

The Goldfields Express

no1

Official Newsletter of
Goldfields Railway Inc



Presidents Report

Hi everyone

It's time for a quick update of what's been happening at the railway. As some of you will know there have been a number of changes to the operation over the past couple of months. Listed below is a brief summary of some of these changes. A number of members attended a Special General Meeting in mid May at which we discussed a number of issues relating to the railway operation. Some key actions and outcomes as a result of that meeting are:

- The management committee and operations board now meet collectively with all railway business being discussed.
- The Vice President's membership status has been investigated and confirmed.
- Two replacement committee members were elected to the management committee.
- Management and staffing issues were highlighted for resolution.
- The need for updating the society's constitution and reviewing our operational model was identified.

We are in the early stages of the operational review and taking the current economic climate into account we have to make some tough decisions about operational overheads and costs in recent weeks. In light of a forecast downturn in revenue (in the short to medium term) this includes having to reduce paid staffing levels. Be assured that this has not been an easy decision and has major impacts on the staff concerned and we thank those people for acting in good faith with regard to this matter.

Another operational change made is the temporary reduction of the railway service to 4 days per week (Friday to Monday). We will run a full 7 day a week service during school holidays and group bookings can also be arranged on any day of the week. This situation will be revised in early September. With the reduction in paid staff our reliance on volunteers increases dramatically so it's now really important that we build and retain our volunteer base. Thanks to our regular working members and others that have recently recommitted to the railway – it's great to have your contributions. Remember if you know anyone that might make a good working member please encourage them to call in, check things out and then complete a membership application.

We've also been working on updating the society's constitution to take into account current legislation and funding requirements. A working draft is still under development and as promised at the SGM this will be shared with members in the coming weeks to ensure it meets the needs of the organisation. We'll be in touch again soon to let you know how you can be involved in this. It would be fair to say that the railway is currently under-going some of the most significant changes that it has seen in last 10 years or so. This review work will continue over the next couple months to develop strategies and plans to carry the organisation forward for the next 10 to 20 years.

As I mentioned at the recent SGM, it's important at a time like this that the organisation and its members remain open to planning that will help Goldfields Railway to move forward positively. After all this is about ensuring the organisations sustainability and longevity. Thanks again for your continued support and contributions. We'll keep you up to date as plans are developed for your consideration and input.

Regards

Eddie Morrow

President



New Members

We welcome the following new members, Phil Boyd, Carolyn Burns, Don Martin, Annette Bowater, Colin Dray, and Dan Beach. We hope that you will enjoy your experience with Goldfields and feel welcome among us.

Newly certified drivers/guards

Members that have been certified to guard or drive recently are Neil Coleman, Syd Haggie, Don Dunnett, welcome Back PJ and Arthur, and big thanks to all volunteers especially over the last six months, for giving your time and effort in keeping this railway operational.

Dates to remember

AGM 26th September 2009 (7:30pm) Waihi Museum
School Holidays (Gold fest Wed 30th Sep & Fri 2nd Oct)
Constitution 15th Aug 2009 (3pm) Waihi Museum

Restoration

Lunch Room

We now have a new lunch room at Waihi which is a much larger room and Don Ashford's room which was his office come parts room, was part of it has allowed us a lovely lunch room .It was started back in 2008 by Bob Morton he has transformed the room from full of train fittings and what some people would call junk. He got a bit side tracked a few months later and just this summer work started again with Dennis Blake pulling Dons office out and you wouldn't believe what he found?

A bench and sink has been installed, now the room has a six seater table (donated by Graeme Martin) and it makes a lovely meeting room as well as a lunch room. Hopefully the carpet/Lino will be laid this month. A small amount of memorable books for reading available to the volunteers on their lunch breaks or when bored would be great. Anything you would like to add to the walls of the Lunch room is most appreciated and we hope to have this room fully functional in the short time

Plate Makers Hand Jigger (pictured front page)

Ashton Baird .Has got his hands dirty with the restoration of one of two 1901 plate makers hand jiggers, which he found in one of the shed s while we shall say exploring. It was quickly rolled into the big shed and his father's can of bright red paint went missing over the month. With quick oil up it was ready for its first test run, few problems were ironed out like slight derailments and is now on display when Ashton is around.

Carriage A1196

Carriage A1196 (well known as the Glenbrook carriage) was rolled into the big shed from its main line running service and is having a makeover. Ross and Ashton Baird were in there giving it a coat of fresh green paint over Christmas. Patches of rot in the left hand wall have been removed and the wall has now been completely stripped. Many of the seats were in a bad state, so we sent them to the local upholsterers, this project has been taken on by Bob Morton and Don Martin, sadly we won't have this carriage out till later in the year, but A1288 is doing a great job keeping the passengers dry at the moment, the rear door has been replaced on this.

Working Bee

There is a working bee on Sunday the 23rd of August we hope to have a few hands turn up. Be at the Waihi stations at 9am. there are heaps of jobs to do around this place.

Could you please ring in to let us know that you are coming?

Ph 8639020 Dennis or Sherryl

The Flyer

The flyer was originally built 1944 at A&G Price Thames.

This has been sitting on the back line for several years at Goldfields Railway, where the local children over the years have wrecked it. Thanks to Phil Boyd this engine is back up and running, and is going to be taken to his farm for a complete overhaul at no cost to the railway.

Thanks to Brian Rae for getting a bee in his bonnet about the flyer and also getting the papers required from A&G Price.

Letters to the editor

If any members have anything they would like to share in the newsletter or help improve on it, please drop down to the station to see Sherryl or email goldfieldsrailway@xtra.co.nz September Issue

Echoes from the past



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