and is chasing foundries for the castings we need. Unfortunately, metal foundries are scarce and busy. We have investigated 3D printing for small castings we need. The only manufacturers we have found so far use plastic feedstocks which would not have adequate strength and wear resistance, or be affordable for what we want. We are grateful to all who have contributed to our project in many different ways over this past year. A big thank you to all!

I have given presentations on our restoration project to seven Hutt Valley senior citizens' groups, also to our Wellington and Wairarapa Groups.

Work on WMR 48 this year has been to finish erecting and swinging the Woods safety gates on the end balconies; completing, fitting and painting the trimmers at the ends of the monitor roof; and preparing for fitting the main windows sashes. Sixteen sashes, sufficient for one side, have been cleaned up, finish painted on one side, and re-varnished on their inside faces. Springs are fitted ready for them to be



placed. Guide strips needed to hold the windows in place are being cleaned up, window stops fitted, and varnished.

The wood we expect to need to make the interior doors of WMR 48 has been bought. Two replacement buffers complete with draft springs, have been donated by Colin Jenner for fitting to WMR 52. Bush Tramway Club has similarly donated some brake cocks. A Westinghouse Improved Triple Valve appropriate to the period when these carriages were built has been donated by Mainline Steam Trust. Selwyn Roberts has overhauled the brake cocks and the triple valve ready for future use on WMR 52.

*Rob Merrifield*

## **ARCHIVES**

During the year there has been a steady stream of requests from members and non members for information pertaining to rail in New Zealand. Some requests take a considerable amount of research to answer the questions.

We continue to receive donations of archives and we are most grateful for the papers, books, plans and other items of a railway nature that are passed onto us. Each donation is acknowledged. We also have many visitors to the archive, both members and non members. The visitors are pleasantly surprised at the extent of our archive and how well it is organised. We are very proud that our archive is the premier repository of railway information in New Zealand.

Kevin Crosado continues to catalogue the A&G Price archives and has now catalogued some 50% of this archive. This is a major project. John Churchouse is cataloguing and scanning S&I signalling diagrams and this too is a big job.

In April our large format scanner developed a fault and was unable to be repaired. This machine was acquired second hand from the Lower Hutt City Council and has served the Society well. John Churchouse and Kevin Crosado have scanned thousands of plans on this machine and such an item of equipment has become a necessary part of our archive. At its May meeting the board agreed to the purchase of a new HP SD Pro 44" scanner at a cost of \$21,659.00. Since being installed this scanner has had alot of work and has produced excellent scans.

I would like to thank members of the team for their assistance during the year. They include, Bob Bevan-Smith, John Churchouse, Kevin Crosado, Tony Hurst, Brian Pearce, David Parsons, Bill Prebble, Phil Rundle, David Sharp, George Hannah and Noel Maginnty.

*Graeme McClare*  
*Archivist*

## **WEBSITE**

Whilst the NZR&LS webpage is accessible to anyone, there is a member's only section which requires members to have their own login. New NZR&LS members (where an email address is supplied) are automatically given a webpage login and receive an email informing them of their login details. The members only section includes membership renewal, how to post articles, access to current and past Turntable issues, along with the previous AGM papers and performance reports. The Webpage also has the on-line order form under the publications tab and the vast amount of orders for publications received is via the use of this form. The second hand book catalogue continues to receive a large amount of interest and sales of these books have increased markedly over the last twelve months. There have been a few issues with the website when the application we run it on does automatic updates but these are quickly and easily fixed once we are notified about them.

## **FACEBOOK**

The Society has had a Facebook page since September 2019 and our follower numbers have steadily increased since then. During the last 12 months we have continued to put up historic photographs from the Society's archives and the feedback on these continues to be positive. Some of the photographs have generated a lot of feedback with some followers adding their own memories/photographs to our original post. The posting that informed of the passing of our former archivist Mark Cole, received the most feedback with many adding their memories of Mark and many of our affiliated associations shared it to their own Facebook pages. The Facebook page continues to be used to promote new publications we have put out including the *New Zealand Railway Observer*. Through Facebook Messenger we have also received a number of messages, mostly asking for further information from the Archivist. Our forward plan is to try and put up a new photo at least once a month to keep engagement with our page current.

## **TRADE ME**

The Society joined Trade Me late last year. Since then we have auctioned off older publications that were surplus to requirements. All auctions have resulted in sales, some of which have followed strong bidding wars.

