



August 2006

Yes it is Happing

The last month has seen a tremendous step forward to putting the "Train" back into Traintown and a service to Long Bridge before the year is out. Why, the answer is simple. First there is Mike Bradshaw. He is now working 25 hours a day; 8 days a week well... not quite but damn near. Take the last week. Thanks to the generous donation of Talleys; Mike and the PD boys have been working full on to recover the track, sleepers etc. Then in the evenings he is working to 2am to complete the Safety Manual for our Operating licence. In between he has seen the completion of the extension to the Engine Shed, the relocation of the Baguley Drewry from AFFCO, working on Gabriel and so on. Words can never thank Mike enough for his Superhuman effort.

Then there is tremendous ongoing support. First there was the ASB and the Eastern Community Board and now we have Wallie Titchner, **again**, plus Talley's Fishing. Also there are the volunteers, Stu Renton, Denis Hewitt, Bob Glen, Dave Mowatt, Garth Matterson the PD and WINZ guys and the hardworking Trustees.

Yes Train Town will become train town before the year is out.

August has seen the completion of the toilets, (Peter Glithro) the Engine Shed extension (Russell Polwart and Grant Bristow) Over the next month/months we will see the 1203 Restaurant open, the building of the new Maintenance/Training shed and ongoing track work, spraying, sleeper replacement etc. and the Safety Manual lodged with LTNZ.

So Yes, I say it again unashamedly, we (especially Mike) need your help please. Please, please The carriages need washing down and sanding, the Station area needs a good cleanup and washdown, there is heaps of work to be done. So Please..... Contact Mike at the Station-*Editor*

Gala Evening & Auction
Friday 6th Oct
 (See page 3)

Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND DONATION!

One of the things that continues to give great heart to the Railway Trust is the support we receive from volunteers and in funding. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the huge support from Wallie Titchener. Wallie lives in Auckland but has a great interest in railways and in preserving New Zealand's rail and other heritage icons. With his wife, Wallie has set up the Heritage Foundation, and has taken a deep personal interest in the work we are doing.

The following is what Wallie has provided, either personally or through the Heritage Foundation:

- Donation of \$5,000 towards provision of sleepers
- Donation of \$2,000 to the 2005 Gala Auction
- Donation of \$50,000 for the restoration of 'Gabriel'
- Commitment of \$1,500 to meet the costs of the bridge inspector's report
- Commitment to meet the costs of Mike's wages during July and August for work specifically on 'Gabriel' – expected to be approx. \$8,000

So that is \$66,500! All resulting from a man who believes in our dream, and wants to help us to ensure that it becomes a reality.

Thank you very much, Wallie.

(Frank Leadley)

Welcome and Thank You Talleys Fishing

The new majority shareholder in Affco Talley's Fishing, are obviously very community minded. It had come to our attention they were keen to tidy up the AFFCO site and amongst the items on the "not wanted" list was the disused railway, which comprises 1/2k of track all the sleepers fastenings and six sets of points. A god send to the Trust if we could afford it.

The trustees heard that the lot was going up for tender with an expected value of \$10-20,000. As a Trustee I was asked to contact Talley's to see if there was any possibility that we could arrange some sort of deal for purchase by the BOIVRT. I duly contacted Andrew Talley, introduced myself, having not met him before, explaining that I was the Local Northland M P and also was honored to be a member of the Railway Trust. I explained that we are committed to getting a steam train up and running between Kawakawa and Opuia within the next eighteen months; starting with a limited service by Christmas.

I explained that we were a voluntary non-profit organization, had no income, limited funds and the disused rail etc. would be of immense benefit to us. Was there any possibility that we could come to some sort of arrangement for purchase by the BOIVRT. His immediate answer, without hesitation was and I quote "it yours". Its not very often I get stuck for words but the saying "stunned mullet" springs to mind. I was flabbergasted. I became most effusive in my gratitude and asked if we could do anything in return. Andrews only response was 'would we talk well of them in our community' and to contact their site manager to arrange for the materials to be shifted. That has been done and the work is already underway.

This sort of generous gesture makes our voluntary work as trustee's worth while. We welcome our new neighbors and thank them for their community minded spirit. The Trust looks forward to continuing to build a strong relationship with Talley's Fishing.

J Carter – Trustee

PS Do you believe it ..Our esteemed MP and trustee....." stuck for words " Unbelievable. Lets hope it doesn't happen at our Gala on the 6th Oct. Question How much would two minutes silence from a MP be worth at our auction. What do you reckon ?????

Operations Managers Report August 2006.

Price Diesel

The Price diesel is now mechanically complete; almost all bodywork repairs are done and it's now just waiting for the rubbing down and painting. This will mean waiting for warm, dry weather and do it outside or, get the engine into the shed and complete the paint job there.

In order to use the right hand line in the shed we need to fit a pair of points from the other line and connect the rails.

Time we gave the Price a name . Suggestions please

Engine Shed

The builders are taking down the scaffolding as this is being written. That means that, apart from minor details, the shed extensions are complete. Considering the shed extensions were first mooted in 1996 we should be grateful it has happened at all! It means that the steam engines, Gabriel and Thomas, can be housed and worked on under cover. When the track is completed the other line will house our two diesels or a coach.

