

NEWSLETTER OF THE VALLEY HEIGHTS LOCOMOTIVE HERITAGE MUSEUM BLUE MOUNTAINS DIVISION OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES RAIL TRANSPORT MUSEUM ABN 25 000 570 463 ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SECRETARY, VALLEY HEIGHTS LOCO DEPOT HERITAGE MUSEUM, P.O. BOX 484, SPRINGWOOD, N.S.W., 2777  
Web Site: [www.infobluemountains.net.au/locodepot](http://www.infobluemountains.net.au/locodepot)

All Advertisements in this Newsletter are free, in recognition for the people and companies who have helped us in our activities.

## 1. RETIREES GROUP

Any workplace which is almost 95 years old and which has been subjected to the long term stresses of heavy equipment and the elements requires much maintenance.

Such is the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum (the 'Depot'). Much construction, rebuilding and maintenance have already been accomplished in the years since the Museum assumed the guardianship of the Depot in 1994. This work, which will continue for many years, is carried out by several groups. One of these is the Retirees' Group.

**Who are we?** We are a group of fellows from varied career backgrounds and we range in age from 61 to almost 90.



Above: Members of the Retirees Group from Left to right include: Col Burne, Neil Cram, Ron Russell, Jeff Russell, David Grove. Bob Matthew and Dave Torr. Bob Matthew, Col Burne and Dave Torr are three of the original members of the group. Photo: Peter Butler.

**Work time:** We meet one week a month (the week after the second Saturday), starting at 8.00am and finish at 3.00pm

**Types of work:** The first written record for members of the Retirees' Group (though they were probably still working then) was for 3/9/1994 when work commenced on repairing the toilets. Other projects have included:

- replacement of timbers on the back wall of the Roundhouse
- replacing and repairing timbers in the upper sections of the Roundhouse
- replacing the clerestory roof of the Roundhouse when it was blown away in a wind storm (it is rumoured that workers on this job were offered contracts with the aerial trapeze section of a touring circus!)
- manufacturing termite inspection pits and inspecting same each month

### ANTHONY BROWN PTY LTD

**CRUSHED SANDSTONE  
SANDSTONE FLAGGING  
BACKHOES & TRUCKS  
LAND CLEARING & GRASS SLASHING  
CARPARKS & ROADWORKS  
CONCRETING & BITUMEN WORK**

**4751 1935**

Faulconbridge

0428 241 311

- reconstruction and refitting of the Amenities Block (today's entrance to the Museum)
- reconstruction and refitting of the Chargeman's Building
- making worktables, trestles, painting various sections of the Roundhouse

Some of these tasks have consumed many hours – for example, the Chargeman's Building took 4 years and 1 month to complete. Most of the above work has been completed to standards required by the NSW Heritage Office.

**Present Task:** We are presently working on repairing and re-installing the windows at the back of the Roundhouse. The Museum was successful in obtaining a grant of \$20,600.00 for materials to complete this project. All the Museum had to do was to provide \$87,900.00 in the way of labour!



This task is proving to be very time consuming, as much TLC and expertise is required to repair the damaged sashes – but then again most of us will require some TLC when we reach 94 years.

Left: David Grove sizes up the first of many of the Roundhouse window sashes, before the glass panes are installed and the sash is permanently installed. Photo: Peter Butler.

**Benefits:** The benefits of belonging to the Retirees' Group are many:

- there is a strong sense of History as one walks about the Depot
- the sense of 'Railway' is overwhelming – both past and present. The buildings, the exhibits and the grounds

create many memories. Work nearly always stops for many of the group when the sound of an approaching train enters the Depot – eyes focus on the Western Line to discern the consist of this train.

- there is a feeling of pride that you are helping to ensure that future generations will be able to gain first hand experience of a rare piece of history.

Yet towering above the previous three benefits is the wonderful camaraderie within the group. There is a great respect for each other among the members. We each work to our abilities and an air of peaceful co-operation pervades our work scene. There is much laughter and fun. What a fantastic way to spend your time!

So come and experience this for yourself by becoming a member of the Retirees' Group. Just drop in and we will show you around the Depot. You can also phone the Museum for further information on 02 4751 4638 during any retirees work week and speak with a member of the group first hand. For details of when the next retirees weeks are planned for please see the section on Up Coming Events at the end of this newsletter.

