

The Oamaru Steam and Rail Digest



March 2019



- Another busy operating month, with the Husky and B10 running trains.
- The February passenger count was 740, which includes a free passenger shuttle on February 16th for the Cheers to Beer and Wine Festival. Last February, we carried just under 500 passengers.



Working on the Railway

- Behind the 'glamour' of running days, track work has been ongoing, with three or four (or more) sleepers being replaced most Saturday mornings, together with checking and tightening track fittings. Concrete sleepers with almost unlimited life are generally being used to replace some very old wooden ones which eventually wear out; and many more have been acquired for installation.
- The drains and ditches out by the clay cliffs have been cleared and enlarged in places. It is hoped this will reduce the impact of big rains bringing stormwater and clay down from the streets and hills above.
- The Yb ballast wagon's leaf springs are being re-assembled after stripping, cleaning and painting. Several leaves were found to be cracked or broken and have been replaced. Work has also continued on re-attaching air brake fittings.
- New 'clear' roofing sections have brightened up Harbourside Station's smoko room and the Stationmaster's room.
- On its last day of steaming for the season, B10's injector decided to give up the ghost. The injector squeezes cold water from the tanks into the hot pressurised boiler, and without it, the loco can't operate. Fortunately, an outfit in Australia has been found who can refurbish our unit for about a tenth of the cost of buying a new one.



Come along for a Cuppa : Friday 8th of March

Our next coffee morning will be on Friday, the 8th March back at "**The Brydone**". Unfortunately Anthea won't be able to attend this one but hopes our members will turn up at the usual time of 10.15 - everyone is welcome, but please contact Anthea before Thursday the 7th so we can reserve space:
anthea.oamaru@gmail.com