



17th February 2020

It's a Red Letter Day for the Kapiti Miniature Railway in Marine Gardens, Raumati with the arrival of a shiny new electric locomotive.



The shiny maroon loco has just arrived from Dunedin where it was lovingly built by a renowned Locomotive builder and shipped north to Kapiti last week. Mike Hartle the railway's President and Gary Bly the railway's Project Manager carefully transported the loco into his van and delivered to its new home on Saturday. Dunedin has long been associated with building locomotives for New Zealand's Railways, so the club are delighted to continue the tradition of running trains 'Proudly made in Dunedin'.

"It is always an anxious time when we are transporting such cherished items around the country" Mike said, "but I'm delighted that the journey went like clockwork and stoked that the loco runs perfectly around our

beautiful parkland track. The track weaves around Marine Gardens with tunnels, level crossings, a deep canyon, a beachfront and two long bridges; its' one of New Zealand's more picturesque miniature trains tracks and certainly keeps our volunteer drivers on their toes".



“The arrival of our new loco also puts us in a great place as we prepare for our 40th anniversary weekend in September; its pulling capacity will greatly help us transport the expected crowds.”

The new electric loco now means that all the regular locos at the railway are zero emission battery powered electric Locomotives and the club are pleased to be making their small contribution to reducing carbon emissions. “Everyone seems to love the smell and hiss of visiting steam engines and we have no plans to remove these from our timetable”, says Mike, “we also rely on

some beautifully made petrol powered trains when we get very busy, Tony Brown's InterCity 125 is always a favourite with the children.” The loco was unveiled by Kapiti's Deputy Mayor Janet Holborrow (pictured above with Mike at the unveiling).

With the arrival of the new loco it's out with the old; after many years of faithfully, if noisy, service the Kapiti Miniature Railway has now retired the historic green “FA” Great Northern loco and given the Ken and Barbie drivers some well-deserved retirement. This venerable old loco has an engine that pre-dates the 1940's, with rumours that it was left behind when the US Marines left Camp at MacKay's Crossing at Paekakariki in the 1940s. Since it has been in Raumati, it has taken countless thousands of children and the young at heart around the 800 metre track, clocking up over 600-700km a year – enough to get it to Auckland.

Kapiti Miniature Railway is open every Sunday of the year and many public holidays between 1-4pm in Marine Gardens, Raumati. (Weather Permitting). Our Facebook page always has the latest news and opening times.
