

July 2009

Carterton Mail Express

Wairarapa Railway Restoration Society

Carterton's Historic Railway Station

PO Box 202

Carterton



Excerpts from members *Alan & Kay Brabender* as they trip around Europe on their retirement OE

Friday 10 July 2009

A quieter day today. No train riding - first day in Switzerland without being on a train.

We started the day by walking down to the town to do a little shopping before walking to the Rhine Falls where we got "our fill" of trains, by taking a couple of photos of the trains crossing over the Falls bridge.

A walk of over 3kms from the Falls to Schaffhausen took us a little over an hour, as we strolled along side the Rhine River in lovely sunny conditions. We stopped to look at fish and some turtles (in an Aquarium).

It was lunch time when we reached Schaffhausen and as we knew that the only "free toilets" were in McDonalds, the one that controls the purse strings was going to have lunch there. Unfortunately, by the time we had use of the "loos" the queues were rather long, so him who has no name, had to go the Cafe next door. We did have a nicer lunch there, and it was far cheaper.

We had been told that the bus ride back to Neuhausen via the Hospital hill, at Schaffhausen, would be a pleasant way to get back to Neuhausen and that is the way we returned.

At the moment we are relaxing before going to a Restaurant on the banks of the Rhine Falls for dinner.

That will be followed by a Pipe Organ recital in one of the Church's here in Neuhausen. Our hosts son plays the Organ and he has invited us to listen to him practice a hymn or three.

That's our news for now.

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17 July 2009

We are now back in the U.K.

Yesterday, we had a relaxing day in Pavia. The first activity for the day, was to go with Paola and Sandro to a large shopping centre about 23 kms from Pavia, where they wanted to do some grocery shopping and to look for some light fittings.

The shopping centre, itself, was very similar to a Mall in New Zealand. We did enjoy looking at the items on display. The lighting shop was similar to the large hardware stores we see in New Zealand. They did have some interesting kitchen fixtures on display of a type that we do not see in N.Z. (unfortunately they were far too big to bring home).

Back at Pavia we were given a tour of Giovanni's flat. Sandro has been decorating the inside of the building and has made a lovely job of it. The view from this flat is outstanding.

At 3.30pm, we departed Pavia to make our way to the airport. Time had been allowed for us to have a stop at a beautiful lake at Varese before we moved on to Malpensa Airport (Milan's International Airport).

We had no problems checking in, and the flight departed on time arriving in Bristol 5 mins early, and Joan and Francis were waiting for us. We arrived at their home at midnight.

For those of you who are intested, we flew in an Easyjet Airbus A319/320. Flew at 30,000ft and the speed was 500mph.

We have found out why Easyjet customers do not suffer from DVT. There are very few seats at their departure lounges. 99.5% of us stood waiting for the boarding call. When it was made those who had Speedy Booking tickets (26€ extra) go to the start of the line, families with young children follow, next are the "A" bookings, followed by the "B" group. They then open the gates and everybody runs towards the aeroplane - like sheep going to pasture. They do have both front and rear doors available for boarding.

We were in the "A" group, and raced off to the rear of the plane, and were about the 12th and 13th persons to enter this part of the plane. Getting a seat by the window, three rows from the rear.

When we arrived in Bristol, a similar system takes place, except here you have to climb into buses, and wait for the buses to be loaded (last night there were 3 buses), and then they go in convoy to the terminal. About a km away from the plane.

Apart from that, Easyjet was not a bad way to fly, but we would hate to fly from N.Z. to Australia like this.

The temperature in Italy was 33 degrees and in Bristol it was 16 degrees.

Thursday 23 July 2009

We have had another day of walking around this old village. The weather, at first, was threatening rain, but as the day progressed the weather improved. The sun, at the moment, is shining. The temperature however, didn't get any higher than 19 degrees.

One of our walks today, was along side the Parrett River to a Information Centre that was located on an old

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Railway Station Yard. We did walk over part of the old Railway formation. At the Information Centre, we discovered that some of the area that we had walked through a couple of days ago was the scene of a large fight between King Charles 1 soldiers and Cromwell's Soldiers. The battle took place on the 10th July 1645, and involved over 25,000 men. Now days you would not imagine such a activity to have taken place in such a peaceful location.

During our walks, we are coming across many places like this and it makes us realise how new our country is compared to the U.K. and Europe.

Our lazy period is about to end as we are now approaching weekends that we have got activities planned for.

