



Bay of Islands Vintage Railway

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(Risking Nothing But Success)

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Spring Issue

Spring has sprung and the warm weather will be here soon. The rain will stop and so will the wind. Believe it.

What a great month this has been already with the Railway winning the TrustPower Supreme Award. The school holidays have been and will be over soon. It was a pleasure to welcome aboard some of the children having a break from the earthquake disaster in Christchurch and there was little hesitation in giving them complimentary rides.

Our Annual Gala Dinner and Auction is set down for the 29th October (see below) Please get your tickets early from one of the trustees .

The two velocipedes have now been completed(big thanks to Garth Matterson) and we now need to look how we bring these into part of our operation and unique attraction.

Great big thanks to Tony Kiffe and Lucan Turner for completing the shop car which is now in service. This brings a new call for further volunteers as the shop needs to be manned independent of the Guard. So please more help required.

So lots to be done, and many more willing hands would be greatly appreciated.(Editor)

TrustPower

Community Awards

Supreme Winner 2010

.....and the winner is*Bay of Islands Vintage Railway.*

Congratulations and thank you one and all; our volunteers, workers, sponsors, supporters and everyone who helped the railway win this magnificent award. It was a most exhilarating, yet humbling occasion when it was announced that the winner of the Supreme award was the BOI Vintage Railway. Exhilarating, as it was totally unexpected, but deeply humbling as those present heard of all those wonderful community groups who received commendations and won their specific categories. It is a very special occasion when one attends one of these occasions and gets to hear of the great work many, many people contribute to their communities. In our view they are, and were, all winners.

As winners we received a cheque for \$1500, will get a 6 minute promotion on co-sponsor TV6 and will of course represent the Far North at the national Awards to be held in Tauranga.

Special mention and a great big thanks must go to the Kawakawa Hundertwasser Park Charitable Trust who nominated the BOI Vintage Railway for an Award.

A great big thanks to Trust Power for their great contribution to the communities of the Far North

(below left) Proud recipients of the award on behalf of the BOI Vintage Railway are Chairperson Alison Lemon and trustee Frank Leadley. *(below left)* Gabriel displays The certificate, Trophy (which we hold for one year) and the one for the trophy cabinet

BAY OF ISLANDS VINTAGE RAILWAY TRUST PRESENTS ITS SIXTH ANNUAL

Gala Dinner & Auction

TO BE HELD AT THE HARURU FALLS RESORT

Friday 29th October, 7pm
Tickets \$50, Buffet Dinner

Supreme Winner, Trust Power Far North Community Awards 2010

AVAILABLE FROM
Trainspotters Café Kawakawa,
Paper Plus Kerikeri,
Russell Bookshop,
Paihia Pharmacy
Or any of the Trustees
Contact Viv Campbell 021 328 355 for more information



Photo courtesy Peter de Graff

Operations Managers Report (*Mike Bradshaw*)

The period up to the school holidays is normally quiet and this year was no exception. In years past we used to close for August but tourism has advanced quite a bit since then. Revenue was reasonable, despite the relatively low number of passengers, and maintenance work was carried out.

The big event was, of course, getting the Shop car in to service. The stock arrived just in time and is selling well. As you will see, when you next travel on the train, our products have suitable artwork depicting Gabriel on them. A selection of photographs has been used on the items offered for sale, giving views of various events in town; Puff n Pull, Xmas Parade etc. One thing we have learnt is that we need a fulltime shop attendant. We have found that the hope that the Guard could do both jobs is asking for trouble. He/she may get distracted from their top priority, which is the safety and comfort of our passengers and therefore may have to leave the shop car un-attended. This means we lose the risk of losing stock items from the counter. For every item we may lose we would have to sell 5-6 items merely to cover the cost of the stolen items so if we cannot have a separate shopkeeper we are better off not to open the shop. So please if you can help run the shop you would be truly welcome and appreciated.

Gabriel continues to run well although showing some signs of age. The water tanks were not renewed during her rebuild owing to cost. Leaks are now starting. This is along the water line which developed when water was foolishly left in the tank for several years when the old Lady was abandoned in the open. Quotes for renewing these tanks are being obtained and the cost is expected to be in the \$10-12000 range. The other big challenge is that the engines will be out of service while the work is being done and this could easily be 6-8 weeks. The reason is that the manufacturers may actually require the old tanks to copy, and possibly use some of the components to maintain the original look and also to save some costs. Another fault developed on Gabriel last Friday when a spring hanger snapped allowing the engine to drop, breaking a steam pipe on the engine brakes. A new hanger was made and fitted and the steam pipe replaced. The engine was back in service next day. The bad coal continues to make fireman's day difficult. On Sunday the last trip of the day ended almost 1/2hour late and on Monday morning we had three barrows of clinker and ash to shovel out. The smoke box was full and had a big patch of paint burned off the door. This will eventually mean a new door will be needed if we continue to struggle with the horrible coal.

