

ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2012

# RAILWAY CRAFTSMEN NEWS

Newsletter of the Railway Craftsmen's Association  
of New Zealand

## 2012 AGM REPORT

Another excellent AGM weekend was held at the Trentham Masonic Centre on the 13th of October 2012. After a social gathering at the Upper Hutt Cossie Club the night before, the brethren met for a lunch at the Masonic Centre followed by the AGM meeting. Some 22 brethren were at the AGM. Several rule changes were adopted by the members and discussions took place regarding the future of the Association. See the AGM minutes summary later in this magazine for further details. After the AGM a ceremonial working was conducted on Bro. James Mist, a member of NZ Pacific lodge, by the Railway Craftsmen brethren. Our grateful thanks to WBro Tom Greaves and the brethren of Trentham Lodge for hosting the Railway Craftsmen for the weekend.

### Inside this issue:

2012 AGM Report	1
Picton Meeting Details	2
AGM Minutes Summary	3
The Station Bell	4
KiwiRail Express	5-6
RCA Aprons	7
Merchandise Details	7
Merchandise Order	7
RCA Contacts	8
Dues Payment Form	8



*Merry  
Christmas*

*Wishing all members a very Merry Xmas and all the best for 2013—From Tony Rich (Chairman) and Adrian Douglas (Secretary/Treasurer)*

# SECOND DEGREE WORKING - LODGE WAITOHI No.111 PICTON - SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2013

This will be another great weekend and an opportunity to catch up with your fellow Railway Craftsmen Brethren. We look forward to a strong attendance at this meeting in line with the strong support for it shown at the 2012 AGM. The schedule will be as follows:

## Saturday 16 March

8:25am Kaitaki Departs Wellington (check in 45 minutes prior)  
2:30pm Lodge Waitohi Tyles  
2:45pm Visitors Received  
3:00pm 2nd Degree Ceremony performed by Railway Craftsmen's Association brethren  
4:30pm Toasts at the Lodge Room (collection to be taken to cover costs)  
6:00pm Dinner (venue/cost TBA)

## Sunday 17 March

10.00am BBQ Brunch Arranged (Marlin Motel)  
1:10pm Kaitaki Departs Picton (check in 45 minutes prior)

Ladies are VERY welcome and encouraged to attend the weekend - particularly both the Saturday dinner and Sunday brunch. Dress is lounge suit for the meeting.

Accommodation Options (both motels operated by Freemasons)

Marlin Motel  
33 Devon Street  
PICTON  
03 573 6784

Aldan Lodge Motel  
86 Wellington Street  
PICTON  
0800 277 278

\$120 - \$140 (dependant on room layout)    \$120 - \$140 (dependant on room layout)

When Booking please say you are from the **Railway Craftsmen's Association**.

InterIslander Discounted Ferry bookings - See next page

**All ferry bookings require a RCA Membership ID Card for travel which must be obtained from the Secretary/ Treasurer when you register with him to attend.**

## IMPORTANT!

If you are attending this weekend, please make your own travel and accommodation arrangements. Bookings must be made by 31 January 2013. Be in early to avoid disappointment!

For catering purposes it is of utmost importance you register for these events. Please advise numbers attending to:

North Island Brethren  
Adrian Douglas  
04 477 4295 / 021 507 708  
adriandouglas@xtra.co.nz

South Island Brethren  
Rowdy Robertson  
03 572 9377 / 027 442 7183  
rowdyone@xtra.co.nz

## Railway Craftsmen's Association - Discount Fares

A discount of 35% off the Easy Change fare applies for travel **11-24 March 2013** for online bookings.

Booking conditions and instructions for attendees are:

- ⇒ Each reservation must be made direct with InterIslander online at [www.interislander.co.nz](http://www.interislander.co.nz)
- ⇒ Simply insert the Promo code "RCA1" on the "Payment details" page and click on "enter" and this will apply the discount.
- ⇒ Payment is required at the time of booking.
- ⇒ **An RCA membership card is required at the terminal on check in.**
- ⇒ Space is subject to availability at the time of the booking request.
- ⇒ The normal conditions of the above fare type apply i.e. The Easy Change fare is 100% refundable.

**If you experience any issues with this booking system or do not have internet access, please contact the Secretary/Treasurer. Do NOT contact InterIslander by phone**



Chairman WBro. Tony Rich with 2nd Degree Candidate James Mist at the 2012 AGM Working

# 2012 AGM - MINUTES SUMMARY

Summary of the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Railway Craftsmen's Association of New Zealand held at the Trentham Masonic Centre, Islington Street, Trentham on Saturday 13th October 2012.

22 members were in attendance - 12 apologies were accepted.

## Obituaries

Members stood in recognition of all Railway Craftsmen who had passed to the Grand Lodge above since the last meeting. Les Boswell, Bruce Cornick, Richard Feather, Barry Ladd and Bob McGahey.

