



Bay of Islands Vintage Railway

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(Risking Nothing But Success)

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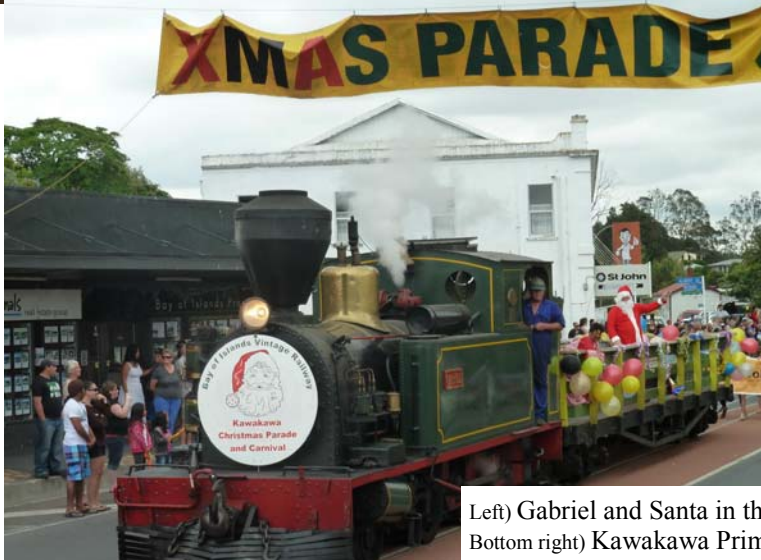
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Ho Ho Ho , Choo, Choo Choo and Merry Christmas to all our members ,supporters ,friends and sponsors. The Trustees of the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway and the Committee of the Gabriel Club thank you one and all for your great support in 2010 . We wish you all and your families all the best for a joyous and happy festive season. Stay safe and we will see you all in 2011.

Christmas celebrations came to Kawakawa December 4th. Big thanks to Santa and his helpers and also to all those who entered floats in the Parade . The theme this year was Cultural Junction to the North.. Congratulations go to the winners in the School section; Kawakawa Primary School . Joint runners-up were Karetu School and the Kawakawa Play Centre. Winners of the Business and Community section was the Church of the Assembly of God. Big thanks to all the other entries because if it were not for your participation the occasion would not have been the success it was.



Left) Gabriel and Santa in the Parade(Right and Bottom right) Kawakawa Primary winners of the Schools section. (Below left) The Assembly of God float , winners of the Community and Business section.



Operations Managers Report. 19.12.10

In readiness for the busy summer season, a full inspection of both engines has been carried out. The boiler has been washed out, smoke box internal pipes, blower ring and blast pipe checked and cleared of carbon build up. All spilt bearings on the coupling and connecting rods have been removed, examined and repaired where required. Where the bronze bearings have signs of wear, this has been built up by bronze welding and others machined back to original dimensions. All of the six pairs of bearings are the original 1927 items and are still in good order.

Water tanks showing increasing signs of internal corrosion and leaks are starting to be serious. One of these suddenly produced a hole about 3/4" and emptied the tanks very quickly. Fortunately we were able to fit a nut and bolt with rubber washers and this fixed the leak. Others will not be so easy as the bad areas are beyond internal baffles and it will not be possible to fit a bolt from the inside. Another method we will try is to put patches on the outside fixed by self-tapping screws if the metal surrounding the hole is thick enough to take the screws. Unfortunately we have to drain the tanks before any hole repair can be done so if a serious leak occurs on a running day we will have to stop using the steam engine on that day.

A new supply of coal has been obtained with much bigger pieces and no small coal at all. It does seem to have high ash content and this very quickly blocks up the fire, which has to be cleared midway through the day. As we only have around 20 minutes between trains, it is very hot, hard work for the fireman doing this. At the next opportunity we are going to try increasing the spacing between the fire bars to help reduced the ash build up.

Over the Christmas period most of the carriage repairs will cease as Luke Turner is unable to continue on the WINZ scheme and Tony Kiffe is away for all of January. The volunteers who are able to do carriage work will be utilized driving trains. On a positive note it seems that Luke has a permanent job to go to with a furniture making company.

No track work will be done during the Christmas – New Year period due to continuous train running unless some emergency crops up, fairly unlikely unless we get severe flooding.

Work on altering the two velocipedes will proceed, as labour is available.

Work at Taumarere station is proceeding well. Interior painting is complete and a very comprehensive display is being installed showing the history of the area and coal mining. Two roof light panels have been installed by a local builder, which lets light into the building. At each end of the platform work is also proceeding. A children's playground is being built at the North end. This consists of a fort with a rope ladder and cargo net. One end has a slide down to ground level and the other has a climbing wall leading to a platform via a horses head shaped entrance. The whole thing has a plastic roof so can be used in bad weather.

At the other end of the platform, two permanent gas fired BBQ's are being installed close to the tables and seating.

All of this work, we hope, will give our passengers more value for their dollars and that they will leave having had more than just a train ride and, hopefully, will come again or tell their friends.

Finally, I would like to thank our volunteers and supporters for all they have done for us this past year and wish them the very best for the holiday season. Merry Christmas!

Mike Bradshaw



Thank you Lucan for all your work and best wishes in your new job. We wish you every success.



