

# TRAMLINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM INC.

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## NEW MEMBERS' DAY

**Saturday 20 June 2009, from 1:30pm at the Museum, Mackays Crossing**  
**A great opportunity to find out more about KCET and fellow members.**

**The program includes:**

- **Introduction to the museum**
- **Tour of the new storage building**
- **Visit the electrical substation**
- **Tour the workshop**
- **Learn about how you can help:**
- **Tram, track and Overhead wire maintenance**

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- **The restoration program for tram 260 (the last tram built in NZ)**
- Join the next tram motorman (driver) or conductor training course (starting in July)

The afternoon concludes with afternoon tea, a tram ride and a tour through the museum. We encourage you to bring along family members or friends who may be interested.

Please RSVP if you've not already done so, to Andrew Surgenor, Vice President Marketing and Operations at [Andrew201@hotmail.com](mailto:Andrew201@hotmail.com) by Saturday 13 June – and indicate how you would like your name to appear on your name badge.

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## **THE REGULAR ANNUAL DINNER – Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

This was an exact anniversary this year, to mark Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> forty-five years ago in 1964 when the last routes of the Wellington tramways closed. Around 30 members and friends gathered for an excellent smorgasbord at the Kensington Restaurant of the [Petone Workingmen's Club](#). Thanks to Denys Peck for arranging this.

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## **SOME COMING EVENTS, for your DIARY**

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'Chips and Film evening** - at tramway (date t.b.c.)  
5 December - **Christmas Dinner**

27-29 December - **Anything Vintage Festival 2009**. Help on the lead up, set-up as well as the event days and clean up are needed. More 'supporting acts' are required also, as are ideas on ways of the museum generating more revenue from the exercise! We are nearing the limit of what we can earn just from Tram running.

Events are subject to confirmation, further details will be advised closer to the time. Please contact Andrew Surgenor if you are interested in showing

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lides, DVD etc at July member's night, max 30 min duration.

## TRAFFIC TRENDS

Keith McGavin reports

Visitor numbers, as measured by the number of passenger trips to and from the Beach, are currently running on a par with 2008. From 26<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009 14,295 passenger trips have been recorded compared with 14,103 for the same period the previous year.

However May 2009 was a difficult month, with very unsettled squally, windy, cold and at times stormy weather during four of the five weekends. Total passenger trips were 672 compared with 958 during May 2008.

All three trams (151, 159 and 239 – this Fiducia “youngster” is 70 years old this year) have been in use at different times since 26<sup>th</sup> December 2008. However 151 has not operated since New Year's Day due to restoration being carried out to the “A” end controller and the main resistance bank. It is planned to have it available for service again in July.

Tram days in use and kms run 26<sup>th</sup> December 2008 - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009 are:

Tram	Days in use	Kilometres run
151	5	184
159	62	1847
239	49	1297
Total	116	3328

The comparable figures for the previous year (26/12/07 – 31/5/08) are 128 Days in Use, and 3,224 kilometres run.

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April a “low carbon tourism exercise” was held for the Kapiti Coast in which our Tramway participated.

July and September school holidays will again feature tram running every day – this needs YOUR support for rostered duties and volunteering.

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With the end of the 2008/09 Financial and Business Plan year fast approaching (30<sup>th</sup> June), there will be a lot of work taking place behind the scenes to analyse the results, costs, and trends for these past 12 months. The Business Plan targets, and the arrangements for every-day visitor access to the Barn displays, were all new goals for the Museum this year, at the same time as the buildings upgrades programme and (somewhat from out of left field) the impact on leisure travel of the economic recession. These analyses will be completed in time for good discussion by members at the AGM later this year (date to be advised in the August *Tramlines*).

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### PROGRESS ON SITE

#### OVERHEAD

Congratulations to Ray Shand and his team on progress at the loop. By the start of June, all new brackets and span wires were in use and when the old poles are pulled out we will have a very neat looking - and smooth running - installation there. Other leaning and/or less robust poles along the whole line – some have been there for over 40 years now – are targeted for gradual upgrade to a similar standard as that applied at the loop.

#### 260

Trevor Burling, Jim Bentall and others are steadily moving ahead on this; the target for return to running status for this celebrity car remains the COTMA Conference next year.

