

# TRAMLINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM INC.

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

Season's Greetings.....	1
Summer arrangements and the next <i>Anything Vintage Festival</i> .....	2
Progress on the New Buildings Project.....	2
The Annual General Meeting.....	3
Passenger traffic.....	4
When you're on site, check these things.....	4
Personal notes.....	5
Tramway Topics, Tramlines and e-mail.....	5

## CHRISTMAS

Christmas and summer are always busy and important times for the Museum, but also a time for celebration and rest. A very Merry Christmas to all members and to their family and friends – thank you for what you've contributed to our work this year: it is very much appreciated. None of us knows what impact the “economic downturn” will have on next year, but what we can be very confident about is that the work this year on the New Buildings Project and on the Business Plan have given us a great platform on which to grow our goal of the sustainable preservation of this slice of Wellington's heritage. In a year when we mourned the death of several long-standing members, it's worth reminding ourselves of the friendships and the satisfactions of teamwork which voluntary work for the Tramway Museum gives us all. Thank you everyone – and notch up for 2009!

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## SUMMER ARRANGEMENTS

Andrew Surgenor reports:

Daily operations will start on Boxing Day, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December with trams running each day through to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February. In organising the rosters I would appreciate your support so that the right numbers of crew and support people are on site every day to make things run smoothly – and of course to ensure the right ambience which encourages return visits by our customers.

The high point will again be the *Anything Vintage Festival* over the three days 27-29 December. The last festival saw some of our busiest days ever. To ensure the event runs smoothly and to ease work load we need as much help as possible.

A second crew will be rostered on the busiest days. Offers of help are still welcome for the summer roster which will include Waitangi Day (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February) and all of the weekends in February. Your contribution at this busy time helps our tramway earn revenue to cover budgets for 2009.

## BUILDINGS

### **Servicing and Exhibit Storage Building:**

Since the last report in either *Tramlines* or *Tramway Topics*, this building has been constructed, and a fine structure it is too. Complete with six bays (three with tram tracks one of which is dual gauge), eight roller doors, a strong concrete floor, an automatic fire sprinkler system and proper drainage this is a vast improvement on the old semi-open storage building that it replaces. It is currently being utilised to house double saloon tram 185 and various road vehicles that have been shifted from the tram barn. Permanent storage arrangements will be made as soon as tram barn renovation work is completed.

### **Tram Barn**

With the completion of the Servicing and Exhibit Storage Building, as many vehicles as possible were moved out of the tram barn to enable re-roofing and other work to get underway. Four trams (151, 159, 235 and 260) have been housed in the workshop. Remedial work on the timber roof purlins, steel roof trusses, plus the re-roofing is now underway. In addition the west side (being re-clad. The internal gutter between the workshop and the tram barn is also being fully renovated. All this work, including re-painting, is due to be finished by Christmas.

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## Visitor Centre

Planning for the new changes in our main public “face” - the arrival and departure areas between the Barn and the street - is moving ahead. They will be at a stage to enable a full summary to be presented at the Special General Meeting early next year (see under AGM below)

## Fences

Improvements are also in hand for the strictly “non-public” working area at the back of our property. With assistance from the Regional Council, the whole compound behind the new Servicing and Exhibit Storage building, including the substation, sprinkler tanks, white shed and sundry other stores, will soon be surrounded (including the back boundary along the river bank) by a new fence featuring solid sheeting topped with barbed wire. Once this is done, there will also be some extension of the low wooden fencing between us and the stables.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There were around 30 members at the AGM held this year at Turnbull House on Bowen Street on Saturday evening 22<sup>nd</sup> November. It began with a moment’s silence for three long-standing members who died during the year – John Murphy, Ian Little and Colin Perfect.

Elections for the incoming Board resulted in:

<b>President:</b>	Henry Brittain (re-elected)
<b>Vice-President, Maintenance &amp; Engineering:</b>	Allan Neilsen (re-elected)
<b>Vice-President, Marketing &amp; Operations:</b>	Andrew Surgenor
<b>Secretary:</b>	Graeme Moffatt (re-elected)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mike Boyton (re-elected)
<b>Board members:</b>	Mike Vash (re-elected), Barry Ollerenshaw (re-elected) Neil McDonald, Trevor Burling.

From the 2007/08 Board, Denys Peck and Mike Secker both stood down, and were thanked for their sterling work.

Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Secretary for those who didn’t collect a copy at the meeting. This covers the “statutory” year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008, and the Financial Report for this period wasn’t able to be completed in time for the AGM.

# TRAMLINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM INC.

So there will be a **Special General Meeting** called early in the New Year to consider these. This SGM will also consider the formal report of the first half year of the new

Company set up in July 2008 to carry out the Business Plan adopted at the 2007 AGM. In the interim, the 2008 AGM authorised the new Board to carry on with the Business Plan subject to review at the SGM, by which time fortuitously the impact of the new economic environment on our summer traffic and revenues should be clearer.

## **TRAFFIC and PATRONAGE:**

We ran the trams daily up to Sunday 12th October (school holidays) except for the 7th due to weather. As a result:

- October 2008 had the highest passenger trips - 2,190 - for a non January day since February 2004. February 2004 included "Whopper Chopper".
- Tram kilometres in October 2008 shot up (620 in Oct. 2008 compared with 350 in Oct. 2007).

Our year to date 2008 passenger trip numbers are still running behind 2007, right from the Anything Vintage period (3 days this time instead of 4 the previous year). And July was an exceptionally wet month which put us further behind. However there was some catch up in October. From Boxing Day 2007 to 31/10/08 there have been 18,852 passenger trips, compared with 21,396 in the same period in 2007.

Special hires continue to grow in number. Trainaway Tours brought a group in October and Roger Stanton, their Tour Escort, has written to say:

*My group returned to Brisbane with nothing but praise about their tour of NZ and that included the visit to your Tramway Museum on the 24th Oct. Would you please convey our grateful thanks to the members of the museum who made the visit so pleasurable. We all gratefully appreciate the hours those involved put in to drive the trams and show us through.*

## **PLEASE REMEMBER THESE THINGS WHEN ON SITE:**

1. Keep an eye out for rubbish blown into the public areas from the construction works; pick up and bin things when you spot them!
2. Rubbish gets into all sorts of places and can cause problems as well as untidiness. Recently the sand on 239 failed and the fault was found to be an empty cardboard "Pebbles" put into one of the sandboxes (under the end passenger seats) so that it blocked the outlet pipe.
3. Excellent new rail-themed TEA TOWELS now on sale in the shop – a good "stocking-filler" for Christmas as well as for everyday home use.

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## PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to member Peter Dunne on both his re-election as MP for Ohariu-Belmont in the November General Elections, and for his re-appointment as Minister of Revenue (amongst other roles) in the new Cabinet.

### *Need a Taxi in Wellington?*

Do you need a taxi in and around Wellington City and CBD?

If so Wellington Tramway Museum member Bryce Pender operates a taxi with Status Taxis and offers his services to you.

Contact him via Status Taxis (04) 801 5000 Cab 86 or 021 220 2009.

[advertisements like this, by members, are welcome - in return for donations to Museum funds]

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**Tramlines**

*Is the bi-monthly newsletter for members of the Wellington Tramway Museum Inc. Its aim is to keep members in touch with practical notices and the details of current developments – it is deliberately kept modest in style and does not aim at all to compete with **Tramway Topics**, our official journal of record, or our **Website** which is our instantly-updated Museum fact resource and notice to the wider world.*

***Contributions and notes always welcomed.***

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