

# TRAMLINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM INC.

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- Welcome to these new members! .....
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## MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES NOW

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February –Model Extravaganza. Models of all types and sizes - have YOU or your contacts anything to display?

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Special General Meeting, in the main barn. This follows on from last year's AGM, for members to consider (i) the 2007/08 Financial Report and (ii) the Written report & Financials for the first 6 months of the new KCET company, set up in July 2008 as part of the 2008 Business Plan.

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Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – **Emergency Services Funday** – Police, Fire Service, Police, Fire Service, Ambulance, Lifeguards, Emergency Management, vintage emergency equipment, etc

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April – **Members' barbeque** at Nga Manu, Waikanae. A good chance to relax after you've been to the Open Day at our friends of the Silverstream Railway see [http://www.silverstreamrailway.org.nz/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=1](http://www.silverstreamrailway.org.nz/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=1)

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April – **Military Day** – we are trying to work in an ANZAC Day flow-on here.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – the **Annual Dinner** – Petone Workingmens Club.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May – **Everything British Day**. With apologies to certain quarters, this theme is to complement the cooler weather!

Through this year, the popular SundayFundays will grow into **Events Weekends**, each with its own theme. More details in upcoming issues of *Tramlines*. As well, these events are planned for the balance of the year:

July - members night including presentation by Wayne Buckingham of his recent visit to **Crich** - location Wellington City (exact date to be confirmed)

September - **Fish N Chip and Film evening** - at tramway (exact date to be confirmed)

5 December - **Christmas Dinner**

Events are subject to confirmation, further details will be advised closer to the time. Please contact Andrew Surgenor if you are interested in showing slides, DVD etc at July members night, max 30 min duration

## **Anything Vintage 2009**

This event for 2009 will be held **27, 28, 29 December**.

## **M&O Committee 2009**

Your suggestions, comments and questions re our museums marketing and operations are always welcome. Please contact Vice President M&O Andrew Surgenor on site or at [andrew201@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew201@hotmail.com).

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SUMMER 2008-09

Many thanks to all members and supporters who helped out over our peak period. Including the 3 days *Anything Vintage Festival* (AVF) 27-29 December, passenger counts from Boxing Day to January 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 were:

<b>One-way trips</b>	<u>AVF</u>	<u>other days</u>	<u>Period total</u>
<b>2008/09</b>	4,590	4,034	8,624
<b>2007/08</b>	4,254	3,755	8,009
Difference:	336 (+7.9%)	279 (+7.4%)	615 (+7.7%)

Despite an increase in fares in October 2008 of around about 20% we achieved an overall increase of 7.7% in the number of passengers. In both years over half the total number of passengers was carried during the three day *Anything Vintage Festival*. This season the busiest day was Sunday 28th December when 1,866 passenger trips (equivalent to 933 return passengers) were recorded. Mike Flinn, who was in charge of tramway operations throughout the Festival period, reports that this is approaching the maximum number of passengers we can handle in one day with three trams on the current track configuration. There were 36 full distance return tram trips that day, which works out at an average of 26 passengers per trip. During the peak periods the trams were really packed! Recession? - what recession?

Gross revenue for all of December 2008 and January 2009 was \$26,057 – compared to \$19,885 for the same 2 months in 2007/08 and just \$8,265 for December 2005 and January 2006.

This is a great achievement, and has implications for all parts of the museum – track and power supply quality, tram maintenance and availability, front-of-house impressions, rostered numbers, visitor experience and the appeal of return visits, and the synergies with visiting attractions. The following, from the Wellington Vintage Machinery Club [www.vintagemachinery.wellington.net.nz](http://www.vintagemachinery.wellington.net.nz) gives an interesting non-Tramway perspective:

**Our display was as popular as ever. More people came than ever before. More stalls, and the tinkers were there. The weather was wonderful and the atmosphere was great. The organisation was better than ever, plus good music, and food. Thanks guys!**

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Here is Wayne's overview of AVF:

## Anything Vintage 2008 – a real Festival for WTM

### **The Start**

Well we sort of knew it would be a good one, but the challenges were there with the barn re-cladding only completed a few days beforehand and a new main-switchboard therefore not able to be installed until a couple of days prior also, then a component failure delaying the cutover until almost Christmas eve and with all power off for the day! Special thanks to all the team who just got stuck in and sorted the barn / store re-org and clean up – as well as helping set up the displays. This and the set-up was a little fraught at times with a shortage of man-power, but we got through, albeit with some late nights.

