



# SILVER STREAM RAILWAY

HERITAGE RAILWAY



The railway to Silverstream opened in December 1875 with Upper Hutt reached on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1876.



- Trains ran over this section of track until 1954 when the new (current) line was brought into use.
- The line was bypassed as the bridge over the Hutt River and the narrow formation were unsuitable for electrification and duplication.



B-2098



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RAILWAY**  
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All remnant's of the old line were removed, track, bridges, and lineside features.



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# Silver Stream Railway Incorporated

- Formed in 1956 as a group of people interested in railways.
- Became an Incorporated Society in 1967 when focus turned to preserving the rapidly changing railway scene at that time.
- First locomotive (Ka935) purchased in February 1968 from New Zealand Railways for \$1200.
- Search for a permanent home settled on 'a mile of abandoned railway' near Silverstream in Upper Hutt.

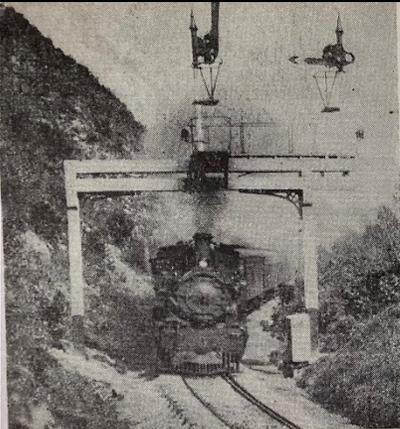


Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library.

THE NEW ZEALAND  
RAILWAY AND LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY  
WELLINGTON BRANCH  
Incorporated

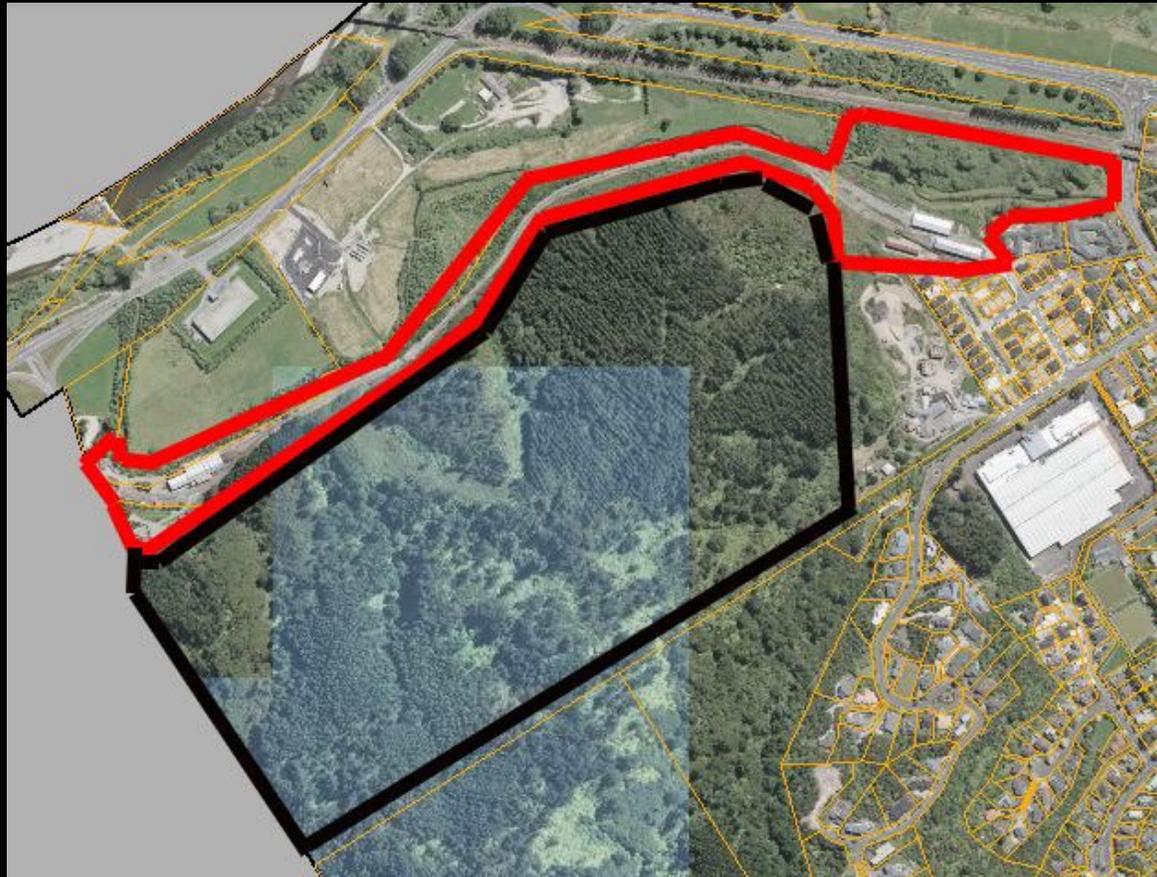


**SILVER STREAM RAILWAY**

A Project to Restore A  
Mile of Abandoned Railway  
Formation to a Working  
Steam Operated Railway Museum

B. R. Poulsen  
Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 39  
Wellington 1.

- After years of negotiations with the Department of Lands and Survey an agreement was reached which allowed occupation of the site from 1974 with the sale concluded in 1978 for the former railway corridor.
- Other parcels of land have been added to the property over the years with total freehold land now totalling over 9 hectares.



