



Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust

Gabriel Says

*Risking Nothing
But Success*

ISSUE 5
October 2005

In This Issue

Chairpersons AGM Report .Page 2

Gala & Auction P1,3,4,

ON SALE ..

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... and *What an Overwhelming success it was*

The Gabriel Dinner/Auction had it all; fun , laughter, good food, magnificent music, comedy, strip show , a performing “Poli.and a ton of goodwill and support. A great big thanks to everyone; Master MC Merv Smith , the organisers (*especially* new trustee Viv Cummings) the entertainers, those who gifted items for the auction (full list page 4) and especially those whose generosity and support took us a lot closer to our goal. The evening grossed in excess of \$16,000 and the net will be well above the target of \$6000. A highly enjoyable and successful evening which got an overwhelming vote ...*lets do it again.*– Yes this is to become an Annual event.

Kicking off the event we had a true blue Kiwi; a lover of rail and Radio Pacific Legend Merv. Smith ; MC extraordinaire. It was a very special evening for Lloyd Downs , a regular contributor to Radio Pacific who finally met his favorite Radio host in person. So thank you Merv for blessing our event with your presence and hosting it with all the panache , humour and expertise gained from your many years as a TV and Radio presenter.



Radio Pacific talkback Legend & Train Buff Merv Smith receives a memento from Chairperson Alison Lemon .

OPUA SCHOOL

This was a brilliant entrée, which was to set the standard for the evening’s musical entertainment. In his introduction Merv Smith was moved to comment “where else but in good old NZ would you find a whole musical entertainment troupe resplendent in barefeet.” His introduction of Musical Director Margaret Lange as “mistress” Lange, promptly drew the response that she had always wanted to be “ someone’s mistress’ .Too late my dear’ responded Merv. “its never to late” retorted Ms Lange.

Time to get the road on the show and just like her brother who used to move Nations, she soon had MP John Carter, with friends, moving “Le Grande” piano.

What followed was a delightful montage of entertainment which Ms Lange was careful to remind us during a break that they “ actually do teach Maths and English at school ” - Brilliant

A rousing Maori song, was followed by, (according to Margaret “the teachers revenge”. Pupils were introduced to the recorder and then told to go home and practice. Well all I can say is these kids had the ultimate revenge as a whole orchestra of recorders entertained us. This was followed with a thrilling display of Hip Hop on wheels well actually on only one wheel - unicycles.

(continued on page 3)



The Opua School Choir

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (To AGM held 19 Sept 2005)

The Trust has had an extremely busy year.

TRUSTEES

Steven Anderson a strong proponent and marketer of the railway to the media, local and central government resigned in May of this year to take up residence in Brisbane and grow his business. Steven remains in regular contact and continues to support the Trust. We wish Steven and his family well every success in his business.

We welcomed two new Trustees. Peter Hirzel who has taken over the role of Treasurer from Steven and Viv Cummings who has taken over the role of Secretary.

FUNDRAISING

Sleeper Certificates: This was kicked off at a special meeting held for local body candidates in Kawakawa. Special thanks to Opuia and Oromahoe Primary schools who made posters to advertise the event. The sleeper campaign is still ongoing and to date has raised over \$13,000.

Jigger Refurbishment Stu Renton on his own cognisance ran raffles raising just on \$1,300. A lot of this money has already been spent on bringing the jiggers up to LTNZ standard to allow the Trust to run a small fare paying service either within the station confines or beyond the Waiomio Bridge to Taumarere. Stu Renton and Kerry Wickman continue the work on the jiggers.

Yard and Tracks Grants were obtained from Pub Charity of \$9,500 to enable the Trust to purchase a much needed digger. A further grant \$66,836 has been received from the Lotteries Board to enable refurbishment of the yard and track to Taumarere.

Voluntary Labour The Trust has had considerable support from the community in voluntary labour which enabled the track between Kawakawa and Opuia to be cleared and drains dug to clear waterways. The Trust has also had the benefit of the PD workers supervised labour on both the track and the yard.

