



Bay of Islands Vintage Railway

102 Gillies Street, Kawakawa. NZ

(Risking Nothing But Success)

March 2008

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Happy New Year 2008

Belated Greetings and best wishes to you all and your families for 2008.

2007 was a great year and 2008 will be bigger and better WHY ...cause Gabriel will be back all "Hot n Steamy".

Thank You

A great big thanks to Mike, Dave , Bob and all the volunteer drivers and guards who kept the 7 day a week timetable operating over the Xmas /New year . What a super commitment and effort. Grateful thanks, Howard, Geoff, Peter, Terry, Garth Willie, Dan, Naomi , Liz and anyone else I have forgot.

Platform Diner

Our best wishes go to the new owners (Debbie and Guy) of the Café at the station ; the Platform Diner. May you prosper and have many happy tummies to fill from our passengers and visitors.

The Biggies ... 2008.

1. The return of Gabriel
2. Puff N Pull
3. Gabriel's and Hundertwasser's 80th birthday.
4. The crossing of the Waiomio Stream (come on FNDC)
5. The refurbishment of Hundertwasser's boat the Giudecca
6. The start of trade training with Nortec.
7. Progress at the Colenso Triangle

Yes it's going to be an exciting and wonderful year.

And please still WANTED

Volunteer drivers and guards. Are you a skill or retired artisan who can spare some time. Your support and skills would be most welcome at the station for trade training. Skills in the electrical, painting, carpentry, engineering, welding trades etc are urgently needed; Even just good old sweat and support is welcomed , Can you help Yes you can ; Male, female, young, old , rich , poor, black, white, purple, green, 3 arms , 4 legs 2 heads . You are most welcome

"We Have the Job for You." -Editor



"Looking good" Coming to a town near year **Soon** (Photo Courtesy M Bradshaw)



Richard Smart on behalf of the Hundertwasser Foundation hands over in trust Hundertwasser's boat the Giudecca to Asset Manager trustee Jess Cherrington with Mike Bradshaw as Chief witness. BOIVRT now have the responsibility for the restoration and storage of La Giudecca.



Railway stalwart Garth Matterson hard at work completing the shelving and doors in the new workshop. The new machinery, tools and equipment are a treat. BOIVRT is working closely with Nortec to set up training programmes for the young and not so young and even our valued senior citizens.

Diary Dates

1. 25 May Puff N Pull
2. Gala Day



New owner Debbie and partner Guy enjoy the delights of their new venture.

Platform Diner

102 Gillies Street, KAWA-KAWA

Don't be shy, give us a try

Situated at the BOI Vintage Railway, the **PLATFORM DINER**, previously the 12:03 is now under new management, with new owner Debbie Stuart and her friendly staff, who invite you to come on in and enjoy a cup of awesome coffee and great food in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, with plenty of parking.

A Ride in to History.

Mitre 10 Kawakawa (Malcolm Francis) is giving you the opportunity to share the first ride in Gabriel when she makes her first official run. Yes riding in Gabriel up front with the driver. Malcolm was the joint successful bidder with Wally Titchener for the right to ride in Gabriel when she starts operating. Malcolm has generously offered his seat in this "one chance in a lifetime opportunity" to raise funds for Gabriel. If you become a member of the Gabriel Club before Gabriel's official run then you will get a free entry into the raffle. Otherwise you can buy a raffle ticket (or as many as you like) for a \$1 at Mitre 10 Kawakawa. (See Chrissy)

Operations Manager's report.

Gabriel.

All major work is now complete. The last, and to many, the most important task, was the fitting of the magnificent new funnel. She no longer looks like a headless horse.

Jobs remaining, prior to the steam test, are some pipe work, bearings to be adjusted and the fitting of the floor in the cab. This has been left until all of the pipes were fitted. It was awkward enough as it was!

Once the steam tests have been successfully completed we can put the finishing touches to the paint work. Terry Watts has been painting bits as we made them, almost before they cooled from the welding torch and this has meant that there will be no major paint job at the end. We will polish all the copper and brass bits and she will look like a million dollars.

Steam engines are notorious at leaking just after a major overhaul, so we do expect some leaks.

This year, being Gabriel's eightieth and, if he had lived, Freiderich Hundertwasser would also have turned eighty, we plan to have some sort of joint celebration. The details of this are being hatched by the trust.

Carriages.

