

FRONZ: JOURNAL

Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand Incorporated

With the 2023 FRONZ Conference now over and us all settling back in to our usual lives, I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone for the massive success it was. To Margaret, Jeff and Grant for our huge team effort to organise and execute both the pre-conference holiday and conference itself, and to all of the attendees - thank you !

As we are now into the Winter months, and with groups taking a bit of a break on operating, the Journal will be sticking with an edition every second month for now, and I'm again asking for your help- if you have anything you would like published (whether it be a training achievement, track work, an excursion - anything you would like to share!) please send it through to me at journaleditor@fronz.org.nz.

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- Happy 85th Birthday TR56 - a story and colouring in book
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- Upcoming Excursions



One of the many beautiful sunrises we saw at the Copthorne Bay Of Islands.

FRONZ CONFERENCE 2023

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Conference 2023 was kicked off early with the mini holiday.

The group visited Cape Reinga and Ninety Mile Beach (with some of the group taking on boarding down the sand dunes!), Hokianga with a stop off at Tane Mahuta - the giant Kauri tree, and did the Hole In The Rock cruise. The cruise had an extra highlight, with a pod of friendly dolphins that wouldn't leave the boat alone!

The last day of the holiday had a few extras tag along (including myself), when we took the ferry over to Russell for a sight seeing tour and a visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds in the afternoon. We were incredibly lucky to have one of the curators from the Treaty Grounds as our tour guide, and with our group size we were able to take our time walking around and ask as many questions as we could think of.

We wandered along the board walk style walkway through the trees, and down to the Waka (canoes) that they bring out for Waitangi Day. We were able to get up close and personal, and see the intricate details that have been carved/painted on them. We then headed up the hill, and were able to check out the Treaty House, see the flagstaff where the treaty was signed and then we headed in to the gathering house.

We decided amongst our group (forcefully nominated) our fearless leader, who was to accept the offering to show that we had come peacefully, and join in in the welcoming ceremony/cultural experience. Thanks for taking one for the team Grant!!

We then headed back down to the Copthorne at our own pace, where registration began soon after. It was great to catch up with familiar faces, and also put faces to names that I had been seeing in emails and such for so long. Plenty of us mingled in the bar having a bit of a catch up before the official sessions started.

Saturday morning began with a pōwhiri (welcome) from our host group. This was followed up by a talk by the New Zealand First Rail Spokesman Jon Reeves and an update from the NZTA team. We then headed on to a few remote sessions, with Rob Gibbes (KiwiRail), Dan Armstrong (update on Climate) and AON Insurance all coming to us via webcam/video. After afternoon tea we came back for a video on the North Auckland Line which was put together by Lindsay Benbrook, and then we broke up into the three discussion groups to catch up on the relevant topics for each sub-group.

Sunday was the AGM. There was the election, and the executive remained mostly the same - with the exception of David Maciulaitis stepping down. We'd like to thank him for his service, and expertise that he has shared. Alan Verry was elected to joined us on the executive.

After the AGM we boarded the coaches, and headed off to the Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club. There was plenty to check out between the trams and steam loco running, the model exhibits, and railway exhibits/workshop areas. They also put on a massive afternoon tea for us.

On our arrival back to Waitangi, we all headed off to get glammed up for the annual awards dinner.

Our award winners for the year were:

The Paul Heighton Memorial Award for Excellence Alex Hunter (Tramway Historical Society)

The Paul Dillicar Memorial Award for Innovation Glenbrook Vintage Railway & Steam Incorporated

Motive Power Award The Western Springs Railway, MOTAT (Oberursel 5774)

Highly commended - Diesel Traction Group (De511 & De512)

Goods and Service Wagon Award Glenbrook Vintage Railway (Uc686)

The Pounamu Tourism Group Carriage/Guards Van Restoration Award Mainline Steam Heritage Trust (Fm3010)

Tramway Restoration Award Wellington Tramway Museum (Tram No17)

Highly commended - Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club (ex-Lisbon Trams 520 & 526)

The Alan Smith (Wellington Tramway Museum) Volunteer of the Year Belinda Selby (Pahiatua Railcar Society)

Steam Locomotive Restoration Award Glenbrook Vintage Railway (Ww644)

Highly commended - Tramway Historical Society (1881 Kitson Steam Tram)

KiwiRail Infrastructure Award Glenbrook Vintage Railway (response to flooding)

Highly commended - Blenheim Riverside Railway Society (Bridge No4)

Waka Kotahi Tourism & Heritage Rail Safety Award Diesel Traction Group

That concluded our formal conference sessions, with us again jumping on the coaches and heading over to Kawakawa on Monday morning for a ride on the Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway. We recieved a guided tour of the workshop prior to our train trip. The trip itself was really cool, with us kicking it off by heading down the middle of the main street on the train (we seem to keep finding these unique trips for conference - like heading over the airport runway in Gisborne!).

