



# MAINLINE STEAM HERITAGE TRUST

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Registered Charitable Trust Number: CC43536.

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Mainline Steam Heritage Trust. – New Trustee Stuart Walker

First of all, my deep appreciation for the many messages of sympathy the Trust has received following the most sad and unexpected sudden death of Grant Hjorth. He was a longstanding friend and colleague in business and in the restoration and operation of our steam locomotives as well as our plans for the future of the Trust's activities. It was poignant, that the first mainline excursion with JA1240 was done with Grant in mind. He would have been extremely proud to have seen the results of his leadership in its restoration.

Never the less, it would also have been Grant's wish that his work carries on and I am very pleased to announce that Stuart Walker has agreed to replace Grant as a trustee and in addition, to accept the position of General Manager Mainline Steam Heritage Trust. Stuart has been a long supporter of the Trust and is very much involved in negotiations to keep our Auckland depot at the Parnell site. His business background will also be very valuable in taking the Trust forward as we move closer to our own fleet of carriages and operations on the main line. One of Stuart's first tasks will be to identify Grant's replacement for the position of Engineering Manager/ Chief Mechanical Engineer as well other immediate tasks that require his attention.

Grant's death also impacted on my plans to transfer the heritage locomotives and rolling stock to the Ian Welch Locomotive Trust which had almost been completed at the time of his heart attack. However I am also very pleased that Ian McKay has agreed to be Grant's replacement on the Trust and once the legal formalities have been reviewed the transfer will be completed and the collection safeguarded for the benefit of future generations.

Regards

Ian Welch  
Managing Trustee  
Mainline Steam Heritage Trust.

Depots in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch

## Stuart Walker

Stuart has a diverse career background, after graduating from Lincoln College in 1980 with a B Ag Com, Stuart spent 15 years in the animal health/nutrition and veterinary sectors in technical sales, marketing, business development and country management roles. Stuart then moved into HR/Recruitment for 6 years and was one of 4 founding Director/Shareholders of the Momentum Consulting Group.



Stuart then moved back into a corporate role as the Managing Director of the Hansells Food Group through to a planned sale in early 2007. During this period he also served on the Board of the Food & Grocery Council.

Since leaving Hansells, he has continued to consult to numerous food and non-food business over the last 5 years including a 12 month contract as CEO of The FoodBowl a \$17m government initiative to promote innovation in the food industry and grow our export receipts. Stuart is also the owner of Carroll Industries – NZ's only manufacturer of 100's & 1,000's – and is often jokingly referred to by his friends as 'Mr Sprinkles'.

Stuart's interest in railways like most of us stems from an early age, riding and capturing on film the last of the overnight Christchurch/Invercargill steam hauled expresses in 1970/71. Stuart has also been fortunate to have travelled extensively overseas with steam rail trips in China, Syria, Jordan, England, France, Germany and Australia. His current role at Mainline Steam has been as Business Development Manager for the 'Parnell Station and Heritage Precinct project'. This project is paramount if MLS is to have a long term future in Auckland and play its natural role in preserving NZ's railway heritage.

Stuart has always been very active in community projects from serving on various School Boards to a range of other community projects and being recognized for this in 2009 with an 'Auckland Good Citizen's Award'.

Stuart's has also served 8 years as an officer in the Army Territorials, is a keen swimmer, horse rider and multisport competitor and has completed 3 Coast to Coast events, including the longest day. Time permitting, Stuart is also a keen modeler in NZR 'S' scale and has written numerous articles for the NZMRJ.