

# Bay of Islands Vintage Railway

102 Gillies Street, Kawakawa. NZ

(Risking Nothing But Success)

Website: [www.bayofislandsvintagerailway.org.nz](http://www.bayofislandsvintagerailway.org.nz)

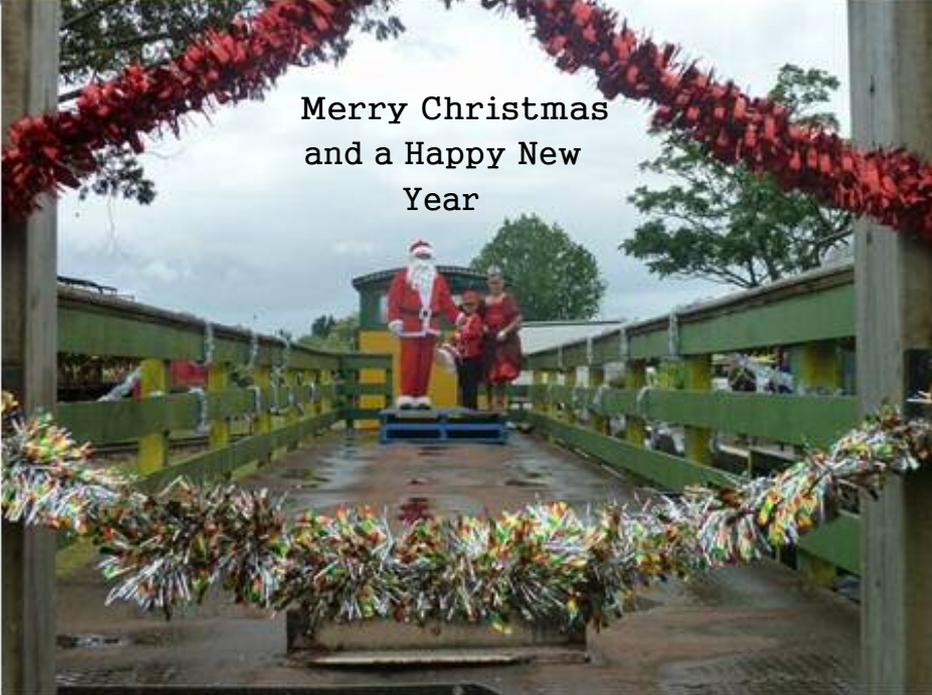
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Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year



(above) Trustee Howard Lunn and Gabriel Club Secretary Anne Leitch enter into the Xmas spirit at the Kawakawa Xmas parade



On behalf of my fellow trustees may I wish our volunteers , Gabriel Club members, and our many supporters and families of the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and prosperous New year for 2014. – J. Davis (Chairperson)

(below) Young Tyler Ngawati keeps up the railway family connection of the Schimanski family. His Great Grandfather Bernard (Bernie) Schimanski was an Auto Electrician on the Kawakawa Railway; and lived in Boswell St.

Here young Tyler takes his seat to lead the Kawakawa Primary School float ( see picture left) which featured Gabriel and the coal mining days of Kawakawa



(above) Santa and his helpers on the getting ready to lead the Kawakawa Christmas parade through town Saturday 7th December.

(top left) The Kawakawa Primary School float which depicted Gabriel our steam engine and the early mining history of Kawakawa

(lower left ) .... And what hell has this to do with a a Christmas parade? (see more page 4) this ??