The train was heading out for another trip after ours, so after having lunch at the railway station we watched it depart (and took plenty of photos/videos), and then said goodbye to the other conference attendees.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise conference, everyone who attended, and to the Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway and Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club for being so welcoming.

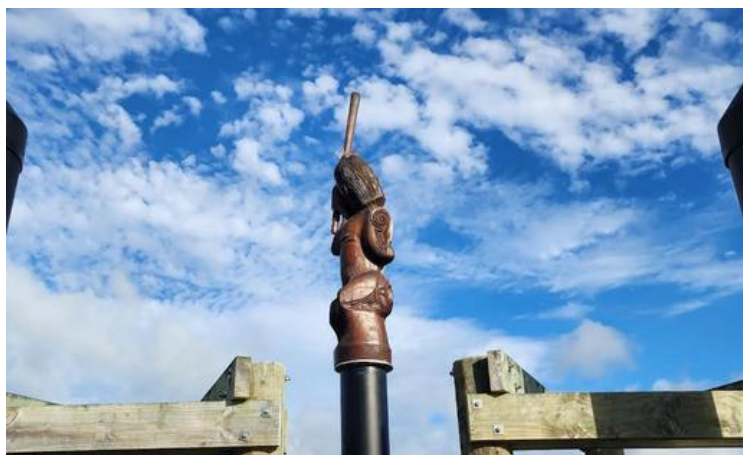
We hope to see you all next year in Palmerston North!



Left: The ferry over to Russell. Right: Overlooking Russell from Flagstaff Hill.



Left: Flagstaff Hill (where Hone Heke and his allies cut down the flagstaff). Right: Our Russell tour group.



The jetty at Russell.



Our group at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds



Checking out the Waka



Left: the front of one of the waka. Middle: The flagstaff where the treaty was signed. Right: The tree top style walkway.



Left: the Treaty House. Right: the offering at the Meeting House.



Left: displaying some of the combat and defense skills. Right: inside the Meeting House.



Left: Kicking off the formal sessions with our welcome. Right: our Conference planning team at the awards night. Photo - Lindsay Benbrook



Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club



Left: Anne giving us our safety briefing. Right: getting ready to depart Kawakawa on the Bay Of Islands Vintage Railway.

**ANNOUNCED AT THE 2022 FRONZ CONFERENCE
AND NOW AVAILABLE!**



Happy 85th Birthday TR56

A colouring in story book.

FRONZ members wholesale price **\$5.00**

Recommended retail price **\$12.00**

Minimum order 20 books

Orders to the Rail Heritage Trust at railheritage@railheritage.org.nz

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1923-2023

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

4th August 2023

For more information:

FB – Ōtira Tunnel Commemorations 2023

Email – otiratunnel2023@gmail.com

Register – www.eventbrite.co.nz

Travel to the event by train –

www.greatjourneysnz.com/gifts-and-specials-otira.co.nz

FRONZ BADGES

Missed out on getting one of the 2023 FRONZ Badges at Conference, or want to show off that you are a member of FRONZ? We have badges available for \$12.00 + postage. Email us at journaleditor@fronz.org.nz to place your order.



RAIL SAFETY WEEK

TrackSAFE Foundation

FRONZ is pleased to support Rail Safety Week happening on 7-13th August 2023.

This year's campaign aims to change the public's behaviour at level crossings, targeting complacent car drivers and pedestrians. For some people, they're taking a quick glance at best, rather than actually stopping and looking left and right.

In August, New Zealanders will meet a cool new rail safety hero (and his horse). The character is designed to be memorable, and using a bit of humour, will encourage people to take a good, hard look left and right before crossing. Getting people to look both ways is a simple message, but a very important one.

Look out for ways you can support the campaign in August.



THE MAN

THE LEGEND

AND HIS HORSE...

Some say he resides deep in the Remutakas. Others swear he's from the Fiordland rainforests. Whatever the truth, very soon, he'll be appearing at a level crossing near you.