Observation Car 2010



Equal runners up in the School section (L) Karetu School and (R) Kawakawa Play Centre



(Above) The Piriwiritua Ratana Brass Band of Kai-kohe lead the parade back through town closely followed by Santa's "sleigh" Gabriel. (Above left) A "baby" Gabriel hitches a ride on the Kawakawa Farm Centre float. ((Below Left) The Community stalwarts the Fire Brigade and the St Johns bring up the rear as the parade moves to Johnson Park. (Bottom Right) A part of the large crowd that enjoyed the parade(Far right) ...Hi Santa all I want for Xmas is.....





(L) Santa and his helpers pose in front of Gabriel. Great big thanks to Grainger and Hazel for the wonderful headboard. (Above) Santa and his helpers greet the crowd at Johnson Park. (Who is the shady looking character on the left or is he really the Security Officer??-looks rather familiar) (Below) Part of the crowd at Johnson Park enjoying the entertainment.



Local, Vicki Holford enjoys a ride on the train with her moko Taine Wihongi



Did President Obama really send out his Ambassador to share the festive seasons goodwill with the good people of Kawakawa and the Bay of Islands ?



Some of the crowd choose to enjoy a trip on the train during the festivities.

TV 6 Visits

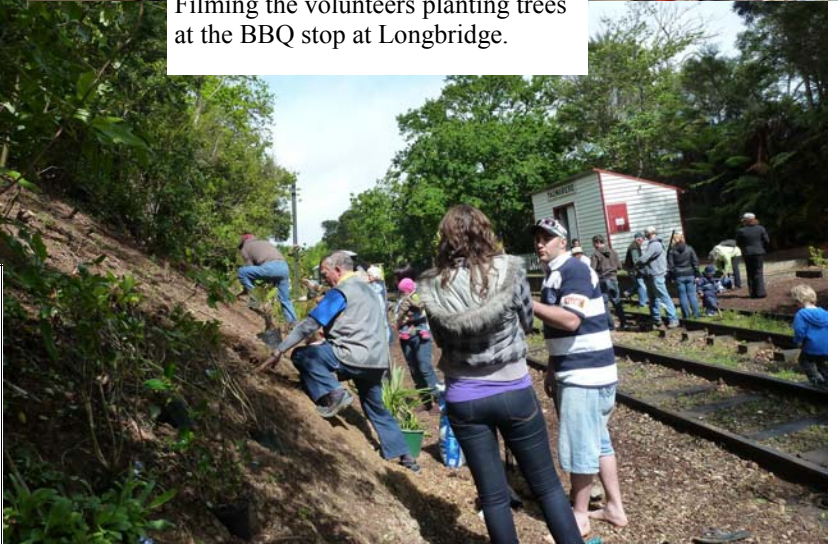
- 11 October TV 6 came to town to film the BOI Vintage Railway and it's volunteers for the TV documentary which was featured on the 11th November. Laden with volunteers and supporters the TV 6 special journeyed to Taumarere where a special planting programme had been arranged. This was another great day in the annals of the history of the Railway. This presentation will be used to show case the BOI Vintage Railway at the Trust Powers national finals which are to be held in Tauranga in March 2011.



Gabriel steams through town



(Above) the film crew in action in the maintenance shed and (below) Filming the volunteers planting trees at the BBQ stop at Longbridge.



(Top) TV6 presenter Julia Bloore, who fronted the documentary , enjoys the journey to Taumarere. (Middle) Some of the many volunteers and supporters who assisted and featured on the day. (Bottom) Mike Deverell of Kawakawa with his son, Andrew from Perth and daughter Pania Baxter from Whangarei , and his granddaughters Aimee (Whangarei) and Kowhai (Perth) pose with the tree that his mokos planted.



On the 14 Nov we had the Historic Places Trust Special. Once again great work by Grainger and Hazel Brown on the producing the headboard.



TV 6 day and Gabriel steams over bridge 5



Our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery go to a special friend and benefactor Wallie Tichener. We wish you Wallie and Adrienne and your family a very special Christmas and a very Happy New Year



Dreams do come true..

The Dreamer Trustee Johnson Davis dreamed one day that the Trust would build their own velocipedes. Here he gets to row the first one with the Dream-maker Garth Matterson, who follows on the second one he also built.

The Year That Was....2010

As the curtain closes on 2010 we reflect on where we have come from and look forward to the challenges of 2011 and the next decade. January saw "Ruby" up and running and thanks to the Community Max programmes work on the A1811 and AL50130 cars was well underway. 30th Jan saw our second Concert at the Station which was a resounding success as this unique event develops.

Feb/ May .

The Main street of Kawakawa is ripped up and delayed the running of trains. May 8th sees Country and Western come to town with some of the entertainment being held at the Station.

16 May Puff n Pull. Another great celebration of rail in Kawakawa and we see the launch of the first ever velocipede built in Kawakawa.

October saw another first for the Railway when they became the North's Supreme Winner of the Trustpower Community Award. 11 Oct TV6 arrive to do the filming for the TV programme about the Railway. Garth has now completed the second velocipede and the shop car is now in action. 29th sees the Annual Gala at Haruru Falls. May 2011 be just as successful—Editor



Supporter Hau Hereora entertains TV6 day at Taumarere. Aimee Baxter does the "boogie" as she joins in.



"Only in Kawakawa...."



The newly named coaches. Dining Car = Blue Heron
The Shop car = Pukeko and the Open car = Weka.
All birds that can be seen on the journey to Taumarere



Winner of the Gabriel Club Raffle drawn at the markets on the 5th Dec was Andrew Stephenson, Whangarei with ticket no. 113. Thank you all for your support.

... and a Happy New Year

Fare Increase		
New fares effective 17 Dec 2010		
Adult	(17yo+)	18.00
Child	(5-16)	7.00
Under 5		Free