



KEEPING IN TOUCH

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Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust
Risking Nothing But Success

Gabriel Says.....

“A great big thank you to all those who have already contributed to my appeal. The response to date has been most heartening and I am really looking forward to getting up steam again so that I can again play my part in welcoming our visitors and helping them enjoy the beautiful Bay of Islands.

We still have along way to go but with your generous support I could be on my way to Glenbrook later this year.



One of the 4 billboards which are to be erected .

Full steam ahead for Gabriel

The special fund-raising effort to restore Gabriel has got away to a great start. There were only 4 engines like Gabriel ever built, and she is the only one left in the world, so the effort to restore her to her former glory will be vital in the staged process of restoring the Kawakawa to Opuia Vintage Railway.

There were 10,500 flyers distributed widely in the Kawakawa, Opuia, Paihia, Russell, Kaikohe and Kerikeri areas to kick-start the campaign, and \$4,500 was donated in the first 5 days. Since then I have sent out 375 letters and flyers to accommodation and tourist providers in the area, and 45 letters and flyers to some of the larger businesses and wealthy people in the region. In the next week letters and flyers will be going out to a range of organisations, to all Northland MP's and to all schools.

The target is \$200,000 and, in case people scoff and say it can't be done, we can advise that there has been a donation of \$50,000 from Wally Titchener and he has promised a further \$20,000 to help restore other rolling stock if we can reach our target by 30 June.

We are determined to get there, and have taken steps to book Gabriel into the Glenbrook Railway workshops in July for the work to be carried out.

Every donation, large and small, is important. The community donations will be used as the local contribution when we apply to major funding organisations, probably in May. So, if you haven't yet done so, or if you would like to make a second or even third donation, don't hold back! It is your railway Let's get it up and running!!

Frank Leadley
Fund Raising Co-ordinator

STOP PRESS
GABRIEL APPEAL

As we go to print the appeal has now reached \$65,000. This has been given a huge boost due to the wonderful donation of \$50,000 from Wally Titchener. Wally has surely become one of our key benefactors as he also contributed \$5000 to kick start our sleeper appeal. Grateful thanks Wally.

Nice One Stu.....



Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Stu Renton. (Only temporarily I/we hope). The Railway could not offer full time work so he is now fully employed with Kawakawa Engineering. Our loss their gain. There is little doubt that it is only through the Herculean and mighty efforts of Stu that the clearing of the track was accomplished. He and his trusty “Excalibur” (actually it was a Husquvarna hotly pursued by a Dolmar as Stu will attest to....) chainsaw led the charge on the privet, gorse, wattle etc. His energy, enthusiasm was paramount in drawing week after week a bunch of stalwarts who did the BOIVRT proud. Such was his energy a local farmer was moved to say .. “ I wouldn’t mind having this guy working for me”

So thank you Stu from the Railway family. We wish you all the best in your new job and hope you will return to us one day and that you will be able join with us as we celebrate the fruits of your efforts and those of your fellow workers who did such a grand job - Editor

Meanwhile back at the station.....

Murray and his team have been working hard at getting the station and yard ready for our new era which will include the building of a Maintenance and Training shed and the installation, of the turntable. The plans from Far North Holdings Ltd for the installation have been given the green light by the Trustees. Hopefully this will now get under way shortly. The installation of the turntable will play a major part in the application for funding for the Maintenance/Training shed.



3/4 of the open drain is now covered and reclaimed as part of the accommodation area



The old Opuia station now forms part of the proposed cafeteria area.



The new siding which will be necessary for servicing the new maintenance and trading shed



The new POP stop and track storage area

The Money Man Speaks.....

Since the last newsletter there have been significant progress and recognition for the railway and its aims. Elsewhere in this newsletter there will an update on the funding, but significant progress has been made in that area and thanks must go to Frank Leadley for achieving this funding.

The railway has been in the media quite a bit. The launch of the Gabriel campaign received significant attention in all local newspapers. The appeal has taken off and we have been receiving some excellent support from Radio Pacific.

