

STEAM ENGINE DRIVER'S REPORT AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION

ADDRESS BY PETER MCCALLUM

1. Trevor Burling's report was circulated to those present. (Contained in Section 4)
2. Peter McCallum, session chairman, presented comments received by e-mail from Les Stewart in the United Kingdom.

3. One of the questions raised was the situation of groups not competent to train their own engine-drivers - they may well have to buy in training from another organisation or provider.
4. Speakers stated that there is a void between the ending of the old and the introduction of the new systems. Speakers suggested that if this is not acceptable we may have to be pro-active to produce acceptable answers.

The old provisions under the Boiler, Lifts and Cranes Act expired on 30 May 1998. An Act of Parliament requires all new certificates to be awarded by assessors approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. Federation drivers must apply through the New Zealand Dairy Industry provisions.

The question was asked whether the Federation wished to have its own assessors approved by NZQA and also whether Federation groups wished to set themselves up as providers of training.

It was proposed that Federation groups should arrange for at least one group in each area to be approved as trainers - perhaps each museum group will need to undertake its own engine-driver training as in the past, if necessary supplemented by Polytech classroom tuition. The following groups indicated they could offer driver training:

Glenbrook Vintage Railway
Mainline Steam
Steam Incorporated
Ocean Beach Railway
Shanty Town
Weka Pass Railway
Goldfields Railway
Bush Tramway Society

The Federation felt that it had a duty to appoint assessors as well.

The following were suggested:

Ted Pointon
Alan Campbell
Paul Heighton

It was felt that the Federation-appointed assessors would have a better understanding of the needs of rail museums, rather than assessors working for commercial enterprises.

The outcome was a feeling that action was needed *now* by the Federation to retain control of this process within our own ranks.

A vote of thanks was passed to Trevor Burling for the work that he had put into this project.