

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAY AND LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY INC

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

THE PRESIDENT

The past year has been another year of Covid restrictions, but hopefully the worst has passed as these restrictions gradually ease. These restrictions have posed challenges of those who work or visit the Thomas McGavin Building at Ava. Thank you to all for your patience and understanding. The Society has coped well and has still been able to provide the same level of service that members have come to expect.

A Society like ours relies on volunteers to succeed. Thank you to all members who do 'their bit' to make the N Z Railway and Locomotive Society a good organisation. Some members' work is very visible, while others contributions are not. All work is important and is greatly appreciated. Should you want to help make the Society even better, please contact one of the directors for more information.

The Society continues to accumulate archives, and some documents obtained are very important in our understanding of rail history. This constant flow of materials is putting pressure on our storage capacity, both at the Thomas McGavin Building at Ava, and our building at Silverstream. We are starting to look for an alternative premise to our building at Ava. At this stage the board does not believe that extending the present building would be suitable for our requirements. The board is very grateful for some significant bequests that have been received this year that will assist in our relocation plans.

Maintaining and growing membership has always been a challenge and the board is very appreciative of those members who have been part of the Society for several decades as well as those who have joined in recent times. The Society is maintaining membership numbers, unlike many other interest groups that have had a significant decline in membership.

A major factor in maintaining membership is the quality of publications the Society produces. The aim is to produce two books a year and this has been achieved for a number of years. All books are very well produced, informative and attractive, and have sold well. This publication programme is a credit to Bill Prebble, who does an enormous amount of work in maintaining standards.

Thank you to all members of the board for your work and dedication to our Society. I consider the Society to be well served and in good heart.

Graeme Carter

President

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, MEMBERSHIP and FINANCE

Administration Committee

Members of the Administration Committee in the last year have comprised David Cuthbert (Chairman), Bruce Taylor (Secretary), Ken Lankshear (Treasurer), Chris Benson, Graeme McClare (Archivist), Glen Summers and Ray Thomson. The committee normally seeks to meet at least six times a year; meetings are normally held at Ava, with the aim to hold at least one meeting at Silverstream North End. The impact of Covid meant the committee met four times, all at Ava.

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

At each meeting the committee received reports 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 also provided reports on the preservation work which continued on the former Wellington and Manawatu Railway (WMR) carriages.

Bill McGavin (Membership Administrator) provided regular reports. These included membership applications, which the committee is required to approve. In the last year 50 new and returning memberships were approved, this compares with 74 in the previous year. The committee again records its appreciation of his work to follow up on unpaid memberships, which resulted in significant numbers renewing.

The Society has continued in its efforts to communicate with members via their individual email addresses. Over 78% of members now receive their expanded copy of 'Turntable', annual membership renewal information and advice on the availability of AGM papers by email.

Stu Ingram (Secretary, Magazine Groups) reported regularly on the operation of the two magazine groups. Again, there have been difficulties caused by the impact of Covid on the magazines from overseas and erratic deliveries by NZ Post.

Sandra Knight (Publication Administrator) has again efficiently processed orders for the Society's publications; she continued to be assisted by John Dwyer, a volunteer who does an outstanding job dispatching these.

As the Society's Web Master Sandra has continued to improve the website to promote the sale of publications and other services as well as to provide information to members. The site has proved a popular means to sell the second hand books gathered in the main by way of donations from members' estates.

Sandra and Graeme McClare have used the Society's Facebook Page to post historic photographs, which have generated positive feedback and interest from followers. The page is used to promote new publications as well as provide information about the Society, which has proved valuable during the pandemic.

Sandra and Bill Prebble have made use of Trade Me to promote the sale of surplus reference publications; this has proved to be a useful means of generating income.

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

David Cuthbert,

Chairman Administration Committee

Membership for 2022 financial year

Total membership was 756 as at 30 June 2022, made up of 696 paid up, 36 members in 2021 unpaid and 24 new members who joined late in 2022 and were put directly into the 2023 financial year.