*Sandra Knight*

*Publications Administrator*

## **THOMAS McGAVIN RESEARCH GRANT**

During the year, the Publications Committee provided a grant to Alison McKee. Alison is researching and writing about New Zealand Railway refreshment branch, food, and recipes. While there has been some work published in the past about the refreshment branch, what they produced has not been covered.

The committee considered that this subject could be of interest to the wider community, much like Bruce Shalders' *Railway Houses of New Zealand*, which found much favour both within NZR&LS membership and the wider community. We look forward to seeing the outcome of Alison's endeavors.

## **MAGAZINE GROUPS**

### **Group A**

This group usually performs well, with this past year being no exception. During the year each member of the group received on average 13 bags of magazines, all of which are accounted for. As usual this group is broken down into six sub-groups relative to their addresses throughout the country which also makes it easier for faster distribution. One blue bag was lost by NZ Post but somehow the magazines turned up at another member's address and were eventually returned to me. The bag has not been returned.

### **Group B**

Generally, this group continues to operate well. However, for some reason, two of the subgroups continue to lag behind those of the rest of the others. In spite of general reminders of the necessity to move the magazine bags on reasonably promptly, this continues to be a problem. This group has also been divided into six sub-groups making it easier for the movement of magazines. Over the course of the year the six sub-groups were each in receipt of approximately 11 bags each, all of which have been accounted for.

### **General**

Most members appear to have enjoyed receiving their reading material during Covid-19 lock-down as magazines continued to be received by me and distributed regularly. As usual, apart from one or two people, I am rarely advised when magazines may be delayed for whatever reason, e.g. the recipient going on holiday or hospital. I do appreciate those who take the time to let me know in order to maintain a smooth delivery system. At times I feel a bit embarrassed about sending out oldish magazines but I still do as many members would miss their regular read. If members were to shift the bags a bit quicker then this problem wouldn't occur. Mind you, the service of NZ Post in quite a few instances doesn't help this situation. No complaints have been received regarding the range of magazines, but I note no copies of *Trains* have been received for several months. I noticed that an April edition was seen locally recently. New magazines are received in a timely fashion and in batches of about five and these are normally sent out within a few days of receipt. Overall, operation of these groups is something I enjoy doing on behalf of the Society.

*Stu Ingram*

## **DIGITISATION WORKING GROUP (DWG)**

The DWG was formed in 2017 to preserve the colour slides, negatives and prints in the Society's Archive by making high definition digital copies of them all. We carried out an inventory, and found that the Archive holds upwards of 300,000 photographs. At the last count, we had made digital copy images of over 10% of the total. Amongst them, we found some really old glass plate negatives, which were scanned at high priority. A large percentage of the collection had no, or very little, description. It is important that a description is composed for each image. Finding an image to meet a particular scenario is like finding a needle in a haystack if there is no searchable description. Think of the caption to a picture in a newspaper – without that, what would you make of the photograph? To compose such a description requires some knowledge of NZR equipment, infrastructure, locations, and rolling stock. Many of our members do have that knowledge, and it is very important to capture that knowledge before it is lost forever.

Some, but by no means all, collections of photographs have accompanying data either written on the back, or on the container in which they are stored, or recorded in notebooks by the photographer. But that data is often scanty, perhaps only recording a locomotive number. It frequently does not provide an adequate description for viewers to find a photograph that suits their needs, especially if, for example, they may be writing a book on a particular topic. Equally, it will apply to future generations who will not have an extensive knowledge to draw upon.

We have set standards for the digital images, to obtain the best result within our means. A draft 'Guide to the Ava Archive' has been written, detailing the scanning process and other details.

Our progress depends on the people doing the scanning of the physical images in the first place. If we had more volunteers able to participate in the scanning process, or the accompanying writing of descriptions, our rate of progress would rise.

The Archive continues to expand its collection of physical images, primarily through donations of collections of photographs from past members. That may in future transform into a flood of digital images taken on modern cameras. Again, they may not have adequate descriptions. We urge you all to make catalogues of your images in the hope that they may one day end up in the Society's Archive.

Compounding the issue is the fact that the Archive is only open 9am – 2:30pm Monday and Wednesday and Saturday. On the latter two of those days, there are a number of other volunteers at work on unrelated activities, which means that access to desk space is a little limited, or shared, on those days. There are currently three members doing scanning on Mondays. There are more unused scanners available on Saturdays.

We have been anxious about physical images which may be deteriorating with age. It is well known that colours fade over time. Some older types of film chemistry degrade, releasing noxious vapours in a process known as the 'Vinegar Syndrome' due to its smell. Occasionally this affects other nearby films. Once that has started in a film, it is impossible to stop. We have some detection materials to deal with that before it spreads far. Where we can, we make digital copies before the effect on the original has gone too far.

