

# TRAMLINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM INC.

|                            |          |  |                      |
|----------------------------|----------|--|----------------------|
| <b>Contact Details:</b>    |          | <b>OCTOBER 2008</b>  |                      |
| <b>President:</b>          |          |  |                      |
| Henry Brittain             | tel.     | 04-476-4155  |                      |
|                            | e-mail:  | <a href="mailto:henry.brittain@xtra.co.nz">henry.brittain@xtra.co.nz</a>       |                      |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          |          |  |                      |
| Graeme Moffatt             | tel.     | 04-905-6321  |                      |
|                            | e-mail:  | <a href="mailto:gmoffatt@paradise.net.nz">gmoffatt@paradise.net.nz</a>         |                      |
| <b>Commercial Manager:</b> |          |  |                      |
| Wayne Buckingham           |          | <a href="mailto:wayne@wellingtontrams.org.nz">wayne@wellingtontrams.org.nz</a> |                      |
|                            |          | 027-541-0079   |                      |
| <b>Postal Address:</b>     |          |  |                      |
|                            |          |  | P.O. Box 2612        |
|                            |          |  | Wellington, N.Z.     |
| <b>Museum Site:</b>        |          |  |                      |
|                            |          |  | Queen Elizabeth Park |
|                            |          |  | MacKay's Crossing    |
|                            |          |  | Paekakariki,         |
|                            |          |  | NEW                  |
|                            |          |  | ZEALAND.             |
| <b>Web address:</b>        |          |  |                      |
|                            | e-mail:  | <a href="mailto:info@wellingtontrams.org.nz">info@wellingtontrams.org.nz</a>   |                      |
|                            | Website: | <a href="http://www.wellingtontrams.org.nz">www.wellingtontrams.org.nz</a>     |                      |
| <b>Museum site:</b>        |          |  |                      |
|                            | tel.     | 04-292-8361 (opening hours only)   |                      |

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## THE TRAMWAY MUSEUM DIARY

**Saturday evening 4<sup>th</sup> October, 8pm:** NZR&LS Wellington Centre invite WTM members to join them at St Andrews on the Terrace hall, The Terrace, Wellington CBD, for their programme which tonight features Brent Efford - Editor, *Tramway Topics* amongst his numerous other hats - presenting on his 2003 Winston Churchill Fellowship study tour of light rail in North America and Europe. This follows a special business meeting for NZR&LS members at 7pm. Brent is extraordinarily well-informed on international light rail developments and their relevance to Wellington conditions.

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**School Holidays 29<sup>th</sup> September – 10<sup>th</sup> October:** Daily tram operation on the KCET between 11am and 3pm. This is a trial beyond the usual summer holidays. Please check if you can help with background tasks.

**Saturday evening 22<sup>nd</sup> November:** The Museum's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Further details in due course; for now, please diary this date.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November:** Railex 2008, at Porirua. Again our Tramway Museum will have a stand at this popular even – a great opportunity for marketing as well as trying to attract new members. We will need people to help man our stand over the two days; so if you can spend a half-day helping on the Railex stand, please contact Denys Peck.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Dinner, at the Fisherman's Table. More details to follow; for now, remember to diary this and not book anything else for that night!

## FARES INCREASE

Denys Peck reports:

After the school holidays trial daily operation is over, i.e. from 13<sup>th</sup> October, our tram fares will be increasing by c. 20%. The new fare structure will be:

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Adult return  | \$6.00  |
| Child return  | \$3.00  |
| Family return | \$15.00 |
| One way trip  | \$4.00  |

These changes reflect conditions for other attractions on the Kapiti Coast and we are confident that they represent good value for money given the quality of visitor experience which the Tramway Museum is offering.