No physical movement as yet, but plans to have NorthTec students on site to do the carriage work are under way. We must also have the materials on site, and the funding for this is also being pushed forwards

In order to know what materials we will need, a few exploratory moves have to be made. Some of the lining and exterior cladding has to be removed to check on frames. The lino has to be lifted to check on the floors, and this means moving the seat frames. Even with this fairly large investigatory work, we are still quite a bit in the dark, and nasties could be revealed when we come to do the work, so a fairly liberal view has to be taken and if we end up with overages, they can be used on the next carriage.

The news on the bridge is - there is no news. It is most frustrating as nothing can be planned until we know how far we are able to run trains. Initially early November was the promised date and then many excuses later we were advised the before Christmas was definite. Then, because of wet weather (does anyone recall rain in January?) the work was again delayed. The footbridge girders were finally in and the concrete decking on by the end of January but no hand rails or water main shifted as yet. It looks like Easter may come and go and we will still not be able to move out of town. Effectively we have lost a summer season and that is not just the railway but also the station café, the businesses in Kawakawa and the Bay of Islands in general because of incredible ineptitude on the part of the FNDC. Our new mayor promised things would speed up when he was campaigning but, we hope, they were not empty promises.

On a more positive note the track inspector has been asked to come and inspect the rails to Taumarere; we had better be ready in case a move is made on the bridge.

At the last Gabriel Club meeting we decided to buy one of the ballast wagons currently for sale by Ontrack and a second one may also be purchased as a result of fundraising by a few of our members. As the saying goes "watch this space".

Train running over the holiday period generates useful revenue and since then, weekend trains continue to be popular. Train running definitely slows down other restoration work but without the trains we would not have the funds to do anything. Chicken and egg syndrome!

Despite constant reminders, begging and screaming, we are still reliant on a few dedicated members to be the drivers and guards. We did not have to cancel any trains over the holiday period although we came close a few times. Thank you to those stalwarts who volunteered their time and energy. I hope you are having fun!

We need around 4 or 5 more drivers and guards and that would ensure that we did not flog the willing horses, if they deserted the stable we would be sunk. How ridiculous it would be if, after all the hard work getting to where we are now, we were unable to run trains because there was no one to wave the flag.

Full training for guards and drivers is given, just ask one of the existing staff how much they enjoy themselves, you get to meet very interesting people. - Mike Bradshaw



Gabriel's Rebirth

Every bit tells the story
(Photos courtesy Mike Bradshaw)



It's a Date!!

Keep 25 May free – it is going to be a huge day in the Northland calendar of events, and will be a day for the whole community.

Yes folks – after the great success of last year's "Getting Up Steam" event it has been decided to make this an annual activity and to expand it into a major event to be known as "The Puff and Pull Carnival".

Under the leadership of Frank Leadley a Committee comprising representatives of the Bay Of Islands Rotary Club, Sport Northland, Vintage Railway Trust, FNDC, Kawakawa Business Association and Ngati Hine Health Trust is already at work planning the day which will have a range of components and even venues.

The conclusion of the Trek The Track and the Puffing and Pulling will be in the main street of Kawakawa and we are aiming for a 3 –hour street closure, and then the Carnival will move to Johnson Park for more fun and activities.

TV has been contacted, schools have been advised, planning is underway, the excitement is starting to build. All that will be required to make this an absolutely massive day is for you to spread the word, and to be determined that you will be there with all your friends, family, workmates, fishing partners, sports teams, and anyone else you can bring along to share in the fun and to be part of a day that you will still be talking about at the end of your days.

So don't forget the date – put it in your diaries now – it is **Sunday 25 May**.

Get Ready to Puff and Pull !

Last year we had 5 teams taking part in the inaugural event to pull an engine down the main street of Kawakawa in the shortest possible time. The competition was for school teams only and was won by Broadwood Area School in a time of 2 min, 36.88 secs., with Karetu School and Kawakawa School not far behind.

But it will be different this year! The first big difference is that it will be the fully restored vintage steam engine "Gabriel" that will be pulled along – not one of the diesel engines. That in itself will be huge.

But the other big difference is that we are going to have many more teams. We have sent out invitations to many schools and there will be 10 schools taking part to win the trophy. They will pull the engine from the Station end up to the Mitre 10 end of the street. And pulling the engine back the other way we will be inviting 10 community teams to participate for a separate trophy! Shortly, invitations will be going out to sports teams, community organisations, Fire Brigades, etc, and we are expecting more than 10 to want to participate, so it will be a case of first in gets the nod. It is a fundraising day for the Railway, so each of the adult team members will be required to pay a participation fee, and the details will be advised when they are finalised.

