

# NEW ZEALAND RAILWAY AND LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY INC

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

### THE PRESIDENT

The 2022/2023 year has been a “steady as you go” period with good progress in developing the Society as a leading source of knowledge about rail in New Zealand.

One of the strengths of the Society is that we have a good board that is prepared to debate challenging issues. Thank you to all board members who give of their time willingly to further the scope of the Society. The Society is well served by a good board. At the Society’s 2024 annual general meeting some board members have indicated they wish to retire. Any member who would like to serve the Society in a governance role is welcome to discuss their interest with the President.

There are two challenges that the board is discussing. One is having publications available in a digitised format and the other is alternative premises to our current building at Ava. It is hoped that both matters will be decided on in the current year. The Society continues to receive bequests from deceased members and these funds are being put aside for a new building. The funds we have available, together with funds from the planned sale of our Ava building give the board confidence to pursue an alternative building. Our current building at North Street, Ava, is on freehold land and is mortgage free.

As noted later in the report, a very pleasing aspect of this year has been the increase in membership. The Society has had the largest membership growth for a number of years. This is a reflection of a renewed interest in rail, with major investments in infrastructure by KiwiRail, and the Society delivering high quality publications.

During the next 12 months, the Society will celebrate its 80th birthday. We have come a long way over that period. We still have much to do and the Society is still as relevant as it was in 1944. I look forward to all members being part of that on-going journey.

*Graeme Carter*

*President*

### 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 time and providing an efficient process of meeting immediate needs.

### **New Zealand Railway Observer**

The last year has been another good year for *Observer* although two issues were delivered late due to time pressures on the editor. There has been a wide variety of articles in each issue and readers appreciate the content. The serial on *The Crunchie Train* has bought back memories for many readers and several have been surprised at the extent of preparation needed to run such a nationwide excursion.

Retail sales of *Observer* have held up well although a slight drop off in sales was noted at the end of the year. Compared with other magazines *Observer* still is a good seller on the book stands.

The production of *Observer* is reliant on a steady flow of articles and support from members. The editor has a good supply of articles on hand but is always grateful to receive more. Please contact the editor if you plan to submit an article so that requirements, like length of the article and images, can be discussed. As usual the Society is grateful for the continuing support of Graeme McClare with his very informative Research Notes and to Rob Merrifield for compiling the index at the completion of each volume.

The Society has started to receive requests from members for *Observer* to be available in a digital version as well as the printed format. This is being considered, although there are concerns over the effects on the Society's finances.

*Graeme Carter*

*Editor*

### **Thomas McGavin Research Grant**

This grant is available to all researchers and potential authors that may be able to contribute significant research and possible material for a future publication. This year there was no grant made within the period of review, but an earlier grant recipient has advanced their book project.

### **Other Publications**

We work diligently to fulfill our objective of publishing the *New Zealand Railway Observer* and stand-alone books for the benefit of our members and the general public. 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.

It has to be noted however that the period since the COVID-19 pandemic has been a more difficult trading environment. Globally paper prices have increased and the freight cost between Asia and New Zealand ballooned exponentially. Additionally, NZ Post have increased both local and international letter and parcel rates, further adding to our cost to produce. We do our best though to ensure our members receive value from their membership by sharing generous member discounts with our publications.

This year, the first book out the door was *My Life As a Locomotive Engineer*, by author Kevin Tasker. An excellent amalgam of steam and diesel operation, told in an easy-going and interesting style, the book was an immediate success and has sold strongly. It was impressive to even see the book pop up in The Rail and Maritime Union *The Transport Worker*, as some current KiwiRail loco engineers felt the book deserved a wider audience.

Second out of the blocks was Jon Shingleton's *NZR's Rebuilt G Class: The Phoenix That Failed*. We knew that this book would have a more limited audience than *Alpine Thunder*, as the G class didn't quite have the profile of the K<sup>B</sup> class. However, the book has generated a surprising amount of interest and has punched above its weight. It has given those with a locomotive or engineering interest some tantalising new information to absorb and for those with a wider interest, the book provides a better appreciation of this somewhat obscure locomotive class.