There were 48 new members who were financial in 2022.

Deceased during the 2022 year

The following deaths are recorded with our sympathy:

4874 Mr Reg Hunter Dobson

5029 Mr Albert Dyer Hastings

4838 Mr Pat Manning Colorado ,USA

4091 Mr William (Bill) Anthony Lower Hutt

2407 Mr Barry Walker Lower Hutt

634 Mr Peter Gundesen Levin

326 Mr Ian Coates Greymouth

2396 Dr Nigel Ashworth Paraparaumu

1792 Mr Reg McLeod Invercargill

5117 Mr Wayne Perkins Auckland

555 Mr Dave Berry Wellington

3780 Mr Keith Humphries, Auckland

42 Mr Ron Grant Christchurch

Magazine groups

Magazine group A had 24 paid members in 2022

Magazine group B had 17 paid members in 2022

Comments from the membership

For a lot of our older members who do not have computer facilities, renewals are getting hard with the banks closing branches, NZ Post taking away letter boxes and the ever-increasing cost of living. Transferring money from overseas for this group is not easy. We are patient with this group of members and keep in touch personally to help them with their membership needs.

For those members with computer facilities, we are trying to improve all the time to make membership as rewarding and as easy as possible. Comments from them are very positive, but they too feel the bite of inflation as it hits everyone in the pocket.

Bill McGavin,

Membership Administrator

Finance

The 2021/22 financial year saw the Society make a surplus of \$241,000.

This is far more than \$5.523 of 2020/21, but it should be noted that income from bequests and donations far exceeded previous years. This again highlights just how important the generosity of our members and benefactors is to the Society's continued operations.

Without the donations and bequests, we would not have met our operating costs.

	2021/22	2020/21	Variance	
	\$	\$	\$	%
<i>Operations</i>				
Operating income	156,806	147,083	9,723	6.6% up
Operating expenses	190,041	177,100	12,941	7.3% up
Operating loss	(33,235)	(30,017)	(3,218)	10.7% up
<i>Non-operating income</i>				
Donations	7,810	16,442	8,632	52.5% down

Bequests	266,123	19,098	247,025	1293.5% up
Total non-operating income	273,933	35,539	238,394	670.8% up
Net Surplus	240,699	5,523	235,176	4,258.2% up

Operating income has held up well, with membership fees and book sales up and a slight drop in Observer sales and advertising. Unfortunately, operating expenses increased by slightly more, with some one-off items, such as increased depreciation as a result of changing the method used, and the costs of repainting the Thomas McGavin building at Ava.

The Balance Sheet of the Society is healthy. Investments have increased significantly due to the bequests received. These bequests have been added to the Building Reserve to help fund any future rebuild/relocation of our premises.

I would like to thank the Society Administration Officers, Sandra Knight and Bill McGavin, 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*), and Rob Merrifield. The Publications Committee largely communicates by email, optimizing members' time and providing a more efficient process of meeting immediate needs than timetabled meetings can deliver.

New Zealand Railway Observer

For a number of years the Society's magazine has been sold in retail outlets. Several members have joined the Society as a result of purchasing an issue at a store. Over the last year there has been a steady increase in the number of copies of each issue sold. This increase is totally against the national trend of a drop off in the volume of magazines sold. The *New Zealand Railway Observer* is obviously appreciated as a quality magazine about rail activities in New Zealand.

The main reason for this success is the high standard of articles that members and other enthusiasts contribute. This we are very grateful for – thank you. The editor is always grateful to receive manuscripts and would appreciate more articles, particularly from first time authors. It is

important that a wide variety of subjects feature in each issue to cater for all reader's interests. While some readers enjoy historical articles, others prefer reminiscences, and others prefer being informed of modern day rail developments.

While much of the production is carried out by the editor, there are other members of the Society that make huge contributions. Graeme McClare contributes his Research Notes for each issue and his articles are always different and informative. Rob Merrifield continues to produce an index at the conclusion of each volume. We are very grateful for both members' work. To all members who contribute photographs, your efforts are appreciated and are enjoyed by all readers.