## MARKETING

The August 2008 *Tramlines* told members of the new structure now in place with the Kapiti Coast Electric Tramway Ltd set up as the stand-alone trading arm of the Wellington Tramway Museum. Here is the first of a regular series of report-backs to WTM members on this major initiative:

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Graeme Moffatt reports:

Most members will have by now met our new employee, Wayne Buckingham. Wayne lives in Paekakariki and has been interested in things related to railway and aviation transport for most of his life. He grew up in Invercargill and has early childhood memories of trams operating in that city. He moved up to Wellington in the 1970's and has been living in and around the city since then. He is a chartered accountant by profession and worked with Keith McGavin at Fletchers for a period of time.

One of the first tasks Wayne has undertaken is to assist with the upgrade of the museum display and new visitor centre. As our ticket sales and shop building is bursting at its seams, especially so on days when we hold special event, we have identified the need for a larger building that would also serve as a visitor centre. This would also include a small display about the objectives and history of our museum as a teaser to encourage visitors to pay to see our new and improved display when that has been revamped.

We have been fortunate in receiving two grants to the total of \$59,088 for the provision of a new visitor centre. This will be constructed at the front west corner of the tram barn adjacent to road 1. It will be a Versatile building 9m x 6m and will house a shop/ticket sales area as well as a small cafe.

The small committee planning this is confident that we can have it built and operational before the peak summer period; extensive work is being done to ensure that all the regulatory aspects are adequately dealt with. This includes getting written approval from the Greater Wellington Regional Council as well as a building consent from the Kapiti Coast District Council.

The costs of building and fitting out are in excess of the funds received to date; so a new fundraising initiative has been developed. With the popularity of small cafes selling 'real' coffee and the establishment of many small coffee carts around the country, it was decided to create a 'Coffee Club' as a means of generating a reasonable supply of funds to be able to finish the visitor centre as well as assist in the funding of Wayne's wages.

This coffee club was launched to the Kapiti area on the 18th August with a comprehensive advertising campaign on More FM and a full page advertising supplement in the *Kapiti Observer*.

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The aim is to sell 2000 membership cards at \$25 each. Members will get a range of benefits including two free hot drinks and a family tram ride voucher. They also receive a 20% reduction on hot drinks for a period of twelve months with a maximum of two drinks per day.

This was a very quickly devised scheme once we discovered that we would not be getting the full building grant amount that we had requested, as well as being turned down for one grant application to assist with wages. We have set up a facility on a website to allow people to purchase cards online (see the [www.wellingtontrams.org.nz](http://www.wellingtontrams.org.nz) and follow the link) and they can also purchase cards from the Paraparaumu Information Centre in the carpark at Coastlands. To back up these sales efforts, we are in the process of contacting schools in the Kapiti District and offering them a small commission to sell membership cards. So far the reaction has been promising and we are confident that we will reach our targets before the end of the year when the funds are needed. We would also like to urge members to assist with the sale of cards when they are rostered for driving as well as to friends and family - or indeed at other times. Refer sales contacts to the website.

As this funding campaign has already commenced and the new building will not be completed until just before Christmas, we have managed to get the use of a coffee cart to tide us over this period. Wayne and I will undergo training as baristas and will have 'Coffee at the Park' available every day from the end of September. This coincides with the start of daylight saving so hopefully we will see a good number of the weekday visitors to the MacKays entrance of the park calling in.

Planning is well underway for this year's *Anything Vintage Festival*. We have been successful with \$12,000 grant funding so far with another application still in the wind. \$7,000 has come from the Kapiti Coast District Council to cover the provision of music, printing and signage and \$5,000 has come from the Lion Foundation to cover the cost of television advertising.

The layout of this year's event will differ from the past two events and will be larger with the addition of a 'Tinkers and Traders' fair sited in the eastern carpark and adjoining grassy area. A large marquee will be erected on the grass centre of the ring road in front of the horse stables and will house a number of stalls along with an area at one end for live music.

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As with last year's event, this will be a hectic time for everyone and we will need all hands manning the pumps for the three days of the 27th, 28th and 29th of December. Please contact Andrew Surgenor [andrew201@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew201@hotmail.com) if you are able to assist during this period.