Saddle up, people.

Rail Safety Week | 7-13 August

TrackSAFE Foundation

KiwiRail

Rail Safety Week

PLEASANT POINT RAILWAY

Talking Point, July 2023

The sad news for the Society was on the 10 th June, when we were advised the our very loyal working member had passed away. Since Bill Noble joined our Society round 20 years ago, it's just about been his second home and family. Working bees he would be there, some times up to 6 days a week.

He was involved with so much in our Society and was also responsible for purchasing for the Society the Isuzu Elf truck and the International H30 Hough loader. These have been a great asset to our society being used on many jobs including railway track work and working with the firewood to be used in our 2 steam locomotives fire boxes. A special memorial lunch was held for him in our Keanes Crossing meeting room on June 17 th for those who had worked with him, followed by a last cab ride in Ab699 with his sister Heather Harris, Ab699 was one of the many locomotives he drove round our site. His ashes were spread along our railway track on the return trip. We think of Heather and members and friends who knew and worked with Bill at a sad time like this.

Working bees continue round our site, cutting the lawns and keeping our site tidy. The big signal box at the western end of our Pleasant Point station platform is being repaired where needed, before it gets painted, with the help of a grant we have been given. Replacing rotten wood in places where needed. Under Stewart Frew's control with help when needed it has been a much bigger job than it looked at the start. The stair way and hand rail was found to be needed replacing too. The signal box was originally used by NZ Railways at Washdyke till we purchased it off them before they scrapped it, and was transported out to our museum site with help from Paul Smith & C Lund & Sons crane operated by Bruce Cole. They helped us on a number of times when setting up our museum in our early days.



Bill Noble puts in the first of 110 tubes in AB699's boiler in 2005 - John Bisset

OAMARU STEAM AND RAIL

The Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest

- In May we carried 220 passengers.
- In the workshop, the loader remains the main priority, a new fuel pump and injectors have given the engine life. Work on cab wiring continues.
- B10 has received maintenance adjustments and checks.



NELSON RAILWAY SOCIETY FOUNDERS PARK

Facebook

The planned update of the track started today outside Wakefield Quay Station where some sleepers need replacing. There was an interested audience of the feathery kind. We can always do with volunteers if anyone would like to help out.

-

The Dsa compressor being removed for overhaul.

-

Re assembling the air filter from the Dsa



MAINLINE STEAM HERITAGE TRUST

Mainline Steam Heritage Trust Newlsetter - Autumn-Winter 2023

Mercer:

The work at Mercer continues as we move into winter mode. On April 25th, we had an open day for the members to bring us up to date on progress at the site. We used our office building for the first time. The members then walked along the site to check on the progress being made with filling the site. The drain alongside the site has been cleared and the culvert pipes installed where the rail siding will enter the property from the KiwiRail yard. Now this is complete, filling will commence over the culvert to final ground level so that we can start planning and laying of the rail track to the site. Meantime, discussions with KiwiRail have proved positive with the installation of the mainline turn-out. Filling of the site continues however the wet weather continues to cause issues so the fill is being stock-piled when it is too wet to spread and compact.

Plimmerton:

The team at Plimmerton continues to be very busy with a concentrated effort to finish the re certification work for the Ao carriages.

Significant process on Ao48 and ASO136 has been made with these now progressed to a point where final electrical sign off and external inspections are imminent.

Work on Ao215 has progressed to a point where a new coat of striking midnight blue has been applied to the carriage.

The next tasks to complete are some minor repairs to the roof, repainting the roof, complete a full brake service, reinstall the buffers now they have been crack tested. The bogies are in the process of getting a general overhaul including crack testing and will be reinstalled under the carriage in the next couple of weeks. It will be a huge sigh of relief for the hard-working team when it is back down on its wheels and off its temporary stands.

In other exciting news, Steam locomotive Jb1236 and our resident excursion tank car Uc323 have past all their inspections for recertification and waiting final sign off from our Certifying Engineer before submission to the HTC for endorsement for certification.

A huge amount of time and effort has gone into getting the Jb and Uc to this point which is a testament to the hard-working team. We are looking forward to seeing Jb1236 back out in action be it with AO cars or some other duties.

In the workshop not all has been Ao cars and the Jb. We have a wonderful volunteer going by the name of Robin who has been diligently cosmetically enhancing the look of his pet project, that being the 14a Garratt #509. Although this project slowed to a near halt in recent times there is still behind the scenes discussions going on about how to best move the project along after the Ao recertification is completed.