Thomas McGavin Research Grant

There was no grant made within the period of review. This grant is available to all researchers and potential authors who may be able to contribute significant research and possible material for a future publication.

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's publications. We strive 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 enjoyable reading material, fulfilling the Society objectives of information sharing, and generate a modest income which helps fund future publications and other activities of the Society.

Through our publications policy we strive to ensure our members receive value from their membership by offering generous member discounts off our publications.

Long-awaited by many, it is pleasing to report that *Alpine Thunder* has been a strong seller during the year and has undoubtedly become the reference work on its subject.

Next "cab off the rank" was Graham Stewart's *Trams Still Around New Zealand* in October. At 160 pages and over 500 photos, the book proved an immediate hit within the tramway-interest and wider communities. This book is close to selling out, so if you had considered purchasing a copy, now would be the time to place your order.

It is rare to have past members of NZR's Traffic Branch record their memoirs, so we were especially pleased to be able to publish *Steam Trails: Life Viewed From The Guard's Van*, by Norman Junge, covering the period 1947 to 1957 when Norman was a guard on the Midland

Line. We published this book in March and again are pleased to advise that this has become a very popular seller.

Currently under production is *My Life As a Locomotive Engineer*. The author Kevin Tasker was a Napier-based loco engineer, starting off his career in 1960 on steam and finishing on the DL class 55 years later in 2015. This book is an excellent amalgam of steam and diesel operations, told in an easy-going and interesting style. We expect to have this book available in late October / early November.

We have two other titles in the wings for 2023 / 2024 and others under discussion. However, if you have in mind a book, or even a short article, please make contact so we can assist with the concept and discuss options.

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

Some 78% of our members now receive *Turntable* electronically. Printing of paper versions for those members unable to receive the electronic version has been continued. There were 6 issues (Nos 190-195) of each 4 pages printed, for a total of 24 pages. Printed copies are posted out with related copies of the *Observer*. For those members able to receive the electronic version, 6 issues have been published (Nos 190-195) totaling 74.5 pages of items about our Society, groups and members. Major advantages of the electronic version are that fonts and illustrations can be larger, for ease of reading, and material can be included that simply will not fit into the available space in the printed version.

Turntable has welcomed some 52 members to the Society this year. Of those members we have lost, *Turntable* has reported the interment of Mark Cole's ashes and published tributes to Roy Sinclair and to John St Julian, and also an obituary for Barry Walker. All of these people have made notable contributions to various aspects of our rail interest movement.

Each issue has included notices important to members. A number of advertisements have been published on behalf of members.

Progress with our archival work, especially the development of our *Trainfinda* system that will enable easy searching for photographic images in the Society's collection once proven and

rolled out generally, has been covered in successive reports. A number of mystery photographs have been published for possible identification. I'm glad to report that in some cases some very worthwhile information has been provided that our Archives team has been very grateful to receive.

Similarly, progress with the restoration of WMR carriage 48 to as near it's as-built condition as possible, has been recorded.

A consistent feature has been our advising members of forthcoming meetings of the Society's local groups. Some group conveners keep us in touch regularly with what is going on for their meetings, others are quieter. I encourage the quieter groups to let us know what they are doing too, so *Turntable* can spread the word as far as possible of what is being done amongst our members.

Rob Merrifield

SILVERSTREAM NORTH END PREMISES



I have continued to control vegetation outside our building with a view to keeping the surrounds as tidy as possible. Some minor rust to the cladding of the original building (built 1999) has had rust-inhibiting paint applied. Silver Stream Railway has lifted the tracks leading to our building in the course of their commencing rebuilding of the North End yard.

Preservation: Wellington & Manawatu Railway (WMR) Carriages



Work this year has been markedly affected during three periods when activity has been minimal because of three Covid-19-related shutdowns. As a result, progress has been slowed very much.

I am grateful for the work put in through the year by various members, notably Mike Dutton, Lionel Ford, Kevin Cottle, Selwyn Roberts, Glen Summers, and Bruce Shadbolt.