## PASSENGER TRAFFIC

Roll on Spring and summer! This last winter has been generally recognised as one of three wettest ever in our region, but we have maintained weekend passenger tram services throughout – thank you to all crews and support. July 2008's 264 paying passenger total was certainly the lowest for any one month in recent years. For the current year (26<sup>th</sup> December 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008, including 3 days of the *Anything Vintage* festival) we carried 15,754 passenger trips, just a bit below the 18,097 for the previous comparable period (2006/07), which is attributed mainly to the 4 days of the first *Anything Vintage* festival. 239 and 159 have been the trams in service.

## AROUND THE PARK AROUND US

In late September work started on moving two mature Pohutukawa trees from the cluster in the carpark (between our workshop and the park gates) around to the clear area in front of the stables, where they will enhance the restored barn as well as providing some shelter for both horses and riders.

Both the Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Cr. Fran Wilde) and the Mayor of Kapiti Coast (Jenny Rowan) have visited our site in recent weeks. We are continuing, along with the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park and other interest groups, to press the case for provision of a railway station at MacKays Crossing as a viable part of the double tracking and electrification extension to Waikanae now under way. This is a particularly important strategic interest for us – as well as providing public transport access, it would help encourage further developments at our end of the park as well as influence our thinking on extending the tram track further west towards the station site, meaning a change to our terminus arrangements.

At the same time, the Regional Council has been asked to survey a route for track extensions south to the Wellington Road (Paekakariki) end of the Park, in conjunction with their thinking for cycleway developments.

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## OTHER ON-SITE DEVELOPMENTS

The main advance here is the new “Servicing and Exhibit Storage” building transforming the whole look of our area. The 8 roller doors are now in place, and as soon as the roof is up we will be able to plan the details of how we make use of this quality secure space. The first use will be for stage 2 of the current buildings project – the re-roofing and upgrading of the present main tram barn (opened in 1974). During this most of the barn contents will be relocated to the new Servicing (2008) and Workshop (1981) buildings, in line with the absolute necessity to keep passenger tram services going and space for maintenance, tower wagons etc. As part of the Servicing Building job, two seemingly small improvements – re-routing the 11kv power lines to the sub-station and the feeder pipes to the sprinkler control point – have helped make for better use of the overall area.

We need 260 complete and out on the road in passenger service! The Board had hoped that this would be achieved by the end of this year, but diversion of effort into the other projects has not made this feasible. However, let’s collectively set a target of having this wonderful tram’s restoration completed in time for the next COTMA & FRONZ Conference which we will be part-hosting in Wellington over Queen’s Birthday weekend in June 2010 – only 20 months away. We can do it – and we do need to grow the in-service fleet as well as clear the way for moving on to the next restoration projects. These include Combo 17, whose fine Conservation Plan by Colin Perfect was an award-winner at the recent COTMA Conference in Launceston, Tasmania.

The Conservation Plan for #17 is a fully-researched, definitive document which is both an interesting read as well as an impressive piece of thorough research about this car and its context. At 77 pages, and profusely illustrated, copies are available for \$50 + \$2 postage & packing, from Henry Brittain at [president@wellingtontrams.org](mailto:president@wellingtontrams.org). (This is also a good place to remind members of the excellent value of the Conservation Plan & Review of Kelburn Grip Car #3 – as thorough and fascinating a piece of transport research as any published worldwide in our sector recently. On sale at the Cable Car Museum for \$50).

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The loop has been re-poled in recent months; Ray Shand will be leading the change of the overhead wire layout and removal of the motley old poles dating from the 1960s soon. Meanwhile, at the terminus Mike Flinn has been re-painting the many steel poles there, and Neil McDonald has been arranging the landscaping of the area between the shop and the road now that the big re-lay of the arrival line track is finished.

## CONGRATULATIONS, HENRY and LORRAINE!

Congratulations and best wishes from all members to President Henry Brittain and Lorraine, who were married in Taranaki on September 19<sup>th</sup> in a quiet but happy wedding. All the very best from everyone.

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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.***

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Compiled by Alan Smith [alanesmith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alanesmith@xtra.co.nz) phone 566-3034.  
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