FRONZ

FEDERATION OF RAIL ORGANISATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND

Jeff Tollan
President

- Caught putting stones on the railway line at the age of 8
- Asked to join the FRONZ executive about 2015
- Became FRONZ secretary in 2017
- Elected FRONZ president this year
- Work for New Zealand Police in their media team as a day job

What is FRONZ?

We represent 65 member groups across New Zealand…

Six tramway museums
Seven mainline operators
Static museums
Rail carts
Vehicle owners
Tourism railway operators

One railway to start them all

In Festival Week 1963 the Ocean Beach Railway opened for the public and in doing so was the first operating preservation railway in New Zealand.

In the decades since, dozens of groups have launched around the country.

Many use original railway buildings and stations, or run with locomotives and rolling stock that was part of the New Zealand Railways network.

All our members face common challenges:

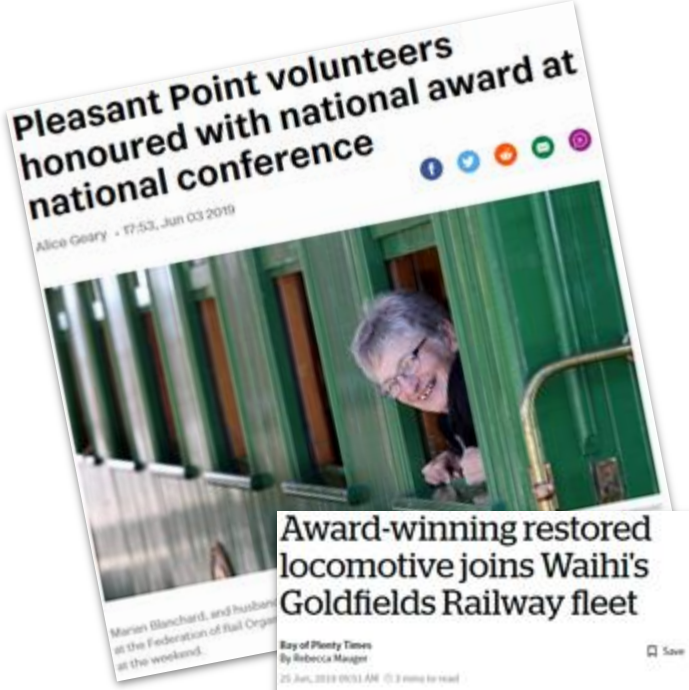
- Finding skilled volunteers who know how to fix antiquated machines
- Getting passengers through the gates
- Keeping up to date with legislation and regulator requirements
- Rising costs
- A global move away from the fossil fuels that locomotives need to run
- Adapting in a constantly changing world.

FRONZ first met in 1972 to help navigate challenges, but in the 70s, the issues were a bit different!

They included getting access to the mainline after the Government's "ban on steam", securing carriages to run excursions with, setting up training and having a united voice.

Twelve organisations were the founding members of FRONZ, now, more than 65 groups make up the Federation.

- FRONZ is here to do the heavy lifting
- We work with our members and the likes of KiwiRail and the rail regulator
- Our job is to ensure our members' voices are heard
- We fund what we do through levies on Mainline Operators, subscriptions, and issuing Public Liability Insurance


Pleasant Point volunteers honoured with national award at national conference

Alice Geary • 17:53, Jun 03 2019

Marion Blanchard, and husbar
at the Federation of Rail Orga
at the weekend.

Award-winning restored locomotive joins Waihi's Goldfields Railway fleet

Bay of Plenty Times
By Rebecca Mauger

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25 Jun, 2019 09:51 AM 3 mins to read