Odd sleepers are still being laid up to Bridge 5 and a few more will go in towards the rugby club. When this work is finished, apart from weed spraying twice a year, there should be very little work required on the track up to the station at Taumarere for many years. Quotes have been obtained for the inspection of Bridge 9. The Trust is actively seeking means of raising finance to fund the inspection. Once the inspection has been completed we will know what we need to get Longbridge completed.

Garth has put the finishing touches to the two velocipedes so they are now both complete and waiting for a suitable event to put them through their paces. The up and coming TV6 exposure may well be the opportune time.

All members' volunteers are invited to be at the Railway 10am Monday 11th October and be part of the filming of the TV6 documentary, which was part of the prize when we won the Trustpower Supreme Community Award, and yes you could well feature. Bring a spade and a plant and be a part of this memorable occasion.



They rolled out the Shop car and before you could "blink Lucan and Tony rip into the next coach the Observation Car

AT LAST—The Shop Car - - Tony Kiffe

Lucan and I took over the finishing of the carriage Pukeko in June. Now after many hours work, she is ready to go back into service. It is the finishing touches that always take longer than expected and sometimes one cannot see where all the time has gone. Just masking for the stripe down the length of each side of the carriage took a morning for the two of us, making sure it was straight and even. Renovating the door locks was another time consuming exercise. Each one was individually put together, with each part numbered. Much time was spent filing a less worn piece to replace a more worn item. Now all five-door locks work. Then there was the problem of hanging doors. Nothing is quite square, so the doors were hung, taken down, planed, re-hung, planed again, until they opened and closed freely. The hinges on two of the doors required the jambs to be threaded. We shaped lengths of wood for drip rails for the doors, making them look like the original ones that were of cast metal.

Besides being able to see progress and the sense of achievement finishing this carriage, it has kept us both fit. You cannot imagine how many times we walked up and down a railway carriage in a day!! There are still some finishing touches to do but for now she is ready for the school holidays and hopefully passengers.

Many thanks to Steve from Bay Waterproofing who came and did the roof, to Kelvin Petrie Electrical and Kim Wilson for the loan of their scaffold towers and Harris and Thurston for the use of their mortising machine for making new doors.



(Above) Tony Kiffe and Lucan Turner complete the shop car. (Below) a fully resplendent *Pukeko* emerges from the shed before starting service during the holidays. (Above right) Gen. Manager Dave Mowat completes the P.A. system (Right) The Plaque which acknowledges the purchase of the shop car by the late Frederick Hundertwasser .



“Eating the Elephant”

Thanks to the FNDC for the funding of the feasibility study for the railway which will be carried out by Tania McInnes of the above firm. Tania reported to the September Trust meeting that there were many interesting statistics to come out of the survey;

72% of respondees had ridden on the train
58% thought that the Railway is important to the Bay of Islands and 38% thought it important to New Zealand.

77% thought that it brings pride to Kawakawa and 84% thought it important in attracting visitors to the area.

Although very interesting, the survey didn't give a broad sector of respondees, most of them being locals not tourists, so it will be a good idea to have a survey of those who use the train through the summer months and Tania said she would be willing to help with this.



Velocipedes (Jiggers) rule. Thanks to all the work from Garth Matterson the second jigger has been completed. (Above) the two Mike's check out the completed products . Ahem is “Poto” seeking to take over “Pero's” role as railway mascot?. (below) visiting brothers from Waiheke Island Kyle and MichaelSmart check out the yet to be developed new “experience “ .



(Above) Harding Llewellyn (Whangarei) a most experienced Blacksmith/Welder, with some 10,000 hours, also completes welding on the shop car
(below) Malcolm with the “Barney” special. All will be revealed one-day.

OVERDUE Subscriptions 2010

Dear Gabriel Club Member

Recently you forwarded a reminder notice for your subs together with a survey form.

If you have not already paid please send your subscription now to avoid being removed from our membership register.

Subs can be posted to the Railway at P.O. Box 142 Kawakawa or paid directly to the Gabriel Club Account Kiwibank



2010 Calendar Dates

11 October—TV6 10am at the Station

16 October—Gabriel Club Meeting

18th October - BOIVRT AGM

29 October—Gala Dinner & Auction

4 Dec—Kawakawa Xmas Parade



Pink Ribbon Day
8th October(left) Kawakawa volunteers Prinyanka Bhika, (holding Summer) Tara Crowden and Helen Davidson take the Breast Cancer
(Bottom left) Shop car duly decorated with shop attendant Denis Hewitt.



Another Award
”Thanks A Bunch Winner for Community Doers and Worthy Winners “from **Northland Age and Lu Morz Floral Design**