



## The Trust Celebrates! PGF money is in the bank & “shovel ready” projects start ...



**Back L to R:** Richard Moore, Shirley & Mike Bradshaw, Sue Hamnett (Chair), Anne Leitch, Rachel Henare.  
**Front:** Frank Tweedale, Frits Schouten, Frank Leadley, Henry Nissen

### **From the Trust Chair (AGM report) .....**

2020 has certainly been a very challenging year, in so many different ways. At our last AGM we were still awaiting the outcome of the PGF application ... submitted in June 2019. Our patience was very severely tested, but was finally rewarded when in July it was announced that we would be receiving PGF funding of \$5.56m

That announcement was a big step towards achieving what every Trustee has been striving for. Let’s not forget that whilst celebrating the milestone of winning the funding, it is only the end of the beginning. There is a lot of real work to do and we cannot pretend that it will be easy. What I do know is that the trustees are dedicated, talented and a force to be reckoned with, and when backed-up by our fantastic band of volunteers, we really do have the strength to make it happen. It’s been only a couple of weeks since the PGF money hit the bank, but there can be no doubt as to how “shovel ready” we at the railway are. Already progress is thick and fast on our projects at Kawakawa station and at long, long last we have been able to press the green button of getting Gabriel’s new boiler. My sincere thanks to the trustees who are leading these elements of the projects; Mike, Henry, Frits and Frank T and of course to all the volunteers supporting them.

I think that one of the key words for 2020 at the railway will be partnership. We have developed closer links with Ngati Hine and are very pleased to have their representative, Rachel Henare, as a trustee. The operating company, which will have the responsibility for the future commercial operation of the railway and steam boat Minerva, has BOIVRT and Ngati Hine as shareholders. The trust is also a shareholder of NAX Ltd, the company co-ordinating the PGF funds, and we will be working closely with NAX to deliver the projects for which we are being funded. Also, in recent months a Memorandum of Agreement has been signed, with BOIVRT, the cycleway trust, Ngati Hine and FNDC as the signatories. This MoA is part of the funding agreement with PGF to give them surety that all parties will be working to facilitate the projects with regard for each other.

One of the events for which 2020 will most be remembered, is of course the COVID pandemic. Again we’ve had to navigate through very uncertain and scary times, and our income took a big hit for a few months. The future of the tourism industry is looking a whole lot different than it did at this time last year, and we will have to work smarter to maintain our passenger numbers from the domestic market rather than international travellers for the next few years.

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... *continued report* ... However, visitor numbers during the recent school holiday periods have been encouraging, particularly in July, until the setback of the flooding which damaged bridge 5. Even then we managed to find a way to keep the trains operating – that “we can do this” spirit is something to be proud of and to be fostered.

On that note, I extend a very big thank you, on behalf of the trust, to all our volunteers; drivers, guards, workshop and the shop ladies. You are all magnificent and we appreciate all that you do for the railway.

Luckily, we were able to hold our annual Concert at the Station in February before COVID took hold of the world. Again, this was a very successful event and enjoyed by many people. Thanks again to Frank and his committee for organising the concert for the umpteenth time!! Sadly, this has been the only fundraiser of the year, but COVID would probably have put paid to any plans we might have had on that score. However, we did trial an evening “dinner on the train” in March which was successful and will feature again during the coming summer months. And in a similar way, the volunteers had fish and chips lunch in the dining car, which followed a bit of very valuable, and entertaining, fire training.

The efforts of Anne in all of this is immensely appreciated. It seems that for so many years we have been saying “Opua we are coming”. We always knew that it would be a long haul, but the PGF funding has given us one of the best chances we will ever have of doing that and we can begin to press the advantage.

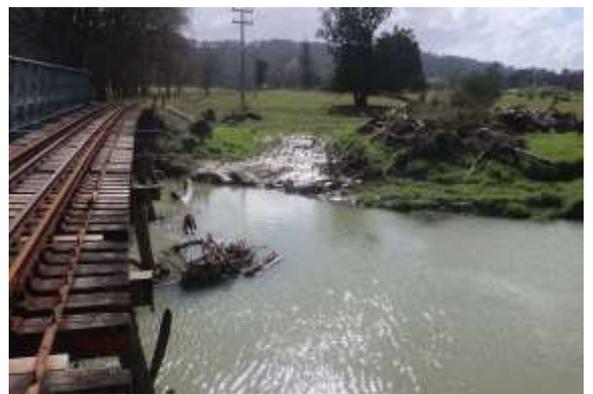
Last but not least, I acknowledge the time, skills and dedication of each and every one of the trustees, because we are all working so hard to make it happen, even when it feels like a very uphill struggle. Thank you also to our new trustees this year; Rachel, Richard and Frank T. It’s been great to have you on board and I hope the task has not been too daunting. My particular thanks to all my fellow trustees, and notably to secretary Anne and treasurer Shirley - you have all worked very diligently through yet another year to support the work of the trust.

So there can be little doubt that we are in for an exciting ride over the next 12 months, but I for one can’t wait to report to the next AGM, because our railway is going to look a whole lot different. **Right: Looking ahead over Esmæ’s bonnet!**



**Above:** Flooding in July 2020 – then it rained again, and the track and paddocks were covered with water and debris

**Below:** For a while, our trains could go no further until debris under the piles of Bridge 5 had been cleared and had safety checks.



**Left:** Mystery – what are these “poles”?



**Above:** Volunteer’s fire extinguisher training



## Goings on around BOIVR:



**COVID lockdown** – shut the railway and NZ. Our 2 bears, Paddington & Gabriel, told tales on social media to entertain us all – pictured here looking after the station and carriages. (Thanks for pics, Ward Jamieson)

**Right:** the masked look! Precautionary gloves, sanitiser & distancing allowed us to re-open.



## PGF projects:

### 1<sup>st</sup> building project – extra workshop room next to the engine shed



First - lay concrete further along from old KP (freight wagons); then lift the KPs & move them out of the way using flat wheeled wagons



The building area is now cleared, electrical cables moved, and drains re-laid, then the building can be erected. Framing has begun as we go to press ... More pictures next time.





### From the workshop:



Fantail – to strip down



Stripped back (pic MM)



Signal arms to refurbish



Signal 2009



Gabriels' boiler

**Fantail** – stripped back now - ready for rebuild.  
**Signal** replacement. **Gabriel's boiler** – news next issue

Welcome Aboard! Gary Hayman (*left*) is congratulated by David Mowat (Certifying Officer) when he passed as our newest diesel driver on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020.



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



Many months of patient de-rusting of the fuel tanker by Morris McLeary has been taking place. He'd using rust treatment paint as he works. The mystery pipes (p1) are brake pipes which will soon be fitted to the tanker.

