



From the Trust Chair

It has been a very busy few months for everyone at the railway. As part of the PGF funded projects our new workshop has been constructed, well within the scheduled time, and is currently having electrical work finalised. Work also continues apace on the restoration of carriages. Fantail has been totally stripped down and is now being restored from the chassis up. Meanwhile the drawings for Gabriel's boiler have been finished and quotes are being obtained from engineers to manufacture it.



Lau'rell Pratt, General Manager

What fantastic work all our volunteers are doing!! As always, summer is our busiest period and these last couple of months have been no exception. We have been very pleased by the number of passengers travelling with us over the Christmas and New Year holidays, and the support shown by our domestic tourists.

Yet again, a small but very loyal band of volunteers have kept the trains running. To operate seven days a week for over seven weeks is no mean feat, so on behalf of the Trust, I extend our sincere thanks to all those who have helped as drivers, guards, in the shop and in the workshop. You are all superstars and we really appreciate the time you give.

One of the highlights of the New Year was the welcoming on board of the new General Manager, Lau'rell Pratt. Lau'rell is employed by the operating company, Keteriki Ltd, and was officially welcomed at a Powhiri hosted by Ngati Hine on January 18th. She has settled in quickly, meeting the volunteers and getting to grips with railway operations and the many, and varied, aspects of the PGF funded projects.

There will be plenty happening over the next few months, so if you're in Kawakawa please feel free to call in and check out our progress!



Left: Lennie on the turntable, Kawakawa.



Below left: Howard Lunn, Chair of the Gabriel Club (supporters group) congratulates Denis Hewitt who was presented with Life Membership of the Club in recognition of his great contribution to the Club and the Railway on 3rd November.



Mystery object: what might this be?!



Goings on around BOIVR:



Above: Prepping for the Christmas School holidays – wheel work for loco Esmae on the pit
Above right: Snow? No - the carriages getting spruced up, courtesy of Frits Schouten.
Below: Darryl Francis kindly took on this long station picket fence painting job, admired by driver Dave Haddow
Below right: carriages are inspected by Graham Winterbourn ready for action.



Put the flags out – our lovely visitors are here! Our passenger numbers have certainly been up on 2019 ...



Below left: Hundertwasser's Toilets; & the Te Hononga Centre opened by Jacinda Ardern – pics from bike-carrying Weka. Right: Super visitors sang Christmas carols on the platform





PGF projects

1st building project – pics. Massive ground clearance of whole station yard happening now



Although it was sometimes a tight squeeze (!), all the work was done to plan so that by Christmas all the hard work and effort had created this great new workspace. There was a “roof shout” for Henry Nissen’s workers, and the walls were sealed and all completed before Christmas.



The Gabriel Club's much-enjoyed Cheese and Wine fundraiser on a warm summer's evening on 12th January raised \$456.25



Esmae and Timmy on duty in the sun over the Xmas and summer holidays.



From the workshop:



Thanks to Jock Crawford, Jack Brinkman, Graham Haines, Warwick & Tony Silvester who spent a day painting to make carriage Blue Heron beautiful



TOP: tanker painted; beyond the engine shed 1924, 0-6-0 Peckett steam loco stands ready for the PGF re-build
Yard trackwork -
Above: Frank Tweedale lies down on the job! Denis Hewitt looks on
Left: Frank & Bill Davis fix down bolts after gauging rails. **Right:** De-rusting Carriage Fantail



Mystery object: the Bitterns are back! These birds are of "nationally critical" status, and had been seen regularly at Long Bridge. They moved away whilst Long Bridge was re-piled.