The current book under production is a title that I have been working on for some four years and is due for publication in early 2024. *New Zealand Railways at Night* is principally a pictorial coverage of the old New Zealand Railways working in the hours of darkness, before the period of corporatization. The book covers the railway as seen by passengers in the hours of darkness, by railway men during their night shift operations, and also by railfans and their view of the nocturnal railway.

As usual we are always on the lookout for established or novice authors. 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 railway reading.

*Bill Prebble*

*Chairman of Publications*

## **TURNTABLE**

Some 81% 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 196-201) 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, these 6 issues have been published with a total of 68 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 54 members to the Society this year. Of those members we have lost, *Turntable* has provided an obituary for Brian Webb. Brian did a lot of work to help the running of the Society in the past.

Each issue has included notices important to members. We continue to publish advertisements for members on request. Three mystery photographs have been published with requests for help with 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 and of the digital archiving team 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*

*Editor*

## **SILVERSTREAM NORTH END PREMISES**

I have continued to control vegetation outside our building with a view to keeping the surrounds as tidy as possible. Silver Stream Railway has aided this as a part of their regular weed spray work.

### **Preservation: Wellington & Manawatu Railway (WMR) Carriages**

Progress has been slow, governed mainly by the very small number in our team of restoration workers. I am grateful for the work put in through the year by various people, notably Mike Dutton, Lionel Ford, Selwyn Roberts, Bruce Shadbolt, Glen Summers, and John Vanisselroy.

I am approaching foundries to get prices to make the dead buffers for WMR 48. As this is outwork, we cannot undertake ourselves, we need to raise a grant and donations towards the cost of this work.

Bruce Shadbolt has machined and assembled the door hinges from parts cast last year,

The main window sashes for WMR 48 have been fitted in their reveals and retaining guide strips are all fitted. Cast lifters have been polished and fitted to these sashes.



*Mike Dutton fitting lifters to the main window sashes in WMR 48. Latches have yet to be made.*

Bruce Shadbolt who has made the reproduction kerosene lights for WMR 48, will deliver the three completed ones still needed for fitting in 48 in July. Bruce is working on the seven required for fitting in WMR carriages 52 and 42 (42 had a different interior arrangement from that of the two later-built carriages). We will need to obtain matching burners and glassware for these additional lamps.



*The prototype reproduction kerosene light on a display board, as unveiled at the 2022 AGM. Three more to match it have now been made, to go in 48. Another 7 are for the other two carriages are being assembled by Bruce.*

During the year Steam Incorporated donated three toilet bowls for possible fitting in our carriages in the future. We thank Steam Incorporated for their kind gesture.

At the end of June this year, unfinished work on WMR 48 was mostly more specialised tasks that we can't always do ourselves. Replacement of the original electric wiring was progressing, in preparation for the electrical second fix (light fittings, switches, and connectors, in particular). More castings will be needed so we can make fittings such as top light openers and the dead buffers. These latter will have to be cast in iron, machined, and assembled. They are expected to be relatively expensive, as a result.



*An example of a top light opener we will need to make from new, it has 7 separate parts*

*Photos: Rob Merrifield.*

Work has begun on disassembling the framing of WMR 52 in preparation for rebuilding it. The frame of this carriage is in very poor condition. A large number of replacement frame parts for this carriage had been prefabricated earlier in the project.

*Rob. Merrifield*

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

### **Administration Committee**

The Committee membership at the beginning of the year comprised David Cuthbert (Chairman), Bruce Taylor (Secretary), Ken Lankshear (Treasurer), Chris Benson, Graeme McClare (Archivist), Glen Summers and Ray Thomson. Following many years' service Graeme and Ray retired during the year and Clark Simmons joined the committee. The committee normally meets prior to the quarterly Board meeting and at other times as required. In the last year the committee met five times, one of these viz Zoom.