Lionel Ford has prepared the drawings needed to make reproduction dead buffers and to assemble the reproduction WMR door hinges. These drawings have been scanned as well as printed, for future reference and use. This, together with making the necessary patterns and

core-boxes, is a major achievement. It has been a great effort on his part and I am very grateful to have had him with his mechanical skills on the team. We should now be in a position to approach a foundry and get a price to make the dead buffers for WMR 48.

Lionel has produced detailed drawings for various parts that have had to be made. He has made foundry patterns for reproduction door hinges, window stops, eyebolts and hooks for bogie safety chains, and for pawls to hold the handbrakes on. A number of castings have been made from these patterns, including the individual leaves for 15 reproduction WMR door hinges and 40 window stops needed for WMR 48. The hinge parts await machining and assembly. Castings for reproduction window lifters are on order.

Lionel has moved to live in another region. He has brought skills and experience we needed and didn't have available. Our overhauled machine tools are another tribute to his work for us. He has been working remotely to facilitate the machining and assembly of our reproduction door hinges. Bruce Shadbolt has taken on the task of completing machining and assembly of these hinges.

The main window sashes for WMR 48 have been finish-varnished on their inside faces and painted on their outsides in the second half of 2021. Those for the west side have been fitted into place and those for the east side are ready to be fitted. Woods safety gates are complete and their paintwork has been touched up. The end railings on the balconies of WMR 48 have been completed similarly.

Bruce Shadbolt is pursuing reproduction of the kerosene lights used by the WMR. He has brought a long experience in the veteran car restoration interest to our project.

I made an effort in 2021 to reach out to seniors' organisations in the Hutt Valley to draw attention to our carriages restoration project by giving a series of illustrated talks. These were well received but have not been successful in drawing possible volunteer workers. Subsequently, members of Veteran Car Club (Wellington) and of Hawke's Bay Rail Society visited North End workshop. The Veteran Car Club talk and visit has led to some helpful ideas in solving the problem of reproducing the kerosene lights and some other parts originally fitted by the WMR to their carriages.

At the end of this 2021-22 year, WMR 52 continues to be set aside as being outside the capacity of our very small team.

Unfinished work on WMR 48 may be summarised:

- Make reproduction kerosene lights;
- Second electrical fix;
- Place the east side windows and secure them;

- Receive the window lifters that are on order and fit them;
- Make and fit window latches;
- Make and fit blinds to main window sashes, including making and placing mouldings to trim the window reveals;
- Make and fit remaining toplight openers needed;
- Make and fit the dead buffers;
- Machine and assemble reproduction door hinges;
- Make and hang interior doors;
- Complete outstanding work to salvaged entry doors and hang these;
- Machine eye-bolt casting, assemble and fit one bogie safety chain; and
- Snag all previous work.

Rob. Merrifield

ARCHIVES

Although we have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic during the year, it has only had a minor effect on our archive operations, and it has been pretty much business as usual.

As I reported last year, we continue to receive donations of archival material, and we are most grateful for the papers, books, plans and other items of a railway nature that are passed on to us. Some of these items have been bequests from estates, and the quantities of items can be quite large. All these items have to be sorted before being put away, and Bill Prebble is very good at doing this.

There is still a steady stream of requests from members and non-members for information pertaining to railways in New Zealand. Sometimes these requests are for digital images of photographs and plans. These are usually supplied as digital files via emails, or if the quantity is large, we use a drop box. One of the highlights during the year was to supply scans of a near full set of plans to Southern Steam Train Charitable Trust at Invercargill, to be used in the restoration of locomotive F 150.

We still get visitors, both members and non-members to our archive. Those who are visiting for the first time are usually very impressed with the wide range of items and material which we have. However, we don't have everything, and sometimes we are unable to help, but we can usually suggest another depository.

As reported last year, Kevin Crosado continues to catalogue the drawings we received from the A & G Price archive, but the end of this task is in sight. Kevin is digitally copying the A & G

Price drawings of interest as he finds them. He is also copying some of the early NZR Mechanical Branch tracings which we are holding.

