

The Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest



April 2018

Running the Railway

- Thanks to many members who helped clear the line of clay following the ex-Cyclone Gita storm. Trains were run that Sunday, although discussion with the council over line rehabilitation and weatherproofing is ongoing.
- The March passenger count was 269.

First Class Seating

The vinyl seats in our open wagon, which had become rather worn and tatty over many years of service, have been replaced with a smart new wooden bench seat built over recent months.



The seat was based on cast metal ends matched to wooden formers and then overlaid with clear pine strips that were formed, stained, varnished and attached with brass screws. The visual effect adds to the experience of traveling on the train and their finish reflects the quality of craftsmanship that was employed in their construction.



The build of our track maintenance wagon continues.

The exterior has been painted in keeping with the heritage of the former FM guards van module housing tools, a workbench, and a diesel-powered air compressor.



The interior of this secure cabin has now been fully cleaned, painted, wired, and equipped with racks holding track tools.

The wagon has already proved its worth by providing a comfortable means for teams traveling out to service the line with any tools needed being at-hand.



In future, an excavator will be installed on the far end of the wagon, which will make drainage ditch clearing and sleeper replacement tasks far easier.

Come along for a Cuppa: 13th of April at The Brydone

All are welcome to attend our informal monthly coffee mornings. Come along for a chat over a cuppa at The Brydone Hotel on the 13th of April at 10:15am. As always, please RSVP to Anthea by the evening of the 12th so that we can give them an idea of our numbers (anthea.oamaru@gmail.com)

End of Summer BBQ – April 21st at the train shed

We will be holding our BBQ to mark the end of the Summer season on Saturday April 21st at 5:00pm inside the train shed. Please bring a salad, side dish or a dessert to share. We will ask for a \$5 per person donation to offset the purchased items - burgers and sausages, buns, soft drinks, etc.