

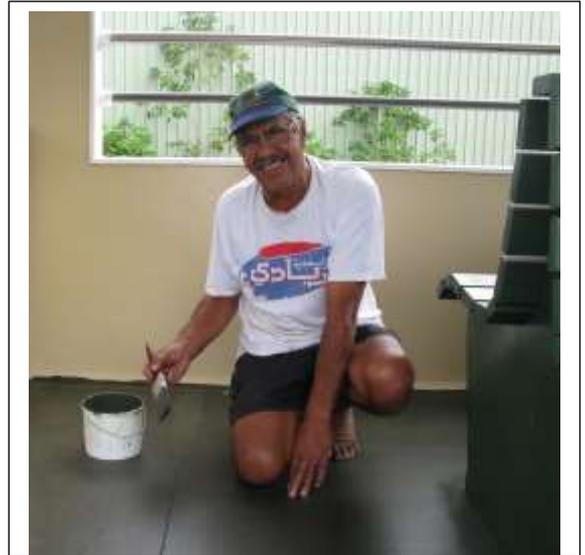


Notes from the Chair....

It has been business as usual at the Railway over the last couple of months, whilst we still await the big decision from Provincial Growth Fund. The latest news is that the application will be before the Advisory Panel in November. So, keep everything crossed!

However, whilst we wait, the work still goes on. Contractors have been doing excellent work making necessary track and bridge repairs and have undertaken a big tidy up in the carriage shed including bringing some of Gabriel's parts inside. A big thank you to Denis, Johnny and Wyatt for their great work.

During September there has also been a massive re-furbishment of our shop. The old door has been removed, interior double doors boarded up, wall insulation upgraded, rewiring done, new lighting installed, new carpet fitted, and a complete repaint of both the interior and the shelving. There has been a huge amount of work completed and I can't thank enough those who have given many hours of voluntary work; particularly Henry, Mike the electrician, Anne, Glenys and Daphne. Although there is still some work to be completed, we decided to open the shop for the school holidays. There is some new and exciting stock, so come down, say hello and have a look!



Johnson Davis

RIP

On a more down beat note, we were all saddened to hear of past-Chair, Johnson Davis', failing health. However, Mayor John Carter & Leonie, trustees, community representatives and close family members attended an afternoon tea at Johnson and Lisa's home on Saturday Sept 28th, at which Johnson was presented with a very well deserved 'Certificate of Community Appreciation' for his many years of selfless service to the community, not least the Vintage Railway. It was a lovely afternoon for us all to say thank you to Johnson for everything he has done. Johnson died during the night of Friday 11th October.



Johnson and Lisa with Mayor John Carter

Well-deserved Community Award.

Johnson Davis has been a pillar of the Kawakawa community, but a combination of cancer, a stroke and a heart attack means that he is now terminally ill. But the Vintage Railway Trust, in partnership with Mayor John Carter, made sure his contributions were fully recognised at a surprise function for family and friends at his home this last Saturday.

Function organiser Frank Leadley emphasised Johnson's great involvement as a current member of the Kawakawa Business and Community Association, as a member of the inaugural Committee for the Kawakawa Community Centre, and the upgrade of the Te Papawai Community Swimming Pool, as well as the Ruapekapeka Pa Memorial Trust.

As a strong advocate for Hundertwasser, Johnson was on the FNDC Community Board that built the Hundertwasser Toilets in Kawakawa and recently the on the Hundertwasser Memorial Park Trust. "Johnson's legacy to the Kawakawa community is one that has been built on a great spirit of determination and pride, and is one that will not be forgotten," Frank emphasised.

Kawakawa stalwart Noma Shepherd stated that "Johnson is a stickler for process and for getting his facts right, and is not afraid to get into an argument if he thinks something is wrong. His knowledge and obvious passion for this area is much respected. But his main love has been the Railway, and he has spent countless hours not only on the Trust but in practical work involved in restoration. It has been an honour to know and work with him," Noma commented.

