

Summer Edition 2012

The Goldfields Express

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Message from the President

A belated Safe, Healthy & Prosperous New Year

2011 is over and Goldfields Railway were happy to receive an early Christmas Present with the return to the Station of the restored and rebuilt A & G Price Shunter.

What a sight that was as it travelled on the back of Carter's freshly painted and lengthened low loader truck down and around the Waihi township. Then it became the fastest Price Shunter in history as it travelled at up to 80km/hour to Katikati to join in with the festivities that they had. To top it all off we received the prize for Waihi's "Most Original Float".

Our many thanks and gratitude go to Phil who has spent many hours and loss of hair working out how to make the Price Shunter come alive again. With his helpers we have now got the first engine that the original instigators of the Society started with back on the track. Thank you all for the great effort and dedication that you have put in to ensure that these fine pieces of engineering and the history of Rail is being kept in a way that our future generations will be able to enjoy, and be amazed at how we were able to cope with such things that were not connected to a computer.



Such a lot has been happening and it is hard to relate it all in this newsletter but business plans are being prepared to take us into the future with a positive and exciting outlook on how it will be. More will be revealed as time goes on but suffice to say we need your continued interest, your input and your enthusiasm to make this all happen.

Some changes have been made since the AGM in that Bob Morton has stepped down from the position of President to take a break. Bob and Irene have been tireless workers and have family arriving from UK for an extended visit which requires their attention. They will be back as we are saving up some of the restoration work for Bob, and are looking forward to having Irene back in the office. But, many thanks to both of you for your dedication and work. Irene you did wonders getting funding for some of the urgent work that needs to be done on engines and for the restoration projects etc. Bob you saw that change was needed so that the Railway could progress into the future as a viable working historical memento to the way that Rail helped the Waihi Community grow from nothing to the thriving town that we now have. If nothing else Waihi has its history to fall back on and what a history it has, and people actually want to learn about it.

I have stepped into the position of President and while Bob will be a hard act to follow I assure you that with the help of the Committee we will continue to effect changes for the positive future of the Railway and the experience that our visitors will enjoy.

Hank Bouius (business and engineering background) and Tim Morgan (computers and print background) have now joined our Committee.

Just think, we could become the Transport Museum of Waihi. There is such a lot of transport orientated memorabilia connected to the Railway and how the district grew.

Discussions have taken place with the Hauraki Rail Trail Operators and we believe that the Railway will benefit from this as long as we plan ahead.

Kerry Single

Email: krsingle@xtra.co.nz

New Members to the Society



Donald Adams, Henk Bouius (Ctee), Gay Debell, Christine Forster (Ctee Sec), John Hoskins, Kenneth Miller, Tim Morgan (Ctee), John Wells (working member).

Thank you for your interest and support of Goldfields Railway, and for the contribution you are making (and will be making as a volunteer)

A Grateful Many Thanks to those Businesses and Members who have assisted us:

- Bunnings, Paeroa
- Waihi Community Radio
- Waihi Gold FM
- NZ Lottery
- Waihi Leader
- Hauraki Herald
- Carters Contractors Both David, Warren and their Drivers
- Porter Engineering



We would like to recognise and record our grateful thanks to these businesses, and many others without whom we would not be able to have achieved as much as we have on our various projects.

And of course our thanks must always go to the drivers and guards and the Station Personnel who ensure the train is able to operate on a regular basis. Also to our volunteers and supporters that are involved in operations of Goldfield Railways, including restoration work on the carriages, engines, track work, etc.

Carolyn Burns who has been the mainstay of the newsletter has decided to give it a break. What an effort she has made in getting members to contribute to the input and then producing such a fine product that not only enlightened us to what was happening but also historical recollections of our past. Many grateful thanks Carolyn, I hope we can keep up the standard.

So, if there is a budding writer or editor out there who would like to assist in the preparation of the newsletter and the gathering of information to put in it, let us know as your help would be appreciated.

Thank you each and every one of you

Membership Fees

- One of the things that came out of the AGM was the amount that we charged for membership fees. The question was asked that if we lowered the fees would we encourage more people to become Members.
- The Committee were asked to discuss this and make a decision.
- They did, and here is the good news. It was felt that the amount that was being charged had a disincentive for a large number of people who would like to become members, so the Committee have agreed that the following Membership fees shall be charged.
- Family Membership 2 Adults and 2 Children **\$30.00**
- Single Membership **\$20.00**
- All Members registering as a Working Member and giving freely of their time on a regular basis as Drivers, Guards, Shop, Office, Cleaning, Restoring, or General Track Work and Maintenance would get a discount of **50%**.
- All Members will be permitted to travel free as long as they were with fare paying passengers on the Train.
- All Members are encouraged to bring their friends, family, visitors down to the Station and take a ride on the Train.
- It is hoped that more of the Waihi Local Community will get involved with this worthy facility that is there to preserve and show how transport by rail helped shape the District we all live in.
- Membership Forms are available via email just ask and we will send you one.