## 2. VALE: ELLEN JOAN DICKSON

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Ellen Joan Dickson. Ellen, the loving wife of Ted Dickson (*one of the Museum's founding fathers*) passed away at home on the morning of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009 after battling cancer. First diagnosed with the illness late last year, Ellen suffered an uncomfortable fight with the disease, at times braving agonising pain. Although only suffering with the disease for a relatively short period of time, this would have seemed an eternity to Ted, Ellen and their immediate family who supported Ellen throughout her fight.



Ellen's funeral was held at the Leura Memorial Gardens on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 during which many members of her family paid their fond respects to their Wife, Mother, Mother in Law, and Grandmother. Many others of the congregation also spoke of their memories of Ellen. The Museum was well represented with Peter Berriman also attending on behalf of the NSW Rail Transport Museum and members of STarPS also joining mourners to pay their respects.

Ellen's passing has left a hole in many peoples lives, particularly her closest family. To Ted, Cheryl & Luke and Mark & Narelle and their respective families, the Museum passes on its heart felt condolences to you all.

May your memories of Ellen live forever.

**MACQUARIE RD AUTO REPAIRS**  
Mechanical Repairs  
Wheel Alignments  
All Makes & Models  
Rego Checks  
Unit 2/65 Macquarie Rd,  
Springwood  
**02 4751 6620**

## 3. OBITUARY: JIM POWE

It was with a great deal of sadness that I learnt, whilst browsing at the ARHA bookshop at Rail Heritage Central, of the passing, on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> February, of that doyen of steam railway sound and film recorders, Jim Powe.

Jim had been in indifferent health for some time but, from all accounts, had remained active in engaging in sharing his passion for railways.

He was one of the very few of those stalwarts who, in the 60s, roamed the state to record, for posterity, the strident, endearing and enduring sounds of the steam locomotive at its very best, and then gave us all the opportunity to share the fruits of his labour commercially through the auspices of Rail Recording and Film Services.

Thus was I able to sit quietly on the evening of his passing, with a glass of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Silver City Comet port, and listen once again to the stirring, evocative the sounds of his magnificent legacy.

Thank you, Jim Powe!

*(Thanks to Ian Heather for preparing and submitting this Obituary to Jim).*

## 4. MEMBER'S RAILMOTOR TOUR

This year's Member's Railmotor Tour is currently being planned and expressions of interest are currently being taken from Members wishing to book seats on the tour. Details of the tour are brief at this stage but we can reveal the following:

**Date** - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**Destination** – Newcastle

**Numbers** – Limited to 70

**Cost** – This is still to be determined and will be dependent on the charter costs. Past tours have been around \$100-00 and we are aiming to keep the cost to the price.

Any one interested in joining us on our tour this year please leave your name, phone number and the number of seats required by contacting our tour organiser David Lewis on (02) 9630 6304 or by email on [floozie2@bigpond.net.au](mailto:floozie2@bigpond.net.au).

### **How can you help restore 5711?**

#### **\$\$\$ 5711 RESTORATION FUND \$\$\$**

You can contribute to the restoration of 5711 by making a Donation to the 5711 Restoration Fund.

Donations of \$2.00 or more are Tax Deductible.

Cheques should be made payable to the **NSW RTM – 5711 Restoration Fund** and can be sent to the:

**Blue Mountains Division  
NSW Rail Transport Museum  
PO Box 484,  
Springwood NSW 2777.**

Stay tuned and thank you for your support.

## 5. WELL WISHES



The Museum wishes to pass on its best wishes to member Cornelis (Kees) Geelan, who has been suffering health problems in recent times. We wish you well for a speedy recovery. Prior to his deteriorating health Case ran a very successful Electrical business (Hook Up Electrical Services) and regularly

supported the Museum through this business by providing labour and equipment in kind over a long period of time. The Museum passes on its best wishes to Case for improved health in the future.

## 6. TRACKWORK

Track work has been quiet in recent months for various reasons but plans are currently underway to commence the program of works. Once details are known of the nature of work and when the work will commence, a call for assistance will be made to help with the work.

If you have provided valuable assistance with this work in the past, your assistance would once again be more than welcomed.

