



Bay of Islands Vintage Railway

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(Risking Nothing But Success)

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The Trustees and staff send their greetings and best wishes for the festive season to all our volunteers, and supporters who have in their way contributed to the success of the railway during 2011. We trust you all had a very Merry Christmas and that Santa brought you all and your families the joy that you all deserve. We wish you all a very happy and safe New Year and also every success and happiness in 2012. We thank you all for your continued support.
J. Davis (Chairperson)



The Kawakawa Christmas Parade this year was held for the first time mid week and was a roaring or is that a “rowing” success.

The parade was lead off by Gabriel ,with Santa and his helpers on board , closely followed by the 2 locally built velocipedes (jiggers) and the locally built Kalamazoo.

(above) Trustee and Rotarian Frank Leadley and Rotarian Andrew Thomson, row the first velocipede to be built. (middle) Chairperson Johnson Davis assisted by nephew Reuben Davis on the second velocipede and (right) Tawhero Mangu and Denis Hewitt row or actually pump the Kalamazoo. *(Photos courtesy Jenny Atkins)*



(Left) A very special guest. Hello and welcome to 2 year old Gabriel Titchener from Kihikihi and his Dad. Young Gabriel meets our iconic steam engine Gabriel who was refurbished by Wallie Tichener (no relation) How good is that .We look forward to seeing young Gabriel returning in a few years so that he will be more aware of and understand why he has a special connection with Kawakawa. (Right) The re-roofing of the platform has been completed

Train running this month, to-date, has been very good. Every train run was pretty well on time plus we have had several specials.

The new BBQ's at Taumarere have proved very popular ; one day we had around 40 , mostly South African yachties from Opuā. They came on the 10.45, and ate (and drank) the day away coming home on the last train of the day.

Several schools also traveled with us as an end of term event .One of these with over 70 passengers was a steam special for the Oromahoe School. Even the Legal Department of the Far North District honored us with their presence and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The latest carriage to come out of the workshop will be “Blue Heron” and will be on the train before the New Year (see photos page 3) . Just 4 minor pieces to be fitted and then following brake checks she will in service. This means that the old dining car can come in for a birthday treatment. It doesn't need a rebuild, having been done about 4 years ago, but it needs a repaint and some wood work done especially to the doors and windows.

Due to the shortage of drivers and fireman I am now required to run or help run trains everyday which means if there is anything else required , repairs to engines, jobs in workshop or any other task, it either has to be done after running is over for the day or it just doesn't get done.

Gabriel is running well, although odd little jobs always have to be done, and of course the mayor jobs we did not do at the time of the major rebuild, now nearly 4 years ago, still need to be done. They won't go away and one day will just have to be done then . These are; main bearings on the rods, eccentric liners on valve gear and of course the potential leaks on the side of tanks caused by a few inches of water stupidly left in the tanks when Gabriel was sidelined for a number of years. We have already fixed 14 but another leak has just sprung this week. At the time of the rebuild these jobs added up to about \$25,000 and about 4 months work. Now when the time comes , it will take another 4 months , provided I am not doing anything else , and will probably cost nearer to \$30,000 prices being what they are now.

Elsewhere in the newsletter is an item about volunteers and the lack there of. However on a slightly positive note we have acquired a regular Saturday fireman in Trevor Bedgood from Kaikohe and a shop keeper from Okaihau Peter Matthews who comes when he is needed.

Once again no one from Kawakawa although there are over 100 unemployed people here who could do the job if they put their mind to it. Perhaps Mr Key and his new Government will think of a way of getting people into work for the benefit. We have six steam drivers but only 1 fireman so drivers have to act as fireman which is a bit silly. All we need is 4 or 5 people of either sex and over the age of 16 to help out and give our drivers a break.



(right) Gabriel with Santa and his helpers aboard, get ready to lead the Xmas parade through town.

(right and far right) Yes the circus came to town to join in the festivities Here a uni-cyclist and juggler from the Kumarani Circus entertain the crowd in the Wynyard St Carpark after taking part in the parade through town



Photos courtesy Lynda Leigh



(above) Foreman Grant Bristowe, Of Coast to Coast Contractors with George Ryder and Bot Tauri having completed the re-roof of the platform rip of the old iron on the roof and what did they find?
 (middle) the station was originally built in 1911 so is this a 100 year fossilized bird and
 (right) Could this possibly be a 100 year old rat emerging into the daylight when the roof was removed.? No not really it's Grant Bristowe just doing an extremely thorough job on the roof replacement.



3 December with the painting of Blue Heron completed it was time to put the seats back in.

(Top) To big to man handle the digger provides a helping hand. Driven carefully by Denis Hewitt the seat is raised under the watchful eye of key workers Mike Bradshaw, Grainger Brown, Garth Matterson and Mike Moroney . Tawhero Mangu moves the ladder just in case.

(Middle) It's gently, gently in through the window and

(above) the repainted seat looks resplendent in the newly built and refurbished carriage.