## Chairman's Report

It was moved WBro McRoberts and seconded WBro Nicholson that the Chairman's report be accepted. **Carried**

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report and Reviewed Annual Accounts

It was moved VWBro Stone and seconded WBro Nicholson that the Secretary/Treasurers Report be accepted and that the annual accounts were adopted. **Carried**

WBro Mail thanked the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer for the work for the Association. This was much appreciated.

## Election of Officers

Patron:	RWBro W Workman	Vice Patrons	WBro Ray Clark PGSwdB VWBro Dick Esler PGW RWBro Dave Marshall PDepGM RWBro Reid Polkinghorne PProvGM VWBro Phil Wagener PDistGM
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Chairman	WBro Tony Rich
Vice Chairman	WBro Rowdy Robertson
Secretary/Treasurer	WBro Adrian Douglas
Auditor	WBro Nik Straugheir
Committee	RWBro Reid Polkinghorne - Auckland WBro Charles Pettit – Waikato / BoP VWBro Mike Kendrick - Manawatu / Hawkes Bay / Taranaki WBro Rowdy Robertson - Marlborough RWBro Dick Williams – Westland WBro Arthur Whitehead – Canterbury South

## Notices of Motion

Amendments were suggested to add sister constitutions to the Rule 3 changes, a requirement to hold a General Meeting at least every 3 years, and that subs would be set as decided at a General Meeting (rather than a specified amount being mentioned). With these amendments the notice of motion was **carried**.

## General Business

General Meeting Frequency - It was decided to keep this as annual provided it was supported by the members. Perhaps a different format for events with a dinner rather than a working as such.

Meeting in Picton - Proposed in March 2013. Secretary/Treasurer to forward details when confirmed.

Travelling Bell - It was agreed that the Ex Paekakariki Station Bell would be donated to the RCA and presented to incoming Masters much like the Naval Craftsman Group Compass.

Travel Subsidy - This will be discussed by the incoming committee.

Apron Fund - this will continue

Membership Classes - proposed to add Life Members and Associate Members - to be discussed at the next General Meeting

***(A full copy of these draft minutes is available from the Secretary/Treasurer on request)***

## The Station Bell

*In the last issue, the station bell ex Paekakariki was mentioned and pictured. Since then, further information on the history of the bell has come to light. It is reproduced here:*

Sometime in 1940, a troop train, travelling to Wellington from New Plymouth was about to discharge troops to embark to war zones still unknown. It stopped at the Paekakariki Station for 10 minutes to “water up”. On board were two NZEF soldiers from Feilding - good mates Alexander (Alec) Patterson and Clifford (Jack) Nash. The lines at the cafeteria were long. Alec and Jack both missed out on the coffee and sandwiches. A few minutes later, the Station Master would normally have held out a small flag and reached up beside the door and clanged the station bell hanging there - the official signal for the double-engined steam train to move away from the station. Only not this time. If Alec and Jack couldn't have their coffee, they would have the station bell instead! And they did. Once on board they weren't sure what to do with the heavy solid brass bell, complete with clanger. They were even less sure when, according to Alec, the Station Master came out of his office, grabbing for the bell rope several times before realising it was gone. No stopping now, there was a war on, so blowing his whistle and waving his flag, the troop train moved on towards Wellington. Many of its passengers would not be coming back.

The rest is now unwritten history. Alec and Jack, with thousands of other New Zealand soldiers, boarded the ship that would take them to North Africa. NZ Railways, certain they knew that the troop contingent had taken the bell, complained to the Army - and they had the captain order a search of the ship. The boys had hidden it in the air ducts. Often, at night, the bell would be taken out, rung loudly and quickly hidden again. Despite several searches, it was never found. Alec and Jack disembarked somewhere in North Africa (Egypt/Libya/Tunisia). Paekakariki's Station Bell went with them. Alec remembers that they were in continuous action from the time they got off the ship. He says there were several “close scrapes” including floods and bandits as well as the enemy. There were more searches (NZ Railways and the Army were not giving up), but the boys buried the bell in the sand during the day and again, it was never found. At night (especially during the early days when the Germans were giving our boys hell) they would dig up the bell and loudly clang away for a minute or two.

This certainly raised the morale of our soldiers, and no doubt convinced the enemy about the arrival of a hitherto unknown allied train. The bell would then be re-buried. Well, we all know what happened in North Africa. Near the end of the war Alec and Jack, both Sergeants in an Engineering Division found themselves in Italy still ringing the bell. Now more in celebration than desperation. Almost all the troops in the unit knew about the bell, and delighted in the more than occasional clanging. The day before the war ended, Alec was shot in the stomach and chest - losing his spleen and left kidney. Jack was now in charge of the bell. It didn't seem to ring as often, but no matter, in time they all came home - and the bell came with them.

Being men of some integrity and having earlier agreed to the ultimate disposition of the bell, Staff Sergeant Clifford Howard (Jack) Nash, Service Number 47504 - and on behalf of Sergeant Alexander (Alec) Patterson, Service Number 47506, personally returned the bell to the Station Master's Office in mid 1945. Long after the war, Alec and Jack remained mates, visiting each other and going on fishing trips together. Both married with children, they became successful businessmen in the Feilding area.

