

The Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest



January 2019



Happy New Year! With summer weather arriving at just the right time, a flurry of local, domestic and overseas visitors passing by, and with B10 as an additional draw, we carried **1446 passengers in December**.

Despite higher running costs on steam days, this is a massive financial and PR boost for the club that helps fund our ongoing projects. The corresponding passenger count for last year was 871, so this is a big increase.



A huge **thanks** to the crews and workshop volunteers who make this possible.



Help!

If you get this message in time, there will be a short working bee tomorrow (Wednesday Jan. 2nd) from 10am-12noon to get B10 and the train ready for Thursday's steaming day. Any help from any members is appreciated!

Promotions and Certifications

Congratulations to Allan Killick, who has qualified as a Stationmaster.

Seeing the Light

You may notice the light from B10's headlight looks a little different. It is now an efficient cluster LED 'bulb'.

A new battery and power supply was installed in the Guards Van during its 2018 electrical upgrade, and the train wired along its length for carriage light power and for audio. B10 is now attached to this trainline via a jumper cable.

On a steam loco, electrical power has traditionally been supplied from a steam-powered generator. This uses up steam, which uses up coal – so this seemingly insignificant change will save us money. Plus, B10's generator has been removed, so that's another item that doesn't need to be maintained.

Working on the Railway

Preparing and running the train for the holiday season has been the big focus, but a number of other projects have been progressed:

- A warning horn is now fitted to the Guards Van. This is controlled by the Guard and provides an immediate horn blast if required in an emergency, rather than having to radio the driver for a toot. On 'steam days' it also provides a consistent warning for locals used to listening for an air horn rather than the steam whistle.
- A number of sleepers have been replaced by the clay cliffs, and work continued on barrier arms, the ballast wagon and CW projects.

Come along for a Cuppa : Friday 11th of Jan

All members are welcome to attend our monthly get-together over a coffee.

We will try a different venue to mix things up a little for the new year, and Badger and Mackrel (formerly Bean on Thames) has been proposed for our next coffee morning.

11th of January at 10:15am. As always, please RSVP to Anthea by the evening of the 9th to confirm numbers and location (anthea.oamaru@gmail.com)