

# The Depot Diary

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April.  
2004

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.info.mountains.net.au/locodepot](http://www.info.mountains.net.au/locodepot)

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## 1. 3526 & 3112 TO VALLEY HEIGHTS

For those of our members, who are not members of the Rail Transport Museum (RTM), steam locomotive 3526 (after an absence of 30 years from mainline tours), will be making its inaugural mainline tour following its recent overhaul.

Accompanying 3526, will be locomotive 3112 and both will haul separate trains from Sydney Terminal, running parallel to each other from Flemington to St Marys.

Upon arrival at Valley Heights, both trains will shunt into the Museum confines, disembark their passengers, and reverse back into the yard. The locomotives will then stable their trains before returning into the depot for servicing and display.

As a member of Valley Heights you can share in this rare event.

Please refer to the separate brochure included in this newsletter. Be sure to take note of the time you will be required to be at the Museum before the gates close and that you have your Membership Card with you.

## 2. RAILMOTOR TOUR - MUDGEES

Those of you who have booked on the Railmotor Tour to Mudgee with our friends from STaRPS, will probably already be aware that as a result of the visit by steam locomotives 3526 & 3112 (see above), on Saturday 29th May 2004, the Railmotor Tour has been deferred one day and will now occur on Sunday 30 May 2004. Thankfully the change of date has not resulted in many cancellations and has in fact worked out better for others. Anybody who has not paid their \$50-00 deposit for their ticket(s) please contact the tour organiser, David Lewis on

(02) 9630 6304, to arrange same and confirm your booking. To those attending the Tour, please ensure you get plenty of photos, as it would be good to publish these in a future edition of the Depot Diary.

## 3. FISH REPORT

Hi All. At last the retaining wall has been commenced and is now underway. During the excavation work stone steps were discovered next to the ash tunnel. Behind the sleeper wall were a considerable amount of bricks, which had been used as fill. These bricks appear to be from the coal stage piers.

Whilst Rail Infrastructure Corporation has approved repairs to the termite damaged Compressor shed, the contractor Group Garages have not yet come to the party. Hopefully work on this should commence soon.

My thanks to Jim Hall for taking on the position of Exhibits Manager


The Board of the RTM have approved in principal the relocation of Warrimoo Model Railway Club to Valley Heights. They are now seeking approval from Rail Corp. Further discussions are to take place on the location and type of shed to be built.

The STaRPS trip by rail motor to Mudgee will take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Our Member Peter Sage who has been working on the BL with his son Ted has been diagnosed with a form of leukaemia. He is currently undergoing Chemotherapy. We all wish him well.

Reminder to Members, if you wish to see the 3526 be there early, as the gates will be locked for the function.

Burkes Backyard will be featuring Roslyn and Keith Reynolds as well as the Museum on either the 14th or 21st May.



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## **4. CLUB VISITS**

The Museum is beginning to attract visits from other special interest groups from within the community. In recent times we have hosted visits from members the Veteran Car Club and the Model T Ford Car Club, both of whom displayed their historic vehicles within the Museum.

In May the Southern Cross Outdoor Group will be visiting the Museum.

If any of our members, are members of any other community groups, (or know of any one who is), and are looking for venues to visit as group outing, we would like to hear from you. Please contact our Publicity Officer, Andrew Tester on (02) 4735 8601, for further details.

## **5. BURKES BACKYARD**

Don Burke and a film crew from Channel 9's "Burkes Backyard" program visited the Museum on Friday 26 March 2004 and while on site, shot some film sequences around the Depot. Plenty of warning was given to enable members of STaRPS to steam Stevo for the day, which enabled Don Burke to experience his first ever locomotive cab ride. Don also inspected the Museum's gardens created by our regular gardening crew, Roslyn and Keith Reynolds. Don was suitably impressed and arrangements are in hand for a return visit for further filming. Who knows what this may lead to?

## **6. RTM BOARD OPEN FORUM**

The next RTM Board Open Forum to be held at Valley Heights will be conducted on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2004, commencing at 11am.

These forums are all about communication and provide RTM members with the opportunity to raise and discuss issues directly with the Board of the RTM.

If you have any issues you wish to discuss please notify the RTM's Darlington Office in advance so that the issue can be put on notice and a thorough explanation provided at the forum.

At the conclusion of the forum a Member's Barbecue will be held.

## **7. CONGRATUATIONS**

The Museum would like to pass on its congratulations to members Terry and Patricia Matchett, who recently became proud grand parents to a grand daughter "Imogen". Born on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2004 to parents Brendan and Rachel, Baby, Parents and Grand Parents are all thriving and our congratulations go to all on the new arrival. (Terry, don't forget it's never too early to start "**Training Imogen along the right Lines**". – PS: That's not Bushfire Brigades either).

## **8. 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – NSW RAILWAYS**

September 2005 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Railways of New South Wales. We are forming a Committee to plan what we can do to commemorate this Event. The committee will commence meeting in June, so if you feel you can assist and would like to contribute please contact our Publicity Officer, Andrew Tester on (02) 4735 8601.

## **9. AROUND THE MUSEUM**

Here is a brief update on the happenings around the Depot site during January - March 2004.