(cont. next page)



*Clifford Howard (Jack) Nash*



*Alec and Molly Patterson*

In 1978, Jack died of a heart attack. Alec and his wife Molly live in retirement in Palmerston North. Alec was a member of Lodge Manchester No. 287 and Jack was a member of Feilding Lodge No. 41.

There were two station bells at Paekakariki (one on either side of the station) according to Paekakariki's last Station Master John Renton (1972-83). He remembers the bells being kept in the office. The Paekakariki Station closed in 1986.

*Acknowledgements: Paekakariki Expressed - 21 November 1986. Kindly Supplied by VWBro Graeme Hill*



*WBro John Lockyer with the bell at Lodge Rongotea*

## **KEEP IN TOUCH!**

Brethren - please keep in touch with the Secretary/Treasurer regarding any workings or bereavements of Railway Craftsmen. Please also bear in mind that RCA members can be presented an Installed Master's apron on being installed in to the chair of King Solomon for the first time. Advice to the Secretary/Treasurer means that details can be distributed amongst the membership. We rely on YOU to be our eyes and ears out there! Your assistance would be appreciated. Important - please send photos of any event you attend to the Secretary/Treasurer for inclusion in this magazine!

# KiwiRail EXPRESS MAGAZINE

This is a staff magazine produced by KiwiRail weekly. I receive this magazine electronically each week. If you wish it to be forwarded to you please let me know your email address and I will add you to the distribution list. This is another good reason for letting me know your email address! Please advise me at [adriandouglas@xtra.co.nz](mailto:adriandouglas@xtra.co.nz) if you wish to be forwarded this magazine.

## RAILWAY CRAFTSMEN APRONS

Aprons are available for Railway Craftsmen's Association members who are being installed in to the chair of King Solomon. Please advise the Secretary/Treasurer if you know if any members who are to be installed. This will allow the presentation plaque and presentation of the apron to be arranged. It will also allow for wide distribution of the installation date amongst our members. Your assistance with this is appreciated.

## RAILWAY CRAFTSMAN MERCHANDISE



Merchandise is now available for purchase from the Secretary/Treasurer. There are only a few left - so be in quick to secure your order using the order form below. We will order more merchandise from the supplier if necessary. An order form appears below.



### RCA MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

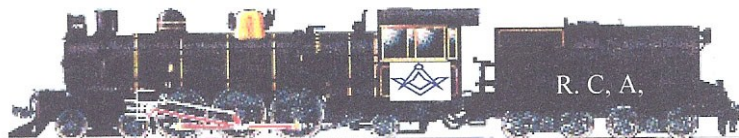
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	No.	Price	Total
Railway Craftsmen Tie	—	\$21.00	_____
Railway Craftsmen Cap	—	\$13	_____
Railway Craftsmen Lapel Badge	—	\$15.00	_____
Postage		\$5.50	
		<b>Total</b>	_____

Send (with payment) to: Adrian Douglas, Secretary/Treasurer, Railway Craftsmen's Association. C/- 57 Meadowcroft Grove, Johnsonville, WELLINGTON 6037. Please make cheques out to the Railway Craftsmen's Association.

**Internet Banking** - payment can be made in to the following Account: **01-0527-0007014-00** ANZ Bank Marlborough Branch - Railway Craftsmen's Association. Please include surname and AGM as reference and advise Secretary/Treasurer when payment made.



## CONTACT DETAILS

Adrian Douglas  
Secretary / Treasurer  
57 Meadowcroft Grove  
Johnsonville  
WELLINGTON 6037

[adriandouglas@xtra.co.nz](mailto:adriandouglas@xtra.co.nz)

Phone: 04 477 4295 H  
021 507 708 M  
04 894 5015 W

Tony Rich  
Chairman  
451 Kennedy Road  
NAPIER 4001

[bev.tonyrich@clear.net.nz](mailto:bev.tonyrich@clear.net.nz)

Phone: 06 843 4855 H

## MEMBERSHIP FEES - 2012 / 13

Please note membership fees for 2012/13 are now due. If you have paid at the AGM or in the last couple of months you are up to date. Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer if you are unsure of your financial status with the Association.

## Railway Craftsmen's Association of New Zealand.

Membership application & renewal form.

NAME:

Date:

ADDRESS:

LODGE NAME & NUMBER:

Receipt Required: Yes\* / No

MASONIC RANK:

PHONE NUMBER:

E-MAIL:

Subscription to October 2013

\$ **10.00**

Donation to Apron Fund (optional)

\$.....

Donation to the Association (optional)

\$.....

\$15.00 for the Railway Craftsmen's lapel badge (optional)

\$.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$.....

Please return to:

Adrian Douglas  
Secretary/Treasurer, R.C.A.,  
57 Meadowcroft Grove,  
Johnsonville  
WELLINGTON 6037

Phone: 04 477 4295  
Mobile: 021 507 708  
email: [adriandouglas@xtra.co.nz](mailto:adriandouglas@xtra.co.nz)

\* Include self addressed envelope with payment if receipt required.