But if you are a member of any team or organisation that can muster 20 people keen to puff and pull, please contact Frank Leadley (Ph 4027650) as soon as possible to give him your details.

And then get into serious "training".

But Wait – There's More!

In addition to the sponsored Trek the Track and the Puff and Pull events, the day is going to be a major carnival around the general theme of railway/vintage/steam/history.

So the Puff and Pull Carnival Committee is looking at an inter-generational Historic Treasure Hunt, a vintage car rally/display, coal skip filling competition, train rides, children's pavement painting competition around a train theme, and shop window displays around a history theme. And, at Johnson Park the Committee is considering Disc Golf, kapa haka performances, wheelbarrow races, bouncy castle and whatever else we can come up with.

The Committee needs your participation and support. If you have ideas on what activities could be included, and particularly if you would be prepared to **organise** an activity, Frank would love to hear from you as soon as possible.

Participation and fun will be the keys to success. Don't miss out. Be a part of an event that will rival anything else in the country for its uniqueness and community participation, and assist the Vintage Railway to stay on track.

STOP PRESS ; STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Talk is that this may well be the same day that **Gabriel** will blow the s..... (steam that is) out of the main street o Kawakawa

25 May 2008 a day not to be missed.....*Be there*

Gabriel Club Meeting Sat 16th Feb

The Club met at the "Platform Diner" in the Kawakawa Station at 10am
 Topics discussed at the meeting
 The Hundertwasser boat "La Giudecca" is now at the station and welded on to a bogey and is safety in place at the end of the platform Garth is in the process of building a deck on the bogey with steps so that visitors can get a closer view of the interior.
 Restoration and refurbishment work is now required to be carried out which will enhance the boat immensely.

It was also discussed that Toll Holdings have a Ballast Wagon in Whangarei which would be very suitable for our track laying. It was decided that the Club finance the purchase of the wagon at a cost of \$1700.00.

A lively general business session was held at the end of the meeting where a number of issues were discussed. Polo shirts with pockets, hats from a new supplier and by selling both these articles they would generate revenue for the Club. Other issues were raised which would raise revenue for beautification projects at the station and in the yard.

Due to increased costs the subscriptions have to be raised this year and these will now be \$25,00 for the financial year 1 January - 31 December 2008 . This is still good value as you will get 10 free train rides and of course you will receive 6 excellent copies of newsletter informing everyone what is happening at the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway and also assisting Gabriel get up steam.

The next meeting will be 10am Saturday 15th March 2008 at the Kawakawa station.

Bob Glen



Now what do you do if 120 young Koreans turn up to give a hand and you don't have 120 paintbrushes. Well Mike had this wonderful predicament recently and soon 129 pairs of hands were attacking the weeds in the yard. Great big thanks to Graham Freethy of the local Baptist Church who had 120 members of the NZ Korean Christian Baptist Society lend a hand. The Church even donated some weed killer to help the cause. The day finished with a ride on the train and the Platform Diner shouted them all an ice-cream



New BOIVR Trustee

Howard Lunn who is appointed by Gabriel Club .

Howard is of course one Of our regular drivers.

No Brainer

Dipstick, nutter, drongo How else do you describe some idiot who drives a logging truck and runs in to a stationery train in the middle of Train Town ,gives our drivers the fingers, and doesn't even stop to see if any one is hurt.. Perhaps he is illiterate and cant' read the "Trains Running" signs that are put out everyday we are operating. I hear the idiot is now claiming that it wasn't his fault . Pardon me. How do you hit a stationery train and it's not your fault. I hope the Court throws the book at this idiot as the safety of our passengers is paramount. The message has to be Kawakawa-Train Town- Trains are running when the signs are out.- Editor



Another Gabriel Champion , Dave Peacock Of Kerikeri doing the business



Market Day Raffle

Winner of the raffle drawn 3rd February was ticket no. 92 Keith Wharerau 13 Derrick rd. Kawakawa. Thank you Malcom and Chrissy for the prize and all those who purchased tickets

Gabriel Club—Subs 2008

1 January 2008-31 December 2008

Full	25.00
Family	40.00
Junior	10.00
Corporate	200.00

Gold (5 years) Silver (3 years)
 All classes except Junior.
 Please forward subscriptions to Mike Bradshaw

Gabriel Club Meeting s 2008.

3rd Saturday of the month at the Station.
 Wonderful fare available from mine hosts Debbie and Guy at the Platform Diner
 Dates for your Diary

March	15
April	19
May	17