winning locomotive at Goldfields Railway

LDS Railway has a shiny new, award-winning locomotive ready to add to its

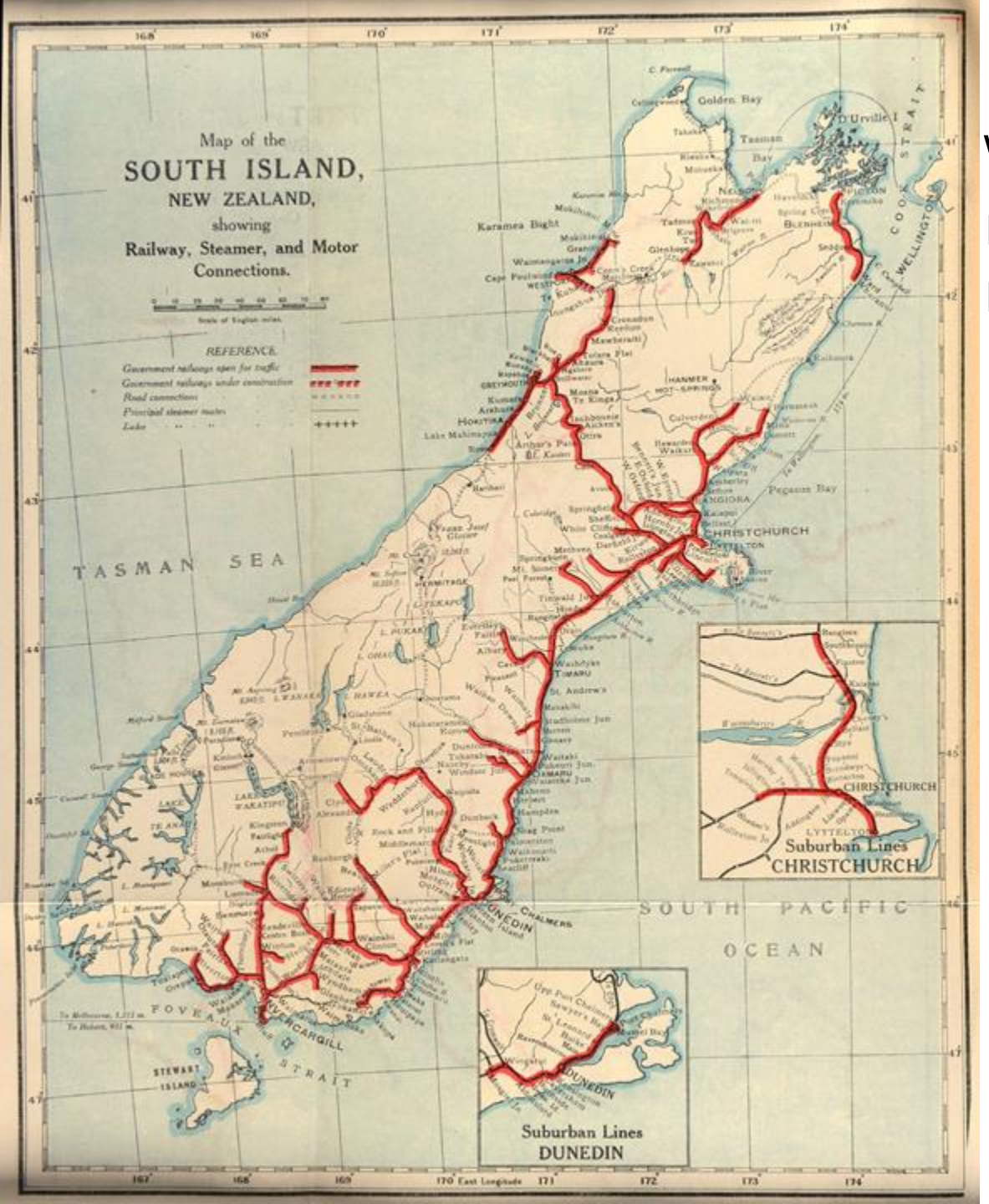
Glenbrook Vintage Railway recognised for innovation and safety

Natalie Polley • 13:51, Jun 13 2019

Glenbrook Vintage Railway's general manager Tim Kerwin at the Counties Power Christmas Lights – Trains @ Night event in December 2018.