### **Dawn, Day 1**

And then the first day ... Graeme unwell and not there initially, a very precious half tonne, large working stream model to urgently unload from it's trailer, thankfully with help from a few friends and much double checking the loco and tender was quickly and safely on it's stand. Later Graeme arrived, but still with a bad dose of food poisoning and quite unwell. But then, the weather which initially looked doubtful cleared, with the cloud cover just burning off ... and it all happened, lots of people arriving, spending lots, heaps taking tram rides, and then generally enjoying the activities and the many other offerings. The happy crowds were great to see.

### **Tramwork and Teamwork**

The Tram teams and dispatchers did such a brilliant job – great leadership, a tight timetable and quick turnarounds saw a record passenger load over the 3 days. Also to the shop / ticket sales teams – the re-arranged sales areas worked well after a short bedding in period and sales were friendly, well organised and prompt.

And our 3 grand old ladies just kept trucking on, not missing a beat – thankfully! Great work by the maintenance team. What a tribute to the original equipment designers and builders that these machines, 69, 83 and 85 years of age, could perform so magnificently doing this 'hard out' work so many years later. Maybe a few of us had fingers crossed however?

Stall-holders and the many other participants in the festival were almost unanimously very pleased with their results too; again an excellent result.

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## Rewards

The profit for the festival was a record too, thanks also to the generosity of our sponsors and donors. We can't thank them enough; their assistance is simply the difference between a profit commensurate with the effort put in to organizing the festival and just breaking even – witness last year. Remember, unlike other similar events, we can't charge an entry fee to the park, so we really, really need all that effort that goes into the publicity, advertising and promotion, as well as the extra effort that goes into securing the all important donors.

The spin-off from the festival has seen a record January as well, including yet another record, this time for the January Sunday FunDay. The importance of all of this cannot be under-estimated when looking at the future of our Museum. But we have to maintain this upward momentum.

## Gracias

Thanks also to the AVF organising committee; Graeme Moffatt, Nikki LaMonica and the others of the park ranger team, Mike Wiffin, Warwick Halcrow, Andrew Surgenor, Mandy Robinson of Stables in the Park, John Lancashire of Friends of the Park; a sterling effort and a sincere thank you to you all.

A special tribute though, is due to our Secretary, Graeme. Even he will admit to being a thorn in people's sides at times, but most of the vision, organisation, planning, securing participants, letter writing, funding applications, event concessions and permissions, risk management planning and documentation, signage, TV advertisement design and production (this alone would have cost \$3000 + otherwise), newspaper and radio advertisements, web-site info, U-Tube advert, and more, were simply thanks to him. A great effort Graeme, and with the results to show for it all. Thank you.

To the Friends of QE Park for the parking organisation, the Kapiti Air Training Corps officers and cadets for security, programme dissemination and many other tasks, and making things happen when we were short handed ; John Mitchell and the Vintage Machinery Club for pitching in and helping out with several challenges; plus many others not associated with the Museum who just helped things keep ticking over. To them all, our heartfelt thanks.

The power supply was no problem this year thanks to the construction site power distribution system with RCD protection and generously loaned by Fletcher Construction. Just excellent. Thanks to Mike Fraser and his team.

Dave Rangi of Tait Mobile Radio Petone made life a lot easier with his kind donation of

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the use of quality radio telephones for the event – another ‘must have’ for the future. But does anyone know where 3 missing batteries might be?

To our sponsors and donors a huge thank you. It would not have been possible without you:

*Kapiti Coast District Council*

*Greater Wellington Regional Council*

*Fletcher Construction*

*Tait Mobile Radio Petone*

*More FM and Radioworks for lots of free advertising.*

*Endeavour Community Trust*

*Lion Foundation*

*The Southern Trust*

*Tranz Metro*

*RadioWorks – MoreFM*

And thank you too, to whomever it was who organised the weather! Just great thanks!

### **And on to next Year !**

We are working through a few ideas for next year to bring us even more rewards. This comes with challenges however, as we are unable to guarantee success in our funding bids. And grants. We did extremely well this year for example in securing a \$7,000 grant from Kapiti Coast District Council, against a large number of other very worthy applicants. But as no-one has a mortgage on good ideas, we would like to hear any new ones so we can explore those too!

The Anything Vintage Festival is Wellington Tramway Museum’s largest annual operation and has been instrumental in reversing a decline in the tramway’s visitor numbers and income. In 2008, the event was deemed to have been very successful from a number of differing perspectives. The tramway reached the level of profit forecast, the numbers of visitors increased from the previous event, the range of activities and stalls was greater and to top it off, we experienced three days of hot and dry weather.