Wednesday 22 July 2009

Hi Everyone,

We have been rather quiet for the past couple of days, as things here have been rather quiet.

We have done lots of walking, found new lanes to walk around and have met quite a few people on our walks to talk to.

Yesterday as we were coming back from a walk, one lady stopped us and asked us what we thought of the cricket with England winning at Lords - she told us that she had seen us at Church and we were thrilled that she talked to us.

Today, it was raining - again -, and a walk into Langport this morning to post another parcel home, we also paid a visit to the Information Centre. After lunch it was still raining rather hard, we went for a drive to Sherbourne. Went to the Castle Garden Centre - what a great place - pity we have to worry about the weight in our bags. It certainly rained rather hard out there as well. We went through some villages - Highway, Ash and Tintinhull to name a few places.

On our travels we did see a number of houses with thatched roofs.

The temps over the past couple of days have varied between 17 and 18 degrees! We are still wearing a jersey when we go out.

Sorry this isn't very newsey. As this is being typed, the sky has cleared and the sun has been out for the past couple of hours.

TranzMetro's "Good Samaritan"

Tranz Metro

Tuesday June 30th, 2009, stuck at the Wellington Railway Station after a disastrous experience with JetStar in Christchurch and the 'Airport Flyer' at the Wellington Airport, I found myself at a loss as to what to do after missing the last train for the day to Carterton which had left a few minutes before at 6.18pm.

I spoke to a TranzMetro employee on the Wellington platform who informed me that there was no other train to the Wairarapa until the next morning. There was also a man from Masterton who was in the same situation as me. After having heard our story, he suggested that if we were prepared to wait until 9pm when he finished work, he would drive us as far as Carterton. It turned out that he lived in Greytown.

We went to a food outlet at the station for coffee and something to eat. We were only there for half an hour or so when the TranzMetro employee came up and told us that he had just spoken to his Supervisor and explained the situation and what he was going to do for us. The Supervisor approved of his actions.

I would like to put on record my personal thanks for the assistance this 'Good Samaritan' gave both me and the Masterton gentleman. Without his help we were both facing an expensive stay in a motel or a very cold night on a hard railway seat.

It is great to know that there are still some fantastic, helpful people in New Zealand who are prepared to go 'the second mile.'

This story goes to show just how helpful TranzMetro staff are, be it on the platform or on the trains.

KiwiRail Passenger Group General Manager, Ross Hayward, says "the response of the staff member and his supervisor was heartening and an example of outstanding customer service. At times, particularly later in the evening, working on the station platform can be challenging. People who miss trains or have to wait for trains seldom react positively. It's great to know that our people rise to the occasion and deliver top class service."

By Rev. Bronwyn Barlass, as told to Rev. Bill Ingley



FRONZ Conference, Christchurch 2009

During Labour Weekend, I attended this years Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand (FRONZ) Annual Conference in Christchurch. It was a worthwhile experience which let me create friendships with other young railway enthusiasts from other FRONZ Member groups.

Presentations ranged from "Rail Safety and Overview of Risk Management" (presented NZTA Rail team) to "Rail and Tourism" to "Recruitment and retention of Young Volunteers" to "Pictorial Parade of Achievements".

Key note speech was made by Former NZRC and Ontrack Chairman Cameron Moore, he thanked the rail heritage movement for their efforts in making the NIMT Centennial really worthwhile and challenged us to work together for 150th of Rail in New Zealand in 2013.

Field trips included Mainline Steam Christchurch, WekaPass Railway, Steam Scene and Ferrymead Heritage Park.

FRONZ Conference 2010 is to be held Queen's Birthday Weekend in Palmerston North hosted by Fielding and District Steam Rail Inc

By Iain Alisdair Palmer



George King from Oamaru during his presentation flanked by Scott McIntyre, Blenheim and Iain Alisdair Palmer, Carterton
Photo: FRONZ Journal #77 July 2009, DLA Turner



FRONZ Train at Weka Pass Railway during Friday's Fieldtrip 29th May 2009
Photo: Iain Alisdair Palmer

In Station and on the Platform

- An inventory or stocktake has been started to replace the current one dating from 2002. This is a long process which is being helped with the use of Microsoft Access Database software to record each item
- Woodshed has been emptied and cleaned, allowing more wood (and coal) to be stored
- Display for WBS Model Train Show being actively worked on, taking over just about the whole Ops room

Workshop and Yard

- Work on our motor trolley is progressing with framing timber now being the area of attention
- One of three long wooden platform seats ex Masterton have been removed from storage and is being elevated for placing onto the platform
- New station museum sign for Belvedere Road, design has been completed, funding and sponsorship being sought

AGM

The 19th Annual General Meeting of the Wairarapa Railway Restoration Society Inc. is to be held on Sunday 30th August 2009 at 2pm (1400 hrs) in the church lounge of the Carterton Baptist Church, Broadway Street.

