



June 2006

FUNDING SUCCESSES

The Railway Trustees are extremely excited over recent funding successes that will enable them to start making some very significant progress.

ASB Community Trust gives huge support.

Top of the list is the grant of \$176,500.00 from the ASB Community Trust to go towards the construction of the new Railway Workshop. "This is fantastic" enthused funding manager Frank Leadley. "It has been a long process to get this far but, with this wonderful support, we can now finalise the planning and equipping of the Workshop and proceed with confidence to make the building consent application. The new Workshop will be a huge asset to the Railway", he continued, "as it will give us secure facilities for much of the renovations and will also enable us to finalise our partnership with Northtec to provide trade training opportunities. It will be great for the whole mid North."

Frank advises that, with money that is in hand, the ASB Community Trust grant will enable the new Railway Workshop to be built and to provide most of the equipment. There may not be enough to fully concrete the floor but, providing the pit area is concreted, the rest of the floor can be done at a later date. "Unless another benefactor comes along

Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust *"Risking Nothing But Success"*

with a "concrete proposal," Frank suggests hopefully.

Local man Kerry Wickman, ex trustee, (welcome back Kerry) has accepted the role of Project Manager for the construction of the new Workshop, which will start as soon as building consent is gained.

Eastern Community Board support

The immediate task is to extend the present old maintenance shed by two bays which will enable the restoration work on Gabriel and the Price diesel engine to proceed. The Eastern Community Board has come to the Trust's aid with a donation of \$15,000.00 for the extensions, and has indicated it will provide more when their funding permits. As a result of this funding assistance the contract for the extensions has gone to Russell Polwart and, with the building consent now approved, a start on this work is underway.

Mike Bradshaw is ecstatic. "I've actually made a start on Gabriel," he states, "but we can't do much more until we have dry, secure facilities. The old maintenance shed has our engineering facilities and machinery attached to it and it will be fantastic to be able to have the space and the cover to get really stuck into the renovations."

But wait – there's more!

Two other community groups have come to the cause with very welcome donations.

The Committee for the recent Country and Rock Music Festival has donated \$1,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the programmes, to go towards renovation work on the Vintage Railway, which is most acceptable.

And the Bay Of Islands Motellers Association presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Frank Leadley following a presentation on the Railway that he made to their recent meeting.

"This is excellent," stated Trust Chair Alison Lemon. "It is further proof that the community is really behind what we are doing and wants us to succeed. Which we most certainly will," she added.

The Trust is now waiting for what it hopes will be further good news. The result of an application to the Tourism Facilities Development Grants Board for the balance of the funding required to fully restore Gabriel should be known by the end of June. And, by then, the extensions to the old maintenance shed should be complete and work will really get underway.

We are rolling !!



Kath Stanley, Treasurer of Bay Of Islands Motellers Association, hands over the \$1,000 cheque to Frank Leadley.

Go- You Good Things

There is little doubt that the BOI Vintage Railway is that ..an Iconic attraction of the Bay of Islands. This is further illustrated by four year 9 students of Kerikeri's Springbank School who have undertaken to restore the historic Taumarere Station as part of their school's enterprise programme.

The students, are raising the funds for the project which includes renovating the station and platform ,and also developing a picnic area for the train passengers.

Thank you girls. All the supporters of the BOI Vintage Railway wish you all the best in the BP Community Project Competition run by the Enterprise New Zealand Trust.

In our view you are already ...winners.



St Johns Kawakawa Market Day

"Bargains galore and all for a good cause" Shirley Bradshaw tells a prospective client. The client turns out to be Peter Reid who worked on the track restoration some 9 years ago with Lyall Faulkner, Bumpy Rangi and others under the tutelage of Norm Harris.

Trustee Viv Cummings, with Shirley and Mike manned the first stall held in May and this is now to be a regular happening at the popular St Johns Markets held on the first Sunday of every month.

Support has been excellent. Take the lady from Rawhiti who purchased \$3 worth of goods , tendered a \$20 note and wouldn't take the change. **How good is that ?** A big thank you and also big thanks to those other stall holders who have happily contributed some of their unsold wares. Prices are simply made on the basis of "Make and Offer and support a great cause."

If you can help "man" the stall contact Mike at the Station as I am sure he reckons Shirley deserves the odd Sunday off.

The only qualifications A cheerful disposition and enthusiasm for the cause.



Girl Power ...Let the job begin.....

L-R Jessica Rule ,Fiona Hoy, Priyanka Bhika and Jasmine Sandhu start their project Queens Birthday.



Supervisor Neville Rule spraying whilst the team pick up the rubbish etc

WANTED to Buy

A recent visitor called looking to buy for a carriage for a friend on Waiheke Islands. Obviously doesn't need one with wheels and the bogies. Can you help please.

Contact Johnson Davis Ph (09) 404-0636 or contact Duncan Harris direct at (09) 360-4014

Welcome Aboard....

Elenoa Chatfield who has been funded by WINZ for 100 hours to complete data capture, mail merge etc. An area which has been neglected for some time. Mike has been impressed by her work ethic and enthusiasm.

Keeping in Touch

Our Website WWW.traintown.co.nz

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Phone (09) 404-0684

Mobile 027-4040-990

Address P.O. Box 142 , Kawakawa

Report by M Bradshaw - Engineering Operations Manager

Following completion of the turntable at Kawakawa, attention has turned to upgrading the existing engine shed and preparation for building the new carriage workshop. Drawings were prepared and application for building permits to extend existing engine shed. The successful tenderer came to examine the site and decide what he required us to move so as to facilitate him starting work just as soon as the permit comes to hand. He has placed orders for materials with lead times. This includes roof trusses and poles. Before post hole boring can commence a cross drain has to be diverted and fill which had been placed has to be moved to expose a base level so that all poles will be at the same height.

