



Newsletter

March 2022

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022.

I am not quite sure how I was volunteered to do this, but as I have been submitting information to the FRONZ monthly journal for a while, I guess that I should not be surprised that I am doing this as well.

For those of you that get the FRONZ journal, some of what appears in these newsletters will be a copy of what appears there. You may have noticed that I have not put anything in the last two FRONZ newsletters – I can only put it down to various things that were happening during that time.

A Place of Interest?

Like many of the FRONZ member organisations, GCVR likes to be a “place of interest”, but not when it comes to Covid. We were only told 8 days after the excursion that a passenger on the 30th January excursion had tested positive for Covid. All of the crew were subsequently tested and all returned negative results, no doubt helped by the fact that they were all wearing masks while on board the train, at the Gisborne Railway Station and a lot of the time while out in the open at Muriwai.

However, being a “Covid place of interest” and the possible negative impression that it could have formed in the minds of some of our future passengers, we decided to cancel the 20th February excursion.

Bearing in mind the current upsurge in positive Covid cases, following a discussion with Turanga Health, the 20th March excursion was also cancelled, as it was felt that it would be more beneficial for the whole community to not interrupt the RAT distribution (see below) for the day. Turanga Health has made a very welcome donation to GCVR to not operate on that day.

The hope is that Tairāwhiti will have passed the peak Covid infection rate before the end of March and by the time of our next excursion (10th April), we will be at a low risk level.

Gisborne RAT Collection

Gisborne Railway Station has taken on a new function as a Covid RAT collection centre.

Their vehicle exit plan included driving across all of the railway tracks to exit the station area by passing through the current truck parking area.

Fortunately the traffic management organiser appreciated our concerns and quickly re-routed their exit, so that vehicles only cross one track instead of driving across the whole shunting yard. We have laid some gravel where the vehicles are crossing the track to protect the track.



Figure 1: Vehicles heading away from the RAT collection point



Figure 2: Vehicles doing "the loop" leaving the RAT collection point

Wa165 is scheduled to haul the rest of our excursions this season – hopefully fire restrictions, Covid and any other unexpected problems will enable that to happen. See our website www.gcvr.org.nz for more details.

Landrover Invasion

We had a very welcome visit from the “Land Rover Series 1 Enthusiasts Group”, who arrived in 14 Landrovers.

They were passing through Gisborne as part of a tour of the region and had asked if it would be possible to have a look at Wa165. Just after we had pulled it out of the shed (using DSC2759), the rain started!



Figure 3: A line-up of Series 1 Landrovers (around 1948 vintage).



Figure 4: Not raining yet!

Nevertheless, the club members were very happy to get the chance to have a look at our operation. In response to many questions, Joe Campbell gave them an impromptu run-down on the restoration of Wa165 and Geoff Joyce detailed some of the history of the GCVR.

Serious Work In Progress

Over the last few weeks, Claire Kizlink has been a familiar face around the workshops.



A very talented artist and painter, she set herself the task of painting the steam pump and compressor area of Wa165. The result is amazing.

One person, when shown the result of her work, thought that it was a photograph, when in actual fact he was being shown a photograph of her painting!

Shown here, she is working on her next idea.

Snippets

It appears that the NZMCA campground area between the Captain Cook Motel and Woody Woodpecker is going ahead – apparently it will be in place before (this) Christmas.

That's it for this month!
Graeme Scott