



Newsletter November 2022

THE BIG NEWS

of the month is that Theo (aka Theodore Drager) is our Newest, Youngest and Most Recently Qualified Steam Engine Driver!!!



In technical terms, Theo has passed “unit standard 11158 - drive and manoeuvre a steam powered rail vehicle”.

Phil Wagener (aka Teapot) came down from Glenbrook and examined Theo driving the NZ Cadillac/public excursion on 6th November.

As expected, Theo passed with “flying” colours!

This photo – Wa165 cooling down at the end of the excursion.

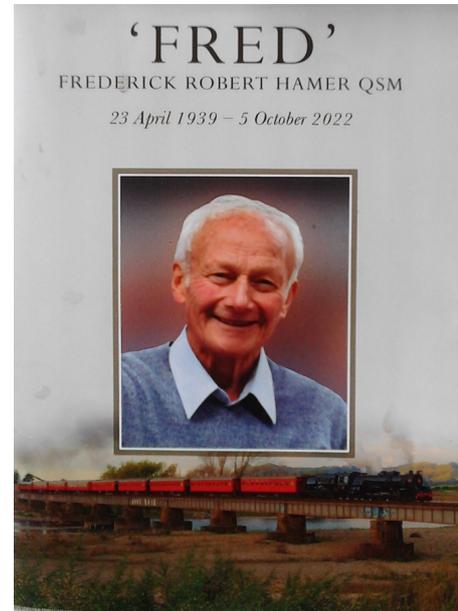
Left: Teapot (examiner)

Centre: Theo (newly qualified driver)

Right: Denis Mansell (fireman)



At his presentation, Theo paid tribute to the help given to him by Danny Greene and the late Fred Hamer.



I think that the picture says it all!

Excursions



As already noted, the excursion on 6th November was part NZ Cadillac Club charter and part public.

The train was reversed to the loading point opposite the Senator Motor Inn to enable the NZ Cadillac Club members who were staying in the area to board.

Being mechanically minded and interested in “older” vehicles, many of the NZ Cadillac Club members were very interested in the operation of Wa165 and the work of

GCVR in general. A few Cadillacs were spotted in and around the Pacific Harbour Motor Inn which is next to the Senator Motor Inn (see below)!

The train then proceeded to the Gisborne Railway Station and acted like a proper passenger train by stopping at an “intermediate” station to take on more passengers!



Some of the Cadillacs spotted in and around the Pacific Harbour Motor Inn.

Cruise Ship Excursions:

At the last count, we appear to have twelve confirmed cruise ship excursions. The first “one” is actually two Westerdam cruises on the same day (Thursday 17th November), departing at 9am and then again at 12:45pm.



Eastland Port have been making steps for the cruise ship passengers to use. These replace the original idea of using ramps.

The steps are lightweight (each step can be carried by one person) and are easier to store than the originally proposed ramps.

The first set have been checked against various passenger carriages and three sets will be available before the first cruise ship excursion.

The handrail is still to be fitted.

The latest details of our planned excursions are available on our website at www.gcvr.org.nz/bookings/

Workshop Catch-up

The usual in-season maintenance work has been continuing.

Unfortunately much of the routine work on the steam engine such as cleaning the residual ash out of the fire-box and smoke-box and emptying the boiler, is being left to a very small number of the same people. If you or anyone you know can help with these essential tasks, please talk to Joe.

At times there is also a requirement to fill the boiler with water and heat it up the day before an excursion – help with this task would also be useful.

Wa165 is due for an in-steam boiler inspection this month. Due to the other commitments that the inspector has, this is planned to be carried out after the second of the 2 Westerdam cruises on 17th November, meaning that a busy day will be even busier.



The major work on the brakes of DSC2759 that has been detailed in past newsletters, has been completed.

DSC2759 made an appearance outside again (pushing the steam loco and the service wagon ahead of it) before going for a test run.

Other Workshop Activity

Railway Jiggers & Hi-Rail Truck.

Unfortunately the hi-rail truck has been back to have more work done on it. Although it was able to be used for the track inspection at Labour Weekend, there were still problems with the replacement engine. However, it has been returned again with the cylinder compression figures looking better.

Meanwhile work has continued on improving the engines and controls of the motorised jiggers.

Off-Site Work



The ring clamps for the wooden bridges (as detailed in a previous newsletter) have arrived.

We are now waiting for some good weather to combine with a low tide at a time convenient to us to get underneath the appropriate bridges and fit them – without getting our feet too wet or stuck in the mud underneath the bridges!

Fund Raising

Any ideas to Sally please, no matter how off-beat they may seem!

A busy time coming up, so I will get this newsletter out early.

Remember, please help in any way that you can during this operating season and if you know anybody who may be interested in helping, please talk them into coming down for a look.

If you have anything to put in the next newsletter, please let me know. Any ideas welcome.
Send emails to gcvr.newsletter@gmail.com

Graeme Scott

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