

March 2009

# Carterton Mail Express

Wairarapa Railway Restoration Society

Carterton's Historic Railway Station

PO Box 202

Carterton



## Waingawa Railway Station

Waingawa was a switch-out or part-time station located on Waingawa Road (between Normans Ave and Norfolk Road). It was only a small station with two rooms. The station opened for traffic in 1921.

The main traffic through the station was product from the local freezing works, which closed 1980's, and livestock stock sales yards.

Passenger traffic finished in late 1980's. With the last station-agent leaving in early 1980's.

In 1991 the Station building was saved from demolition by WRRS and moved to the Carterton Railway Yard.



Waingawa Station about 1965, the inscription to the right of the name board indicates the station was painted in May 1962  
Photo: NZR Publicity



Waingawa Station Building at Carterton Yard, seen here after a repaint  
Photo Iain Alisdair Palmer, December 2008

Since its arrival at Carterton in 1991 it has been a victim of an arson damaging wall lining in the operations room and smoke damage in the waiting room.

A few railway historical items still exist at Waingawa; a row of railway iron used for overhead communication lines, a pair of stock yard loading ramps and a very low platform.

Today freight services carry logs and other wood products from Waingawa. JNL have a private siding just off the north end of the yard.

There is the rumor of milk also being carried by rail from Waingawa for Fonterra.

## Wellington Regional Rail Project

The Wellington Regional Rail Project, has really kicked off with a bang.

This project involves;

- ⇒ Adding a new bi-directional track through the Wellington Railway Yard
- ⇒ Extending the electrification and double track to Waikanae
- ⇒ Upgrading the Johnsonville Branch Line
  - ⇒ Lowering seven tunnels
  - ⇒ Lengthen three crossing loops
- ⇒ Upgrading the electrification overhead power supply
- ⇒ Upgrading the ageing signalling system
- ⇒ Upgrading platform and station facilities

Sunday 28th December 2008 marked the noticeable start of the project work, the closing of the Johnsonville Branch Line until early February to enable major tunnel and track work to be completed.

Work on the double track to Waikanae has also seen formation works begin along SH1 just north of McKays Crossing.



Above; Inside the fourth tunnel (Lizard) on the Johnsonville Line during the 'Walk the Line' open evening



Top Right; Ngaio loop and Wellington bound platform extension, the old platform ended approximately at the end of the orange barrier fencing on the platform and the old loop at the overhead support pole. Photo taken from Wellington bound service

Right: Cutting at Wadestown to create room for the extended crossing loop. Photo taken from wellington bound service



## Workshop and Yard

- ONTRACK contractors sprayed the yard during November (Big Thank You)
- La Highsider and U Flatdeck wagons have been repainted and just require there numbers restored. The U Flatdeck will have some new ends created as resources allow
- During November Waingawa Station was painted in colour's closely matching Carterton Station
- Work on the T class cattle wagon started, with all the old boards removed and chopped up for firewood. The old timber floor has also been removed along with healthy amounts of compost



## In Station

- Installing floor plugs to drinks fridge and coffee machine in lobby removing the need for extension cables making the area much cleaner and safer to the traveling public
- Re-wired the power supplies to the tablet transformers and display lighting to enable better control and power savings
- Shelving for railway lights display has been parachuted, this will be installed during the winter months
- A new second hand Windows XP computer with a 17" screen has been donated by a couple of members. This will be a big help to the archive ladies who for years have been battling away with a Windows 98 Pentium two computer and a small 15" screen
- Two Florescent lights are been installed in the Operations Room for general lighting, this should improve the quality of the lighting in this room
- The old Carterton Telephone Line Fuse's have been found and reinstalled in operations room, this display also includes the telephone line cut switches





DC Trio 4634+4156+4476 lead Wairarapa Connection Service 1612 into Masterton, Friday 27th February 2009

Photo Iain Alisdair Palmer

## President's Ponder

Welcome to my March ponder,

In February & March 2009 our group lost three long time members with the untimely passing of Bob Kerr, John Miller & Bill Meyrick. We have lost many years of experience with these members. To all the families we extend our sympathies, our thoughts are with you all in the celebration of their lives.

2009 has got away to a good start with many advances at our precinct. Painting of the Waingawa Station was completed. The building will eventually be relocated to the grassed area (old stockyards) placed on a platform with track being laid and connected to our yard track.

In February several members visited our stored TR724 giving it a general inspection and service check. We can report that all is well with our "Bumble Bee" coloured Tr. The program of bringing the Tr to Carterton is very important, but we do need a secure building first. All the help we can muster to complete this will be appreciated.

Kath & I donated loco plate Dsc 434 to our group's museum. The group was given the opportunity to purchase two plates Tr 151 from the same contact as the Dsc 434 plate, the two plates now form part of the museum's display. We are led to believe that Tr 151 is owned by Mainline Steam at Plimmerton.

Our "T" wagon has been undergoing major demolition & restoration over the last few weekends. It is now almost ready to have the new timber fitted of which about 80% will be replaced.

The platform side of our station building has had a lick of paint on the doors & window surrounds. This has been part of a program to lift the buildings overall appearance but still maintain its 1920/30's colour scheme.

Woodside Goodshed: Further progress has been made with a letter to the Rail Heritage Trust & ONTRACK. The group is considering employing a Professional Project Manager to oversee the relocation & restoration with an extension of the building. Funding is being sought for this stage of the project.

Ken O'Reilly

## Required

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

## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ Be My Guest Promotion
  - ⇒ Sunday 29th March
- ⇒ FRONZ Conference 2009
  - ⇒ Queens Birthday Weekend
  - ⇒ Christchurch
- ⇒ Group Trip
- ⇒ Mid-Christmas Dinner (members only)
- ⇒ Model Wai
  - ⇒ August
  - ⇒ Masterton Town Hall
- ⇒ Daffodil Day 2009

## Station Open Hours

### Museum

Every Sunday between 11am and 4pm

Other times by appointment



### 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

## Contact Details

**President** Ken O'Reilly

**Secretary:** Kath O'Reilly

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### Vice-President

Vacant

Phone:

### Treasurer

Philip Vallance

Phone: (06) 378 6268

### Website

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

## *"Be My Guest"*

Sunday 29 March 2009 will be "Be My Guest" day at participating Museums in the Wairarapa.

The Carterton Railway Museum will be part of the program which is being promoted by Destination Wairarapa with Radio, Newspaper & Flyer advertising in both Wairarapa & the Wellington areas.

***Entry to the museums will be FREE for the day which starts at 10 am – 4 pm.***

This is a prime opportunity for members to promote our Award Winning Historic Railway Station & Museum to family & friends who we hope will tell their families & friends to visit our museum if not on the 29<sup>th</sup> at another time.

The visitors are being asked to visit the museums each hour where a 15 – 20 minute talk about the attraction will be given.

**Can you assist during the day? If so please contact Kath or Ken with the time you are available.**



Aerial photo of Carterton's Railway Station & yard taken around 1963/64. Top centre right is the station's Old Stock Yards, to left of centre is the Gas Works. Bottom left is the Wright Stephenson's building removed in 2007/08.  
Photo: Wairarapa Railway Restoration Society's Collection



DC4409 leads Standard Railcar RM31 home to Pahiatua from Fielding via Wellington, Sunday 25th January 2009  
Photo Rev Bill Ingley

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