The committee is responsible for the Society's day to day running and has reported in detail to each Board meeting. A key task is financial oversight, with particular attention given to payments made to suppliers of services, including contractors. Ken Lankshear provided detailed reports on transactions made each month. Using Zoom the committee is moving to approve these shortly after the end of each month

At each meeting reports are received on the state of, and repairs and maintenance required to the Society's buildings (the Thomas McGavin Building at Ava) from Bill Prebble and (the Silverstream North End Shed) from Rob Merrifield. Rob also provided reports on the preservation work being undertaken on the former Wellington and Manawatu Railway (WMR) carriages.

Bill McGavin (Membership Administrator) provided reports to each meeting. These included membership applications, which the committee is required to approve. In the last financial year 57 new members joined and a further 23 joined late in 2023. Again, I want to record the committee's appreciation of Bill's work and in particular following up on unpaid memberships.

Following a review of the membership payment system Ken moved to introduce the Stripe system, which is linked to the Xero accounting package the Society uses. This has been a positive change.

The Society has continued to communicate with members via their individual email addresses. Over 80% of member now receive their expanded copy of 'Turntable' and advice on the availability of AGM papers by email. It was decided following a review, to revert to distributing annual membership renewal information by way of 'hard copy'; this has proved to be a positive decision.

Stu Ingram (Secretary, Magazine Groups) continued to report regularly on the operation of the two magazine groups. Difficulties continued to be caused by the continued impact of Covid on the arrival of magazines from overseas, erratic delivery by NZ Post and the failure of some group members to promptly forward on magazines received.

Sandra Knight (Publications Administrator) has again provided an excellent service in processing orders for the Society's publications; she was assisted by John Dwyer, as Publications Dispatcher. John, a volunteer, has now retired after six years' service, this contribution being recognised by the Board.

As Web Master Sandra continued to maintain and improve the site to promote the sale of publications and other products and as a venue to provide information to both members and the public. The site has been a popular means to sell the second-hand publications obtained from members' estates and which are surplus to our library requirements.

The Society's Facebook Page been used by Sandra to promote new publications and information about the Society. Graeme McClare has used the site to post historic photographs from our collection, these have generated positive feedback and interest from both members and the public.

Bill Prebble and Sandra have continued to use Trade Me to promote the sale of surplus reference publications and other items. This has proved an excellent way to generate income.

Work has commenced to review the Society's constitution (the rules and bylaws) as part of the process to prepare for our reregistration and to meet the new requirements under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

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

*David Cuthbert*

*Chairman Administration Committee*

## **Membership for 2023 Year**

Total membership was 761 as at 30 June 2023, made up of 743 paid up for 2023 and 18 members unpaid for 2023. These members were removed from society privileges in August 2022.

There were 80 new members for the 2023 year, which is a brilliant result and is thanks to the power of social media. 57 new members joined and were placed in the 2023 financial year. A further 23 joined late in 2023 and were directly put into the 2024 financial year

### Deceased during the 2023 year

15 deaths for the 2023 year are recorded with our sympathy:

1280 Mr Brian Webb Upper Hutt

894 Mr Robin Boddy Wellington

4703 Mr Gordon Walker Hamilton

424 Mr Mike Coghlan Wellington

1624 Mr Sid Le Quesne Ohaupo

4896 Mr Brian O'Brien Waipu

3886 Mr Tony Tremewan Papakura

5114 Mr Mike Lynch Mosgiel

1383 Mr Richard Armstrong Pahoia

1392 Mr Brian Poulsen Masterton

4458 Mr El Whyman Auckland

3557 Mr Russell Roberts Masterton

4313 Dr Steve Pettitt United Kingdom

3140 Mr Clem Smith United Kingdom

932 Mr Don Norton South Australia

If I have missed any, please accept my apologies.

### The outlook beyond 30 June 2023

The outlook is looking bright. 566 members have paid their 2024 subscriptions. Sadly 8 members for 2023 have advised that they are not renewing for 2024 due to financial constraints. 195 members at the time of writing have yet to pay their 2024 subscriptions due on 1 July 2023.



