

'MIDDLEMARCH RAIL FESTIVAL DVD'



Return to the glorious decade of the 1960's when Ab-class steam locomotives, DG and DJ-class diesel-electric locomotives and Vulcan railcars dominated the Otago Central Railway. The Middlemarch Rail Festival DVD features the many services that ran between Middlemarch and Pukerangi during Labour Weekend 2009 including the delivery trips, drivers' training runs and Mainline Steam's NZ Tour Train that brought overseas railfans to the event.

Guest commentary by Merv Smith.

DVD copies \$35.80 each + \$4.60 p&p

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Playback

ELECTRICS ON PARADE

Produced by:
EJ Videos,
www.ejvideos.com

Running Time: 65 minutes.
DVD-R (PAL) \$10.00 including Post & Packing within NZ.

Following the format that has become the signature of EJ Videos, *Electrics on Parade* features action focusing on the North Island Main Trunk EF class locomotives with scenes ranging from Feilding to Ohakune.

The programme opens with a 'potted' history of the class with a series of 'still' shots illustrating the salient points being made on the narration. The DVD is right up to date with the first of the new KiwiRail painted EF's being shown – in fact it is a bit of a feast with the paint schemes as there are four major liveries, plus some subtle variations amongst a current operating fleet of only 17 locomotives.

The programme gives the viewer plenty of time to watch the action as EJ videos specialises in the full train run-by and Erin Johnson, the photographer, seems to have

perfected the long side-pacing shot.

Filmed over a period of several months there are also many well lit night shots of the 4,020 horsepower monsters in action on both freight and passenger trains – often with multiple EF's at the point.

Filmed in 16:9 widescreen format this is a railfans' video – apart from the opening commentary the only noise you will hear is that of the trains. Just sit back and enjoy the action as Kiwirail's EF class effortlessly haul freight and passengers past your eyes. For those railfans and modellers interested in the rolling stock as well as the motive power, especially what is arguably KiwiRail's

'big' power on New Zealand's busiest main line, then *Electrics on Parade* is a definite must for your library.

At only \$10.00 it's a bargain; It can be purchased on-line from 'EJ', so check out EJ videos' website for other options such as Blu-ray format.

Review: KARL MORRIS

NEW ZEALAND RAILSCENE. Volume 64

Produced by:
Majik Video Systems,
P. O. Box 15,
Westpark Marina,
Waitakere,
AUCKLAND, 0661.

www.majikvideo.com

Running Time: 60 minutes.
DVD-R (PAL) \$35.80,
plus \$4.60 Post & Packing.

Volume 64 of *New Zealand Railscene* once again provides an hour of New Zealand railway video footage in the usual 'magazine' style format. Catering for all tastes the programme has more than a dozen 'articles' featuring such topics as current KiwiRail operations, steam excursions on the main line, new services and museum/heritage operations.

The programme opens with the usual roundup of various freight operations from around the network, later on a closer look is had of the Napier-Gisborne weekly freight services.

There have recently been several major events happening at KiwiRail; the arrival of the first of the new 'Matangi' EMUs in Wellington has received extensive publicity and is featured on the DVD. The re-opening of the Onehunga Branch and the preparation of Fonterra's new warehouse rail sidings at the Taieri Industrial Estate are also shown.

As is usual there is also much for the steam enthusiast with some nostalgic Main Trunk footage taken by Bob Mann in 1964. Several modern day steam excursions are covered with extensive views of JA 1275 and KA 942.

A little unusual is the 'article' on the return to service of Motat's 'Big Ben' double-decker tram and celebration surrounding the event.

New Zealand Railscene, Volume 64, does not disappoint and it is recommended viewing.

Review: KARL MORRIS

REGISTER OF NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS STEAM LOCOMOTIVES 1863 - 1971

By W. G. LLOYD

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