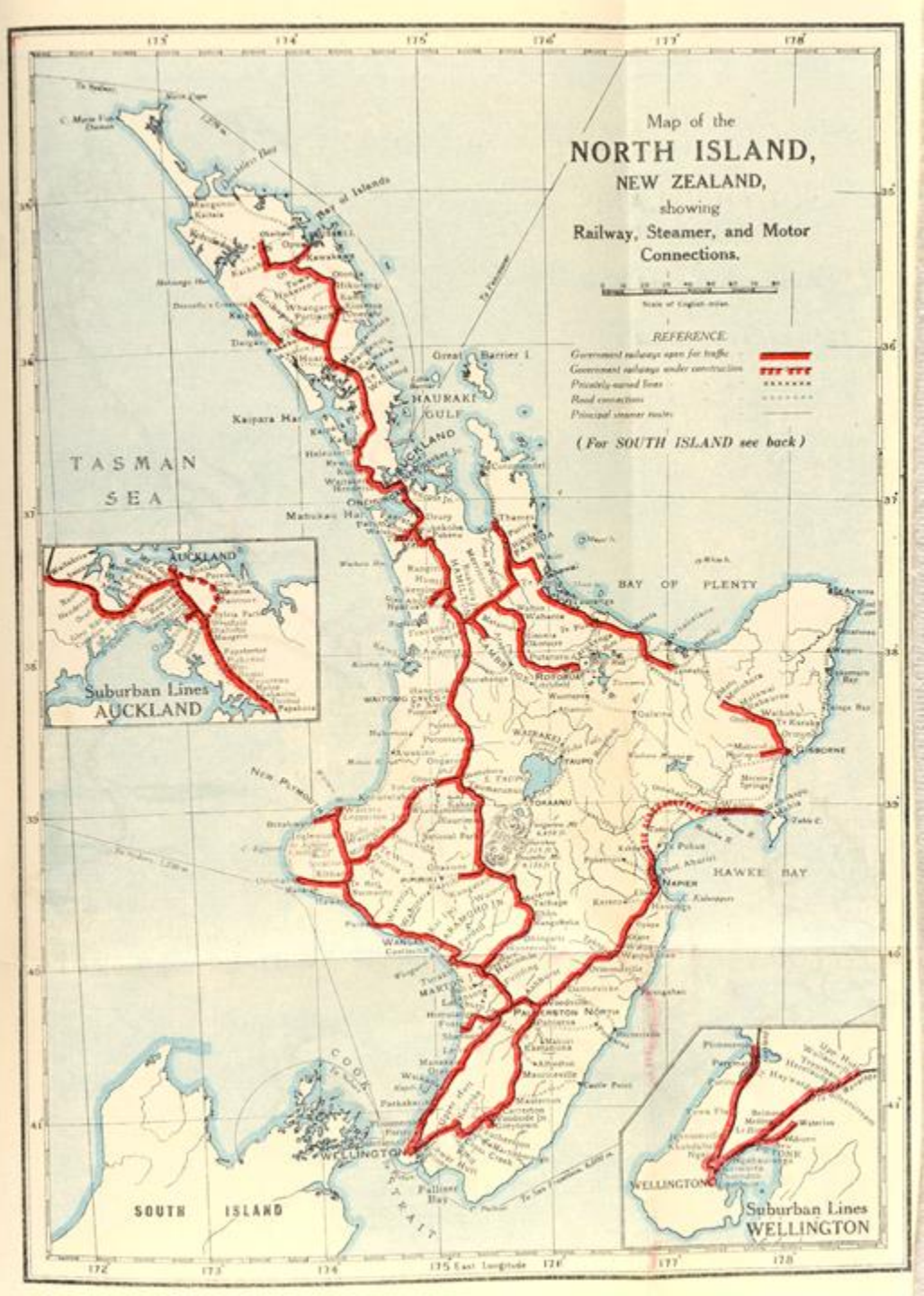
The BIG challenges…

- KiwiRail no longer needs as many triangles, turntables and platforms, but our members do!
- FRONZ has been working with NZTA, KiwiRail to improve relationships and have our members' needs considered
- The relationship between FRONZ, the regulator and KiwiRail has improved through regular meetings



What is the national network?

