



From the Acting Trust Chair We are steaming ahead!

Yes, we are staying on the rails and steaming ahead. At last we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel! But only figuratively speaking in regard to the tunnel – this aspect being work in progress at the moment.

However, some great progress continues to be made, and the Steam Festival day on the 29th April was an outstanding success, thanks to the organising skills of Lau'rell Pratt and Angela Tanner.

MP Willow-Jean Prime, BOIVRT Chair Sue Hamnett, NAX Chair Rowena Tana, “triple cut” the opening ribbon for the Training & Service Building, Te Hurihanga. **Below:** Getting ready for the event – at Kawakawa Railway Station - passenger train, new platform concrete, the new building & Gabriel displays her new and old boilers.



Acting Trust Chair ... continues... The day was focussed on the official opening of our most recent achievement – the Te Hurihanga Service Centre adjoining the current Heritage railway station building. The unique frontage of the building to represent 4 coal miners’ cottages, and the magnificently designed barge boards to reflect our Maori heritage combined to create an awesome exterior for the very practical interior – the large room for the trainees’ space, plus a Board Room, offices for the future railway control centre, kitchen, utility room and public toilets all combined to create a building which will greatly enhance the Railway as we move back into full-distance operational mode. Massive thanks to our architect Pip Bolton, and builder Sandro Schuetze for their time and expertise, and Henry, who managed the project - they are treasures! It was great that our two huge supporters from Auckland – Wally Titchener and Ian Hutchinson – came up specially to join us.



Acting Trust Chair ... continues... What a celebration the day was! From the moving dawn ceremony to the official opening led by BOIVRT's Chair, Sue Hamnett, and then with a crowd estimated to be close to a thousand who enjoyed the many stalls, the exhibits relating to the steam ship "Minerva", the totally packed train rides, the hangi, the tours of the workshop and carriage shed, etc, etc – all adding up to a very special day in the life of the Vintage Railway.

The new Engineering Workshop is proving its worth, Gabriel's new boiler has arrived and our star attraction is gradually being restored to her former glory under Mike Bradshaw's expert hands, and a second steam engine has been purchased and will be fully restored in our workshop. **Above:** a train of happy passengers, Kawakawa; Steam Punk visitors. **Right:** Wassie Shortland (Ngati Hine), MP Kelvin Davis, Frank Leadley, & Sue, BOIVRT Chair



Above L to Right: Kawakawa Station yard looks beautiful thanks to Glenys' garden care. Gabriel's "cab" – looking at the new boiler's firebox doors. Kauri, being reversed by Neil. **Right:** Esmae at Taumarere. **Left:** What are these for?





Acting Trust Chair ... continues... Carriage restoration continues and “Fantail” will soon have her new roof, the “Minerva’s” intrepid team is achieving miracles, the railway line is being restored to Lone Cow (Ake Ake), plans are underway for a new Carriage Shed to house all our refurbished carriages, and we have much work ahead of us to check over our existing rail lines to ensure they are in tip-top condition.

But as well as our achievements, and successfully overcome challenges, we still have a great deal of work ahead of us before we can finally achieve our goal which is to restore a fully operational railway between Opuia and Kawakawa, operating in conjunction with the “Minerva” and cycleway.

In order to achieve our aims and help to bring employment to the locality we need help to continue operations! We have established an excellent training programme in conjunction with Ngati Hine, but still have a great need for friends of the Railway to come aboard as **volunteers** – drivers, guards, people with skills in metalwork, woodwork, painting, grounds, track workers, shop keepers, cleaners – **all are of vital importance**. Every little helps to keep our railway running. If you feel you can help, please contact Anne on 021-171-2697. **We WILL keep steaming ahead!!**

Frank Leadley (Acting Chair, BOIVRT)

Around BOIVR:



Top: track work, Kawakawa Station. **Above:** winter prep - Denis cleans out the ditch. **Right:** Ruby ready to go out with the track spraying trolley. **Below right:** DSA225 with work wagon near the turntable, having some maintenance checks.



From the workshop:



Above: the rebuild of Fantail continues – prep for the roof seal are about to start.
Left: Neil repairs a points handle with Frits. Below: roof of Tui being sealed by Mike.



Left: Yes, it is possible to fit 2 men in an engine! Frits & Neil (6 footers) are repairing our smallest diesel, Charlie (below left).
Below R: The mystery? These are levers from the signal post, now at the entrance to Kawakawa station, and nearly finished