WINZ Grants totalling \$9,556 were received from WINZ to pay wages to Stu Renton to supervise a WINZ workforce over a 10 week period. A tremendous amount of work was achieved by Stu and his workers both clearing track and starting upgrade work on the station yard. It was unfortunate that due to funding delays and the stipulations imposed by WINZ that we were not able to offer Stu or any of his workforce further work.

Membership From the efforts of Johnson Davis and Murray Third there has been an increase in membership to The Friends of the Railway. The newsletter produced by Johnson has also helped to raise the profile and community awareness of the railway.

Gabriel This has been the Trusts biggest fundraising effort for the year Trust. The campaign began with a Pub Charity grant of \$2,500 for flyers and billboards. A mail drop and letter campaign managed by Frank Leadley raised over \$80,000. The most notable donation being \$50,000 from Wally Tichener of the Heritage Foundation. On the 16th September the Trustees ran a Gala diner and charity auction to raise further funds. The support from the community in donated goods, attendance and bidding managed to raise over \$14,000 exceeding the Trustees expectations. Thank you, Viv Cummings, Frank Leadley, Peter Hirzel and John Carter for the effort and enthusiasm that made this a huge success. I would also like to thank the Opuia Primary School, BOI College, Daniel Morrison, Merv Smith, Destination Northland and the Copthorne Resort BOI for their contribution to the success of the evening.

TURNTABLE AND MAINTENANCE SHED

Far North Holdings Ltd has committed to commence work on the installation of the turntable at Kawakawa at an estimated cost of \$77,000. This will go a considerable way towards the Trusts contribution to the grant application to the ASB Trust to build a maintenance shed and training facility which will enable the refurbishment of Gabriel and the rolling stock.

OPUA WORKING COMMITTEE

A joint working committee was initiated to work through the issues at Opuia. Chaired by John Carter MP with the following representatives; Mayor Yvonne Sharpe for FNDC, Malcolm Nicholson and Richard Dimmock of FNHL, Sean Murray of THL, Paeata Clark/ Erima Henare of Ngati Hine and Frank Leadley and Alison Lemon for the BOIVRT.

HOBS

A tremendous amount of time and effort has been given by Murray and Cathy Third since their return to the railway. Murray's knowledge and dogged determination to bring the railway up to the Safety System and LTNZ standards is appreciated. The Trust also acknowledges the time and effort given by Dennis Hewitt and Rod Westerman in assisting and supporting Murray.

We look forward to another busy and promising year for the railway
..... Alison Lemon

A New Walkway

Thanks to the fine efforts of Fish and Game (Graham White) and the Far North District Council (Terry Fitzgibbon) and with the support of Chairperson Alison Lemon; a separate and safe single vehicular access has now been built off station road to the beginning of the proposed walkway. This will open the pedestrian access from Kawakawa to Moerewa along the old corridor. It will of course give Fish and Game access to their wildlife ponds and what a great job Graham and his boys have already done in clearing the old corridor. This will keep the corridor secure and available for one of the long term objectives which is to relay the line back to Moerewa. The access will also open up the walkways to one of the key Go Kawakawa Projects ; The Ngati Hine Project Te Papa Paaroro. (The Awakening Landscape)



SITUATIONS VACANT

Can you help . Murray Third has resigned . So can you help our General Manager ; Medan Bhika, especially with track laying.

Anyone who has the qualifications/experience in track laying/rebuilding; would be most welcome even if it that person could only provide a supervisory role, say, someone who has retired.

Clearly we would have to get approval from Land Transport NZ . This matter is quite urgent as we have received some funding for track repair and we certainly do not want to refund the grant. Therefore if there is some one who can help or you know someone who can help please contact Medan Bhika at the Kawakawa Four Square or the Chairperson Alison Lemon or even any of the Trustees.

Your help would be truly appreciated.



Gypsy Markets 2005 at the station —Help support the fundraising cause.

STOP PRESS

Since the Gabriel fundraiser Dinner/ Auction the following donations have been received

Kerikeri Lions Club For Gabriel
\$1200

Kerikeri Business Association
\$2000

Thank you for your generous support.