Stay tuned for details of when this work is commence.

## 7. CORRECTION (Item in Track work)

In the last edition of the Depot Diary we reported on the collection of some point timbers from Port Kembla. In this report we incorrectly acknowledged the photographer as being Ted Dickson. We hereby extend an apology and wish to acknowledge Peter Dickson as the photographer. Peter is also the Rail Safety coordinator for Blue Scope Steel and organised a Rail shutdown to allow the collection of the timbers. Thanks Peter for your efforts.

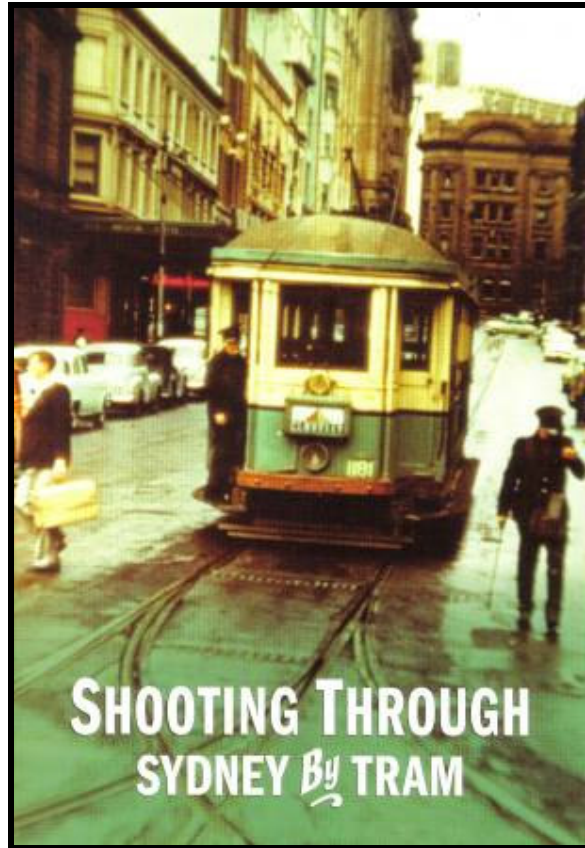
## 8. JOINT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Museum's Joint Operations committee comprising of representatives from the Museum, STaRPS and the Springwood Historical Society has not met for some time and is going to reconvene in the near future. The Committee meets to discuss Safety and Operational issues of the Museum and Tramway together with planning of events. Where necessary recommendations to the Museum's Executive Committee are submitted in cases where funding is sought. This group is an important channel to maintain two way communications between all occupants on the site. We are seeking the services of two new members to represent the Valley Heights Museum on the committee. This is an ideal opportunity for someone who would like to get involved in the administrative side of the Museum who is aiming to perhaps becoming involved with the Executive Committee in the future. Should you be interested in joining the Joint Operations Committee please express your interest by contacting Andrew Tester on ph: 0414 732 675.

## 9. SHOOTING THROUGH SYDNEY BY TRAM EXHIBITION

The Sydney Museum located on the corner of Bridge & Phillip Streets in Sydney presents "Shooting Through Sydney By Tram", an exhibition depicting the 100 year history on Sydney's Trams from 1861 to 1961. The Exhibition opened on the 4 April 2009 and runs until 18 October 2009. The Museum of Sydney opens daily from

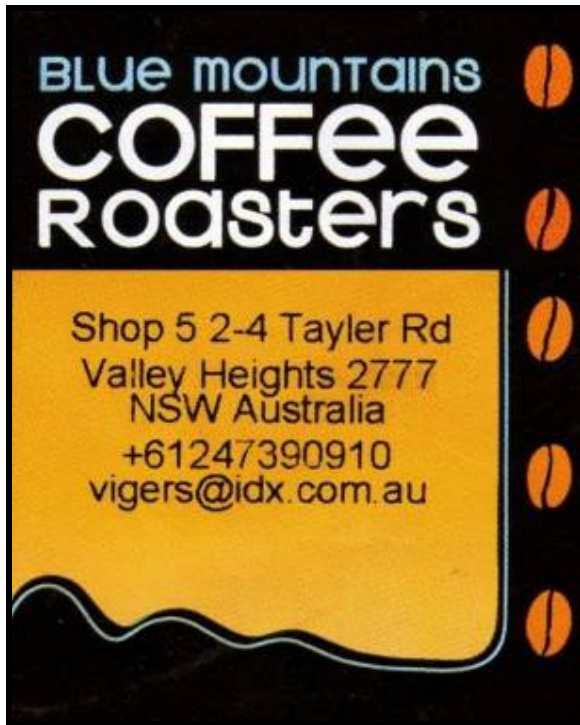
9:30am to 5pm and Admission costs Adults: \$10, Child/Concession \$5 and Family \$20.