We had in previous years tried sending batches of physical images to a group of members by courier, to be scanned at their home, described, and then returned. It was essential that their home scanner was of sufficient specification to meet our standards. However, the process involved in selecting, packaging, couriating, and subsequently dealing with the returned images and their descriptions, proved time consuming and costly. Nevertheless, we are very grateful to those members for the work they did.

The digital equipment installed at Ava is adequate for the time being, but as we scan more and more images, we will need additional digital storage space. We have four scanners, each attached to a PC, which are connected to an internal local network, allowing us to automatically save new digital copies and descriptions in a central repository. But the pace of change in the digital spectrum means that we will need to upgrade the equipment from time to time.

As an aside, there are also a couple of members, not involved with the DWG, who are scanning large engineering drawings. However, their work does not directly interfere with the work of the DWG as they have a specialist scanner. But that is also increasing the load on the digital equipment at the Archive, especially the data storage system.

The Archive has been identified as being in a potential Tsunami zone by the local council. We regularly make backup copies of the digital images, and keep those backups on separate portable hard drives. Those are taken off the premises by members of the DWG, on a rotational basis. That will preserve the images in case of any disaster.

However, some light is on the horizon. In order that descriptions may be written, that is now being addressed by a new digital data sharing system named *TrainFinda* being developed by Len Chisholm, to whom we are very grateful. At present, it is being trialled by a small band of NZRLS members. It allows one to search for and display already-scanned digital images at home, and write accurate descriptions, or edit existing descriptions when needed, without any need for the physical images to leave the premises. Such descriptions are automatically recorded as they are typed,

and linked to the corresponding images. We hope to have this ready for rollout by the end of this year.

*Robert Bevan Smith (Bob)*  
*Convenor, Digitisation Working Group*

## **GROUPS**

### **Auckland**

The Auckland Group met just four of the six times scheduled for the year ended 30 June 2021 - nation-wide and Auckland-only lockdowns causing the cancellation of the August 2020 and February 2021 meetings respectively. Programme topics included:- photographs from recent trips to Queensland, South Australia and Victoria; the 1974 Ngaruawahia Bridge derailment; an introduction to railways in Victoria; a history of the MOTAT Tramway and its tramcars; a report from the recent FRONZ conference, and a selection of New Zealand railway photos taken by the late Les Hostick during the 1950s. Appreciation is expressed to all those who presented programme items and/or helped in other ways, especially: James Duncan, Ann Hulena, Floyd Hulena, Adrienne Millar, Scott Osmond, Richard Stratford, Robert Sweet, John Webley and John Wise.

*Sean Millar*

### **Bay of Plenty**

The group continues to meet on a monthly basis with an increased membership. We enjoy interesting debates on rail transport in New Zealand and the state of KiwiRail in general. This is followed by a DVD on a railway topic from New Zealand or overseas. An excursion to the Goldfields Railway is planned for later this year. Meetings are held monthly at Wesley Church Centre, 100 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tauranga from February to November on the third Monday of the month, starting at 7.30pm. Contact details – David Kent, 33 Gunbar Drive, Welcomer Bay, RD5, Tauranga, phone 07-5446144.

*Alan Stokes*

### **Hawkes' Bay**

Hawkes Bay Rail Inc has continued to meet every second month in the past year in the old Customhouse, Ahuriri, Napier. Attendance at our meetings has grown and we have had the usual range of DVD programmes as well as some interesting talks. Our bi-monthly newsletter *Hawkes Bay Rail Scene* has continued to be produced. The annual outdoor model railway visit and barbecue at Keirunga Gardens was held in December. Visitors to the area are always welcome to the meetings as advertised in *Turntable* and *Hawkes Bay Rail Scene*.

*David Pryor*

### **Manawatu**

The group met monthly throughout the year in members homes with programmes usually being DVD or powerpoint presentations covering New Zealand and overseas railways. Average attendance is six, and we all enjoy each other's company. In March the group visited the NZR&LS operations at Ava and Silverstream North End, both visits being very informative. In June we visited Mainline Steam's Plimmerton base and all were impressed with the number of locomotives under restoration. In July we had a lunch at The Woolshed in Sanson.