This is it (in its heyday)



And what it is now:

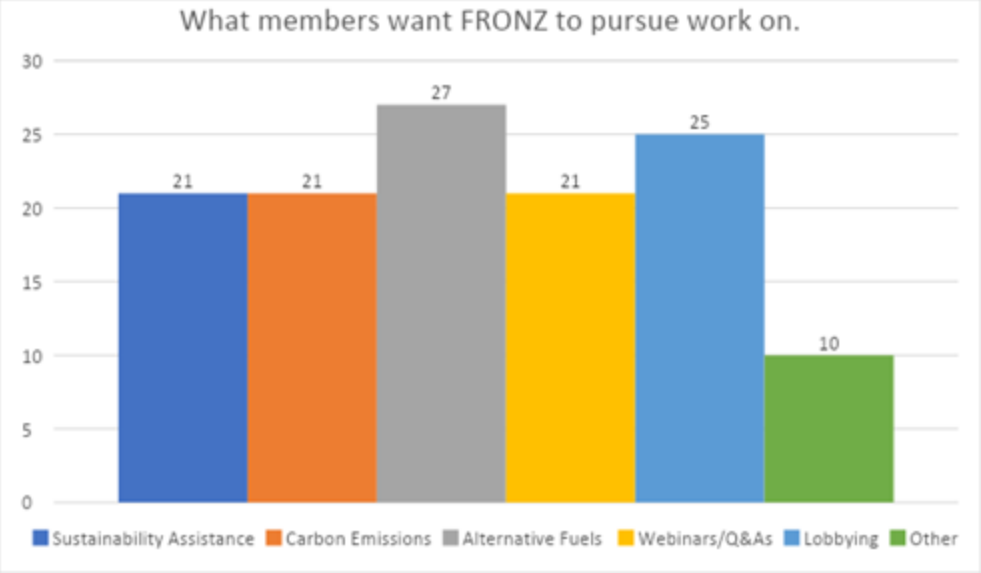
Freight services verses passenger services

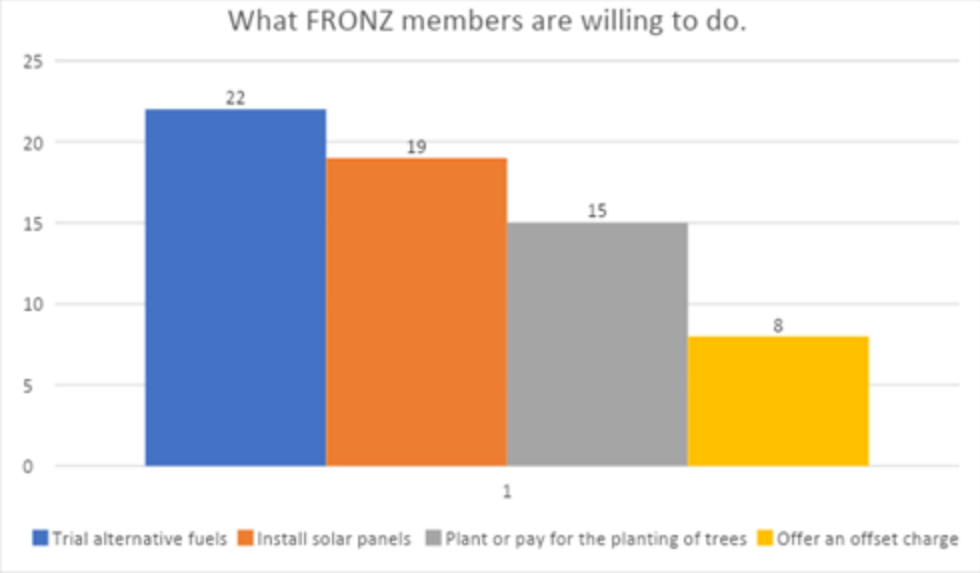
New Zealand now has mainly a freight railway.