## 10. RETAIL REPORT

**Refreshment Sales** – Our retail team are slowly expanding on the range of refreshments available for customers and this is proving to be very popular for our visitors. We were recently visited by a group of UK guests who were treated to Devonshire Teas. This is a service we would like to offer as a regular option for visitors in the near future however we would welcome a few more helpers so that we can offer this service. Another menu choice that we could offer is Raisin Toast. To be able to offer this kind of service we realistically need the services of 2 people in refreshment sales at any one time. One of these is to operate the Coffee Machine while the other is to assist with serving and the handling of food. This is in addition to the two people who work on admission ticket and retail sales. We have also been supplied with (courtesy of STaRPS) a modern pie heater which has been installed in the shop and soon a Hot Dog machine will be added. Once this has been obtained all refreshment sales will be centred from our retail shop.

**Coffee Machine** - We would like to thank those who have offered their services to assist in the operation of our Coffee Machine. To date Glenn Hargrave, John Voytas, Robyn Stock, Ted Mullett and Megan Tolhurst have been trained in the use of the machine and have made themselves available to be rostered. This has proven to be very popular to visitors particularly on cooler days. If you feel you can assist us in this aspect of our operation, our Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan would welcome you with open arms to his rank of helpers.



**Rollingstock Videos** - The Museum's large stock of videos by Rollingstock Productions, too many to list individually, has been reduced to clear. Rollingstock have advised that they will no longer supply their products in VHS video format. **As a result, all Rollingstock Videos are on sale for just \$11-00.** All future products from Rollingstock will only be available in DVD format.

**SHOP ASSISTANCE**

"We have a need for more people to assist in the shop, so if you like dealing with people, or you think that you would like to work in the shop area, your help would be very gratefully appreciated. No retail experience necessary. Interested persons will be trained by experienced staff and depending on numbers volunteering, be rostered once every couple of months or so. Please contact our Retail Manager Steve Corrigan on 4759 1980 or email: [sjc\\_alco@pnc.com.au](mailto:sjc_alco@pnc.com.au)."



**YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU**

## 11. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined and trust that they have a long and enjoyable association with the Museum.

Name	Membership Number
Lindsay Howe, Lawson	519
John Burrell, Springwood	520

## 12. WORKS REPORT

**Work Hours** – The following hours have been logged by our volunteers for the months of January, February and March 2009.

Activity	January	February	March
Services	9	2	1
Buildings	526	406	675
Model Railway	32	1	38
Workshop	100	53	47
Exhibits	119	135	149
Landscaping / Grounds	144	83	198
Publicity	0	7	84
Retail	165	83	126
General / Admin	48	111	50
Perway	42	204	76
Total	1185	1085	1444

### Reminder – Attendance Register

All members please ensure that you register all details relevant to your attendance at the Depot, in the Attendance Register. This enables an accurate record of your time spent on each project to be established. Workers Concession hours are calculated from these records.

It is also a requirement for Insurance purposes, should anything unforeseen happen to a worker while on the site.

### 13. EMAIL

Do you have email access and would like your copy of the Depot Diary emailed to you? Please let us know of your email address. If you already receive the Depot Diary by email, please ensure you advise us of any changes to your email address. If you no longer wish to receive the Depot Diary by email please advise. This will ensure you continue to receive your copies of the Depot Diary. Please contact the Museum's Membership Officer, at our Postal Address with your revised details.

What are the advantages of getting the Depot Dairy by email? Receiving Depot Diary by email, you will not only get it quicker than through the conventional mail system, you will also receive a colour copy of the Newsletter.

### 14. CHANGING ADDRESS?

Are you moving home or changing your contact details? Please ensure that you keep us informed of your correct details. This will save the Museum money in postage and will ensure that we can continue sending you copies of the Depot Diary.

