



Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust

**GABRIEL
SAYS.....**

Risking nothing But Success

**ISSUE 2
November 2004**

CONTENTS

Page 1

- AOG –Lead the Way
- Santa Comes Early
- LTSA Visit

Page 2

- “To Toot or not to Toot” Steve Anderson
- Funding update Frank Leadley
- GO Kawakawa

Page 3

- Trackside Stu Renton
- Treasurers Report

Page 4

- The Big Day Out
- Thanks to.....
- Subscriptions

ON SALE NOW

Sleeper Certificates

ONLY

\$5

Keeping in touch

Our Website

www.traintown.co.nz

Email

info@traintown.co.nz

Postal Address

P.O. Box 29 Kawakawa



**All the Way with A.O.G.
Our members of Assembly of
God Church have done us proud
as they blasted there way
through the last of the gorse and
made the breakthrough to Opuia
5.30pm September 16th.**

**Kara Davis, Stu (The Track
Man) Renton and John Marsh
raise their hands in triumph 3
months ahead of time. As John
said “ It was a marvelous feeling
and he now understand stood
how those intrepid explorers
from time past felt as they
opened new frontiers”.**

**Excellent effort guys We all
know that part one of the
journey is over and this was but
the first step to restoring full
operations back to Opuia.**

LTSA VISIT.....

Chairperson Alison Lemon said it was a pleasure to welcome LTSA “Big Guns” Glen Summers and Graeme Hudson together with Northern Way & Works Inspector Richard Humpheries to the station on the 10th November. Glen and the boys had come up to see what progress we were making and by all counts were most impressed with the amount of work that had been done on the track. However concern was expressed at the “happenings” at the Opuia end.

She said that Glen and his crew clearly indicated their support and assistance to help us reach full operational status again. The Trustees were most appreciative of their positive and supportive comments and we now await their report

Thank You

A big thank you to Wally Titchener of the Heritage Foundation who has purchased \$5000 worth of sleeper Certificates. The Heritage Foundation have registered an ongoing interest in restoring the “steam” Railway between Kawakawa and Opuia”.

Wally has a long association with steam trains and his father, a foundation member of the Railway Enthusiasts Society has been recognized via a plaque in the dining car at Glenbrook. Grandfather , Robert Betts Peat, was the original Station Master at Opuia.

Wally has indicated further support and we are most grateful for his generosity.

“WHAT A HOOT”...

To toot or not to toot that is the question.....

Keen Shakespearean scholars will ponder the cryptic link between the great baird and a railway, however many have been wondering whether the Bay of Islands Railway will ever move again. The attendees of the railway meeting held on the 22nd of September in the Kawakawa certainly got the message that the railway will with financial, political and community support, run again.

Most of the candidates for mayor and all but one of the FNDC's Eastern Ward candidates were in attendance. All were strongly supportive of the railway and its aims. The trustees thank them for their support and attendance. However words are words and we need support to ensure the dream becomes reality. The task is gargantuan, but the trustees have dedicated themselves to getting this iconic railway back into operation.

Approximately 75 people attended the meeting and many questions were fielded by the Trust as to their aims and aspirations. At this meeting the Trust's Sleeper Campaign was launched and thus far we are pleased we have raised some \$6,000.00. However more is urgently needed to keep the plan of the railway moving towards operation. If you haven't yet purchased a sleeper support certificate, please do so. You can send money to PO Box 29 Kawakawa. A minimum donation of \$5.00 per sleeper applies, if you add \$1.00 P&H that would be greatly appreciated in order for us to defray costs. The yuletide season approaches these certificates can be great Christmas presents or cards, and best of all they send the message that the railway will run again.

Thank you for attending and supporting the railway.

—Steven Anderson.



GO KAWAKAWA.....

The Vintage Railway is one of the 3 key projects identified by consultant Ken Gorbey as part of the economic recovery for Kawakawa. The other two projects are the Hundertwasser Center project and Te Papa Paaroro (The echoing landscape) a wetland project to be Developed by Ngati Hine Hauora Trust.

Mayor Yvonne Sharp in a recent press release said “she saw the Railway as a very important economic development icon and tourist attraction with restoration work expected to cost some \$800,000 over the next five years.” She went on to say “ Together these three projects are of immense community benefit... and strengthen the branding of the town as a gateway tourist destination.”

We are extremely grateful to Mayor Sharp for her support.



The “Old “ Sol Te Whata and the “Young” Te Maru Wynyard come together for the Cause on the Big Day out 18 Sept.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The first of the major funding applications for the Railway has been made and we expect to have the result by the end of this month. I have made an application for \$112,000 to the Lotteries Board to provide sufficient sleepers to get us safely to Opuia.

As part of this application Kawakawa WINZ office has approved projects to enable us to employ two gangs to lay the sleepers, so that will give us a great start.

The other major application will be to the ASB Trusts for the new training and maintenance shed, and we are still awaiting finality on the FNHL installation of the turntable in Kawakawa, as this will comprise a major part of the local subsidy required.

Quotes are currently being finalised to provide tools and equipment for the training shed, to restore “Gabriel” and the Price diesel, to restore some carriages, and to pay for the bridge inspections.

Applications to various organisations will be made when these are finalised.

The amount of voluntary labour that is being put in is very important as we can count the \$\$ equivalent towards our local share of the funding applications, and the sleeper campaign will also be very helpful.

But we could certainly do with a few large donations. Any offers ?