Mainline Steam Heritage Trust, continued

The Diesel team have also been busy with the 2 DJs. Richard has removed the buffers and yolks for crack testing and is in the process of certifying the fire suppression unit. Other odd jobs have also been attended to.

New Zealand's only operational Ka has been moved into the main shed at Plimmerton where interim work has been carried out preparing the boiler for its inspection and hydraulic test. The Pistons and rods have all also been reinstalled and work will continue on Ka942 as time allows.

Part of our siding leading to the network connection has had an upgrade courtesy of KiwiRail and its contractor, Downer. Work included the lifting track sets and the turnout and laying a new road bed and then re installing the track sets and turnout. Selected joints have been thermite welded and insulation joints installed as part of the signalling of the siding. Most notable is the new automatic points and new pedestrian crossing to allow passengers to enter the new platform recently built at Plimmerton Railway Station.

As with any property ongoing maintenance is required and over the last couple of months new roofs have been installed on the both the machine shop and the storage shed beside the machine shop. The new roofs look great and more importantly all the leaks have gone. Well done team.



FERRYMEAD TRAM TRACTS

June 2023

Newport Parts Acquisition (Alex Hunter)

The THS has been very fortunate to have been donated 4 of the Melbourne number 15 type trucks from Victrack.

The Retired Trams Strategy of which the Council of Tramway Museums Australasia (COTMA) has been involved in the disposal of some 200 trams out to the museums and communities.

The trucks were loaded in the last month and shipped to Lyttelton arriving late May.

A huge thanks goes to Steve Lea of the society for dealing with the transportation and containers and much more.

And a huge thanks to Mal Rowe and Tony Smith from COTMA for facilitating this fantastic donation and these items will be of great use.

One of the trucks will be used under the 5W works tram, and the No9 truck it currently has can be released to make up 2 more 14D5 trucks in the future.

Cable Car 103 Restoration (Don McAra)

Don Clark, Lawrie Cooper, Bill Perry and I have been working on building the inner cabin walls as can be seen, using some of the original timbers when it is usable (mostly not), as can be seen in the top photo. One more inner cabin wall to go and then we will start on the outer cabin walls, The double acting cabin doors slide open and shut between the inner and outer cabin walls.

The other photo shows the results of Lawrie Cooper and Don Clark's work on the now complete strong backs. These brace the whole body chassis from under the cabin floors and pass up and over the tops of the axle boxes where rings have been welded in. These surround the greasing/oiling tubes which carry grease reservoirs on top. When the caps on the reservoirs are screwed down grease is forced down through the pipes into the bearings which are housed in the axle boxes.

I have been working on the complex joinery of the inner walls myself, but we are pleased to have Richard Holland back from a recent break in Australia.

More next month.



Ferrymead Tram Tracts, continued



Left: Kitson at dusk having just arrived at the Square Shelter. Right: A neat photo of the consist crossing the rebuilt Ferrymead Bridge. Photos: DLA Turner



Left: The consist at Square Shelter, and the CRS consist being hauled by F13. Photo: John Harris
Right: The pole base being lifted from Tram 26 to be repaired.



Left: Bus 612 out on tour. Photo: Michaela Lewin. Right: The HTT staff sanding 24 ready for the cream colour to be applied. Photo: Alex Hunter

BUSH TRAMWAY CLUB

Pukemiro Junction, The Glen Afton Line - May 2023

AROUND THE JUNCTION

Russell W has spent a lot of time sorting out our driveway as the metal has been washed out by the heavy rain we have had lately. He has cut a lot of run offs into the side drain so that the rain water runs into the side drain rather than down the driveway. Hopefully this will stop the metal getting scoured out.

Maarten R has continued clearing part of the bank beside the end of the loco shed. This is a very big job as it hasn't been done for a very long time. We have a lot of flax plants to plant in this area which Maarten has just started planting.

STEAM LOCOS

Heisler 1082: During the April open day Chris M, Mike C & Dave M completed dismantling the front bogie. Dave M has since spent a lot of time cleaning the accumulated grease & muck off the parts of this bogie.

Peckett: The boiler on this loco passed its open inspection on 6/3 & its' in steam inspection on 22/3. The loco was back in use during our April open day.