Opua School (continued from page 1...)

Our MP National John Carter was moved to comment that this was the Greens ultimate answer to the energy crisis and pollution of the environment. From two wheels down to one what more could you ask. A spot of ball-room dancing and a delightful violin solo by Laura sadly brought the curtain down on a thoroughly entertaining spot which on its own was deserving of a whole evening.

Thank you "Mistress" Lange and your wonderful troupe from the Opua School



The BOI College Senior Choir Group with Frank Holm

BOI COLLEGE

What can we say? It is just so great to have such wonderful support from our Community. Not only did the College troupe provide brilliant entertainment but before they started they actually paid us. Can you believe it -They paid us -. we should have paid them. Thank you Bruce and the College for the wonderful donation.

...and so.. out of the darkness or was it Out of Africa there came to Kawakawa Frank Holm.

In one year he has presented to many; the best-kept secret Secret in Kawakawa—The BOI College Choir . In Capella we heard a Zimbabwean Lullaby followed by a Maori Hymm and they concluded with Goodnight Sweet-heart. There was only time for a short encore and they were gone. Thank you Mark, Principal Bruce Devine and The College Choir. A brilliant contribution to the evening.



Daniels singing brings tears of joy to the eyes of Mike Simm

Daniel Morrison

One of Own.. Who would have thought that the cheerful infectious polite little boy who a few years ago was one of our conductors ,-cum Guard – would turn out to entertain us as an emerging baritone of the highest order. Brilliant Daniel, thank you for your on-going support and all the best from all the Railway fraternity for a tru-y successful career

..... and then things started to go "Off the Rails"

More steam than Gabriel, More Puff than Thomas the Tank ,more brass than Gabriels (missing) bell, our debonair , reserved ,meek, trusted, resourceful , reliable trustee Frank Leadley (Founder of the highly successful Y.E.S. program in schools) -(does it mean "Young Entertainer Still")-got well- simply -"frank,"...A startled gasp came from the crowd as he leapt to his feet and started stripping; off came the jacket: off came the tie. Trustee Viv Cumming could not be contained; captured by this amazing sight she burst into song. With dulcet and sultry tones of ta-rum , ta-rum didly, didly di do... she brought the performance to fevered pitch. Off came the shirt, **More, More**, the ladies screamed **No No** yelled the men, but ... whew, thankfully there was no more.

All , that was to be revealed , had been revealed. Frank had bared his favorite Gabriel T Shirt given to him for his umpteenth birthday proclaiming *Great Vintage*.



The YES man reveals all

But he had succeeded. Never in the history of Rail had a presentation of a Business Plan received such a "steamy" introduction . The crowd were captured and riveted. The grand plan for the recovery of the railway was revealed.

The slide show starting with the history , accompanied with exclamations of ...**but there's more ..**was revealed. The vision the future , the beliefs, the glory days of yore were shown **YES Gabriel would return**. He had done it , he could hear the moths leaving, the wallets were starting to open, the plastic was getting hot... time for the Coup de Grace.....

THE AUCTION or ?.

Was this the comedy hour.. Or the Frankie and Johnny Show. I am not sure . I doubt if Frank and John would get a job at Christies or Sotheby's but they sure as hell would have been welcome by John Cleese on the Monty Python Show.

What happened next was one of the most amazing hours many would have witnessed for the first time. It was unbelievable People in tears of laughter as they actually gave up their money. Incredible. Thanking all those who had shown, the wit the vision the desire, the support to restore Gabriel ; Frank now sought and pleaded for the final commitment... their money.

Trustees John Carter and Frank then started down "the track" on what was an amazing hour of exhortation and extortion all carried out in the name of a Charity auction as they cajoled, caressed , threatened begged for every Dollar they could get . Who could resist the wonderful prizes donated by many, many generous supporters. From , local arts, trips, accommodation ,intimate dinners you name it was there .Habicht to Hundertwasser ; a Garden mulcher to a molectomy , power tools to fishing trips, Yes we had it all.