John Churchouse was doing the same with the Signalling and Interlocking drawings, and other items as well, up until the end of October 2021. John had found new employment in Taranaki, and moved away from the Wellington area in early November. Although the work that John was doing for the Society has now ceased, we do wish him well in his new job and leisure activities.

The leader of the Digitisation Working Group, Bob Bevan Smith, will report separately on their activities.

Finally, I would like to thank members of the archive team for their assistance during the year. They include John Churchouse, Kevin Crosado, Tony Hurst, David Parsons, Bill Prebble, Phil Rundle, and David Sharp.

Graeme McClare Honorary Archivist

WEBSITE

During the year an audit of the Society's website logins was undertaken. This audit served two purposes; the first to remove logins of ex members and secondly; to identify members who, whilst we had email addresses for them, they had not been issued a Society website login at the time of their joining. Those members were emailed individually and offered the option of being issued a login. The actual number identified was relatively small but the uptake was worth the effort.

The Second Hand Book Catalogue on the website is updated regularly and there is seldom a week that goes by when we are not fielding enquires about the books listed. Sales of these books is steady and we even have waiting lists for some publications. It is interesting to note that it is not just Society's members who are buying these publications which indicates our website is visited by both members and non members.

The website continues to be used for promoting new publications, updating progress on the restoration of WMR 48 and other news worthy articles.

FACEBOOK

The Society's Archivist, who also has access to put up Facebook posts, regularly puts up photos from the past and these posts generate a lot of interest and feedback amongst followers.

We also continue to use Facebook to promote new publications and updates on new book releases which always seems to generate a lot of pre-orders.

During the various Covid levels we have also been using Facebook to let our members know the status of access to our Ava premises.

TRADE ME

The Society continues to use Trade Me as a way of listing older publications that are surplus to requirements. This year we even ventured into listing train LP's which were quickly snapped up. A large number of our listings see numerous bids and we have noted that we have regular bidders. We put listings up every two weeks.

Sandra Knight

Publications Administrator

MAGAZINE GROUPS

Over the past year these groups have functioned pretty well in spite of the effects of Covid and NZ Post. As usual, the groups have been split into six sub-groups, relating to members' physical addresses. By doing this, delays in the movement of bags are kept to a minimum.

Members of both groups have received on average 14 bags of magazines, all of which, with the exception of one which is slightly overdue, are accounted for. There have been a couple of issues of changes of address, but these have been remedied. We have also lost one of our long-time members who passed away recently. New magazines have been received by me a couple of times each month, and all, with the exception of *Trains*, are up to date. *Trains* has been a bit of a hit-and-miss affair; the first issue received after a lengthy absence was six months old.

Unfortunately, I do have an issue with NZ Post. Members each pay \$4.30 to send on bags, but in many cases delays occur for some unknown reason. A check of the distribution sheet sent out with each dispatch indicates that bags from some destinations are moving quicker than others. Now and again, I receive messages from members bringing up issues regarding the bags, but these are relatively few. The last one I received related to a bag which was completely wet through, thus ruining the magazines, but I managed to have the bag itself returned.

Overall, this is an enjoyable task undertaken on behalf of the Society.

Stu Ingram

Magazine Groups Co-ordinator.

DIGITISATION WORKING GROUP (DWG)

During the year under review the Digitisation Working Group has been continuing to scan and hence create digital image copies of photos held in the Ava Archive. Original estimates were that the Archive held in the order of 300,000 photos. Of late, we estimate that we have scanned about 40,000 photos over 5 years to create digital images. The vast majority are photos taken in the days of steam. Recently, Len Chisholm has been copying those digital images into the database called Trainfinda. There are currently just over 30,000 images in Trainfinda, with another 10,000 approximately ready to add.