Guest Speaker:

Richard Clark; Film Editor, Photographer & Writer.

Richard is a seasoned traveller; including spending some 20 years in the USA his speech will include an audio/visual presentation.

All welcome.

Refreshments provided

For further information please contact
Ken O'Reilly



DVD/Video Library New Titles

- ⇒ London Underground
- ⇒ Rails through Christchurch
- ⇒ NZ Rail Scene #59

WBS Model Train Show

Once again we are holding a trade stand at Masterton Model Rail Show this year sponsored by WBS.

Help will be required on three days

- ⇒ Friday 7th August, Setup from 3pm
- ⇒ Saturday 8th August,
- ⇒ Sunday 9th August, including pack down and return to display Carterton

DVD / Video Library

The Group has been fortunate in having had a fairly large quantity of DVD's and video tapes donated to it. While most are on New Zealand Rail, i.e. 'NZ Rail Scene' & 'NZ Rail Documentary Series,' there are also many miscellaneous New Zealand Rail titles, as well as some excellent titles from overseas.

PLEASE NOTE: if any Member would like to 'rent' a title, please see either Bill Ingley or Kath O'Reilly - Sunday's only! As most of these DVD's/videos have been donated, it is very important that we look after them; hence please follow the following protocol:

All titles must be signed out by either Bill Ingley or Kath O'Reilly. Returns must be returned to Bill or Kath - on Sunday's only so the titles can be signed back in.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN AND SIGN THEM
BACK IN YOURSELF!**

The DVD's/videos can be hired for - \$2 per title, or, \$5 for three titles. Length of hire - 2 weeks.

Since the library was set up we have received quite a few donated video titles. As space is at a premium in the office, please see Bill for the new titles. They will be available for hire within the next couple of weeks.

Required / Wanted

- ⇒ Tablet Terminal Switch-out box
- ⇒ Photos of Wairarapa Stations
- ⇒ Information on the Greytown Branch Line

Monthly Members Meetings

Winter timetable (after daylight savings finishes) meetings will be held at 2.30pm pm 3rd Sunday of each month at the museum

When daylight savings returns meetings will be held at 3.30pm

Station Open Hours

Museum

Every Sunday between 11am and 4pm

Other times by appointment



Contact Details

President Ken O'Reilly

Secretary: Kath O'Reilly

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Vice-President: Vacant

Phone:

Email:

Treasurer: Philip Vallance

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Website

<http://www.CartertonRailwayMuseum.org.nz>

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ Group Day Trip
 - ⇒ Date and Location TBC
- ⇒ AGM
 - ⇒ Carterton Baptist Church Hall
 - ⇒ Sunday 30th August 2009
- ⇒ WBS Model Train Show
 - ⇒ 8th and 9th August 2009
 - ⇒ Masterton Town Hall
- ⇒ Daffodil Day 2009
 - ⇒ 13th September
 - ⇒ No Steam Train (again!) this year

Ticket Office

Open for selected south bound trains only

Ticket service provided by Travel Smart Wairarapa

Weekdays

5.45 am to 7.10 am

10.25 am until 10.40 am

3.40 pm until 4 pm

Sunday

5 pm until 5.16 pm

Daffodil Day Sunday 13 September 2009

Due to Circumstances beyond our control there will be **NO** Steam Train for Daffodil Day 2009. This is a big disappointment for our group as it is one of our major fund raising days of the year. Let's hope it will return next year.



DC's 4231 and 4156 with 10 total Wairarapa Goods train 645 at Masterton, Friday 3rd July 2009

Photo: Iain Alisdair Palmer



Fresh from Hutt Workshops, DC4104 and sister DC seen after arrival at Masterton from Upper Hutt with Wairarapa Connection Service 1616, Monday 1st June 2009

Photo Iain Alisdair Palmer

The Views expressed in 'Carterton Mail Express' newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Wairarapa Railway Restoration Society Inc

Members: Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand (FRONZ), Wairarapa Heritage Association

Acknowledges the support of:



Carterton District Council



Rail Heritage Trust
of New Zealand