

The OETT Telegraph

August
2017



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Editor

Trevor Buchanan

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE OTAGO EXCURSION TRAIN TRUST
WILL BE HELD IN THE MACMILLAN LOUNGE COMMUNITY HOUSE
CNR MORAY PLACE AND GREAT KING STREET DUNEDIN
ON TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting held 28 September 2016.
3. To Receive the Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2017.
4. To receive the Financial Report 2016/2017
together with the Financial Accounts for the Year Ended 30 June 2017.
5. To elect four (4) members to the Executive:
Pat Beman, Trevor Buchanan, John Chapman, John Pritchard, Murray Schofield and R Martin Walton
have been nominated for election to the Executive.
Nominations closed on 25 August 2017.
6. To fix the annual subscription rates.
7. General Business.

Murray Schofield

Secretary to the Trust

Great Letter In

Back in 2009 our family traveled on a Taieri Gorge RR day excursion near Dunedin and greatly enjoyed the trip and the beautiful coastal scenery. One of our photos included one of your good-natured employees in the train car serving champagne to all of your travelers. Please share the photo with that employee and also save a copy for your files. Sincerest appreciation for providing us with such a memorable trip. Randy and Carol, cruise-ship passengers from U.S.A.'



**Sent was this happy photo of a then younger
Volunteer Host - Charlie Gilligan**

08/08/16
Hi Daphne & Team,
It was a memorable day
thanks to you all. Till
next time, hopefully soon
Henri G



Another Thank you to the Team!



Update from our Company

There has been a lot going on at Dunedin Railways at that we'd like to share with you.

Firstly, we suspended the Taieri Gorge daily trips as a result of several large slips over the track caused by the torrential rain we had the weekend in June 2017. We had engineers coming and our track gang was working as fast as they could to get the slips cleared. We were hoping to resume service on Monday 21 August. In the meantime we had trips to Palmerston scheduled for 10th, 13th, and 16th August; and one to Oamaru on 20th August to look forward to. On Saturday 5th August we were offering for the first time a 'High Tea' train! We served High Tea while we travelled at a leisurely pace down towards Port Chalmers and return. We had some beautiful teas on offer with along with plates of delectable morsels to enjoy. What better way to spend a Saturday relaxing with friends. Departure times 10.30am and 2.30pm for a 90 minute trip. These were \$39 for a Classic High Tea, or \$45 to add a glass of Bubbles.

With our Rail Tours to the West Coast and Christchurch South full for September and October we have released the following dates for next year.

- Christchurch South departing 29th April 2018 returning 5th May 2018 and 12th May 2018 returning 18th May 2018. Bookings now open for these.

Positions of Secretary and Treasurer

The Executive is still seeking suitable people for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. If you know anyone who could assist in taking up either of these two positions, please contact David Wood

A Challenge

Have you ever been challenged by a passenger with a **One Million Dollars** cash incentive? Anything for a laugh, which was something everyone in their party thought was funny. So was the cash payment! Look closely.



We are taking expressions of interest for an East Coast trip from Dunedin to Picton departing on 24th May 2018 returning 30th May 2018 and 3rd October 2018 returning 9th October 2018. We are still waiting for KiwiRail approval for these but have had some positive conversations with the hope we'll know by the end of the year.

While we are on the West Coast September 2017 we will be running the Buller Gorge day trip again. Departing from outside Greymouth Railway Station at 9am by coach on the 27th September with a stop at Punakaiki and arriving in Westport at around 11am. Departure from Westport by the Silverfern is at 1pm for the 4¼ hour trip through the Buller Gorge then down to Greymouth. The train is due back into the Greymouth station at 5.15pm. We still have limited seats available for this trip.

We are planning further Rail Tours to the West Coast and Christchurch South for September and October 2018 and will release these when the dates and itineraries are firmed up.

If you would like any further information about any of our trips, you can make any bookings by either calling our office on 03 4774449, by emailing reserve@dunedinrailways.co.nz, online at www.dunedinrailways.co.nz.

This message from the Company has been edited to reflect the time of publication of the Telegraph.

Positions Vacant for 2017 – 2018 Cruise Ship Season

Position Title: Cruise Ship Volunteer Host (Roster) Co-ordinator/Supervisor
Location: Dunedin

Position Title: 2 IC Cruise Ship Volunteer Host Co-ordinator/Supervisor
Location: Dunedin.

Position Title: Editor – OETT Telegraph
Location: Dunedin.

All applications for these positions should be directed to the Chairman, David Wood at 03-4898198 or dwood@vodafone.co.nz



Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Otago Excursion Train Trust

Nominations for positions on the OETT Executive

Hello. My name is Pat Beman.

I started my Railway career as a junior porter in Westport in 1956, more recently I joined the OETT as a member in 1999 and have been part of the executive since Arthur Rockliff signed me on in 2000. I have worked as a contractor to the TGR training and inducting new and existing staff members. Since retiring from that position have taken an active role in assisting Brian in the H&S training of volunteers for the OETT. I am happy to stand again and will assist the OETT in any way I can.

Hello. My name is Trevor Buchanan.

I have been an OETT member & Volunteer Host from 1988 and have been on the Executive since the early 1990's and still willing to be a Volunteer Host. Chairman for 6 years & stood down last year, championed Volunteer Host uniforms, produced Host Handbook & OETT Telegraph. Goal: To have the Trust's Volunteer Hosts continue to be recognised as an elite volunteer organisation & proud to represent the Trust at the 2013 National TrustPower Volunteers Award. In standing again, I undertake to actively continue to represent the Trust members and Trust to the best of my ability.