With more than enough space in which to grow each year, the Wellington Tramway Museum and the other groups involved in its organisation, are keen to encourage more Kapiti community groups and businesses to participate in this large and focused event and thus improve its position as one of the premier annual events on the Kapiti Coast and the Wellington Region.

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## WELCOME TO RECENT NEW MEMBERS:

Great to have you on board. Looking forward to getting to know each other.

Lyn Cole, Porirua; Elizabeth Cross, Miramar; Lachlan Temple, Tawa; Alex Badger, Paraparaumu; Chris Cobb, Raumati Beach; Robert Vale, Khandallah; Sasha Legetich, Upper Hutt; Clive Grainger, Petone; Alan Russell, Johnsonville.

## PROGRESS AROUND THE SITE

**Storage Building:** The approaches are being built up to the level of the floor pad. Allan Neilson convened a meeting on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February towards finalizing the layout of what will go into this building, and implications for the rear compound. This now has a fine new solid fence (topped with both barbed and electric wire) linked to the walls of the new building. The new fence has been built a metre or so outside the old one, so that gives us a bigger rear compound once the old fence, blackberry and other “junk” is all removed.

**Loop:** All new poles are now installed, and the first of the replacement bracket arms is in place. As passenger numbers grow, consideration is being given to the track layout at the Beach terminus – at present a single line with no passing facility. The loop is essential and care must be taken when driving trams through it – see Allan Neilson for photos of the track wear at the points resulting from trams passing though at more than walking pace.

**Visitor Centre:** The re-roofing and repainting of the main Barn is now complete – a much improved fit into the overall Park environment. Progress on the Visitor Centre arrangements at the south end of the Barn will be covered during the Special General Meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

## MARKETING

The reports on the *Anything Vintage Festival* all show how important it is to have a reliable fleet of trams available for running. 260, that mere youngster of 57 compared to those grand old pre-war ladies 151 and 159, has its schedule of work finalized for the next few months. Contact Trevor Burling if you would like to join the team working on getting this car back into service for next year.

A cluster of other activities, such as proposals for the Printing Museum and the Omnibus Society to be nearby help create a “critical mass” including the Stables and the wetlands walks, for visitors. This in turn helps build the case for a

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railway station at MacKay's Crossing, which we are continuing to press for inclusion in the current rail upgrade programme.

### COTMA -2010

We are hosting the COTMA conference next year – Bryce Pender is convening the organising of this. Bryce reports.

Wellington Tramway Museum is pleased to host the forthcoming COTMA (Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia) to be held here in Wellington starting on 16 September 2010.

A committee has been formed comprising Bryce Pender (Convener), Henry Brittain, Denys Peck, Mike Secker and Wayne Buckingham to plan and coordinate the conference and activities.

All members are asked to put the dates in their diary ready to show our visitors the delights of Wellington. If you are interested in assisting or wish to find out more contact

Bryce on [cotma2010@paradise.net.nz](mailto:cotma2010@paradise.net.nz)

Congratulations to Wayne Buckingham – who was awarded QSM in the New Years Honours. Mostly this is to acknowledge Wayne's long work with the Air training Corps (ATC), but he is a man of many strengths and skills and we are delighted to have him on board and to congratulate him.

Waikanae member Jim Bentall celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 08. Jim, who is one of the Wednesday regulars working on 260, has a distinguished architectural background including a lead role in the 1960's restoration of Old St. Pauls church. All the best, Jim!

### PERSONAL

### SECURITY :

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Now that we have more attractions on site plus our new buildings which all assist in bringing more visitors to the museum, there is a down side to this as it also attracts some unwanted attention by people who canvass our site to see if there is anything worth helping themselves to.

This is an unavoidable fact of life, and we must be more vigilant in ensuring that we make and keep the site secure at all times. We now have members on site most days and during the day and after we leave, it is important that buildings and items in these buildings be secure.

- If you are last out, make sure all doors, cabinets, gates etc are locked. Do not forget the single door at the back of the new storage building.
- Ensure the alarm is set, check the control panel to make sure all circuit lights are out.
- When opening padlocks, snib them closed again when the gate or door is unlocked as this will prevent the padlock being removed illegally during the day.
- Ensure power is off in the barn / workshop
- All advertising signs are put away in the shop and the light is off in the drinks cooler and that the icecream fridge sliding tops are properly closed.
- That the rope barrier in the barn is in place during opening hours to prevent the public from straying into prohibited areas.

By doing this, and always being security conscious, we can reduce the chances of theft and damage occurring to our buildings and possessions .

Henry Brittain.

### *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.*

Compiled by Alan Smith [alanesmith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alanesmith@xtra.co.nz) ph 566-3034. 16/2/09