



# Bay of Islands Vintage Railway

102 Gillies Street, Kawakawa. NZ

*(Risking Nothing But Success)*

November 2011

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## Rotary "Rocks"

Above is a sign board of the many Projects that the BOI Rotary have been involved with through out their various communities . To this they can now add "The Painting of the Heritage Railway Station in Kawakawa."

Nov 5th and 6th saw the Rotarians and some Community members of Kawakawa give the station a new make-over. The old station looks resplendent in her new heritage colors.

The BOI Vintage Railway extends its grateful thanks to BOI Rotary for their magnificently and ongoing support of the railway.

I hope the photos will paint the picture of their wonderful support and work.

Looking Good — actually brilliant  
(Left) The day 2 look



Scaling the Heights (L-R) Frank Leadley, ( Rotary President and BOIVRT Trustee), Peter Hirtzell ( former trustee & Rotarian ) Roger Turnbull ( Rotarian)



Day 1—Cuppa time for some of the "team"



## Annual Gala Dinner & Auction

14th October saw another successful gala held at the wonderful Waitangi Golf Club. A great big thanks goes to all those sponsors of the auction items which was truly appreciated. Also a great big thanks to those who attended and made the night a most enjoyable success. Pete Gentil (above) holds the portrait of Mike Bradshaw which was generously donated back to the Railway by the former owner of the Platform Diner Debbie Stuart and (below) He holds up another great Doddie Hohepa mosaic.



Everything has gone well on the operation side of things. We have done the odd repair, as required, to both steam and diesel engines and one carriage has received a little attention to keep everything running smoothly.

Gabriel, the steam engine, is now fitted with a brick arch in the firebox and the grate is now sloping from back to front. Both of these items help to cut down the smoke and make firing easier. Most of the coal has to be now fed in to the back of the firebox with just a sprinkle up the front now and then. We are expecting a delivery of coal in the next few days and this will keep us going right through the holiday period when we run steam 4 days per week. With the odd steam special booked the best estimate of coal usage, assuming we get the full 28 tonnes, will be around Easter before more coal is needed.

We had planned to take the old “A” car out of service for an upgrade, when the “Closed Open” car went into use, but some delay in getting the roof completed and final painting done means we are looking at nearer to Christmas before it is in use. This coupled with the brakes on the old car getting very close to their “used by date” we decided to take it out earlier and so are now running with just the two carriages. This does no harm at all as passenger numbers are not that high and it means that the shop car is now being used more and thus shop sales are increasing.

The stock in the shop car has been increased with many new lines on sale. These include the popular booklet produced by Grainger Brown on the early days of Taumarere which is turning into a “best seller”. A decision has also been taken to produce, for sale, a booklet on all our engines both past and present. It maybe ready by Christmas but much depends on how much time is needed to research the history and locate photographs; all digital of course. The BBQ’s at Taumarere are complete and are waiting for the first batch of steaks and sausages to christen them.

To house the ever increasing amount of gardening tools we have obtained a largish garden shed thanks to a very generous offer from Malcolm Francis at Mitre 10. All we have to buy is the concrete for the concrete pad. The yard behind the station looks better every week. All rubbish and sundry bits of equipment have been sorted, re-sorted or thrown away and with the repainted station everything is looking good. Work on the station roof is well under way. (see below) The new roof will be fitted with Colour Steel, (In Vintage Colours, of course) so will not need painting for a long time.

A CD of original railway songs is being produced to be sold in the railway carriage shop. We were fortunate in receiving a grant to cover the cost of producing the first batch, and all profits derived from sales will be used to help pay for repairs on Br. 9 Preliminary report on the first ten spans of this bridge show that some work is required but it is not total disaster as some doubting Thomases were confidently predicting. It is a big bridge; some 35 spans in total, with much of it over water. Just replacing the sleepers, all 900 plus, and close on 4000 screw fastenings is a huge consideration. Every fifth sleeper is double length to support the walkway which is also to be completely renewed. We will be able to sell the old sleepers to large garden centres in bulk rather than sell them to individuals which is a real pain.