Cb 117: The boiler on this loco passed its open inspection on 6/3 & its' in steam inspection on 22/3. It was running in the yard during our April Open Day.

A tremendous amount of work & time goes into getting the locos ready for inspection & then putting them back together for the in steam inspection.

Price E 111: Richard S has attached the new smoke box & the chimney to this loco. He has also painted it.

DIESEL LOCOS:

Tr 459: The painting of this loco has been completed & the loco looks very good. It is often started & run around the yard.

Dave M & CJ have been undercoating parts for the new Tr's that were made by GT Engineering in Huntly.

Tr 105: The engine in this loco didn't want to idle properly. A check was made & it was found that one of the decompression levers was pulled so the engine was only running properly on 5 cylinders. Richard E spent most of his recent visit working on this loco. It is often started & run around the railway.



Left: Chris M working on the Heisler bogie . Right: Maarten R has spent many hours clearing the bank behind the loco shed. (R. Ellis)

WEKA PASS RAILWAY

Facebook

Work at the depot today. Dg 770 getting some more work done prior to painting. The work train being loaded for the endless job of replacing sleepers on 12.8km of track. And some safety enhancements for the open car gang way/telescopes. And always time for a yarn or two in the beautiful North Canterbury sun.

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Busy day at the depot. At155 our magnificent open car getting a bogie change. RMJ Transport services a great local contractor always on hand to help out.

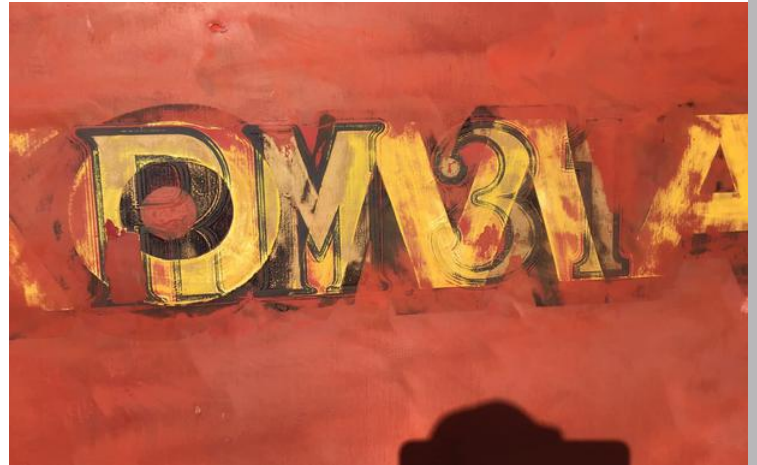


Photos: Weka Pass Railway Facebook

PAHIATUA RAILCAR SOCIETY INC

Facebook

Some happenings in Pahiatua today Rm31 gets pulled aside for a much needed paint job, Rm121 gets some carnation red applied RM24 getting some roof maintainable and some concrete floor to be poured sometime soon.



Left: Ian Staples starts to orbital sand 31 back. Right: Original Rm31 signage shows through under the Tokomaru logo.



Twinset Rm121 gets some carnation red applied.



Left: Rm121 seats all finished and ready to be installed when time arrives.

STEAM INCORPORATED

Facebook



Left: The apprentice churning out brake pins for A1975's bogie overhaul. Right: Peter and Dave survey the bogie for cracks and defects



Left: Team work makes the dream work, bogie not heading back under the car. Right: During the week Professional Electrical Solutions were back, this time to add some additional yard lighting to help us see on those early mornings or evening/night excursions operations.



Left: Jack operates the jacks to lower the car onto the bogie. Right: Team Garratt, John and Russell contemplate the next job.

UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

Glenbrook Vintage Railway

The Spiral Express is operating on July 3rd from Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Otorohanga or Te Kuiti to Ohakune and return. For something a bit different - how about an Australian Rail Safari? There are both Tasmania and Melbourne options, in September/October 2023. For more details visit - www.gvr.org.nz/events/whats-on

Steam Incorporated

Jump on the School Holiday Steam, or the Capital Steam & Cuisine on Saturday 8th of July. There is also the Daffodil Express on the 10th of September, the Hawkes Bay Wine & Food by Rail Experience on the 29th of October or the Grand Circle Rail Cruise on December 3rd.

More information is available at- www.steaminc.org.nz/book-train-trip

Dunedin Railways

The Seaside and Inlander both operating over the Winter.

More information is available at- www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/journeys

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