Hello. My name is John Chapman.

My involvement with the Otago Excursion Train Trust goes back to the founding meeting in April 1978 and earlier when the idea of an Excursion Train was first conceived. I have been a Committee member for that entire period and have served for a couple of terms as the Chairman of the Trust. The TGL daily tourist train was set up whilst I was Chairman. Following the death of George Emerson, I replaced him on the Company Board for a few terms. My main task recently has been revamping of <https://oett.nz> the Trust's website.

Hello. My name is John Pritchard.

I have been a member of the OETT for a number of years, working as a host on the trains. Ive been in two other volunteer organisations and on the committee of a business organisation I now work parttime for Dunedin Railways in the cruise ship season.

Hello. My name is Murray Schofield.

I have been a member of the OETT since 2007. During this time I have volunteered on the train on a small number of occasions as well as serving on the executive since 2008. Most of my time has been spent being a part of the team working between the TGR and the volunteers.

I am the current vice chairman and the acting secretary. I am pleased to offer myself for re-election for a further term and consider my primary purpose in standing again is to promote the volunteer contribution in an ever changing operating environment.

Hello. My name is R. Martin Walton.

My partner Chrissie and I joined the OETT last year and enjoyed our first season as volunteers on the TGR. We were pleased to be able to contribute to enhancing the reputation of the railway as a cruise ship holiday excursion option. We are very supportive of the initiatives shown by the OETT, the TGR and Dunedin Railways and recognize their future success is wholly dependent on ensuring the customers have an experience that exceeds expectations. I believe my enthusiasm and background will enable me to make a positive contribution to the future of the OETT and in turn the TGR and Dunedin Railways.

Volunteer Hosts

The Availability Sheets have been sent out, and are slowly trickling back in. Already there are two that have been returned without a name or phone numbers, so it does make it difficult to know who you are/were. The first train on the sheet in red is the Tunnel Exercise. You may not realise it, but this is an exercise that all Volunteer Hosts are to attend as part of their Health & Safety requirements. It is on Election Day, but we are assured that the train will be back in Dunedin around lunchtime, giving you the afternoon to vote.

Please Note: The Tunnel Exercise Train is now leaving at the earlier time of 8.00 am from the Dunedin Railway Station, and 8.15 am from Wingatui.



CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The 2016-2017 year has seen some changes, one of which happened at the conclusion of the 2016 Annual General meeting – after serving as Chairman for many years, Trevor Buchanan stood down from this position and I was elected the Chairman of the Trust.

It has been a busy year – the Memorandum of Co-operation with the Taieri Gorge Railway was signed and came into force at the beginning of the last cruise ship season. However, some difficulties still exist and there is to be a meeting between the TGR Board and Senior Management and OETT Executive on Wednesday 6th September, where the intention is to discuss the forth coming cruise ship season and to put into operation an agreement that is satisfactory to all parties.

A further report will be made available to the Annual General Meeting being held on Tuesday 26th September 2017. Deputy Chairman Murray Schofield and I have met with Management of Taieri Gorge Railway during the year to discuss mutual problems.

I have also served as one of your Directors on the Taieri Gorge Railway and have attended all meetings and reported directly to the Trust Executive on matters that are of concern to the Trust. The contribution of your other Director Graeme Smart has been well received by the TGR Board. As you are all well aware, the track in the Gorge has been severely damaged in the July storm and it is still unknown as to when the track will reopen. Since the end of the financial year we have received advice from Dunedin City Holdings that a revision of the TGR Constitution was under way and this matter is still under action.

Brian Crabbe's work as Director of Training has been very much appreciated and his knowledge of Health & Safety and Sale of Liquor Act is incredible. Brian is also the OETT representative on the TGR Local Health & Safety Committee and his contribution has been greatly appreciated. Training for the coming season will commence shortly and there is a Tunnel Exercise set down for Saturday 23rd September and would all volunteers please note this date. Thank you Brian for all your hard work in training the volunteers.

The finances of the Trust are in a sound position and a financial report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. Various projects are still being discussed with the TGR but as yet no firm proposals are in place.

I would like to thank members of the Executive for their support and dedication to work achieved over this year which includes Murray Schofield, Trevor Buchanan, John Chapman (also for his work with the Website) Brian Crabbe, Diane Nader, Pat Beman and Daphne Buchanan.

Daphne Buchanan deserves a huge vote of thanks for her work as Volunteer Host Coordinator.

To all our volunteers many thanks for all the hours that you have put in as Volunteers on Cruise Ships – your contribution is greatly appreciated by the Company.

Thank you to those who will be present at this year's Annual General Meeting – your interest in the Trust is appreciated

David Wood

Chairman, Otago Excursion Train Trust

Passing

It is regret I pass on the passing of long time Trust member, Jim Galog of Balclutha.

Jim was a United States national who came to New Zealand with his wife, a Scottish lass whose sister came with her Scots husband to settle in Balclutha, all living in the same neighbourhood.

Those who attended Trust's AGM's may not have recognised Jim, but he always attended, generally with either or both sons right up to the 2016 AGM, although his health was deteriorating.

Jim was a quiet man, and he travelled on many of the Trust's early trips, and had a long interest in the Trust and railways. Members of the Trust such as Jim are more than those who are Volunteer Hosts, and we should not forget those who have supported the Trust over many years.

Contributions

Every member of the OETT has the right to contribute to your Telegraph.

Send your contribution for consideration for the next Telegraph to the e mail address of

oett@vodafone.co.nz *Trevor Buchanan*

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The statements contained therein are not necessarily those of the Trust.