Sadly not all the photos have adequate descriptions. It is not enough to say, "A steam locomotive on a passenger train in a rural area." If the images are to be a useful historic resource, much greater detail is needed. The Trainfinda database may be opened by accredited members from their home computer via the internet, and they are encouraged to compose, correct, or amplify descriptions of each scanned image. We desperately need to capture the information held by our elderly members before that information is lost forever.

The main focus of our scanning is on collections of colour photos and black and white negatives, which have been donated from the collections of deceased persons. But there are also other collections of a later era, which we will address as time permits. The colour photos, in particular, are subject to colour degradation over the decades.

In one particular collection, which had been photographed and developed using an older chemical formula, we had to separate many of the photos as they were degrading rapidly, emitting noxious fumes which had the capability of affecting other nearby images in the Ava building.

We currently have a team of four volunteers working on the digitisation project, each of whom has been allocated a specific collection to work through, acting on the advice of Bill Prebble. The three original volunteers are Alan Smith, Bruce Taylor and myself. We were lucky to attract one new member, Clark Simmons, to the team earlier this year.

Where possible, the volunteers write descriptions of the images as they scan them, often by using the notebooks of the original photographer, if such is available. A case in point is the collection of Mark Cole's photos, which Mark had described very well in his notebooks. In my case I didn't arrive in NZ until the 1980's so my lack of knowledge is a barrier to me writing meaningful descriptions from that era or earlier.

The Archive contains four PCs, which each have a scanner attached. However, those PCs are also used by other volunteers and administrators working on disparate activities, which preclude the use of the scanner attached to that PC. The Archive is only open to members on

Mondays (except public holidays), Wednesdays and Saturdays. Wednesday is a very busy day at the Archive.

However, we have been negotiating with Noel Maginnity, who has a scanner at home, and who may be willing to visit Ava to collect a batch of photos to scan, work on them in his own time, and then return the original photos with the scanned image results. He would be a fifth volunteer at work on the collections.

Robert Bevan Smith

Convenor DWG

LOCAL GROUPS

Auckland

The Auckland Group met just four of the six times scheduled for the year ended 30 June 2022, with Auckland-specific Covid lockdowns causing the cancellation of the August and October meetings. Due to the loss of our regular venue of the last 10 years, we were dependent on the generosity of others for the provision of venues for the remaining meetings: Greg Hackett & Natalie Rogers (December), Manukau Live Steamers (February) and the Railway Enthusiasts Society (April & June).

Programme topics included: a visit to a private signalling museum; a presentation on various interesting rail projects carried out by Auckland's Ikon Engineering; photographs of NZR and preserved railways taken during 1975 and 1976; Coupled In-Motion Train Weighing in New Zealand; A Musical History of American Railroads.

Appreciation is expressed to all those who presented programme items and/or helped in other ways, especially: Dave Giles, Greg Hackett, Ann Hulena, Floyd Hulena, Adrienne Millar, Natalie Rogers, Robert Sweet, John Webley, John Wise, and various officers of both Manukau Live Steamers and the Railways Enthusiasts Society.

Sean Millar

Bay of Plenty

The Bay of Plenty Group's meetings continued this past year with only two being cancelled by Covid. Although small in numbers (nine), our members are all enthusiastic about meeting and the venue has plenty of space for distancing. Among the DVDs viewed were NZ Milk Trains, Building Diesel Locomotives in the UK, Rimutaka Incline, NZ Bush Railways and the Axing of British Branch Lines by Beeching.

In May we were privileged to have guest, Len Chisholm from Wellington, who spoke about the Society's digitizing of photographs. Our end of year social gathering of husbands and wives was a great success.

David Kent

Hawke's Bay

Hawke's Bay Rail Inc. has continued to meet every second month in the past year, mostly in the old Customhouse, Ahuriri, Napier, which has been our venue for many years now. A barbecue meeting was held at the Keirunga Gardens Railway to end the year. Attendance at our meetings has continued to be strong. Programmes have included interesting talks on the local rail scene from the Regional Council, the NZR Refreshment Service, the Port of Napier and the railcar collection at Pahiatua.