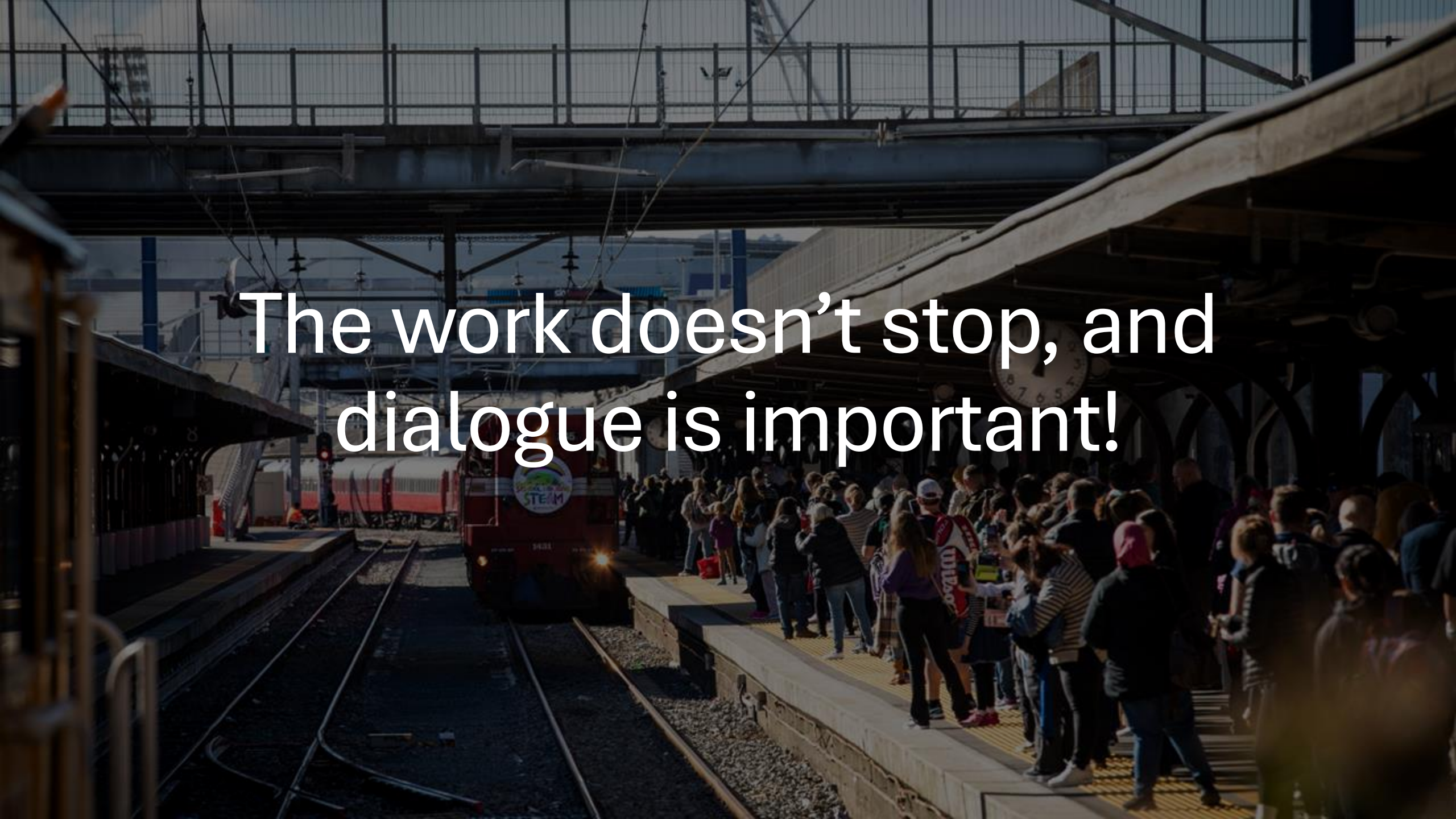
Passenger trains are limited, and Heritage is not a priority

- Lots of retirees, not many young people
- Skilled members can be hard to find
- FRONZ is producing standard manuals for the likes of track work, so members have a fit-for-purpose guide
- RAIL, and the HTC provide training and technical advice for groups that request it
- More work needs to be done

- FRONZ members have identified climate change and related legislation as the biggest risk to their operations
- We have been surveying member/organising Zoom meetings with groups
- Investigating alternative fuels, and cleaner energy such as solar.
- Urging members to engage with local government, and make submissions







The work doesn’t stop, and dialogue is important!

Our June conference celebrated 50 years of FRONZ

The main conference and awards night was held in Christchurch, followed two weeks later by the largest mainline event in a generation

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If we do our job right,

A new generation will feel inspire to take part!

Thank you!

For more information, visit www.fronz.org.nz