#### THE VISITOR CENTRE

The floor is now down, and Wayne expects the roof to be on before the end of June. Have a look at <http://www.wellingtontrams.org.nz/recent.html> for Graeme's recent photos of this project. Great **L'Affare "Primo" Coffee** is being made and sold at the coffee cart pending the opening of the visitor Centre building - special member rates of \$2.50! Same for muffins and cake slices. Many contacts are being made and people are always happy to promote the Museum for us. A loyal coffee customer base is building steadily although the coffee operation was only ever intended to be a part of the visitor centre offerings.

#### WANTED:

- rags for workshop, including old curtains or sheets etc. for covering parts and machinery to stop the dust damage and rust

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- A working **domestic lawn mower** for small areas around the site
- Still looking for **DVD players** for our Museum display. How about you buying a HDD recorder at the special prices offering now and donate your old DVD player to the Museum!
- Another TV or two** - thanks Graham Stewart for your generous donation!

Wayne reports “Thanks to 3 **ATC cadets from No. 2 (Hutt City) Squadron** who helped a couple of weekends ago - moving old cabinets from out the back in the rain to the new storage shed was not how most teenagers would want to spend a Sunday but they did the task with a smile. Thanks lads!! See you again sometime. Corporal Nelson said "Sir, I didn't know trams used to run in Wellington." Oh dear!!! And we though we were doing a good job at selling our message!”

### IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Railway Station at MacKay's Crossing: In response to the Regional Council's Draft Annual Plan, the Museum submitted that the time is right for the provision of a Light Use Railway Station at MacKay's Crossing, in conjunction with the track duplication currently underway. The estimated cost is \$300,000 and of course its provision would make it possible for those many residents in the Greater Wellington area who do not have access to a car to visit Queen Elizabeth Park. It would also encourage the use of public transport by all - one of the Regional Council's objectives.

Keith McGavin and Henry Brittain appeared before the Councillors on 13th May and received a good hearing. A formal response is due this month.

The Printing Museum: This heritage group <http://www.bedplatepress.org.nz/> is one of several thinking about moving to our part of Queen Elizabeth Park – all good additions to building a “critical mass” of attractions there. The Museum at present operates out of the old wartime Silverstream Hospital, and holds occasional open days when the full magnificence of traditional printing presses, with their hundreds of small moving parts flashing away, can be experienced. They have a lease extension to 2011 on the Silverstream site (across the road from our colleagues at the Silver Stream Railway).

John Lancashire: John is Chair of the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park and was awarded QSM in the Queens Birthday Honours. Congratulations from your fellow-friends of the KCET!

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The northern edge of the Park: An August 2008 book “Raumati South, Heart and Soul” by Jacqueline Elliott, is now on sale at Whitcoulls, Lambton Quay and probably locally on the Kapiti Coast too. \$39.99. It’s a very fascinating piece of community history about what is now mostly suburbia, but still with traces of its seaside bach days, at the northern end of Queen Elizabeth Park. Amongst other things, there are very good accounts of the brief and poignant wartime era of the US Marines, including a wonderful aerial photo of the extensive Marines’ camps at MacKays Crossing showing their relationship to the present-day Tramway Museum site. Not mentioned is the view expressed in one of the local papers when WTM was just starting: “we moved up here to get away from the noise of the trams.....” !

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## COTMA CONFERENCE IN WELLINGTON, 2010

Bryce Pender reports:

September 2010 sees the COTMA conference in Wellington. Hosted by WTM, the conference draws together delegates from all tramway museums from Australasia for 5 days of discussions, events and socializing. Related events will include a trolleybus tour of Wellington. (as I understand it, we now have the only street trolleybus system in the southern hemisphere and the only remaining right-hand drive one anywhere. Any challenges? – Ed.) Please bookmark the dates of 16/09/2010 to 22/09/2010 as a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones. To be involved or for further information please email Bryce on [cotma2010@paradise.net.nz](mailto:cotma2010@paradise.net.nz)

### A WARM WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Mr Iain M Hill	Trentham
Mr Stuart Macdonald	Tawa
Mr Richard Pickering	Waikanae
Mr Jon Hollingsworth	Porirua
Mr Colin Wilmshurst	Whitby

We always need a few **more new members**. With a bit of effort we could have the greatest number of new members ever in one financial year!!! How about it ? It is not just about driving or even rebuilding or maintaining trams - we need all sorts of skills, and we have great collegial teams at work.

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## SIMPLIFYING OUR ADMIN:

1. The new Museum policy is that receipts will only be issued for, **cash payments, donations and if specially requested.**
2. E-mail is the preferred way of sending out TRAMLINES but just let us know if you prefer a posted hard-copy, and this will be done.

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## *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. 10/6/09