Preservation work has been ongoing at Waipunga station site on the restored Napier-Wairoa rail line. Our bi-monthly newsletter "*Hawke's Bay Rail Scene*" has continued to be produced. Visitors to the area are always welcome to the meetings as advertised in "*Turntable*" and "*Hawke's Bay Rail Scene*".

David Prior

Manawatu

The past year has had its ups and downs with Covid -19 dictating what the Manawatu Group was able to do. However, we have been able to get together most months. With the average attendance these days being five or six, meeting in member's homes is convenient. There we were able to enjoy an excellent and enjoyable variety of programmes consisting of either DVD's, or slides shown by a member, on an interesting railways subject.

A highlight was a visit to well-known rail enthusiast Bernard Watson's railway collection at Tokomaru. What he hasn't collected a sample of is hard to find - well almost, there's no steam locomotive, yet. The Annual Luncheon was held at the Woolshed Cafe, Sanson and enjoyed by members, friends and family.

Neville Wood

Wellington

The Wellington Group schedule was affected by COVID-19 conditions, only meeting three times on the 2nd Mondays of July and November 2021, and May 2022. Meeting attendances have averaged 18. Two meetings were presented by Demetrius Christoforou on Greek railways and a wider European trip, and Len Chisholm presented a selection of images by Graham Aitken from the NZRLS Archive. The combination of COVID-19 and OSH defeated attempts to

organise a field trip in 2022. We are still just keeping ahead of the increasing room hire and postage costs.

Len Chisholm

Dunedin

Our Group's meeting schedule was somewhat disrupted at short notice by Covid-19. However, four meetings were held in various members' houses with an average attendance of ten. The main presenters of our slide shows were Grant Craig and Dale Jonker. Grant showed a selection of NZ and USA views from the Reid McNaught Collection while Dale entertained us with scenes of snow fighting on the Donner Pass, USA. There is good fellowship at our meetings with much robust discussion over supper.

Bill Cowan

Invercargill

Our numbers have remained steady with a regular membership of seven NZRLS members and one local visitor on an intermittent basis. We were saddened to lose Reg McLeod, a long standing local member of the Society and of our Group, in March. Reg had been a member of the NZRLS since the late 1960s. While we have lost some of our older members, our numbers are steady with a small increase in membership.

The format of our meetings, which are bimonthly, has not changed. The programme is, roughly, News & Views and DVDs or photos mainly from our member's own collections. This is followed by afternoon tea and continuing discussion. Our meetings will continue to be held at 1.30pm on the 4th Sunday each odd numbered month. This is subject to the occasional change.

For our May meeting we were privileged to have Grant Craig and other Dunedin members travel to Invercargill and present a selection of Reid McNaught's and Cyril Bachop's slides. The afternoon was too short.

Noel Joyce

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

Bruce Taylor

Secretary

OFFICE HOLDERS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS as at 30 JUNE 2022

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

W W Prebble Chairman
G T Carter Editor *Observer*
A L R Merrifield Member

ARCHIVES TEAM

G J McClare Archivist
T Hurst
K Crosado
D Parsons
W W Prebble
P Rundle
D Sharp

DIGITAL WORKING GROUP

R W Bevan Smith Convenor
A E Smith Minutes Secretary
L Chisholm
D Cuthbert
G J McClare
N Maginnity
W W Prebble
C Simmonds
B S Taylor

SILVERSTREAM NORTH END JOINT-COMMITTEE

A L R Merrifield
W W Prebble

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS

S Knight Administration, Publications, Facebook
and Website
W McGavin Membership

AUDITOR

K D McGavin

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Auckland S Millar
Waikato D Cumming A Turner
Rotorua M Farquhar
Bay of Plenty D Kent

Hawke's Bay	D Pryor
Manawatu	S Ingram
Wairarapa	M Brodie
Wellington	L Chisholm
Canterbury	C Barry
South Canterbury	B Blanchard
Otago	W Cowan
Invercargill	P Lankshear
United Kingdom	R Durham

**LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE
2022**

No.	Name	Location	Year
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