Others at the informal function also commented on Johnson's many contributions and work ethic before Mayor John Carter presented the special Community Award on behalf of the Far North District Council, and reiterated the special place that Johnson will always hold in the life and history of the Kawakawa community. Johnson was able to respond and express his surprise but appreciation of the award, thanking the Railway Trust for its support, and also Mayor John Carter for taking the time from his hectic electioneering campaign to travel to Kawakawa to make the presentation.

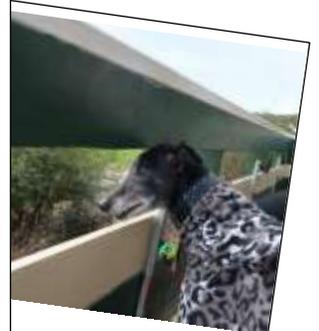


Johnson
– a driving force

and one we will
sorely miss.



Goings on around BOIVR: We had 12 specials booked outside our scheduled timetable since the last newsletter, including 4 trips of 100 people. In addition, many trains were hauling over 50 per trip during the recent school holidays.



A few of our happy passengers who travelled during the last 2 months





Esmae at Taumarere – spring approaches

Can you see it yet?



From the workshop:



This Rail Heritage ex-BP fuel tanker was shown last month. This photo taken on arrival at BOIVR in 1986



Morris McLeary checks underneath

The tanker is over our pit, and we have asked permission from Rail Heritage to make it into a fire-fighting water bowser. Some local properties along our line are far from road access & the fire station is behind our sheds! More next time



Why are Denis Hewitt and Frits Schouten so happy up there on Timmy?



.... Timmy has just finished having a wash and brush up after last month's "refreshment" – so smart!

Timmy enjoys a wash



Did you know

you can follow us on our website:
www.bayofislandsvintagerailway.org.nz?

Also facebook –
Bay of Islands Vintage Railway
and
Gabriel Steam Tank Engine page

Our band of happy volunteers: would you like to join us – the more the merrier! **Contact us ...**
We're starting a training round for shopkeepers, guards and drivers. We need you to keep us on the tracks ...
More in the workshop? Oh yes, please – many hands really do make light(er) work!



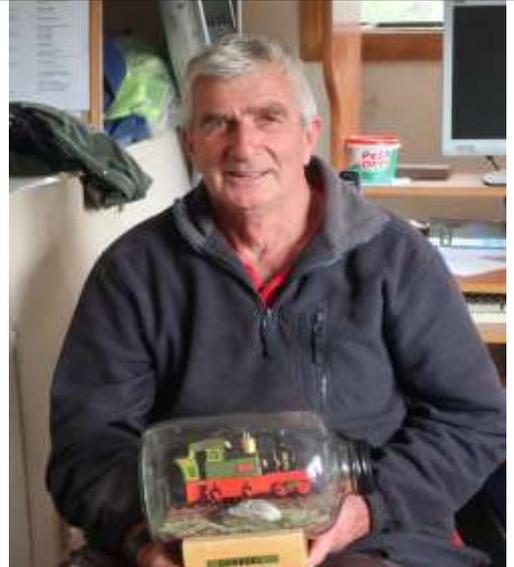
Strange but true – cleaning the white platform edges is easier in the rain! Thank you Darryl



Our little orange digger, with newly fitted track starts work lifting Gabriel's "parts" onto her chassis to tidy the workshop.



Johnny Hickey & Wyatt Ngawati get down to the track work



Talking of which ... have you ever seen a loco in a bottle? ! This replica Gabriel, marvellous in its detail, took volunteer Peter Luke a year to create. Wonderful talent! We will have it on display for you to view soon.



Gifted volunteer Sue Hamnett, paints in stripes in our shop!!

Actually, it was the effect of the roller on the beautiful panelling revealed in our shop refit. More next time.

Did you see it? This Kereru likes to watch the trains passing by at Taumarere.



Rainbow over the Station yard, Kawakawa