### **Building Restoration**

Chargeman's Building – Restoration work on the former Chargeman's Building continues. Much of the materials required to complete this building has been either ordered or purchased and is on site. Restoration of this building is proving to be a challenge to the team carrying out the work, due to the poor original construction of this building. Many of the new weatherboard timbers have been primed prior to installation. Contractors have removed fibro wall and roof sheeting from this building and disposed of same in accordance with regulations. The team of workers restoring this building are always after extra hands to assist in the restoration of this building. If any of our members are retired or semi retired and would like to assist in this work

please contact the Building Restoration Manager, Dave Torr on (02) 9874 7982 or Col Burne on (02) 4739 2423 to find out details of how and when you can help. Any help you can provide on this project would be greatly appreciated

Compressor Shed – As reported in the last Depot Diary the compressor shed in the member's car park had a portion of the roof removed by strong winds during September. Since then the Committee has raised this issue with the Rail Infrastructure Corporation (RIC) who have inspected the damage and have sent a contractor out to quote on replacement of the roof / Shed. A new concrete slab has also been poured in preparation for the new shed to be built.

### **Building Services**

De-scaling Tanks - Ted Dickson with the assistance of Ken Rudd have delivered and installed a new 1000 litre de-scaling tank at Thirlmere. The tanks are used to remove heavy rust and scale from non-ferrous, steel and cast iron components and save the need for manual wire brushing or needle gunning. Once parts are immersed and connected, the tank simmers away with a low voltage power supply providing an electrolytic action to remove the rust and scale. Depending on the size of the component and the amount of rust/scale, the de-scaling process can take from 2-4 weeks. A similar tank has also been installed at Valley Heights.

Equipment/Service Repairs - Repairs have been carried out to a water leak in the bottom car park and to workshop machinery.

Safety Checks - Safety checks continue to be carried out on all electrical cords, tools and appliances in accordance with Occupational Health and Safety regulations.

### **Exhibits**

BL356 - Restoration on the BL carriage continues.

5461 – The Museum has accepted the offer of the donation of some marker lights for the tender of this locomotive.

### **Model Railway**

The Model Railway Group continues to carry out improvements to the Model Railway.

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### **Retail**

The Museum stocks a large range of Books, Videos, DVD's and other miscellaneous items for sale. Many of these items are RTM publications and by purchasing them from Valley Heights, you assist in the providing financial support so that further improvements can be carried out at Valley Heights. Should you require further details of what we have in stock, please contact our Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan on (02) 4751 4638, during open days at the Museum.

### **Publicity**

Springwood Model Railway Exhibition – The Museum participated in this event once again this year with retail sales stand and a photographic display and a display of Fettle's vehicles and other historical items.

Springwood Foundation Day – The Museum held an additional Open Day in conjunction with Springwood Foundation Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2004. Visitor numbers were again this year a little disappointing however the crowds in Springwood for the main activities were also down on previous years. This could have been attributed to the Royal Easter show and local Sporting Clubs commencing their winter season competitions on the same weekend.

Burke's Backyard - As reported earlier in this Newsletter, we have been visited by a film crew from Burke's Backyard. Regular viewers to Channel 9 would have probably noticed some of the footage that was taken at the Museum, during the promotional commercials for the new season of Burke's Backyard, which went to air during late April. At this stage we don't know when this material is going to be used so viewers will have to stay tuned to Burke's Backyard. Let's hope this leads to bigger and better things.

## **10. WORKS REPORT**

### **Work Hours**

As at the end of March 2004, the following hours had been logged by our volunteers for the months of January - March.

Activity	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Services	26	17	7
Buildings	276	279	144
Model Railway	39	3	30
Workshop	23	54	72
Exhibits	38	76	77
Grounds	154	117	79
Publicity	-	9	31
Retail	67	99	197
General / Admin	67	50	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>688</b>

### Attendance Register

Can 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. 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.

### 11. EXHIBITS PRESENTATION MANAGER

The position of Exhibits Presentation Manager has now been filled. Thanks to Jim Hall who has recently accepted the position of Exhibits Presentation Manager. Jim will be assisted by Bruce Saunders who will represent the Blue Mountains Division on the RTM's Exhibits Management Group. Thank you Jim and Bruce.

### 12. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined up until the end of December, and trust they have a long and enjoyable association with the Museum.

Name	Member No
Col & Rona Jarrett – Emu Heights	387
Pam Staples – Linden	388
Michael Jessop – Springwood	389
Daniel Murray – Winmalee	390
Tony Woodruff - Blaxland	391

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### 13. 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 your copies of the Depot Diary.

Please contact the Museum's Membership Officer, at our Postal Address with your revised details.

### 14. 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.

***Please Note*** – *Presentation of your Membership Card will still be required on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2004 if you plan to come to the Museum to witness the visit by Steam Locomotives 3526 & 3112.*

### 15. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
Open Days - May	Sun 2 & 16/5/04
Burkes Backyard	7.30pm 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2004
Southern Cross Outdoor Group Visit	Sun 16/5/04
Steam Locomotive 3526 & 3112 Visit	Sat 29/5/2004
STARPS Railmotor Tour to Mudgee	Sun 30/5/2004
Open Days - June	Sun 6 & 20/6/2004
RTM Board Open Forum	Sat 26/6/2004
Open Days - July	Sun 4 & 18/7/2004