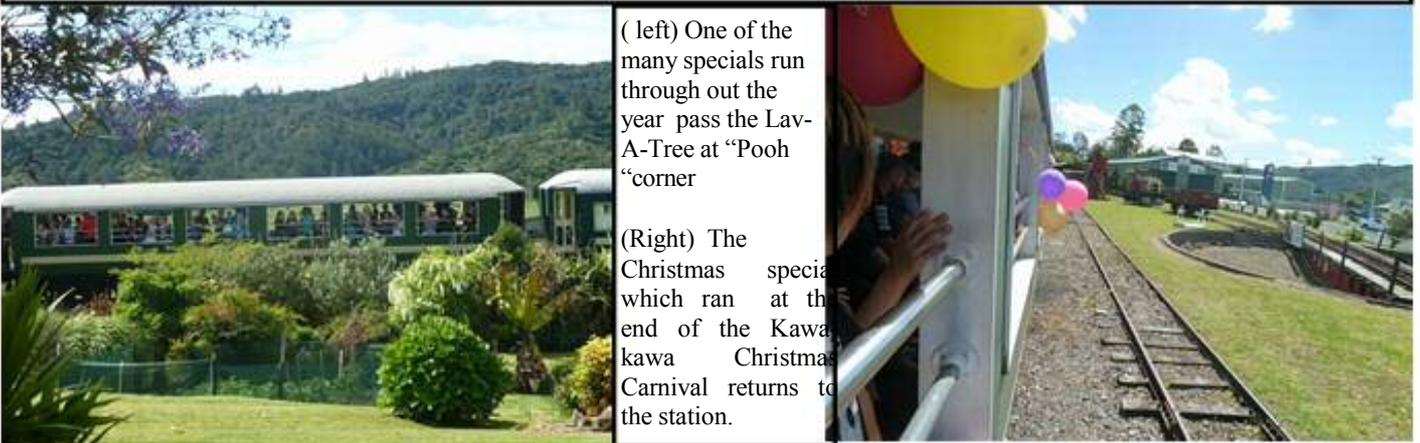


Freddie is going well but the engine is not doing so well. This will need to be either repaired or replaced over winter. A 2<sup>nd</sup> hand air compressor was serviced and fitted and has solved all the lack of air problems that were experienced by drivers. Work is now underway to source parts to repair the original one as a spare and also the ones in Timmy and Charlie will get serviced to full operational standard. Ruby has had the exhaust leak fixed and is now much quieter and safer to drive as all the fumes go out the stack and it is muffled correctly. There does appear to be an oil leak from the transmission although the user manual states oil leaking from some seals is acceptable so a full investigation will need to be carried out. Gabriel is very close to being finished and I hope to have it in steam in the next week. We hope the only hold ups now is the boiler inspector is away for a week. The jobs left are only small fidgety ones and the list is now only half a dozen items. Coal is due early next week so the countdown is on!

On the down side we have had a break-in in the workshop and a lot of gear is missing. Security has been increased and we are still investigating more options to further increase security all round. If anyone has any information please come forward in privacy to any trustee or the operations manager.

School holidays start within the next two weeks so please keep an eye on the roster and if you re available please let us know as were sure there will be a job you can do to help out.

Matthew Peers



(left) One of the many specials run through out the year pass the Lav-A-Tree at "Pooh" corner

(Right) The Christmas special which ran at the end of the Kawakawa Christmas Carnival returns to the station.

### Placemakers Sponsorship -Everyone Wins with Corporate Sponsorship!

We are pleased to advise a great new deal through Corporate Membership of the Gabriel Club, which will be a Win / Win situation for us all. Placemakers Kerikeri has become a Corporate Member, and we have entered into an arrangement with their Community Sponsorship Programme which has great potential for us. It works like this:

Kerikeri Placemakers has a very big and broad range of materials for DIY or big developments, for everyday items or major projects involved in cleaning, maintaining, repairing, restoring, or improving your home, business, and environment at their large, modern premises at 26 Mill Rd, Kerikeri.

We have a cash account at Placemakers Kerikeri quote **BAYV4** and any purchases through this account entitles you to special discounts.

But, of particular importance to the Vintage Railway, for every dollar you spend there will be a % contribution back to the Gabriel Club. The more we collectively spend, the higher the financial return to the Club.

The Gabriel Club will be up-dated on a quarterly basis, and at the end of the financial year in July the Gabriel Club will be issued with a cheque for the total amount our group has raised.

And please note this is open to all your friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues. The more people involved through our cash account, the higher the return for the Railway will be. So whether it be re-building your deck, refurbishing the bathroom, painting the house, buying tools or even a packet of nails think Placemakers Kerikeri and help to restore our beloved Vintage Railway. There is no limit to what we could earn!

### Cycleway - Mikes Report Dec 2013

So far , the Taumarere-Opua cycleway is progressing on time with very few snags having cropped up.

We completed replacing around 1000sleepers as far as the tunnel mouth. Clearing the enormous slip on the Opua end meant that the contractors had to use very large & heavy machinery and this has largely destroyed the railway between the tunnel and bridge No 12 ( just opposite the Industrial Estate)

Indirectly this meant that the sleepers intended for this short stretch of line became available to put more in the section back to Taumarere which means that when we rebuild the railway there will be a little less work involved in sleeper replacement. The metal forming the cycleway base covers the entire track and is now awaiting the contractors to complete compacting and putting down a more ride-able surface.

