



Picton Rail & Sail¹ on the Picton Foreshore railandsailpicton@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER February 2021

Editor Brian Morris 021 192 2936

Recent news

If you've been driving Charlotte, you'll have noticed that she is running very sweetly since her overhaul. But she is still an old lady, and when she begins to fade after a few hours of running, you might need to give her a break, plug in her charger, and wait a few minutes till she's back up to speed. Endeavour, and the five electric motors that run both locomotives, are also old and undergoing overhaul. Patrick Robinson is researching how we can upgrade these over the next year (without breaking the bank - although our bank balance looking pretty healthy these days!)

Thanks to Mark Altoft who planed the wooden runners on the platform, which smooths out the ride into and out of the station. Mark has also volunteered to re-upholster the carriage seating, to smooth our passengers' rides!



Kerry and his crew's hard work on pool, pump and yachts has made sure that they've remained "shipshape" over the summer, in spite of ducks, gulls, vegetation and occasionally littering humans fouling the water. We welcome Ernest Pollard's offer to work with Kerry to keep things going in and around the pool. Of course, others are most welcome to "jump in" to join that crew!

The perfect way to handle a yacht - a firm grip on the bottom!

Treasurer John Aldridge has simplified the system for cashing up at day's end - the new procedure is posted on the wall by the cash drawer. A reminder - any cash in the Donation bottles tied to the yacht stand should be emptied out and put into the locked Donations box on the wall by the model train display cabinet

¹ Picton Society of Model Engineers Incorporated

Speaking of the model trains, their overhaul continues (Bob is waiting for new parts to arrive) and our search for people to take responsibility for maintaining this magnificent display also continues - please volunteer if you're interested in keeping this micro-mini-version of a rail network going!



To ensure that our passengers, crew, equipment, and operations remain safe, we have regular health and safety audits (like WoFs) conducted by MEANZ which then advises WorkSafe that we're good to go (or not). We've succeeded with the latest one, and are awaiting renewed certification. Bob or Brian Henstock are happy to brief people on the process; and to keep COVID at bay, we encourage everyone to continue scanning the QR code at the station

Health and safety alert - NOT the place for rock-climbing!

Deb Parker, John Aldridge and Kerry Johnston are going through the contents of the filing cabinet in the station to make sure that all the documents recording our past and present are in good order. There's many interesting stories, photos and plans coming to light, and we will share these in future newsletters

The shoes of Marlene Schroder, recently-resigned secretary to the Society for many years) still need filling! Training, support and possibly a small honorarium will be provided to that special person who can keep our administrative wheels turning. Please contact Carol Morris or Bob Metcalf if you, or someone you know, would be a great fit

Yachties ahoy! We've started talking about holding our very own America's Cup Regatta, using our pool and yachts (each to be sponsored by a local business, group or individual). Dates under consideration include the first weekend in March, or maybe the end of



June/beginning of July, as part of Picton's Matariki celebrations. We will

need volunteers and lots of supporters to clap, cheer and encourage the little yachts to cross the line (or at the very least, to avoid collisions and capsizing!) Watch this space, and please contact the editor Brian Morris with your thoughts