Now there is Two

Just a minute!! Two diesels? Yes, we had our new diesel delivered today, 15th August, from AFFCO Meat Works in Moerewa. Initially it was hoped that the truck that delivered our two tractors to Moerewa could load the diesel engine as a back load. The ramp on the truck, however, was too steep to winch it on so two cranes were called in to load it and unload at Kawakawa 15 minutes later.

Gabriel

Progress on Gabriel has come to a temporary halt until the scaffolding comes down on the engine shed although a long awaited spring adjustment system has been designed and is being manufactured and fitted. A broken spring has been repaired and a new spare is being made so that when the engine is back in service a broken spring will not cause delays.

Despite not yet having a carriage repair shed work has



Gabriel –bares it all for the future.. Nice new shoes but she is stripped for the boiler inspection etc.

commenced on two of the coaches. Defective wood is being removed and new pieces prepared to be fitted when the weather dries up a bit. Trapping moisture in between timber components would be asking for trouble.

LTNZ

LTNZ have granted us permission to use trolleys for weed killing and track maintenance. This is good news. The not so good news is that all trolley drivers' licenses have been cancelled and Mike Bradshaw is the only person allowed to drive any movements. We have been given permission to train and certify other drivers provided they are also approved by LTNZ before being able to drive.

Thank You Kawakawa Fire Brigade

We are also grateful to Kawakawa Fire Brigade cadets, who have helped by sweeping out the carriages and removing broken glass and rubbish left by senseless vandals.

Thank You Guys

We have also received a call from a retired engine reconitioner who has some bars of white metal which we can have. (White metal is used to build up bearings) and, Garth Matterson, Kerikeri a cabinet maker, has promised to give us a day a week rebuilding the carriages .He has started already.

The day a week we also get from Bob Glen, who will do anything; not forgetting the invaluable electrical work that Dave Mowat has done are all of immense help. The WINZ guys are worth their weight in gold and the general support from the community is extremely encouraging.

Mike Bradshaw
Operations Manager.

Nice One Stu...

Everyone even Stu Renton is entitled to being a little “off key” from time to time.Stu was one of the 3 who set out on the historic “the Wheels are Turning “ journey who were foiled in their attempt to get to Opuia that day. (see story Page 4) Armed with his trusty “Excalibur” chainsaw he set off without a spare can of petrol. When asked where was it he said it would be OK. The rest is history.... He ran out of gas. Not energy , not enthusiasm but fuel... for his chainsaw.

On his return to Kawakawa he said his goodbyes as he had a very important occasion to attend that evening. Two minutes later he returns to the Station and said he had lost his keys down the track. JD went to see if he could assist Stu with his predicament. Guess what JD spotted ,in the boot lock. Yep Stu had left his keys in the boot lock. Seems Kawakawa ‘s a pretty safe place after all.

Never mind Stu! He had a great excuse as his mind was elsewhere you see it was his little girls 7th birthday. Happy birthday Cydnee. We hope Dad had no more “lapses”

SUPPORT FROM NORTHTEC

As you know, we are currently extending the old maintenance shed, which will be used as the engineering workshop to restore the engines and other "dirty" work.

The massive step forward for the railway will be the construction of a large new building which will be used for the restoration of the carriages, and this will include a new workshop and a mezzanine floor. The main use of the mezzanine area will be to provide facilities in which trade training can be carried out, and for this we have developed a partnership with NorthTec (formerly called Northland Polytechnic).

This is going to be a great bonus for the whole region. The aim is to provide practical, relevant training in such trades as painting, upholstery and carpentry in the course of the carriage restoration, and to restore the carriages to a high level with an emphasis on the restoration being in as authentic a style as possible. Northtec will provide the tutors for all this work, and we also hope to provide trade training opportunities for the Gateway Programme at Bay Of Islands College and other Mid North schools.

Kerry Wickman has agreed to be the Project Manager for the new workshop. With the huge funding support from ASB Charitable Trust we have most of the funding for the whole project. We can't wait! (F Leadley)

Trade Me—Baguley Drewry

We obtained our new diesel engine when the new owners of AFFCO decided to completely dispense with their railway system and were all set to turn it all to high quality scrap. The engine was put up for sale on Trade



The Drewry arrives at her new home
At Kawakawa 17 August 2006

Me and there were only two serious bidders, us and one other unknown bidder. Despite keeping right up with the bidding to the final 30 seconds, we were pipped at the post and lost the engine. Imagine the surprise when late on Saturday night we were told that the successful bidder turned out to be a teenager who could not raise the money and so we had a new engine thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor.

1203"

At the Station

Grand Opening— 16th Sept

Kawakawa' newest Restaurant will Open on the 16th September -Come and see the wonderful restoration of the interior , enjoy the ambience and fare off days of yore



Tamar and Jim enjoy a brief rest as the work continues for the big opening. The Old floor has been highly polished and paua and coin inlays worked into the floorboards

STEAMING AHEAD- GALA NIGHT

The Trust is delighted to announce the date for it's second Gala Dinner and Auction, which will take place on Friday October 6th. at the Waitaha Room, Copthorne Hotel and Resort , Bay of Islands.