## Life Members

As at 30 June 2023 the society has eight Life Members. These members are:

Peter Dyer, Rob Merrifield, Ian Wylie, John Clayton, Dave Turner, Graeme Berry, Bill Prebble and Graeme McC.lare

## Magazine Groups

Group A had 21 paid members for 2023

Group B had 14 paid members for 2023

## Comments from the membership

The social media pages of the Society receive very good comments and are responsible for many new members joining. We are aware, however, of the difficulty some of our older members have renewing their subscription if renewing online is not an option they can use. We endeavour to assist these members and also the members who find paying in one lump sum very difficult. Please reach out to us if you are encountering difficulties with renewing your subscription.

*Bill McGavin,*

*Membership Administrator*

*30 June 2023*

## **Finance**

The 2022/23 financial year saw the Society make a surplus of \$54,136.

While this is less than last year's unusually high surplus of \$240,698 it should be noted that most years any surplus made can be attributed to bequests and donations received. 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.

	2022/23	2021/22	Variance	
	\$	\$	\$	%
<i>Operations</i>				
Operating income	162,477	156,806	5,671	3.6% up
Operating expenses	190,155	190,041	114	7.3% up
Operating loss	(27,678)	(33,235)	(5,557)	10.7% down
<i>Non-operating income</i>				
Donations	20,423	7,810	12,613	161.5% up
Bequests	61,391	266,123	(204,732)	76.9% down
Total non-operating income	81,814	273,933	(192,119)	70.1% down
Net Surplus	54,136	240,698	(186,562)	77.5% down

Operating income has held up well, with member fees and book sales up and a slight drop in Observer sales and advertising. Operating expenses were almost the same as last year. Some

expenses fell victim to inflation, while 2021/22 included the costs of repainting the Thomas McGavin building at Ava.

The Balance Sheet of the Society is healthy. Investments have again 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*

## **ARCHIVES**

We still 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 and recorded before being put away, and Bill Prebble is very good at doing this. On the other hand, some of the donated books and manuals we already have good copies of, so in these circumstances the surplus copies are added to our large cache of items available for sale, some of which are auctioned via the Trade Me website. A current list of the second-hand books which we have available for sale may be found on the Society's website. All proceeds from these sales are used for archival purposes.

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.

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.

Kevin Crosado continues to digitally copy and catalogue the drawings and tracings (mostly NZR) which we are holding in our Ava archive. His work with the A & G Price archive drawings has now been completed.

The leader of the digitisation photo and slide group, Bob Bevan-Smith, will report separately on their activities.

On a personal basis I am finding that old age is catching up with me quicker than it was in the past, and I am now finding it increasingly more difficult to be as mobile as I would like. A couple of bad falls has not helped matters, and I now use a walker to be a bit steadier when moving around. I am also finding it a more difficult to concentrate on some of the tasks that an archivist has to do, especially when trying to do multiple things at the same time. In these circumstances I ask that my replacement be found sooner, rather than later.

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

*Graeme McClare Honorary Archivist*

## **WEBSITE**

During the year the Society have continued to use our website to promote new publications along with progress updates on the restoration of WMR 48. Other articles during the year have included changes to the Society's yearly subscription, Ava Archive hours (in relation to Statutory Holidays and Covid-19) and, for members only, the notification of the Annual General Meeting and supporting papers.

The website was also used to post Bill Prebble's interview on Radio New Zealand in relation to Wellington's Train Network Paper Tickets with a link provided to the Podcast. We also provided a link to the "Herald" article on the same subject.

The Second-Hand Books Catalogue is updated monthly with any changes and continued regular sales of our second-hand books indicate that this catalogue is accessed regularly by both members and non-members.

## **FACEBOOK**

The Society continues to use Facebook to promote new publications and advertise our Second-Hand Books Catalogue, along with the bi-monthly "New Zealand Railway Observer". Our Archivist will regularly post photos, often in relation to a current event; for example, at the time of the Otira Tunnel 100th Centennial the Archivist posted a number of archive photos. This generated a lot of comments and some contributors also put up their own photos under our original post.

The Society also put up the links to Bill Prebble's interview on Radio New Zealand and the "Herald" article on Wellington's Train Network Paper Tickets.

## **TRADE ME**

The Society continues to put fortnightly listings on Trade Me. This can be anything from hard-to-find books to various other donated items that are duplicates of items already held. Publication listings draw numerous bids and continue to be eagerly sort after. Proceeds from the publication sales go towards running the archive.

