



# Picton Rail & Sail<sup>1</sup> on the Picton Foreshore



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## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

(editor Brian Morris)



### Farewell, 2020!

The most significant event of 2020 (after Covid and the disruption it caused!) was the retirement of our President Graham Low and his wife Pauline (Treasurer) prior to their move to Christchurch. They were presented with a farewell card by Marlene Schroder (Secretary) and a Certificate of Honorary Life Membership by Brian Henstock (Vice-President).

Graham left big boots to fill and Bob Metcalf has stepped up as our new President (a list of Committee members and their contacts is at the end of this newsletter). New Committee members are: second VP Carol Morris; Treasurer John Aldridge; Rosterer Quentin Doig; Documentation Deb Parker; Brian Morris Newsletter Editor (co-opted).



The retiring office-holders were thanked with a generous round of applause to show our appreciation of all their hard work.



<sup>1</sup> Picton Society of Model Engineers Incorporated

# Welcome to 2021 and our summer activity



Kerry Johnson led a working bee team to drain and clean the pool which is now looking sparkling and busy these days. He has also repaired yachts which have suffered damage at the hands of over-enthusiastic yachties!

With regard to the trains, all mechanical devices suffer wear and tear over time.

*Charlotte* was lifted off the rails with the help of our new hoist (capable of lifting 1000kg). She is a lightweight at 80kg, and having just completed an overhaul in Bob's workshop, she's back on the rails in place of *Endeavour*, which now heads to the workshop for an overhaul and investigation into its ongoing power problems. A new rheostat has been installed, and the batteries seem to be working okay, so watch this space.



We hope that *Resolution* will be steaming into the station later this year! One significant change is that all trains are redirected to run clockwise. This evens up the wear and tear on the wheel flanges.

*Advice to all drivers from Bob: If an engine starts to run slowly, put it on charge for ten minutes or so, until the voltage returns to 25 volts (without the charger connected).*

Les Remnant completed his long and successful stint as Rosterer by producing a comprehensive summer roster. There are still a few gaps, so please have a look at the latest version (posted on the wall inside the station) and see if you can fill the remaining empty shifts. Quentin Doig, the new Rosterer, will soon be contacting us all to fill shifts for February through to May.

And a reminder: please check that you have paid your 2020/21 membership fee of \$5. John Aldridge posts up-to-date receipt information right above the roster on the wall inside the station.

# Future focus is people! He tangata, he tangata!



Our focus this year (aside from keeping the trains running!) is to increase our membership - preferably with some younger members! Please encourage people to join us. We know many of you have great ideas about promotion and recruitment, so please contact the editor Brian Morris (021 192 2936) or Brian Henstock (021 237 2247), to share these with them.

**A non-for-profit organisation's work is never done ...**

*All members - current and new - are urged to put their hands up*

*(1) to help and/or replace Kerry with pump, pool and yachts;*

*(2) to be that person who looks after the model train set; and*

*(3) to work with Bob on maintaining the trains, large and small.*

*Guidance and support are available for all three jobs, and it would be great to have several people for each.*

*Those who know secondary school students - how about encouraging these young folk to do some volunteer work with us. It will teach them useful skills (engineering; customer service; cash handling). Their involvement will look great on their CVs, along with a Certificate and references, and they will be making their names and faces known to potential employers, all while helping our Society and community.*

*Volunteer Marlborough advises us that 93% of employers prefer applicants who have worked in the community in some way, because it shows they have commitment, confidence and have gained work-ready skills. Let's help them to achieve this!*

**Many thanks to Marlene and the great work she has done**

Marlene, our long-serving, much valued Secretary, has resigned her role to devote more time and energy to health and family.

Fortunately she intends to remain as a member!

**And so, a warm welcome to anyone who is interested in taking on the Secretarial role on the Committee ...** Please contact Bob Metcalf (027 733 1355) or Carol Morris (021 736 3399) to express your interest! Full guidance and support is there for you.

## Message from the President

The old year ended, and the new year started, with my hands greasy from train maintenance, but passengers telling us how much they enjoy our trains and yachts, and the great memories they take home, makes it all worthwhile. The Council also values the “buzz” we create on the foreshore. There are plans to redevelop th foreshore in the near future, and while the plans don't seem to affect us, we'll keep a close eye on them and keep you updated. Members should head to the Picton Library to see what's proposed and have a say - the Council wants our feedback.

Speaking of feedback, all members are welcome to attend Committee meetings, and to contribute to discussions (at the discretion of the Chair). Agendas and minutes are posted inside the station, so you will always know what's happening.

*Next meeting is Thursday 21 January 2021, at 7pm, at the station.*

## From the Editor

It's an honour to prepare the Society's newsletter, and having written many newsletters in my working life, I consider this a labour of love. I heartily endorse all the content above, and welcome readers to submit their thoughts and any humorous or serious material for us all to enjoy in subsequent newsletters.

Below is a piece about a couple of famous train robbers; we are lucky that we don't have any bandits stopping *our* trains in their tracks! Most danger comes from stray rocks, fallen branches and rubbish clutter our track and pool. Please remove debris whenever you see it!

*Butch Cassidy (Robert LeRoy Parker) and The Sundance Kid (Harry Alonzo Longabaugh) were bandits who held up trains crossing America in the 'wild west' days in the 1890s. They took passengers' valuables, as well any cargo they could carry, then escaped on horseback to their hideout cave known as The-Hole-In-The-Wall. Question: what happened to them? Answers please to the Editor, to be published in our March 2021 newsletter.*

## Society contacts

|           |                              |                 |                               |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| President | Bob Metcalf<br>027 733 1355  | Vice Presidents | Brian Henstock<br>021 237 224 | Carol Morris<br>021 736 3399 |
| Secretary | TBA                          | Treasurer       | John Aldridge<br>021 162 2074 | Documentation                |
| Roster    | Quentin Doig<br>027 547 9010 | Trainer         | Derek Kirk<br>03 573 5957     | Deb Parker<br>021 953 900    |