Update on Restoration Projects:

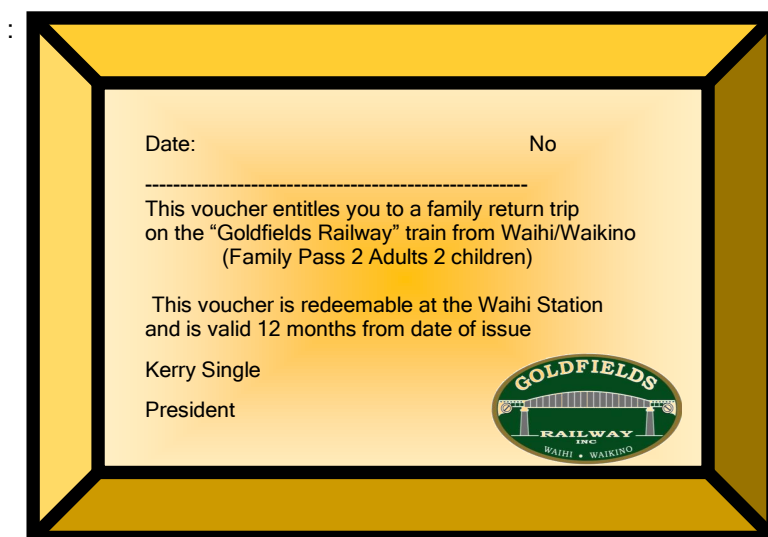
- ***No 6 Loco Engine (The Green One)***
This has had major work done on the Transmission, and a number of other problems sorted and without the skills and efforts of Phil, Anton, Dennis, Ashton and a number of others, we would still be waiting for this engine to be back up running..
- While there is still minor (?) work to be carried out, at least we have an Engine on the track for the Summer Holidays, while No 7 Engine (the blue one) gets some urgent remedial work done on it's radiator and a leak or two fixed.
- ***Glenbrook Carriage : Bob Morton, Don Martin, Allan Carter, John Ellin,***
The new ceiling panels have arrived from Australia, and have all been fitted. What a fantastic job the boys made of this and the finished look is impressive.



We just cannot wait until it is all finished but as we know these things take time and there is still a lot of work to be done.

2012 is here

Give a gift Voucher for travel on the Train; \$40.00 each (family concession, two children, two adults) or to whatever ticket value you require. Why not shout an ice cream or drink as well.



Vouchers can also be redeemed at our new shop in the Station Building.

Yes we have opened up a small area where we can display and sell souvenirs, drinks (soft ones) and ice-creams.

Look out for our big fundraiser coming up towards the end of March. There will be Knitted Jerseys and whatever else we can get our hands on to sell.

Health and Safety:

We now have seven more trained First Aiders, giving us nine in all. Well done and thankyou to all those who took part in the course.

We also have some new safety cones for those times when we need a little extra warning.

WHAT HAVE WE GOT IN THE SHEDS AND YARD

Labour Weekend saw us open up the Station, Sheds, and bring out the carriages that some forgot were there, engines that need work, so that people could have a look at what we actually have and the challenges that they give us.

Below are a few photos of projects that I would like to see groups or people take an interest in and see if we can get some of these projects off the ground and worked on.



The first photo is of 3 wagons that sit outside and are worthy of restoring before the frameworks deteriorate any further. The closest (H1311 Sheep Wagon) would require just a lot of cleaning (sandblasting down,) Steel work treated and repaired where needed and then new timbers. The bogies would need to be cleaned and axles and bearings checked. The middle one (LA 7824 Coal Wagon) is in not bad shape but would need some TLC and the last one (T37-T80 Elephant Wagon) while looking slightly askew should straighten up also with TLC.

The Second and third photos are of a Guards Van (was F2217 now F564) which is in pretty good condition but needs a few timbers replaced and the outside cladding renewed. The inside would need a tickle up with some paint and minimal restoration.

Photos 4,5 & 6 are of our 1948 Drewry Diesel Shunter which had been used at AFFCO again some TLC with a few minor repairs.





Last but not least is F1397 X NZR Otahuhu, a steel bodied Guards Van. What uses this could be put to if it was refurbished!!

Track Work

No not the running type but the work we need to do on the existing track to keep it up to the standard required. We will be beginning the construction of new track sections shortly under the guidance of Dennis. This is a massive task and any help will be greatly accepted. If you can assist contact Dennis on 07 8639020.

We look forward to your feedback and contributions to our newsletter. Just email or write to us.

Our next newsletter will be **Autumn 2012**. (March April)