*Sandra Knight*  
*Administrator Publications*

## **MAGAZINE GROUPS A & B**

It is somewhat disappointing to have to report that the first half of the year was pretty much going along nicely, but since then it has been anything but! Over the past three months I have been endeavouring to locate three bags sent out in the latter part of January, which have not been returned. My enquiries, and those of NZRLS, have ascertained that they most probably are in the hands of an ex-member. All efforts to retrieve these have failed to date. In addition, I am trying to locate one further bag which has not been returned since its dispatch in May. I have suspicions as to this bag's whereabouts, but nothing to prove my feelings.

As usual, NZ Post continue to cause problems with their erratic deliveries, some bags taking far too long to get to members and back to me as well.

It is unfortunate that there have been some instances of members taking too long reading the magazines before passing them on, resulting in magazines getting old before the last members in each group get to see them.

We did have an issue with receipt of magazines from Australia, but this has been rectified and no problems since.

As far as the two groups are concerned, the following is relevant:

Group A: On average over the past 12 months, this group has been in receipt of 11 bags. There would have been more, had it not been for the three bags which are unaccounted for. There was also the disruption of the Australian magazines affecting this group.

Group B: This group received slightly more dispatches, totaling approximately 13 for the year. At the time of this report, I am trying to locate one bag which is overdue.

*Stu Ingram*

*Magazine Groups Co-ordinator.*

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

The Digitisation Working Group has continued with the massive task of making scans (digital copies) of all the photographs held in the NZR&LS Archive at Ava. Members of the scanning team are: Alan Smith, Bob Bevan Smith, Bruce Taylor, and Clark Simmonds. In addition, we compose descriptions of every image that we scan, which is both time consuming and also difficult for those who do not have extensive NZ railway memories. Nevertheless, it is imperative that such information is preserved for posterity along with the images. We share such knowledge, when required, to help each other to complete those descriptions.

As well, we receive exceptional technical expertise from Len Chisholm, who maintains all the equipment, and has devised a system called "Trainfinda" which allows individuals to search the scanned images on line for specific items. That is very useful for visitors to the Archive. There are plans to allow members working at home to make the scans for Trainfinda, but that facility has not yet been made generally available.

A rough count of the archived photographs made at the start of the project suggested that there were about 300,000 physical photos in the Archive. There were very large numbers of 35mm film images in colour, a lesser number of 35mm images in black and white and a much lesser number of larger sized images (mostly 6cm in black and white) with a few even larger taken with specialised cameras. There are also other photos such as paper prints. But the NZR&LS receives occasional donations of new collections, so that earlier estimate is now out of date.

The team decided to concentrate initially on the colour photos, as they are subject to fading over time. As well, the 35mm films were easier to scan, using scanners which scan up to 12 images at a time. There are currently 4 high quality scanners at Ava, but they share working space and time with other volunteers working on other projects.

There have been three of us working on digitising separate collections of photos on Mondays, and one other working on Wednesdays, which is a very busy day for volunteers. There have been some days when one of the team has alternative commitments, but generally they are all hard at work. At the last count, the team had made an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 digital copies of the physical originals. However, we continue to do our best.

*Bob Bevan Smith*

*DWG Convenor*

## **LOCAL GROUPS**

### **Auckland**

The Auckland Group met five of the six times scheduled for the year ended 30 June 2023, the February 2023 meeting being cancelled due to Cyclone Gabrielle. All meetings were held in the Railway Enthusiasts Society (RES) Onehunga Clubrooms, and sincere appreciation is expressed to the RES, its officers and members, for their assistance in this regard.

Programme topics included:- NZ railway photographs past and present; Palmerston North's Esplanade Scenic Railway; A history of track measurement in NZ; Present-day track problems in Auckland; Issues with Auckland's latest light rail proposals and the alternatives; Constructing Hamilton's new railway station, opened in 1975; A selection of NZ railway photographs taken by John L Stitchbury between the late 1940s and early 1960s; Auckland's Electric Tramway Era; A 1994 trip to see the railways of Colorado, Utah, Arizona & New Mexico.

