

WHAT WE DO

Taieri Gorge Railway Limited operates tourist trains on the Taieri Gorge Railway and Seaside and provides other train services principally for charters and excursions. Year after year the train trip through the Taieri Gorge remains a key attraction for visiting cruise ship passengers.



> Taieri Gorge Railway once again operated commuter services between Waitati and Mosgiel, proving extremely popular with children and reminiscing parents and grandparents.

>> The route through the Taieri River Gorge is regarded as one of the world's great train trips.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue	4,651	4,307
Net surplus for the year	14	59
Shareholder's funds	1,698	1,684
Total assets	2,537	2,395

WHAT WE DID THIS YEAR

Year after year this company manages to reach significant strategic goals. This year the first two of the eleven carriages formerly used on the Wellington to Wairarapa line became available. Also, a new catering car, reached a stage of near completion. The catering car will be ready for the next cruise ship season and will take pressure off staff who have undertaken catering in very cramped and difficult conditions.

Visitors to the Dunedin Railway Station will also note the substantial refurbishment of the ticket office which now presents a much more professional and successful image to our customers.

The national tourism market has been highly volatile. The industry has grown to satisfy historical visitor patterns and it has come to expect consistent growth. That growth in visitor numbers has now ceased, the numbers of northern hemisphere higher spending visitors have reduced, and group tourism has declined. But recent efforts to attract Australians have been successful.

Because of this inconsistent and changing market the company has had to invest even greater effort to maintain its financial situation. Through the winter period the company has promoted special dinner excursions to Middlemarch in close partnership with Middlemarch restaurants. A suburban train revival, both north and south of Dunedin, was hugely successful. Also, the company continues to present itself

directly to its customers through participation at the New Zealand KiwiLink Asia Conference in China and the annual national Trenz conference.

Notwithstanding these economic factors beyond our control it is pleasing to report that the numbers of passengers carried on the daily scheduled trains almost matched last year. The slight decrease of 4.8% to 56,753 passengers for the year was creditable given the general fall in the New Zealand tourist market. To this number was able to be added an increased number of cruise ship and charter passengers to achieve an overall total of 83,382 (73,876 last year).

The after tax surplus this year of \$14,000 compares to the \$59,000 made last year. This was achieved after capital and operational expenditure of \$1.2m on workshop, carriages, locomotives and track – a similar amount to that spent last year. In addition a further \$0.5m was spent on the upgrade of the facilities at the station, on the development of the new catering car and on the upgrade to the safety communications system.

Dunedin is fortunate to have a company such as Taieri Gorge Railway that is highly attractive to the large cruise ship operators visiting Port Chalmers in greater numbers through the summer season. This trade has been steady and will remain beneficial for the city of Dunedin.

For more information visit www.taieri.co.nz

THE PEOPLE

Directors	J E Farry (Chairman)
	J M Chapman
	F J McCall
	G M T Williams
	K Wilson
	B C Wolff
Chief executive	M J Bond