### 15. MUSEUM ADMISSION FOR MEMBERS

Just a reminder for the benefit of members of Valley Heights, the RTM, STaRPS and the Springwood Historical Society, in order to gain free entry to the Valley Heights Museum on Open Days, please have your current Membership Card / Badge ready for presentation to shop staff when asked to do so.

Failure to present your Membership Card/Badge when requested will require payment of the Admission charge applicable.

Visiting members of Valley Heights, RTM and Springwood Historical Society are advised that while

your Membership entitles you to unlimited free Admission to the Museum this **does not** include Tram/Trike Rides. Unlimited Member's rides cost – Adults: \$6-00, School Students \$4-00, Seniors/Concessions \$4-00.

**16. FIND OUR VOLUNTEERS**

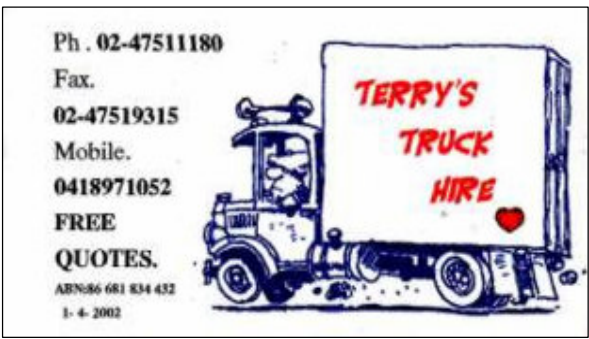
Listed below are the names of some of our volunteers. Can you find them hiding in the puzzle below and reveal the hidden message.

L R U S S E L L T H T E V I D E  
 T L S T H G C C T A A V N V M N  
 C S E E E A O O E W Y A A O A R  
 T O R R V S K X H K L R M Y T U  
 O A N U R O E O C I O G I T T B  
 R G N N H A R N T N R R R A H W  
 R I N D E L H G A S S A R S E E  
 D R S I E L O E M N A H E S W B  
 I W D T N R L T B A U A B T U H  
 C I L N A N S Y E G N L R T A T  
 K N O U I N E O N I D L L W T L  
 S E N H N L L T N R E E K E E L  
 O D Y C R A M E S R R E L W E A  
 N Y E N O R A M Y O S L I A V B  
 O U R E T S E T R C U S T O C K  
 R O B I N S O N E M R E T R A C

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| ANDERSON  | BALL     |
| BEHARRELL | BERRIMAN |
| BURNE     | BUTLER   |
| CARTER    | COKER    |
| CONNELLY  | CORRIGAN |
| COXON     | CRAM     |
| DICKSON   | DIVE     |
| GROVES    | HALL     |
| HARGRAVE  | HAWKES   |
| HAWKINS   | HUNT     |
| IRWIN     | LEWIS    |
| LIND      | MARONEY  |
| MATCHETT  | MATTHEW  |
| MULLETT   | REYNOLDS |
| ROBINSON  | RUSSELL  |
| SAGE      | SAUNDERS |
| STANLEY   | STENNING |
| STOCK     | TAYLOR   |
| TESTER    | TOLHURST |
| TORR      | VOYTAS   |

**17. FUTURE DEPOT DIARIES**

If any members have any features that they would like to include in the Depot Diary please contact our Publicity Officer to submit an article. These can be reports of work carried out at the Museum to items of Railway Interest in general.



**OH&S AND MEMBER'S SAFETY**

As you can appreciate, Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) is very much a part of our daily lives particularly within our working environment.

Even as a volunteer organisation we (as a Museum) have a duty of care to our visitors and working members who offer their services to ensure that their Safety is not at risk at any time while on site.

The Museum has a Joint Operations and Safety Committee (JO&SC) that is made up of members of the Museum, STaRPS and the Springwood Historical Society whose job it is to ensure that operational issues and items of safety are discussed and addressed accordingly.

Members are advised that when working onsite it is important that you sign on for duty in the Sign On book located in the member's Meal Room at the rear of Road 5 of the Roundhouse. Likewise at the end of your time, please ensure that you remember to Sign Off before you leave for home. This is important for Workers Insurance purposes, as it is a record for when you were on duty at the Museum should something unforeseen occur.