- The first public rides were offered in December 1978 using a small diesel shunter and open wagon.
- Very conservative estimates put the number of passengers carried at well over 200,000 since 1978.



- The railway now boasts one of the most comprehensive collections of equipment in New Zealand, ranging in age from an 1874 steam locomotive to a 1998 built Ballast Regulator.



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- Our public operating days are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month and selected public holidays, with several special event days held throughout the year.



Special Charters are run for organised railfan tours by overseas railway enthusiast groups, giving the chance to showcase the railway to an international audience.



- Provision of a facility to enable training of infrastructure staff and testing of equipment, something not easily possible on the KiwiRail Network due to the frequency of trains in the Metro Area.

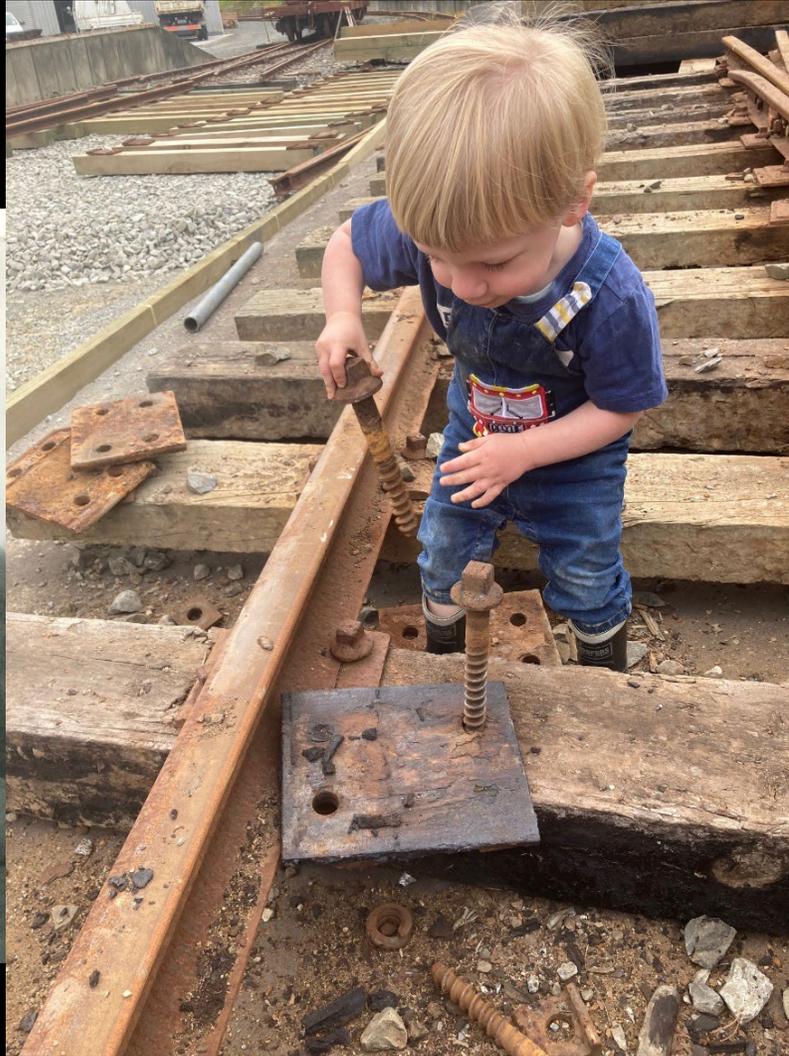


- Silver Stream Railway is a licenced rail participant under the Railways Act 2005, with responsibilities as a railway premises owner, and a rail operator under the Act
- A Network Utility Operator under Section 166 (F) of the Resource Management Act.
- All Railway owned land zoned Special Activity under the current Upper Hutt City Council District Plan, with Railway Museum and Ancillary Facilities being a permitted activity.



# Benefits to the local community

- A creative outlet for volunteers, young to old for over 50 years



- A standalone self supporting attraction which brings thousands of visitors to the city every year including many that would otherwise not visit Upper Hutt.



- The preservation of New Zealand's heritage. Everything from locomotives to clocks and most things in between.



- Preservation of what is now the only remaining section of railway in the Greater Wellington Region which still retains its original purpose, original setting, and in the most part uses formation that is unchanged from when constructed in the 1870's



The railway and its members continue the founding objectives, 56 years after it came into being, and plan on preserving the rich railway heritage of New Zealand for many more years on a site with 148 years of history.