Despite hundreds of flyers being distributed throughout Kawakawa asking for volunteers to help run the railway we have only had two enquiries and neither has produced a body yet. Why is it that in a town with so many able bodied men and women, unemployed, we have no interest in helping to run a railway that gives so much to our town.

When the railway ceased to operate twelve years ago, for mostly political reasons, the town rocked on its heels. It would indeed be a real disaster if it came to pass again.



Part two of the makeover. Thanks to the Lottery funding of \$29,743 the verandah and canopy is to be totally replaced. ( Left )Day 1 28 November. (Right) Day two



Above - Before; ....Below—After

Mike and Shirley admire the Rotarians at work



Day 2 break (Top clockwise) Johnson Davis, Frank Leadley, Sue Hamnett, Adam Morley, Angela Bowie, Bob Glen, Brian Jesen Robin Cooter, Maggie Cooter, and Daryl Francis.

Rodger Toplis, Jill Toplis and Ninni Smyth attack the back of the station



Meanwhile in the workshop the great work goes on. Here Garth Matterson is not keeping an eye on his helpers Mike Moroney and Grainger Brown but he is actually ensuring that the straight line on the open car is straight. (below) One of the new billboards to be erected. Thank you Carter Holt

**“ Some of the Artistes” at work**

- (from the top)
- 1. Trustee—Viv Campbell
- 2. Rotarian—Angela Bowie
- 3. Community Volunteer— Brian Jesen
- 4. Visiting Rotarians from the U.K. - Maggie and Robin Cooter
- 5. FNDC woops Rotarians - Richard Green and Chris Ellington
- 6. Rotarian Rodger Toplis

“ Did I really paint that upside down??” David Scoffham checks his handy work. Also Bob Glen, Sue Hammet & another most welcome helper. ( name please)

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**Welcome Aboard**—Trevor Bedgood. Trevor is a trainee fireman from Kaikohe and knows a bit about trains as he runs the Railway at the Pioneer Village Kaikohe.

**One Wheel v Steam**  
World Uni-cyclist Champion Chris Huriwai of Kaikohe (left) shows off his exceptional skills supported by two of his fellow members of the one-wheel club



**Gala Dinner & Auction**  
( Top) a contingent from Kawakawa and (above) more of the supporters who contributed to the success of the evening



(above) Shirley Bradshaw, Viv Campbell, Dr Lorna Kaino of Edith Cowan University Western Australia and Sue Hamnet. Dr Kaino attended the November Board meeting of the Trust. ( No it wasn't ladies only night) She is doing a follow up to a paper she did 10 years ago on Kawakawa. Her current Research Project is entitled *How a Hundertwasser toilet block, a steam railway and volunteerism transformed cultural identity in Kawakawa, New Zealand.* . She met with a number of volunteers of the Railway and through out Kawakawa. We look forward to receiving a copy of her paper in due course.



( above) Frank Leadley has his hand on John Keys ball- ( that is Rugby World Cup Ball that the Prime Minister autographed ) which bought some lively bidding. No doubt the AB's victory has already bought added value to the owner. ( below) more goodies for the auction.



**.. And a great big thank you to ;** (above) Mike Moroney of Whitstable, Kent, who is out visiting his daughter ; Trustee Kate Moroney. Mike a retired Civil Engineer/Surveyor is completing the exterior painting of the open Coach. ( below) More helpers from the Kerikeri Chapter. Carol Cleghorn and Val Wistrand are painting the seats for the open new coach. Thank you ladies.



**WANTED**  
Fireman and drivers wanted urgently please for Christmas Holiday period

( below) The BBQ's at Taumarere under construction STOP PRESS now completed. ( below right). Kawakawa's latest attraction. This Hundertwasser inspired 3D mural is the work of the Karetu Primary School and is located on the Grass Hut wall facing the Train-spotter Cafe. Can easily be spotted from the train . Well worth a look.

