

WelfareNews

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS STAFF WELFARE TRUST

ISSUE 40 * ALL GROUPS * MAY 2023



AUCKLAND DEVELOPMENT

Construction is well underway on three new townhouses at Portland Road, Remuera for the Trust, plus one additional house which has been pre-sold to fund the project. We look forward to being able to offer these to members sometime in the spring.



MEDICAL BENEFITS

The 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 benefit year is now open and we are accepting claims for this period.

Claims for receipts dated 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 are closing soon and must be in to our office by 30th June 2023. Please note that the post takes around 3-4 weeks to arrive currently! Any late claims will not be able to be processed. The fastest way to get a claim to us is to lodge it online via our website. Get your claim in now so you don't miss out.

SUMMER BALLOT

Holiday home bookings over the busy summer season are subject to a ballot procedure. In 2023 the ballot period will be from 23 December 2023 to 24 February 2024. Applications for accommodation over this period must be received **by 5pm on 30th July 2023**. The ballot will be drawn in the following days and all participants will be advised of the outcome. Once the ballot is drawn, any leftover vacancies will be opened up on the website for general booking.

Ballot applications must be for one week's duration and this year are Saturday to Saturday only. Group A members will receive preference, then Group B, then Group C. Group E members cannot enter the ballot.

To apply for the ballot, members can:

- Enter their accommodation preferences in the member log-in area on the website.
- Call the Trust office on 0800 806 444 or email info@nzwelfare.co.nz and request for a form to be filled out on the member's behalf.

Top tips for a successful application:

- Make sure your application is in on time.
- Put 3 date/location options in order of your preference. The more options you put, the more chance you have of getting something.
- Play the odds! If you choose Ohope between Christmas and New Year, you are going to be competing with hundreds of others for the one house. If you put Rotorua (where there are 4 houses) in a less popular week such as late February, you have a higher likelihood of getting it.
- Reduce the size of your party – this will give you more options in terms of locations and units. (e.g. there is one unit in Mt Maunganui that sleeps 8 people and 5 units that sleep 6).

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Projects completed at holiday homes since our last newsletter:

- Replaced all double beds with queens nationwide
- New curtains in Ohope
- New curtains/blinds in Paihia
- Double glazed Rotorua Unit 3
- Taupo and Christchurch ceilings insulated

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

From 1 July 2023 Group A subscription rates will increase to \$8.50 per week. Your payroll will make this change automatically, there is no need for members to do anything.

GROUP B/C/E

Group B/C/E subscription rates will remain at \$55 per annum (and \$35 for Gold Card holders) for memberships from 1 July 2023 onwards.

Renewals are now able to be paid online in the member log-in area of the website. If you have received this newsletter in the post, then your annual invoice is enclosed. Payment is due by 30th June please.

ACCOMMODATION RATES

Accommodation rates were reviewed by the Board for bookings made on or after 1 June 2023 and the following changes have been made:

- The cleaning fee will increase to \$80 per location per stay (to keep up with a rise in labour costs).
- Weekly accommodation rates (for 3- and 4-bedroom properties only) will increase to \$400 per week plus cleaning.
- Nightly rates will increase (for 3- and 4-bedroom properties only) to \$80 per night plus cleaning.

The Trust strives to keep accommodation and membership rates as low as possible to allow our members to take affordable holidays. However, rates, insurance, labour, and electricity costs have increased dramatically in recent times. Therefore, an increase is necessary for the Trust to be sustainable in the long term.

ACCOMMODATION GRANTS

A reminder that the Trust now has an accommodation grant for members in need.

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 (i.e. 4 times per year) to a member.

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

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

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 this grant.

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

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.

WEBSITE LOGON

Still haven't created your member login so that you can make accommodation bookings and send your medical claims 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.nzrwelfare.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 those who don't use computers so please just give us a call during office hours.

CONTACT US

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

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, accessible on your dashboard on our website, or emailed to you when you paid for your booking.

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.