*Graeme Carter*

### **Wellington**

The Wellington Group continues to meet on the second Monday of alternate months from March to November, and did get five meetings in this year (July 2020-May 2021). Average attendance was 21, with the door charge covering hall hire and ancillary costs. Programmes included Italian electric traction and Austrian steam, Keith Cullen images, little trains of Great Britain, our WMR car restoration, and the history of the WMR itself. Several attempts to organise field trips foundered on OSH requirements, so in March a few members joined the Manawatu Group in their visit to Ava and Silverstream North End, including lunch at a cafe in Silverstream.

*Len Chisholm*

### **Dunedin**

Our Group met on only four occasions during this period due to the restrictions of Covid 19. The meetings were hosted by Ian Wylie and myself with the average attendance being eight members. Programmes were presented by Grant Craig, Dale Jonker and Ian and included selections from the Cecil Bachop collection, videos of some of USA's steepest railways and early NZR scenes from across the country. The chat around the supper table where news of recent KiwiRail happenings is exchanged is always a rewarding part of these gatherings. Any members passing through Dunedin are very welcome to meet-up with us. Please contact Ian or myself for details.

*Bill Cowan*

### **Invercargill**

The Invercargill Group continues to meet every second month with our original five members present. During this year we have had additional interest through one regular visitor who, currently, is not member of the Society, and also Allan Boyer, a member, of Gore. The meetings are still each odd numbered month, on the fourth Sunday afternoon at 1.30pm. Each member who hosts the meeting sets a programme for that meeting. Topics, during the light refreshments, include railway news both locally and around New Zealand with some overseas news as well. Southland still has plenty of railway interest with the two branch lines and the Main South Line. The resurgence of the *Kingston Flyer* is always an interesting topic. At our July meeting the DVD *Kb Country*, was screened and was well received with the

recent release of the new publication, *Alpine Thunder*. We would warmly welcome any visitors to the area. Please get in touch with one of us if you intend visiting Southland.

*Noel Joyce*

This report has been compiled from information supplied from a number of sources as credited above.

*Colin Barry*  
*Secretary*

#### **OFFICE HOLDERS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS 2019-2020**

##### ***BOARD OF MANAGEMENT***

G T Carter	President and Chairman of the Board
C J Barry	Secretary
K J Lankshear	Treasurer
D Cuthbert	Director
G J Jupp	Director
A L R Merrifield	Director
W W Prebble	Director
B S Taylor	Director

##### ***ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE***

D Cuthbert	Chairman
K J Lankshear	Treasurer
G Summers	Minutes Secretary
C J Barry	Secretary
C J Benson	Member
G J McClare	Member
B S Taylor	Member
R G Thomson	Member

##### ***PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE***

W W Prebble	Chairman
C J Barry	Secretary
G J Jupp	Minutes Secretary
K J Lankshear	Treasurer
G T Carter	Editor <i>Observer</i>
A L R Merrifield	Member

##### ***ARCHIVES TEAM***

G J McClare	Archivist
J Churchouse	
K Crosado	
G J Jupp	



B J Pearce  
W W Prebble  
P Rundle  
D Sharp  
D Parsons  
B S Taylor

***DIGITAL WORKING GROUP***

R Bevan-Smith Convenor  
A E Smith Minutes Secretary  
L Chisholm  
D Cuthbert  
B Efford  
G J McClare  
W W Prebble  
N Maginnty

***SILVERSTREAM NORTH END JOINT-COMMITTEE***

A L R Merrifield  
W W Prebble

***OTHER APPOINTMENTS***

R S Ingram Magazine Group A and B  
Secretary  
A L R Merrifield North End Controller

***ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS***

S Knight Administration, Publications and  
Website  
W McGavin Membership

***AUDITOR***

K D McGavin

***LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES***

Auckland S Millar  
Waikato K O'Neill  
Rotorua I Farquhar  
Bay of Plenty D Kent  
Hawkes Bay D Pryor  
Manawatu S Ingram  
Wanganui G Carter  
Wairarapa M Brodie  
Wellington L Chisholm  
Canterbury C Barry  
South Canterbury B Blanchard  
Otago R Foster  
Invercargill W Jones

United Kingdom R Durham

**LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE 2020**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Year</b>
392	B R Poulsen	Carterton	1980
532	P F Dyer	Paraparaumu	1968
514	A L R Merrifield	Upper Hutt	2006
655	I P Wylie	Dunedin	1993
826	J L Clayton	Paraparaumu	2005
1106	D L A Turner	Christchurch	2000
1168	G D Berry	Dunedin	1986
1965	W W Prebble	Porirua	2016
3095	G J McClare	Upper Hutt	2014

Honorary members

Mrs E A Rudd	Paraparaumu	2000
Mrs J Spencer	Paraparaumu	2012