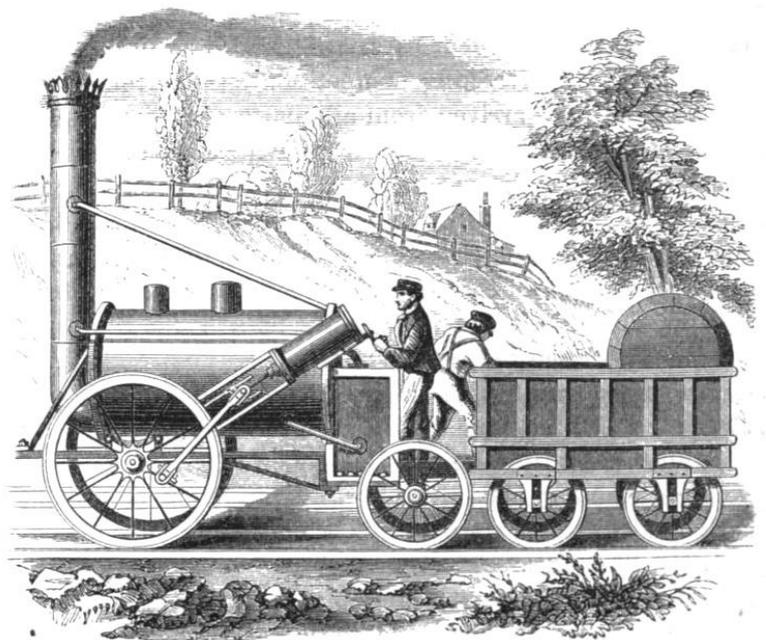
Editor's pick ...

From last month's newsletter: What happened to Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid? They were never captured in America. They lived to a reasonable age for the time and for their "profession" - about 42. Fittingly, they both died in a wild shootout, as they were robbing a silver mine payroll in Bolivia

A bit of history ... In 1804 English engineer Richard Trevithick built a huge 5-ton locomotive to pull wagons of coal and iron over 14km of cast-iron tracks at the Merthyr Tydfil ironworks in Wales. Its top speed was 7 kph. Its huge steam-driven flywheel powered the wheels via cogs and gears. Trevithick developed four locomotives in an effort to win a commercial railway contract, but not one was successful and he died a pauper

By 1829, railway engineering had got a head of steam up, and there was a competition to decide which of three newly-developed steam locomotives should pull passenger carriages and freight wagons over the 56 kms between Liverpool and Manchester. The first engine soon broke down. The second engine's boiler sprang a leak, so the driver put in oatmeal (!) to plug the leak. This quickly turned to porridge and gummed up the works.

Engine #3 set off and successfully pulled the 20 ton train the full distance in two hours. George Stephenson and his son Robert won the £500 prize for the best engine. Their ROCKET locomotive got the contract. However, at the following year's ceremony to open the new line, the Liverpool MP, William Huskisson became so distracted when cutting the ribbon, that he stepped in front of the moving train and was killed! Quicker than voting him out of office, perhaps?

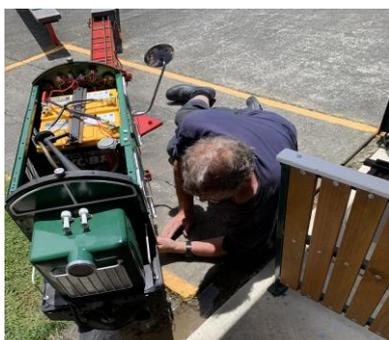




There are some great rail journey documentaries on TV, YouTube, Netflix and Amazon. Check TV listings / TV on Demand, or just do a random search. Knowledgeable and enthusiastic hosts include Michael Portillo; Chris Tarrant; Michael Palin.

There's also a huge range of train-related novels and movies - check out our local library!

- Murder On The Orient Express, Agatha Christie**
- The Taking Of Pelham 123, J Godey**
- The 4.50 From Paddington, Agatha Christie**
- The Sleeping Car Murders, Sebastian Japrisot**
- The Wheel Spins, Ethel White**
- The 39 Steps, John Buchan**
- The Girl On The Train, P Hawkins**



President's call

The year started like this, but thanks to our volunteers' efforts and patience, we've pretty much kept going every day of the summer season - well done us! We've also taken every opportunity to recruit new members "off the platform" and I'm calling those who have filled in joining forms -

stand by training officers! Please print and distribute the attached poster wherever you think they might reach people who'd like to join us

Society contacts

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



GOT AN INTEREST??



in model trains and yachts?

At *Picton Rail & Sail* on the foreshore, we've got the tools



and the



people to teach

you how to use them, if **you** have time & interest to be involved!

Call / text Brian 021 192 2936