In June on TVNZ will be a twelve part series focussing on the railways of New Zealand beginning in Bluff and ending in Opuia. The Bay of Islands railway will comprise part of the last episode to be screened. The BOI part of series was filmed a few weeks ago and with the assistance of Murray Third, Dennis Hewitt and a cast of “thousands” the day was a complete success.

Finally, we recently had a ‘Friends of the Railway’ BBQ at the station to provide updates to the members. This was an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss issues that are important to us all. Feedback from this event suggests this might be an excellent manner in which to keep the people updated on the railway and it is intended to become (obviously in different forms depending on seasons) to be a regular event. I would like to thank all who attended for their support.

The Railway’s financial situation is improving on a daily basis. As discussed above and mentioned elsewhere in this article funding application and donations are being received.

Avid observers will see new machinery in the yard (that is new to the Trust!) and shortly a new digger which will assist in the relaying and development of the track will be delivered to the railway.

The Trust has a long way to go in achieving its goal, but everyday we take a step closer.
Your support is crucial.

Steven Anderson
Treasurer

“risking nothing but success”

You Can’t Keep a Good Man Down....



Hear tell one of our key stalwarts and benefactor from the past , Mike Bradshaw, has moved on from Penrhyndeudraeth in Wales and is now sporting a Gaucho sombrero in South America working for a railway at Tierra Del Fuego.

Good on you Mike and all the best to you and Shirley from the Friends—BOI Vintage Railway ,

ON SALE NOW.....

The appeal has reached \$13,000 so thank you one and all who have contributed to date. Obviously we still have a long way to go to reach our target of \$100,000. However every \$ counts as we start the journey back to Opuia. Without a track we can’t make it. With you ongoing support we can and will .

Every \$5 buys you a share in a sleeper and a sleeper certificate. They make wonderful gifts especially for friends and family overseas. This clearly gives them a claim in retaining our history

GO KAWAKAWA—Visitor Survey Feb 2005

75% were interested in a steam vintage rail ride through the town
74% were interested in a steam vintage rail ride to the Bay of Islands

Survey Comment

“ Get the steam train going”
“ Develop the train”
“ The train is a must”

STOP PRESS..

Rebecca Nolan of Jam TV Advises that the series "Off The Rails" is due to start screening on TV One this Sunday 10th April 2005 .

The final episode featuring The Kawakawa -Opua line will feature Sunday 26th June.

NOT TO BE MISSED

producer—Melanie Rakena
Presenter—Marcus Lush



Photos Courtesy John Frew Collection

Melanie Rakena—Producer directs the Kawakawa-Opua section of the Off the Rails series. The Series starts in Southland and finishes with the last episode of the Bay of Islands



Marcus Lush—Presenter sets out on the 14K walk to Opua.



"Lights", "Camera" " Action".....
The filming begins

"FRIENDS" BOI Vintage Railway Kawakawa.

Many of you who have generously contributed to our Save Gabriel Campaign have requested further information regarding the "Friends" membership. Our current membership expires on the 30th June and therefore all those who have expressed an interest in becoming a member have been made "Honorary members to this date and your membership card is included with your receipt.. The subscription for the next 12 months, commencing 1 July 2005. is currently set at \$25.00.

So what do you get for your membership. First and foremost you become part of the fellowship devoted to keeping the train running in the historic and beautiful Bay of Islands. In the good old days you were entitled to a number of "free" trips to Opua and this will be implemented when we get up and running again. From time to time there will be get "to-gether" with BBQ's etc at the Station and down the track. You get to nominate Trustees to the BOI Vintage Railway Trust , and of course are eligible to be a trustee. You will be able to have input in to how we operate and of course what else we might/should be doing to grow our operation.. You will also receive the newsletter and can have input/contribute if you so desire.

Should you wish to remain a member after the 30th June 2005 please complete the form below.

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*"FRIENDS" - BOI Vintage Railway
KAWAKAWA*

Enclosed my payment for \$25 to renew my membership to the 30th June 2006.

FULL NAME.....

POSTAL ADDRESS.....

PHONE NO..... EMAIL.....

POST TO PO. Box 142 Kawakawa.

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