



Above: Our lockdown Bears
Below: Kauri arrives in Kawakawa

From the Trust Chair

Things have certainly been happening at BOIVR during the last few months!

Following on from the completion of the machinery workshop, we began the tender process for the next part of the PGF funded project; that of the new service centre at Kawakawa Station.

We were very pleased to award that contract to local company, Sita Construction Ltd. Within a few short weeks the site has been cleared, the concrete set and the building is definitely beginning to take shape. And all that within the constraints of COVID and supply chain shortages. The construction crew are doing some great work and making fantastic progress, and even better, they have been able to take on two local trainees to help with the project and gain valuable employment and skills into the bargain.



Continued

In the last few months we have welcomed a new diesel engine to the fleet - Kauri. The DSA273 engine has been donated to the Far North Community under the care of BOIVRT, by Fonterra. Arriving in Kawakawa on a big truck early in the morning 1st July, a massive crane lifted the engine off the truck and onto our track at the far end of town. Kauri looked very shiny in her bright red livery and BOIVR trustee, Frits Schouten, who looks after all the diesel engines, was over the moon with the new member of our family. There are a few minor adjustments to be made to Kauri for our particular operations, but we are all very excited to anticipate her inaugural run.

The site for the new Service Building being fenced off behind DSA225 and the wood store wagon.





From the Trust Chair continued

Another major milestone, achieved only in the last week, was the long-awaited commencement of rail track recovery funded by the grant awarded by Provincial Growth Fund. Under the project management of engineer Adam Farrell, assisted by new trainees specifically employed for this project, work has begun to recover the track in stages. Stage one, which has just started, will see the track recovered and restored from Taumarere to Lone Cow in time for the busy summer season starting in December. The next stage, including tunnel repair is scheduled to start in February.

Sadly, the plans for a new cycleway have not been finalised in time to work in tandem with rail recovery, and so a section of the cycleway is now closed until track recovery work on stage one is completed in December. We are doing everything possible to work with FNDC and the Cycleway Trust to minimise disruption to cyclists. Recent Covid 19 lockdowns have disrupted our train operations, but we hope to be operating as normal through the upcoming school holidays. On a positive note, the lockdowns have given our amazing volunteers a little bit of a break and time to catch a breath. There are exciting times ahead, and lots of work going on behind the scenes, so don't forget to come and see the new developments at the station when you're next in Kawakawa!

Below: left – track to be recovered. Right – Ruby faces Esmae, DSA225, 4 wheel wagon, Kingfisher & Gabriel's boiler



Around BOIVR:



Left: David Mowat, Certifying Officer, congratulates David Bedggood on being qualified as our latest diesel driver. **Above:** Charlie in the winter sun



From the workshop:



Quiz: what's this sieve for?



Fantail: above – Bill paints a seemingly “endless” supply of seat frames; left outside & inside – wall frames standing tall, roof cladding begun; below – side view - window frames in, and start of wall cladding. In the left foreground – the two green “boxes” are Gabriel’s water tanks



Below: David and Mike – setting the slide valves in Gabriel’s valve gear
David is standing inside the wheelbase, & the cab stands upright beyond.





Above: DSA225 and Ruby shunting in the station yard **Below:** 1st engine in North Island – on our tracks in 1871 & the loco now in Gisborne’s East Coast Museum of Technology, found buried when shop foundations were dug.



Above: Kawakawa Station yard, L to R – Kingfisher, DSA225 Gabriel’s old boiler, Sweetie, work train wagons, Ruby, Tui, & Moa. New service building on the right.

Above right: Neil & Frits check a wagon’s brakes in the yard. New service building beyond.

Right: the “sieve” is ... Gabriel’s new firebox! Here with the boiler barrel (steam dome towards camera). The holes are filled by stays to keep the inside firebox in line with the outer firebox. On the floor, the front tube plate holds the fire tubes conveying heat into the surrounding water to make Gabriel’s steam