Work on the Price Diesel No. 184 is virtually finished as regards the mechanical condition. One small diesel return pipe still has to be completed. The motor was started and run for a short time but the return pipe not being in place curtailed running for long. The exterior of the engine is not as bad as its appearance may indicate. Only two small areas require rust cutting out and new material welding in. This work can and will be completed in the near future. To do much more grinding and sanding would be a waste of time until the shed extensions are completed.

Gabriel has been lifted and the bogie removed and stripped. Apart from being very dirty no serious faults were revealed. Two of the eight springs have been replaced and the side control box has been removed and straightened. These were damaged at some point due to a derailment and not reinstalled correctly. A modification has been put in place to prevent a similar reoccurrence. The cab roof, front plate and sides were removed from Gabriel. These have been sanded, ground and small repairs done, followed by priming ready for painting. It is not envisaged that anymore will be done until they are replaced when of course the whole engine will be fully repainted. The next job will be removing the side water tanks and boiler lagging plates. This will expose the entire boiler for the all important boiler inspection.

Much work has been done in the workshop to make things safer and more pleasant for volunteers working in there. Lighting has been improved, both in the workshop and the engine shed and security lights are installed. Coolant systems on the lathe and power hacksaw are now operational.

The FRONZ (Federation Railways of New Zealand) conference, in Nelson on Queens Birthday weekend, revealed, amongst other things, that all 64 member societies are suffering in some form or another from somewhat over intensive bureaucracy. However, we are getting as much help as possible from LTNZ to jump through the hoops. A full report from this conference will be presented to the Trust and extracts from it will be made available for the next newsletter, covering items of interest to members. The report can be seen if anyone is willing to plough through it.

We are, very slowly, gaining the odd extra volunteer, and this is really helping with the engines and work shop. Until our inspectors are in place and approved by LTNZ we cannot do anything down the track, starting with weed killing and sleeper changing. This will happen soon, we just have to persevere and keep pushing.



It's been a long time but at 12.36pm on Thursday the 4th May 2006 the turntable is finally lifted into what will be her final resting place. Still a bit of work to do but the journey is almost over.

The turntable will be left to sit for a month or two to settle and then the finishing work will be completed. Another big step towards the completion of the yard.





Remember This? .. You Betcha – Who Could forget....

Yes Gala Two (It's the Frankie and Johnny Show)is on its way Put it in your diary now. October 6th at Copthorne Resort, Waitangi. A night not to be missed. See you there for a night of great food, great music . great entertainment and ..oops nearly forgot..



Gabriel with her happy face. Yes just like any lady getting a make-over Gabriel is all smiles now. She is framed by the new Gantry recently completed by Mike. Thanks to the grant from the Eastern Community Board, sister engine the Price will also share the covered Engine Shed.

**Further Donations
Great Big thanks to.....**

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Harold Baker | \$50 |
| The Lions Club | \$500 |
| Pt Veronica Lodge | \$50 |

On Sale Now.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Sleeper Certificates @ | 5.00 |
| DVD/Tapes Gabriels Journey | 30.00 |

Gabriel Club.

The Gabriel Club is up and running. The next meeting is due to be held 10am at the Station Saturday 1st July.

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Patron | Mike Bradshaw |
| Chairperson | Johnson Davis |
| Secretary | Colleen Frew |
| BOIVR Trustee | Stu Renton |

The Club has Adopted a Charter. The key role/function of the Club is:

- To support and assist in what ever way possible the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust**
1. Maintain and preserve Gabriel
 2. Provide a Steam Rail Service in the Bay of Islands.
 3. Encourage an interest in Railways and Rail Transport in general.

WANTED

The one thing wanted most urgently is a friendly Engineer to inspect our bridges. The Trust is required to register the Engineer with LTNZ and then carry out the inspection and certification BEFORE we can get a licence to operate. The current proposal is to complete the journey to Opuia in two stages. Stage 1 Kawakawa to Longbridge. Stage 2 Longbridge to Opuia. LTNZ will not give a licence to even run a motor trolley until the bridges have been certified by an Engineer . Perhaps the certification could be staged as follows.

Stage 1 Immediate Maintenance certification, I.e. motor trolleys and a work train to Longbridge .
 Stage 2 Full Operational– Fare paying Kawakawa to Longbridge say by September.
 Stage 3 Maintenance certification Longbridge to Opuia before year end
 Stage 4 Full Operational Longridge Longbridge to Opuia. 2007

We have all the sleepers for Kawakawa to Longbridge and a Track inspector has been appointed. WINZ has guaranteed works crews are available for the track laying but we need a licence to carry all the men /gear.

Can you help please or do you no some who can. Please contact Mike at the Station Ph 404-0684 or evenings 404-0450

GABRIEL CLUB (But there's only One of me.....)
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Name.....
 Address.....

Please circle subscription

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Full 20.00 | Family 40.00 | Junior 10.00 |
| Corporate 200.00 | Community 50.00 | |

Gold (5 years) Silver (3 years) all except Junior

REMINDER

Subscriptions are now due
The current membership expires on the 30th June 2006.

This means this is the last issue for the 2006 subscriptions.

To continue to receive the newsletter please join up now.