**Important Safety for all Members to be aware of when on site.**

• **General Safety**

When you are the only person working on site, a phone call should be made to a Museum officer, to advise them that you are on site and an approximate time that you will be leaving. A list of Museum contacts is in the Ticket Office near the phone. When you have finished make another call to the same officer to tell them you are locking up.

No heavy work (*including heavy lifting, track work*) is to be performed when on site alone.



If you know that you are going to be onsite to do any form of heavy work or need to use certain tools or pieces of equipment ensure that you make prior arrangements for someone else to be on site with you.

• **Mobile Plant and Tools**

Use of heavy machinery such as mobile plant (*tractors, forklifts, compressors, ride on mowers*) and certain tools (*welders, oxy acetylene*) are not permitted unless there is a second person on site at all times.

**Tractors and Forklifts** - Authorised Tractors and Forklift operators are to ensure that a second person (*preferably another authorised operator*) accompanies the operator at all times when the Tractors and or Fork Lifts are lifting and transporting loads.

• **Safety Clothing**

We ask that when you come to work for the Museum that you come appropriately dressed for the work that you intend to do. If you are working with or near any operating plant we ask that High Visibility clothing (Tee Shirt or Vest) is worn. Like wise if you are working on track work particularly in close proximity to the Main Line that orange High Visibility clothing is worn. (Red clothing must **NOT** be worn).

As volunteers we cannot enforce what clothing we want you to wear but have listed below items of minimum protective clothing we recommend members wear while working onsite. These include:

- Work Boots (preferably steel capped).
- Overalls or appropriate full length work clothes
- High Visibility Tee Shirt or vest (when required).
- Gloves

When working in the workshop or around noisy machinery we ask that members wear suitable ear and eye protection. While the Museum does have a limited supply of goggles, ear muffs and dust masks we recommend you consider supplying your own for your personal use.

If you suffer from an injury while working onsite, please ensure you report the injury to a fellow worker onsite and that the nature of the injury is recorded on an Injury/Incident Report. These are located in the Member's Meal Room.

**The Safety of our Members and Visitors at Valley Heights is of paramount importance. If you are concerned over any aspect of onsite safety please ensure that you inform the Duty Officer at the Museum or any member of the Museum's Executive on the day you notice the potential safety risk, so that corrective action can be implemented as soon as practicably possible.**

**CLEANING ASSISTANCE**

Member June Tester has been cleaning the Museum's Toilets and Meal Room on regular basis for a number of months now and is doing an excellent job which is very much appreciated by our volunteer workforce. However, June would appreciate some help. Your commitment would only be required on two half days a month. Please

contact Col Burne on Ph: 4739 2423 or Andrew Tester on Ph: 4735 8601 and they can arrange to meet with you to discuss and show you the ropes. All equipment provided.

**UP COMING EVENTS**

2009	
<b>JUNE Open Days</b>	Sun. 14/6/2009 & 28/6/2009
<b>Retirees Work Week</b>	Sat. 13/6/2009 Mon. – Fri. 15/6 to 19/6/2009
<b>JULY Open Days</b>	Sun. 12/7, 19/7 & 26/7/2009
<b>Aus7 Modellers Group AGM</b>	Sun. 12/07/2009
<b>Model T Ford Club Visit</b>	Sun. 12/07/2009
<b>Retirees Work Week</b>	Sat. 11/7/2009 Mon. – Fri. 13/7 to 17/7/2009
<b>AUGUST Open Days</b>	Sun. 9/8/2009 & 23/8/2009
<b>Retirees Work Week</b>	Sat. 8/8/2009 Mon. – Fri. 10/8 to 14/8/2009
<b>VH Museum AGM</b>	Sat. 29/8/2009



**RETRAVISION**  
more than just the best price

**SPRINGWOOD RETRAVISION**  
66 Macquarie Road  
Springwood NSW 2777

Phone : 02 4751 7155  
Fax: 02 4751 7154  
Email : springwoodnsw@retravision.com.au

*Model Railway Proudly*  
*Supported by*



Telephone: 02 9809 6954  
Email: austrain@idx.com.au  
Webpage: <http://homepage.idx.com.au/austrain/index.htm>