

The Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest



August 2018

- The July **Passenger Count** was 327.
- Work continues on painting carriage **A 1514**.
- Remaining **clay** from the big storms several months ago has been cleared from the far end of the line.
- A number of **night runs** were held on Friday 20 July for crew training.
- Work continues on the **CW** track maintenance wagon with tweaks inside the cabin to reduce temperatures when the compressor is operating for extended periods. A Hy-Mac excavator has been donated to the club and its top is being surgically removed from the tracks for mounting on the deck of the CW. This will be adapted and used for digging out drainage ditches and for handling sleepers as we continue to rehabilitate our track.



Ticket Price Changes

The price for tickets on the train have gone up slightly from 1st August – the first increase in over 10 years. Adult return fares are now \$10, Child \$4, Family \$24, preschoolers free.

Yb Ballast Wagon

Refurbishing the wagon has been a big focus this month. After sitting outside in Dunedin's sea air for many years, a thorough evaluation of components has been undertaken as the wagon has been stripped and its parts cleaned. Overall, the body is in reasonable shape for its age and only a few small sections needed replacement of steel or fastenings. To make this easier, the wagon body was lifted off its wheels and placed upside down onto a trolley.

This has given access to the last few frozen brake components and has made cleaning and painting of the underframe and bottom of the body far easier. Leaf springs have been disassembled, cleaned and painted along with a number of brake components. Now that the body is being painted, work on refitting the brake assemblies will commence before the wagon is lowered onto new roller bearing wheelsets.



Taieri Gorge Trip

An enjoyable day out on the Taieri Gorge Railway was had on Saturday 14 July. The train trip was an ideal length, covering varied and spectacular scenery from urban to farmland to barren, rocky cliffsides. We couldn't have had better weather for the journey out to Pukerangi and winding through the Gorge was spectacular in the low winter sun. In addition to the comfortable ride in our big-windowed carriage, on-train highlights included the commentary, the café car providing an excellent range of offerings and the pleasant and professional staff.



A big thanks to Geoff for piloting the bus down to Dunedin and to Harry and Dunedin Railways for arranging the day.

Come along for a Cuppa: Friday 10th of August at The Brydone

Everyone is welcome to attend our informal monthly coffee mornings. Come along for a chat over a cuppa at The Brydone Hotel on the 10th of August at 10:15am. As always, please RSVP to Anthea by the evening of the 8th so that we can give them an idea of our numbers (anthea.oamaru@gmail.com)