The BBQ's at Taumarere have now been tested, christened and are now available for any one wishing to take a ride on the train and have a BBQ lunch
 (Above), some of the happy group who took the "christening Special" after the last train had been run on the 18th December (Photo courtesy John Frew)

**Reminder—Put it in your Diary now
 Concert at the Station 29th January 2012**

Kawakawa Christmas Parade 2011

Congratulations and compliments to the Kawakawa Business Assoc . who took the bold decision to change the parade this year to an after work mid week function. From all comments made to-date this was a resounding success as evidenced by the record number of 14 floats in this years parade. The theme this year was masquerade and points were awarded for theme, originality, creativity, effort and overall effectiveness. The quality of the floats were so high that in two of the groups—Community and School— the runner up prizes had to be shared

...and the winners were;

Schools: - 1st Kawakawa Primary and joint runners up Kawakawa Play Centre and Kawakawa Kohanga Reo

Community: - 1st –BOI Hospital and joint runners up Ngati Hine Health and St Johns

Business: - 1st Central Butchery , Runner up Kawakawa Farm Centre

Nancy Te Wake was the main organiser of the floats this year and said “everyone I have spoken to about the parade this year is buzzing and some are talking about joining in for the first time. I think it’s going to be even better next year. It’s a good reflection of the positive things that are happening in our community”.

There was a bit of a hiccup because we were waiting for Circus Kumarani to arrive and be part of the parade, but someone forgot to tell the train driver – and of course – the train will always start on time!

Lynda Leigh



Photos courtesy Lynda Leigh



Photo courtesy Nancy Te Wake



(top) The winners of the Community Section were BOI Hospital and...
(above) The winners of the School Section—Kawakawa Primary School

(top) Not the “Cookie” monster but the monster from Mt Pokaka

(above) The Railway Café entry and still proudly supporting the WRC champions the mighty All Blacks

**Concert at the Station 29th January 2012 - Great event , great new Acts
Come and support the Railway**

Kawakawa Christmas Parade 2011



Photo courtesy Chevy Taylor

(Above) the “Baddies” in the Christmas Parade were “ Azrael “ (aka Chevy Taylor) and Co-pilot “Gargamel” (aka Sharna May) who overtake (illegally) the Kohanga Reo Float as they set out in pursuit of “ The Smurfs” (above right). The Central Butchery entry “the Smurfs” were the winners of the Business section. The Runners up were the Kawakawa Farm Centre.



Photos courtesy Lynda Leigh



(Top) Joint Runners up in the School section were the Kawakawa Kohanga Reo who shared honors with the Kawakawa Play Centre (top right)

(above left) The Kawakawa St Johns entry who shared the runners up in the Community section with the Ngati Hine Entry “ Love your Heart” .

Gabriel Club Helicopter Raffle drawn at Station 29th Dec. Winner Ticket No 073—J. Davis



“ Welcome Aboard” Peter Mathews from Okaihau. Peter has offered to help ,when he can, as one of the shopkeepers. Peter is a former Medical Superintendent of the Taranaki Base Hospital in New Plymouth. Prior to that he worked for a number of years in the former Gilbert & Ellice Islands now know as Kiribati and Tuvalu.

So as the curtain comes down on 2011 we say thanks to all who made the year the success that it has been .As we look back and celebrate the many success of 2011 it is somewhat disappointing to end the year on a negative note. As our Operations Manager has pointed out that although some 400 flyers were delivered in Kawakawa seeking volunteers to help in all aspects of the Railway but especially with Fireman, Guards and Drivers to date we have not had one single new recruit. There were a couple of positive responses but to date not one new volunteer from Kawakawa has appeared. Through the year we have welcomed volunteers from Okaihau, Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Rawhiti Kerikeri and Whangarei but from Kawakawa NIL. As a “Kawakawa-ite” I have to say that I am extremely disappointed. Roll on 2012 and Opua “Here we come”
 J. Davis
 Chairperson & Editor



Photos courtesy Lynda Leigh



A great big thank you to the anonymous donor who gave \$3500 towards the purchase of the coal.

WANTED

Still wanted , of course, Urgently are fireman and drivers.

However also wanted , if you can wield a paintbrush, are painters to paint the turntable, the water tower and to finish painting “Sweetie” The backyard is now being cleared up and a new garden shed, generously donated by Kawakawa Mitre 10 is ready to be erected. This means that we will need gardeners to help with keeping the present gardens tended and the lawns mowed and also to develop ongoing planting and gardens to make the station more welcoming

Schools have been enjoying an outing on the train . (above) on the 2nd December the Westmont School of Kerikeri enjoyed a day out and (below) on the 7th December it was the turn of the Kerikeri Childcare Community Trust.



More Entertainment from the Xmas Parade. The Rock Climbing Wall erected in the Wynyard St carpark proved to be a great hit



more scenes from the Xmas Parade-Photos Lynda Leigh

.(above) Entertainment from the Kawakawa Primary School champion Hip Hop group Groovestaz who recently won a NZ competition and competed in the World Supremacy Battleground competition in Sydney