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, Niall Robertson, Richard Stratford, Robert Sweet, John Webley, and John Wise.

*Sean Millar*

*Local Representative*

### **Bay of Plenty**

Our group has held their monthly meetings throughout the year without any interruption from Covid, with attendances being good. The DVDs viewed have always generated an interesting discussion in response. The subjects have included USA Empire Builder Passenger Train, Switzerland, Australia Adventures, Scenic Railways of Europe and two from New Zealand.

There was a record attendance at our annual November social meal.

*David Kent*

*Local Representative*

## **Rotorua**

We are still meeting on the second Monday of each month at the Ngongotahā Rail Park. We regularly have at least 5 attendees and sometimes up to 10 at our meetings, which mainly consist of viewing rail videos and some quite robust discussions.

*Murray Farquhar*

*Local Representative*

## **Hawke's Bay**

Hawke's Bay Rail Inc. has continued to meet every second month in the past year with a cancellation in February because of Cyclone Gabrielle. Train services have just resumed in our area in September as a consequence of the same cyclone and our Eskdale station is still buried in the silt in the Esk Valley.

We have generally met in the old Customhouse, Ahuriri, Napier, and attendance at our meetings has been good. The annual outdoor model railway visit and barbecue at Keirunga Gardens was held in December. Our bi-monthly newsletter "*Hawkes Bay Rail Scene*" has continued to be produced.

*David Pryor*

*Secretary*

## **Manawatū**

The Manawatū Group has, as usual, been able to meet most months at a member's residence where we were able to enjoy an excellent and enjoyable variety of programmes presented by members. There was an average attendance at meetings of five or six. The members of our group live between Whanganui and Wellington.

In April, the Group, including some partners, enjoyed a day out "Riding the Rails" on the Wellington rail network. After arriving by car at Waikanae Station, we boarded a Wellington bound EMU, breaking the trip at Plimmerton to view the progress building a new platform and track layout. Then it was back onboard again. On arrival at Wellington, we caught a unit through the picturesque and seven tunnel line to Johnsonville. Back again to Wellington where we boarded an EMU to Upper Hutt. It was an interesting trip, especially if you haven't been on the Hutt Valley line for a while. It was then back track to Waikanae and car back home.

The Annual Luncheon this year was enjoyed at the Hokowhitu Golf Club's Restaurant - fortunately situated clear of those off target golf shots.

*Neville Wood*

## **Wellington**

The Wellington Group continues to meet on the 2nd Monday of alternate months from March to November, although our September 2022 meeting was cancelled as COVID-19 raised its head again. Average attendance was below 15, some way below previous years, and the door charge failed to cover hall hire.

Programmes included Nelson Then and Now, a history of rail gauges in NZ, railways in Japan, and a selection of images from the collections of Chris Bradley and Graham Radcliffe as digitised at Ava. No field trip was held for the second year running.

*Len Chisholm*

### **Invercargill**

Our numbers have remained steady with a regular membership of six NZRLS members. We have had members of the Society who normally don't attend our meetings come along intermittently. Our oldest member, Peter Lankshear, has entered a permanent apology as he is no longer in the best of health, as is to be expected for a person in their mid-90s.

The format of our meetings, which are bimonthly, has not changed. The programme is, roughly, News & Views and DVDs or photos mainly from our members' own collections. We do have available within our group a lot of older photos and films or videos. The meeting is followed by a light supper. Our meetings are now held in the evening on the 4th Sunday each odd numbered month at 7.30pm. This is subject to the occasional change.

At our September meeting Lindsay Buckingham presented his Southland railway history as shown at the FRONZ Conference with some added material relating to Southland. This was an excellent reminder of the pivotal role Southland played in the development of New Zealand's railways.

*Noel Joyce*

*Convenor*

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 2023**

### ***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

B S Taylor      Secretary

C J Benson      Member

G J McClare     Member

C Simmonds     Member

G Summers     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

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          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
Manawatū	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 2023**

No.	Name	Location	Year
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 EA Rudd	Paraparaumu	2000
Mrs J Spencer	Paraparaumu	2012