



### Notes from the Chair....

It has been a busy time at Bay of Islands Vintage Railway during the weeks of Christmas, and it's been all hands to the pumps to keep the seven day week operations going. Not long before Christmas it almost looked like we would not be able to sustain full time running, so it is a measure of how resilient and determined our volunteers are that they rallied round and we have not missed one day of train operations through the long summer holidays. A massive and sincere thank you to all those who have given up their time to be drivers, guards and shop-keepers; it really is appreciated and does make a huge difference.

Our summer season kicked off well, with the train proudly leading the Kawakawa Christmas Parade with Santa on board. Since then we have hosted many international and domestic tourists, all keen to enjoy a ride along our historic railway. There have also been many groups of travellers, including in early January, a group of Motor Caravanners who were camping at United Kawakawa Rugby Club.

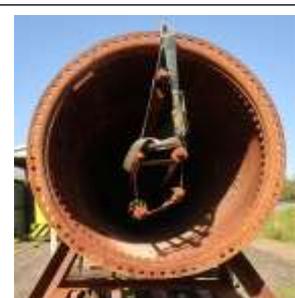
But although the summer operations have gone well and visitor numbers have been good, we were all completely stunned that the application to the Provincial Growth Fund was declined.

We had waited patiently for several months, hoping for a positive outcome, so this rejection has been a bitter pill to swallow.

However, when the going gets tough, the tough get going, and the Trust will be working very hard to find the best way forward from here.

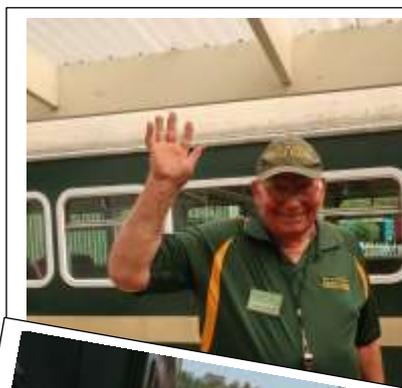


**Work engine, Ruby on Long Bridge.**  
Preparing the link up to our rails on the Opuia side, which were last used with passenger trains in 2000



This edition's mystery object .... ?!

### Goings on around BOIVR:



**Left:** Denis models the new summer uniform. **Right:** Trevor presents a flax bouquet to visitors!



**Left:** cowboys hold up the train on Xmas Parade Day (7<sup>th</sup>). **Mid:** from the big pit – view under the tanker. **Right:** Esmae at Taumarere – Long Bridge beyond. **Top right:** Hundertwasser Toilets now 20 years old & new rammed earth Kawakawa town centre building – includes library, information centre and art gallery.



### From the workshop:



**Two jobs in hand:**  
**Lennie:** the ex-Forest Loader DS, awaiting her turn for refurbishment  
**Tanker over the pit** – we have been granted permission to make this into a fire-fighting water bowser.



**DSA 225** – we're now giving this engine a bit of mechanical attention



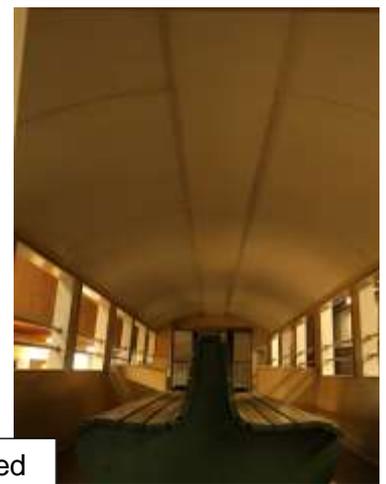
Kawakawa station sign – an old door – was rotten. Tim & Bill prep the space for a new one



Beautiful new sign - thank you, Tim

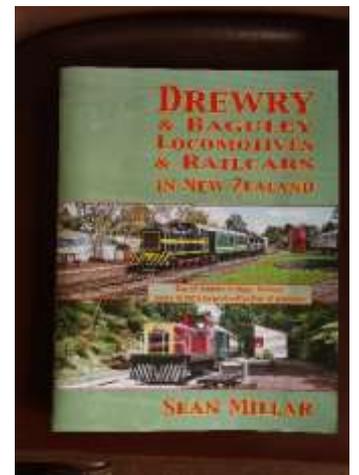


**Blue Heron** – ceiling mended & final painting nearly finished



**Did you know .... BOIVR is the home of the largest collections of Drewrys in NZ?**

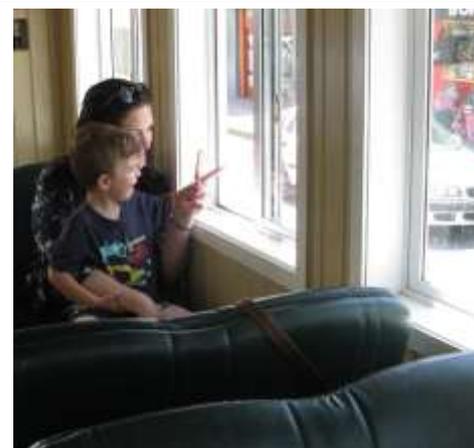
This book is in our newly refurbished shop on Kawakawa Station. Our shop also sells our own "birthday" calendars, steam & diesel design tee shirts, tea towels and posters, and unique pottery and crafts produced locally. Come and visit soon...



**Our band of happy volunteers would love to have you join us.**  
**Ring Denis: 09-404-0684**  
**Bring a friend!**



Sweetie has a new coat of paint to greet our visitors. Built 1896 at Addington loco works as a 0-6-2, Fa 9 steam engine; now 0-6-0; used to work at AFFCO



Above  
Santa & his helper ready in the lead train for Kawakawa Christmas Parade

Right  
Timmy, Moa & BOIVR visitors



The Signal Box shop has re-opened - bright and clean, with many interesting and unique gifts for BOIVR. Come and browse!

*Date for your Diary:*

**CONCERT at the STATION  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – doors open from 2.30pm**



Mystery revealed! Gabriel's boiler has been returned and can be seen at Kawakawa - rescued from the firm that went into receivership. This boiler is no longer useable - we need a new one. The Trust is considering this problem along with the recovery of our railway track from Taumarere to Opu



The Bay of Islands Vintage Railway wishes you and yours a very Happy New Year 2020 and a grand New Decade. We hope to welcome you all aboard our trains very soon. Don't forget – members of the Gabriel Club get half price fares – check it out on the website & get your membership now!