



Put the
Flags out!
...
Joy and
Jubilations!
...
We have
GREAT
tidings



From the Trust Chair

On Friday 3rd July, 2020 - about 300 people gathered at Kawakawa Railway Station, where the following people were on the platform:

- Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Regional Economic Development
- DPM Right Hon Winston Peters
- Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister of Tourism
- Mayor John Carter
- MP Matt King

Hon Shane Jones announced that our "shovel ready" project application of \$5.59 million was being awarded to NAX*

Components of the PGF application are as follows:

- a) Kawakawa Station – extension of the large carriage shed to house and work on all the carriages
- b) Building an engineering workshop to replace the old wagons behind the carriage shed – and providing a workplace for training in engineering skills
- c) Restoring steam locomotive Gabriel, and providing maintenance for the diesel engines, plus a dining car to host events such as weddings, conference functions, and a unique dining experience
- d) Restoration of historic railway line between Long Bridge and Opuia, in partnership with the Coast to Coast Cycleway
- e) Constructing a new building between the present station building and the old coal store. This will have an exterior replicating the coal mining days leading to the construction of the railway, and enclosing facilities for job training classroom, toilets, showers and service centre; with a large carpark and entrance from the road behind
- f) Complete the restoration of the steam ship “Minerva” which will carry over 100 passengers and up to 50 cycles, with a jetty built by FNHL for Minerva together with landing facilities for Oyster farmer
- g) Establishment of a job training centre in partnership with Kiwi Rail and Ngati Hine to provide Employment and Skills training

Other components are:

- Cycleway repositioning within the railway corridor, funded by FNDC in full partnership with BOIVR. This aspect is hugely important as the cycleway is extremely popular and a crucial aspect of the total project. A key factor will be to ensure any disruptions to the cycleway are kept to an absolute minimum.
- The new Opuia Station will be solar powered, serving both Railway and Cycleway, with turntable, shops, café, parking for cars and tour buses, and other facilities, constructed by FNHL
- Art Trail to reflect the history and ecology along the route
- BOIVR and SS Minerva’s steam engines to be powered by palletised wood, so avoiding environmental concerns.

Following the announcement, there was a **Spike Driving Ceremony:**

This was a symbolic “railway” start to the project. Four spikes were driven into a railway sleeper to hold down a piece of track.

Hammering the spikes were Minister Shane Jones on behalf of the Government, Frank Leadley on behalf of NAX, Pita Tipene on behalf of Ngati Hine, and Mike Bradshaw on behalf of the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway.



Celebrating BOIVR Volunteers, without whom the railway would not exist today. These are some of our volunteers, representing the very, very many people who have helped and supported us over the years:



Drivers: (back L-R) Ray, Trevor, Regan; (front L-R) Alan, Graham, David with diesel loco DSA225
Trustees: (back L-R) Sue, Johnson, Mike, (front L-R) Anne, Henry, Frits, Frank -*behind the scenes re PGF*
Grounds: Glenys directs Denis, looked on by John
Shopkeepers: Shirley, Vanessa and Hazel
Guards: Anne & Howard getting ready to go
Workshop: Tony, Garth & Dave fitting Tui's windows



More from the archives:



Clockwise from top left:

Painting: Timmy's new coat courtesy of Richard

Cleaning in the workshop – this is vital to keep the surfaces and paint clean – Neville

Cleaning: Ralph makes our carriages sparkle for our visitors

Painting: a long job - in a carriage! Tony watched by Peter

Refurbishing seats: Ron tackles this fiddly job

Electrics – another aspect of the workshop as demonstrated by David



***Northland Adventure Experience Ltd (NAX)** – this is a Special Purpose Limited Liability Company set up to coordinate several integrated components in order to obtain funding, ensure it is used for the purpose given, and then be dissolved

Members: Chair - Frank Leadley (BOIVRT), Moko Tepania (FNDC), Richard Green (Cycleway Trust), Murray McCully (FNHL), Pita Tipene and Rowena Tana (Iwi liaison and partnership)

Vision Statement: *“At the end of the development, a successful community-owned business is established and operating, employing over 40 staff, with a turnover of up to \$4mill, and with all profits being distributed to the community in line with the charitable purpose”*

The original PGF application was turned down late last year. NAX was advised to break the application into components with partner organisations and re-submit. It is this application that has been awarded \$5.59mill

****Partnerships** for the application for PGF funded projects are:

BOIVR Trust, Pou Herenga Tai Coast to Coast Cycleway Trust, FNDC, FNHL, and Iwi which makes the project so unique and significant– not only in Northland but also in NZ.

These partnerships will together link East and West Northland – the two first Treaty destinations – Waitangi and Hokianga.

The combination of railway, cycleway and steam boat linking history, activities and ecology will be unique not only in NZ but also in the world. Creating and developing the links between Waitangi, Opuā, Kawakawa, Kaikohe, Okaihau, Horeke, Opononi, etc will be the catalyst for huge effects on tourism, other developments and employment.



Goings on around BOIVR:



Celebrations and happiness - from Denis on behalf of us all, as BOIVR trains start to run again after the COVID-19 shut down. We shut operations after the last train on Sunday 22nd March; re-opened the workshop on 25th May to ensure all was well with track, engines, rolling stock and buildings; and started running trains again under Level 2 guidelines on Saturday 30th. This required tracking of passengers, sanitisers, distance between passengers and no-one standing on the open cycle-carrying carriage. At midnight on 8th June these restrictions were lifted to Level 1.



Left: Driver Trevor, & Guard Howard complete with his mask at Taumarere Station, with supporters Matt and his family, and a family group of visitors.

Below: Frits & Frank check points before ops re-start



From the workshop:

More will be revealed on these projects next time: **tanker below** and **Gabriel & Fantail right**



Did you know:

Members of the Gabriel Club not only help to keep our beautiful trains on our track, but also benefit from 50% discount on their fares in exchange for their subscription fee! Email for more information: BOIVRGabrielClub@gmail.com

BOIVR Trust sincerely thanks all our volunteers for their magnificent work to keep our trains running.