

Interested in New Zealand's railways?



New Zealand Railway
& Locomotive Society Inc.
www.railsoc.org.nz



About the Society

Maybe your interest of New Zealand's railways is a developing one, or somewhat deeper.

The New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society Incorporated is a long-established national organisation principally serving the interest of railway enthusiasts, students and historians. The Society has a large membership spread throughout New Zealand and overseas.

The Society's clubrooms, library and archive is located in the Thomas McGavin building adjacent to Ava railway station, a short train ride from Wellington. With local and associated groups throughout New Zealand, members are encouraged at their convenience to participate in activities such as group meetings, trips to places of rail interest and the Society's annual meetings.

One of the Society's principal objectives is the preservation of railway literature, photographs, documents, plans and other items of interest that help record and illustrate the proud history of railway transport in New Zealand. Our Society is the largest publisher of books on various aspects of New Zealand's railways, bush tramways and industrial lines.

Our archive is one of the country's premier resources of information on New Zealand's railway, tramway and locomotive history. This is accessible by prior arrangement with our archivist.



Cover image W# 376 on the Rewanui Incline (DLA Turner)

What's in it for me?

When you join the New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society you will enjoy:

- Six issues per year of The **New Zealand Railway Observer**, a professionally produced 40-page colour magazine featuring illustrated articles, news, photo features, railway and locomotive images, book reviews, and news covering various aspects of railways in New Zealand.
- Six issues per year of **Turntable**, the Society's newsletter for members with emphasis on recent and upcoming local activities.
- Generous member discounts on the Society's annual pictorial calendar and railway books. These can be purchased through our website www.railsoc.org.nz via a special member portal.
- The opportunity to attend the Society annual general meeting or enjoy any associated excursion run in conjunction.
- Join local group meetings covering railway topics or visits to places of railway interest.
- Access to the Society's extensive railway archive. Members may either visit in person or access remotely by email request.
- Join one of the magazine portfolio groups. Those subscribing to this additional service receive a selection of overseas railway magazines. These are yours to enjoy for a set period, after which you post them on to the next member.

Society Archive and Library



The Society houses a significant archive of historical material on New Zealand's railways and tramways. It has a large collection of books, magazines, documents, instructions, timetables, reports, plans, blueprints, maps, posters, photographs and memorabilia.



These are located at the Society's archive in the Thomas McGavin Building at 1A North Street, Petone, Lower Hutt. Volunteer society members maintain and update the collection which is available to members for research by prior arrangement with the Archivist.

Archive contact details

Phone (04) 568-4938 or email nzrls@actrix.co.nz

Locomotive and Carriage Preservation

The Society owns three historic locomotives, three historic railway carriages and a number of assorted wagons and ancillary equipment.



A#608 at Paekakariki. (Steam Incorporated)

The three locomotives are AB608 Passchendaele, currently operated by Steam Incorporated at Paekakariki, W^{AB} 794, currently operated by Feilding and Districts Steam Rail Society.



W^{AB} 794 stabled at Feilding. (John Russell)

Both A^B 608 and W^{AB} 794 actively run main line steam excursions in the lower North Island, and sometimes further afield. X 442 is currently in storage at Feilding.

The Society has an extensive workshop and storage facility located at Silverstream in Upper Hutt. This facility houses several wagons, hand jiggers, motor trollies and three Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company carriages, two of which are undergoing restoration.



Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company carriage 48 under restoration at the Society's Silverstream workshop. (Rob Merrifield)

This facility also accommodates overflow long-term storage from the Society's archive in Petone.

Members are welcome to visit this facility or join in activities.

Local Groups

Much activity takes place at a local level by groups and kindred organisations around the country. Participation in local group activities is open to all members of the Society, and is optional.

Activities vary from place to place. They may include slide, film or video presentations at evening meetings, talks on railway subjects by invited guests, tours of repair facilities or depots, walks on abandoned railway formations or bush tramways, or visits to other places of railway interest.



Wellington group members pause at an old bridge on the abandoned railway formation between Cross Creek and Speedy's Crossing near Featherston. (Graeme Jupp)

All groups welcome members to their activities. Local groups are located in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Napier, Palmerston North, Featherston, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill.

How do I join?

Joining is easy. Simply complete the application form on this brochure and send it with your payment to NZ Railway & Locomotive Society Inc, **1A North St, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012**; OR alternatively join through our website **www.railsoc.org.nz**.

If you are under 18 and still attending school or college you are entitled to our special junior membership rate.

Application for membership

You can apply for membership online at our secure website **www.railsoc.org.nz** OR you can complete this form and post it with your payment to Membership Secretary, NZR&LS, **1A North St, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012, New Zealand**.

Name (initials, name known by, surname)

Address

Postcode

Date of birth (required only for junior membership)

Phone number

Email address

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Full (adult) member ☒*

Junior member ☒*

Amount being paid \$

by either

Cheque enclosed ☐ or Credit card ☐

Credit cards accepted Visa ☐ or Mastercard ☐

Credit card number

Card holder name

Expiry date ____/____

Signature

Application date

**please check current rates on our website www.railsoc.org.nz*