Rintoul Civil had already done some strengthening work on Bridge 9, and have now completed a new pier on section 1 which enables engines running around the train to go a little further onto the bridge. Previously if drivers used discretion and just cleared the point blades it meant that the engine only went onto section1 by a metre or so.

This bridge work necessitated having a large crane parked on the track which meant that two engines had to be used for our train running for a few days.

We are now accumulating large heaps of sleepers of various lengths, walkway planks, hand rails , hand rails steel supports and boxes of bolts, screws, washers and nails.

Gates and large signs have been erected at each end to keep people off what will be a very busy work site, but some still insist and climb over the gates. This is very foolish for as work progresses there will be no walkway or hand rails and the sleepers will be very loose.

Christmas and New Year have already happened in the scaffolders world so we cannot safely do any bridge work until they come back in mid January 2014.

Meantime we are cutting some special sleepers and drilling holes ready for the hook bolts and handrail brackets. We also have to replace 2 long steel stretchers on each side of the bridge and this means drilling1800x22mm holes in these steel pieces in the workshop. Anyone feeling that they need to work off some of the seasonal excesses will be most welcome to help.

A carpark for cyclists has been created at the United-Kawakawa Rugby Club and a fenced cycle track is being built . This will cross SH 11 and continue up to the Taumarere station. At this point cyclists will cross the rails and continue on to the bridge walkway



( above) part of the cycleway which has been created from the Rugby Club grounds at Taumarere and which will enable cyclists to ride safely to and from Longbridge if they wish to cycle to Opua.

BOI Vintage Railway is working with Council to ensure that both the cyclists and train can operate safely whilst providing a safe and enjoyable experience



The link from Taumarere station to State Highway 11

### Obituary Barbara Saville (nee Rigden ) 1955-2013

Very sad to report the death in Australia of Barbara.

In the early days of our railway, before we had a Trust, or needed a Safety System, we had a support group called the Opua-Kawakawa Rail Preservation Society and Barbara was our Hon Secretary and Treasurer.

At that time she ran the Kawakawa Travel Agency and we had meetings in her Office and all sorts of plans were hatched and put into action by Barbara. These included raffles, sales of veggies and fruit and she even arranged dances and musical evenings in the RSA to raise funds for the Railway.

Barb's partner, Noel Jensen, was also a great supporter and one of our earliest steam drivers and trains often ran with Barbara on Guard and Noel the driver.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser was a great supporter of our railway , but probably only because of Barbara's influence. She used to arrange his overseas trips and as he spent time in her office he learnt more and more and became more aware of the railway.

Barbara, Noel and their family moved to Australia where they had a very good life but Barbara became ill around 2008 and despite becoming progressively worse she continued to remain cheerful, visiting NZ several times and was always interested in the fortunes of our railway

Our sincere sympathies go to Noel and the family  
(Mike Bradshaw)



Temporary piling work has been carried out on pier one of Longbridge . This will enable the engines only to enter clear of the points as they run around for our passenger rains .

Without this reinforcement we would have been required to use two engines ,at great cost ,for every train we ran to Taumarere.



“Dancing in the Street”  
Here the future protégé of the Manuel Dance and Performing Arts Academy get the Christmas celebrations on the way.  
“Go you good things “

### Christmas Carnival in Kawakawa 2013



**Only in Kawakawa...**  
Where else in good old NZ would you find a good old hold-up of a train in the middle of State Highway 1.  
(above and below) The Great Train Robbery saw the 10.45 train held up as it returned to the station. They say the Guard Howard Lunn put up a good fight to protect the “goodies” but he was simply outnumbered and had no where to run



(above) the spirit of Christmas is about sharing and here young Tawhitirahi Witana swaps the lead role with young Tyler Ngawati as the Primary School float returns .



(Winners of the Best Floats were;  
(above ) Central Butchery with their float Toy Wagon and ...  
( below) winners of the Community section was the Mokopuna o Moerewa float .



(above) “.but The Grinch stole my decorated shoes “ declares Harriet Duley to mum Christine ( below) Toy characters supporting the Central Butchery Toy Wagon float



They say Santa has big shoes to fill but boy what size would you have to be to fit the jandals paraded by the Farm Centre

( above) Turns out, as they say, there is a bit of good in everyone, The proceeds robbed from the train turned out to be lol-lies which, once they had sent the train on it's away , the robbers rode up and down the street distributing the “goodies” to the cheering crowd.