After the success of last year's event, we are all looking forward to another fun filled, action packed evening. The theme for this year is "Steaming Ahead", which nicely sums up the wonderful progress made over the last year. Over 130 people attended last years dinner, and more are expected this time around. No doubt many will be back to see the hilarious auctioneers, John Carter and Frank Leadley , who entertained us all so well last year.



There's a change in the entertainment line up this year, which will feature a surprise comedy sketch, a light hearted fashion parade. budding opera singer, and former BOIVRT guard, Daniel Morrison will sing a few tunes again, and Shirley Glabus returns as our pianist. On MC duties this year is John Marksby from More FM, filling in for Merv Smith who is unable to attend this year - but he will be back for next years dinner.

The other stars of the show are of course the fabulous items up for auction. Weekends in Auckland, Kerikeri and Russell, Dinners, Fishing, Power Tools.. and then there's the art. Doddy Hohepa is once again creating a mosaic piece for us, and there will be paintings by Lisa Davis, Vicky Coxhead and Lara McEwan. Also, a very special piece from Australia.. And many more.

The evening needs the support of the public to make it a success - for this most worthy cause. so get a group together now and book your tickets. Outlets are the Trainspotters Kawakawa, Paihia Pharmacy, Paper Plus Kerikeri and Kaikohe. If you have any queries or wish to donate an item, please phone Vivienne Cumming on 021 328 355, or Mike or any of the trustees.

Viv Cummings
(Trustee)

The Gabriel Club

Next Meeting

10am Saturday 2nd September at the Station.

SITUATIONS VACANT

It has always been a key role of members of the Club to provide the licensed operators.

Motor Trolley Operators

Fancy a new career. Mike has been authorised by LTNZ to licence "jigger" operators. Two who will be licensed will be Stu Renton and Denis Hewit. However it would be advantageous to have one or two more as there is so much work to be done.

Engine Drivers

With the purchase of a second engine two drivers will be needed to operate services Kawakawa to Longbridge. We Hope to see Graham Winterbourne back (best wishes for a speedy recovery Graham) but other back up operators will be needed.

Guards/ Conductors/Guides .

Yes as we will be operating soon so we need volunteers to be trained in these key positions.

APPLY NOW -Please register your interest in any of these position with Mike at the Station

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Our Website
Www.traintown.co.nz
 email
Info@traintown.co.nz
 Mail
P.O. Box 142, Kawakawa

Operations Manager

Mike Bradshaw
 Ph (09) 404-0684
 Mobile 027-4040-990

The Wheels are Turning—.
 Red Letter Day, Saturday the 19th August. At 10.27am the first licensed journey of a motor trolley for two years ran through the Main St of Kawakawa.



Operations Manager Mike, with trustees Stu Renton and JD left to carry out an inspection of the track to Longbridge at least and hopefully to Opuia. Sadly that was not to be

First there was some trees.....



And then there were some slips..



Mike and Stu shake hands on a job well done while JD takes the photo.

But the trip to Opuia was not to be. They came up Two trees and a can short (eh Stu) . Still it was a great start and the inspection will be completed Sat 26th .

Along the way it was great to enjoy the rural vistas between Kawakawa and Taumarere thanks to the spraying of the privet re-growth by local farmer Richard Cookson. Thanks Richard.

Saved—A Community is Spared....

Question .. Is a motor trolley a train?.....
 You had better believe it . Yes, it is. In my books it is a train . It is self propelled, has flashing lights , a bell and carries passengers . **It is a train.**

Why the question you may ask,? Well you may recall that it was reported in the April newsletter that our Operations Manager had boldly declared to a visitor from the UK "that a train would run through the Main street of Kawakawa before the end of August or he would run up the Main street buck naked"

This must not and cannot be allowed to happen. The Community of Kawakawa and Northland must be spared and not subjected to such a dastardly deed. Such an event could well prove more hazardous than a train in the Main St of Kawakawa with vehicles running out of control as they try to avoid this "unbelievable" sight.

Is Kawakawa Really a Safe Place.

According to Stu Renton it is (see story page 2) . You can leave your keys in the boot of your car, go away all day and they will still be there on your return .

If such is the case, **then who stole the Bl...y Railway Line.**



Actually for security reasons the jigger had to be pushed down the road (the original track would have been about here.) after the track inspection on the 19th. Now if we had a licence to

shunt the yard Hint...Hint...LTNZ... the jigger would not have to leave the track. Actually that's a bit unfair on LTNZ as we yet have to file our Safety Plan. LTNZ have been marvelous , extremely supportive and they are doing all they can to get us up and running again . Talking about the jigger a big thanks goes to Winkie Tipene of Motatau for all his help with putting in the new engine and the restoration work on the trolley for the weed sprayer. Thanks Winkie and we assure you the engine ran like a charm and Stu can't wait to get the spraying underway.



July 06 She sure looks in a bad way but with some willing hands the Connoisseur Car could be restored to her former beauty. Working B's now in progress. Saturdays at the station