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# The Bulletin Kaikōura earthquake update



## Coastal Pacific back on track

The Prime Minister, Government VIPs, tourism chiefs, earthquake recovery workers, Kaikōura locals and iwi celebrated a special commemorative train that arrived in Kaikōura on Friday 23 November. For the first time since it was devastated by the Kaikōura earthquake two years ago, passengers travelled on the Main North Line between Picton and Christchurch for the celebration event. At the event Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who travelled on the train, announced funding from the Government’s Provincial Growth Fund that will allow KiwiRail to expand Coastal Pacific services.



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

‘This [\$40 million] investment will bring thousands more high-value tourists into the Marlborough, Kaikōura and Canterbury regions, with additional capacity, platform upgrades and our first ever premium carriage,’ KiwiRail Acting Chief Executive Todd Moyle says.

The investment means the Coastal Pacific will run all year round, add an additional 63-seat carriage to meet demand in peak season and add a new luxury premium carriage which will offer more space and high-quality food and beverages to go along with the spectacular views.

‘The Coastal Pacific plays a critical role in the economies of towns along its route. Before the Kaikōura earthquake it brought about 42,000 passengers a year into Marlborough and Kaikōura alone. With this investment we will see double that number within a decade, creating more than 400 new local jobs. This is fantastic news for the people of Kaikōura and Marlborough and it highlights the Government’s commitment to rail delivering economic benefits to the regions.’

To mark the occasion, KiwiRail hosted about 150 staff from NCTIR and KiwiRail, who helped put the road and rail back together after the earthquake, on the special service. Mr Moyle said: ‘It has been a massive task getting the line ready to carry passengers again after the earthquake just over two years ago. I cannot praise highly enough those who made that possible, and it is fitting that members of the workforce that put the line back together were on the special journey.’



NCTIR project director Brian Kirtlan

This Bulletin provides the latest information about the rebuild of road and rail networks damaged by the Kaikōura earthquake in November 2016. The Bulletin is produced by the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery (NCTIR) – an alliance representing the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail, on behalf of Government. Please note the next edition of The Bulletin will be published on Wednesday 19 December.





## Bill and Connie celebrate milestone

Locals and visitors gathered in front of the Kaikōura train station platform awaiting the arrival of the first passenger train since the November 2016 earthquake. Among them was Connie Hartley, who in December 2017 attended the community celebration of the reopening of SH1 with her husband, Bill. Bill and Connie were ecstatic about the road opening, and less than a year later, there is another major milestone to commemorate. But this time Connie is waving from the platform while Bill hits the tracks.

'It's a very exciting day. My husband Bill is on that train,' Connie says. 'I wasn't able to make the trip, so I got dressed up and came here with my friend Trish to welcome them instead.' Bill and Connie came to Kaikōura in 1982, not intending to stay for long, but found it easy to make friends, and fell in love with the town. It is easy to see why, looking out on the beautiful faces, listening to cheers and claps erupt for the Coastal Pacific as it rolls to a stop in front of Whale Watch Kaikōura, and Connie smiles at each passenger, waiting for Bill.



Bill Hartley, pictured right



Connie Hartley, pictured left



## A drive to remember



'Today is a bit emotional, to be honest,' said KiwiRail locomotive engineer, Kathy Tempelman, one of the key speakers at the Coastal Pacific Passenger Train arrival in Kaikōura, along with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Kaikōura Mayor Winston Gray. 'Seeing the train in Kaikōura got to me more than I thought it would.'

A day before the November 2016 earthquake, Kathy was driving a train through Kaikōura. The damage to the Main North Line was unprecedented, and promises that the rail would be restored seemed optimistic at best. 'It was hard to believe this could happen, that they'd be able to get train service back through. 'But amazing achievements should not come as a surprise to Kathy, whose journey with KiwiRail is remarkable in its own right, and started twelve years ago on the Main North Line. 'I was made redundant as computer technician and took a three month job making coffees for KiwiRail,' says Kathy. When a full time position became available, Kathy took it, and became train manager. Kathy said her dad often reminds her how she made a wish as a little girl to drive a train engine. 'I always wanted to know how a train drove,' Kathy says with a smile, 'and I got my certification when I was 50! I love that every day is different. I've got the best office in the world. I tell people I don't have a job, because what I do every day doesn't feel like work.' As the first Coastal Pacific passenger train in two years snakes through repaired tunnels and along breathtaking coastal views, Kathy smiles and shakes her head, amazed that this day has come.





# Smiles all round for the Coastal Pacific





## Planned Night closure for State Highway 1 south of Kaikōura



The scaffolding to be removed near Paratitahi Tunnels.

After many months of slope protection work, the scaffold tunnel near the Paratitahi Tunnels is now ready to be removed. The scaffold has been in place as a rock fall shelter protecting the road from the slope works above. For safety measures the removal of the scaffold requires the road to be closed and to reduce the impact for road users this will be undertaken at night. To minimise the disruption to the travelling public we will reopen the road every 90 minutes for 30 minutes during the night closure. Please refer to the timetable of openings and closures below.

The road will close from **9pm Thursday 13 December**, and reopen 6.30am on Friday 14 December. If required, a contingency day is planned for Friday 14 December. Traffic will be held between Peketa and south of the Raramai Tunnels.

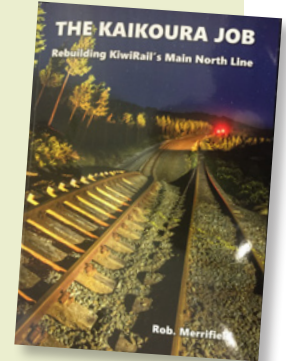
ROAD CLOSURE TIMES	ROAD OPENING TIMES
9pm - 10.30pm	10.30pm - 11pm
11pm - 12.30am	12.30am - 1am
1am - 2.30am	2.30am - 3am
3am - 4.30am	4.30am - 5am
5am - 6.30am	6.30am fully opened

While the road is closed and within the road closure the team will also mill a nearby rock on a tight bend that is overhanging the road. This milling will help with clearance for larger vehicles. Once the scaffold shelter is removed the team will be able to finish off slope work and aim to have the two Paratitahi Tunnels open before Christmas. Thank you to those affected by this closure for your on-going patience and support. We understand these closures are an inconvenience but also a must for everyone's safety. Things can change at short notice so please check real-time travel information:

- Call **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 44 44 49)
- Visit [www.nzta.govt/p2c](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c)

## New book features Main North Line

NCTIR's work is featured prominently in a new book. Author and rail enthusiast Rob Merrifield took about 18 months to dream up and



then publish *The Kaikoura Job*. In the process Rob has forged close ties with several key NCTIR staff and with their help his book delivers an in-depth account of the science behind the earthquake, the clearing of slips, rebuilding of railway track, fixing of tunnels, repairing, demolishing or rebuilding of bridges, assisting the highway rebuild, and the re-opening of the line. Included also is a brief history of the origins and building of the line. This work is well illustrated with stunning images and is available for purchase at [www.railsoc.org.nz](http://www.railsoc.org.nz)

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Call our freephone: **0800 NCTIR EQ** (0800 628 4737)  
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