

WelfareNews

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS STAFF WELFARE TRUST

ISSUE 41 * ALL GROUPS * SEPTEMBER 2023



FINANCIALS

The Board accepted the unaudited annual Financial Statements for the 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 period at the Annual General Meeting on 12th September. A copy of these statements and the Annual Report is available for members to view by request, please contact the office to arrange. In summary:

- The Trust recorded a net surplus of \$223,338 for the year.
- Average occupancy in Trust holiday houses increased from 67% in 2022 to 76% in 2023. Occupancy was impacted by Covid-19 the previous year.
- The total amount of benefits paid out in the year to 30 June 23 was \$1,675,881, an increase of 29% from the year before.
- The total number of Group A members who claimed medical benefits in the year to 30 June 23 was 2833, an increase of 68% from the year before. The online claim system has been popular!
- There were 8071 members as of 30 June 2023, an increase of 4% from the previous year.

From 2024 onwards, the AGM will be moved to November to allow more time for the annual audit.

AUCKLAND DEVELOPMENT

Unfortunately, we have experienced several floods at our Portland Road construction site, with Cyclone Gabrielle being the worst. This has significantly delayed construction and made access to our site very difficult.

While we negotiate with Auckland Council over an outcome to reduce the risk of further flooding, the build continues. We are now hoping to have the Trust's holiday units open by the end of the year. Members will be updated as soon as we have a finish date.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

To submit a medical claim online, please log in to your dashboard at www.nzrwelfare.co.nz and follow the simple steps to submit your receipts to us online. No more hunting around for an envelope, stamps and a postbox! Receipts must be submitted via the online dashboard, not emailed.

We are now accepting claims for costs incurred from 1 April 2023 onwards. If you need a refresher on what you can claim for, please have a read here: [Benefit Information](#)

To help you with online claims, information can be found here: [Help Us Help You.](#)

QUEENSTOWN SKI SEASON BALLOT

From 2024 onwards, the ski season in Queenstown will be subject to a ballot, similar to our summer ballot process. The key details are:

- The ballot period will be from 29th June to 28th September 2024 – Saturday to Saturday bookings only for one week.
- Ballot forms will be available on member dashboards from 15th October 2023 and will close at 5pm on 30th November. The ballot will be drawn on 1st December.
- All member groups will be eligible to enter, and all groups will have equal rights in the ballot.

FACEBOOK

We advertise news, short term vacancies and other information on our Facebook page so please like us to be in the know - www.facebook.com/nzrwelfare.

If you are not on Facebook, all updates are also on the "News" page of our website.

WELFARE TRUST ACCOMMODATION GRANTS

If you have a workmate who is having financial difficulties, has health issues, has been through a tragedy, or is just struggling and needs a holiday, please consider nominating them for an accommodation grant.

The grant consists of a week's free accommodation in one of the Trust's holiday homes (subject to availability, and the usual terms and conditions of use), and is given out quarterly to a member.

Only Group A members who have been Trust members for more than 12 months will be eligible for the grant.

Applications for the grant will be by nomination and must be sent by email to info@nzwelfare.co.nz with the subject title "Grant nomination". Please provide contact details for the member, and the reason they are deserving of the grant.

Deadlines for the quarterly grants are 31 January, 30 April, 31 July, and 31 October annually, to tie in with the NZRSWT Board meetings. Trustees will have full discretion over awarding of the grants and their decision will be final.

WEBSITE LOGON

Still haven't created your member login so that you can make bookings yourself online? The good news is that we've already created a profile for each of our members, you just need to activate it by choosing your own password.

- 1) Go to our website at www.nzwelfare.co.nz and click on "Member Login".
- 2) Enter the email address that you receive your Trust newsletters to (if you try and use a different email address it won't work because your profile is already created under the email we have on our database). If you received this newsletter in the post, it means we don't have your email address so you'll need to call us and supply it before you can log in.
- 3) Click on "forgot password". This will send a link to your email address.
- 4) Log in to your emails, open the email from the website with the password reset link, click on the link and choose a password for yourself.

Once you have a password, you are good to go and can book your accommodation yourself. Or you can just have a poke around and look at the photos of all of our properties.

Please note multi-location tiki tours can't be booked online and you have to call us for those. Feel free to send us a message if you are having trouble, we are very patient and can talk you through it. We are still very happy to make bookings for our older members and those who don't use computers so please just give us a call during office hours.

CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN

The Welfare Trust offices will be shut from 2pm on 21st December until 15th January 2024.

We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday season.

OFFICE HOURS

Our phones are answered Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm.

If you are staying at one of our holiday homes and you need assistance outside of these hours, please contact the caretaker listed on your "Property and Access Information" sheet.

The Welfare Trust office has moved to temporary accommodation while the Wellington railway station is being renovated so unfortunately, we will not be receiving visitors until at least October 2023. We will update members once we have moved to our permanent location.

CONTACT US

Phone	0800 806 444
Address	PO Box 2409, Wellington 6140
Email	info@nzwelfare.co.nz
Website	www.nzwelfare.co.nz
Facebook	www.facebook.com/nzwelfare