**Annual Gala Dinner and Auction.**

Our 8th Annual Gala Dinner and Auction was held on the 26th October at the BOI Swordfish Club rooms at Paihia. Great big thanks to all those Businesses and firms for their generosity by donating their items for the Auction. A special thanks also goes to trustee Theresa Nicolson who was tasked with organizing the auction items. Thanks also to our key Auctioneers Mayor John Carter and trustee Frank Leadley who just get better each year in cajoling our wonderful supporters to part with their hard earned dollars. Thank you One and all for your support. During the evening the Chairperson of the Gabriel Club Howard Lunn made a special award of Life Membership Club to Mike and Shirley Bradshaw



Saturday 15th December saw our volunteers, Gabriel Club members ,trustees and supporters Board the Christmas Special for a BBQ at Taumarere..

We know that there were many who could not make it but for those who were able to enjoy some fellowship it was a great afternoon. Big thanks goes of course to those who organized the event so thank you Howard, Anne and Ray and also to those who brought some "goodies" to share with their fellow workers

Above and below are some photos of the pleasant afternoon and bottom right are the two happy winners of the raffles. John Steere won the cask of white wine and Lisa Davis who won the cask of red wine.





Welcome Aboard Girls ( or is that young Ladies) Kate Cummings and Monique Vallender ,members of the Kawakawa Chapter, and our youngest volunteers have volunteered their services as shop keepers. Great to see our younger generation come on Board as there is little doubt that the Management of the Trust will end up in their hands at some future date.



There's no holding her back. Recently appointed as Shop Manager Anne Lunn has decided she has still got some spare time so she is now training to become a diesel driver. Good on you Annie and that makes two ;as Anne Leitch is also training to be a driver.



A bit of history was made on the 17 Nov as Jon ( yes Jon not James) Bond became the first cyclist to cycle from Opuia to Longbridge , catch the train to Kawakawa, cycle to Moerewa and then make the return journey to Opuia,. Cycle- Train - cycle. Now we know there was also a bit of walking in there as the cycleway has not been completed but here is what Jon of Maxicom , Whangarei had to say .....

*It was a great day. It has the makings of a very pretty ride once the trail greens up again. At the moment it is bare ground and dead branches after the clearing work but Mother Nature will sort that out in a season or two. I made it about 28 km of cycling from Opuia to Otira Marae return so that is well within most people's reach especially with the break on the train in the middle.*

*Best wishes to all at BOIVR and hope you have a spectacular summer.*

Thank you Jon and may we see you again when the Coast to Coast cycleway is completed



**Thank You Okaihau College**

Many will have noticed the numerous painted and decorated planters which have sprung up in Kawakawa recently. Organized by trustee Theresa Nicolson the pupils of "Rangi Marie" the Special Needs Class at Okaihau College . Okaihau has certainly put their mark on the Kawakawa Township Landscape and the Pohutukawa Tress are now bursting into bloom for Christmas. (above) the Gabriel Club planter featuring Gabriel



**Welcome Aboard Ray Steer**

New volunteer Driver who commenced on 16 Nov. . Ray and wife Shirley moved to Kerikeri some 6 months ago from Thames.

A former Lines Mechanic with the Power Board Ray enjoys making model airplanes etc. Maybe he will now have to turn his hand to model trains as well.

The Kerikeri Chapter gains another member

**Merry Christmas Gabriel Club Members.**

At a meeting of the Gabriel Club held on the 14th December it was resolved that the financial year for subs be amended to align with the financial year of the BOIVR Trust which commences on the 1st July each year.

This means that those Gabriel Club members who hold current membership will have their membership extended from 31st December 2013 to 30th June 2014.

So we thank you for your support, and look forward to your continued support and generosity in July.

New members joining now will therefore receive a 50% discount on the current annual sub.

Anne Leitch (Secretary)

**Website Upgrade.**

Our website is going through a major upgrade thanks to Lucie Green of Green Webb Ltd. ( it was great to see Lucie and her young family at the BBQ together with her mum.)

We would dearly love to get your feedback, ideas and comments so please visit our website at:

[WWW.boivintagerailway.org.nz](http://WWW.boivintagerailway.org.nz)

**Thank you one and all for your support throughout 2013 as you help BOIVR continue to grow and to reach the final destination at Opuia**

(J.Davis , Editor)