- Frank Leadley

TE HAERENGA NUI (THE GREAT JOURNEY)

Since issue one in September there have been many developments in our journey to get the steam train Gabriel back to Opuia. Our voluntary Saturdays have continued with the same old faces turning up continually –**Thank you Kara, Johnson, Mick, Bossie, Dennis and Margaret.** Welcome back Murray and Cathy your knowledge and input is always valued.

On Thursday 16th September 2004, after 30 hours hard yards, Kara Davis, John Marsh and myself made it through to Opuia—just before our Public Meeting drumming up support for our venture, I have since talked to the engine driver Ian Mison, who was the last driver to take Gabriel to Opuia. He said it was 1998—six years ago. That explains why the gorse was 2-3 metres high down the straight. Most of that gorse is history now; and since then we have had some regrowth which has now also been sprayed. Most Saturdays since have been very prickly times eliminating all other gorse near the track and ...*it's looking good.*

Since the last week in October I've had a team of WINZ workers 5 days a week who have definitely had a huge impact on getting things back to how they should be - thank you team and I can't forget my community service worker who has put in some excellent railway hours—Cheers Mate.

For those of you who thought we will never make it happen—I'm sorry to say –**Its Happening.** On November 10th we had the pleasure of LTSA “Top Guns” Glen Summers and Graeme Hudson and Northland Ways and Works Trackman Richard Humphries come down the track and to take in the scenery and see what we had done and thanks to all the hard work there was some magnificent scenery to enjoy. They are assisting us on ironing out a few issues mostly at the Opuia end. On Monday 22nd we have the bridge inspector coming to start his work.

We are starting fund raising for a light rail vehicle to take fare paying passengers to Opuia. Work is continuing on the corridor and work at the station has been done to get our base up to OSH standards. **All help is greatly appreciated .**

Thanks again to the workers who all give a thumbs up and would like to thank Duncan and the BOI Bakeries for the lunches they continue to provide.

Stu Renton— Work Foreman

FROM THE TREASURER

Firstly, thank you to all who have supported our appeal to support a sleeper. I am pleased to report that since the launch of the campaign in excess of \$6000.00 has been raised for the development of the railway line back to Opuia.

I would urge all supporters of the railway to buy a sleeper support certificate they are only \$5.00 and the cause is a great one. Remember they make great Christmas gifts and can be purchased from all trustees, or if more convenient please send a cheque to PO Box 29 Kawakawa with \$1.00 for P&H. If you haven't already could you please send back your friends of the Railway Membership forms. Member of the 'Friends' is \$25 to June 2005. Use the above PO Box for correspondence. In terms of funds we are awaiting the outcome from the Lotteries Board for a funding application to assist with the redevelopment of the track to Opuia. Many of you will have seen the work going on and around the station at Kawakawa and track to Opuia. These activities are eating into our non existent revenue, but these works are essential to keeping access to the track open, to allow work to begin when funds permit.

I would like to urge as many of you as possible to become involved in the railway. Time is an issue for all of us and if you could spare an hour a week to work at the railway station or help with paperwork that would be wonderful. For the more energetic there is a working bee every Saturday morning at 10am at the Kawakawa railway station. I can attest the ride to Opuia is well worth the work. Remember every hour you can provide is placed into the 'community involvement' section of funding which allows us to apply for further grants to develop the railway further. If you cannot help there then please send us your email addresses so we can send these reports electronically to keep costs down.

Steven Anderson

'Risking nothing but success!'

Part of the Opuia Problem



THE BIG DAY OUT— 8 September 2004.

This was the day that the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints offered to come and help the regulars , as part of their commitment to Community Projects. Although the numbers were not as great as hoped their support and from other members of the Community who turned up that day was greatly appreciated.

Some images of that day with members of the Mormon Faith and other community member are captured below.



The Main Street Gang

The crew who cleaned the track through Kawakawa were L to R

Zac Renton (front) Freedom Ryder (rear) Lawrence George (rear) Gerald ? (front) Zion Ryder (rear) Tonutu Marsh (standing)

Some of the Station Crew

Some of the crew who helped out at the Station caught enjoying the shared lunch.

L—R Christina Marsh, Janie Tautari, Carole Broughton with her “moko’s Freedom Ryder on her left and Zion Ryder on her right. And two little cuties



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ONE AND ALL

To all those who helped on the Big Day Out...

*.....
Those schools who entered our “design a Poster Competition” and for all the wonderful entries from those budding artists. and the winners were*

*1st Lucy Skyrme—Karetu
2nd Francis Morrison—Opua
3rd Sheree Williams—Karetu
3rd Taira De La Cour-Peters—Opua
Merit Awards
Loren Soe Tuinier—Oromahoe
Tyrone Raika—Opua
Clarissa Takimoana-Webber—Opua
Aisha Ranga—Opua*

... to Malcolm & Judy Hay of Hone Heke Rd Kerikeri who gave time on their radio station Kerikeri Country FM to two of our Trustees Steven Anderson and Johnson Davis on 31st Oct. Not only did Malcolm allow us to put in our plug for support but he immediately became a new paid up member of the Friends of the Railway.

*.....
Sol Te Whata. Evan Richards and Remus Peihopa (from Pipiwai) .
Also Richard King*

To those bidders who joined in the Auction and purchased the key sleeper certificates. Best bid of the night was for \$105. Thank you all bidders and especially to the successful bidders.

APOLOGIES TO

Daniel Lemon and Kerry Wickman who we forget to mention in dispatches in issue one for their help on the track.

Sorry guys your help was greatly appreciated.

FRIENDS OF THE RAILWAY REMINDER.....

Subscriptions to 30th June 2005 now due.

Full	18.00
Family	25.00
Junior(Student)	7.00