

# The Depot Diary

No. 75  
June.  
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. VALLEY HEIGHTS VISITED BY "THE NANNY"



The Museum hosted visits by Steam Locomotives 3112 and 3526 on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2004. Hauling two trains from Sydney, the locomotive brought between 300 & 400 passengers to the Museum for the day.

This was 3526's inaugural return to main line Service and to mark the occasion both locomotives hauled their trains, running parallel from Sydney to St Marys.

3112 being this first train to arrive, struggled to lift her train from the Refuge Siding into the Loco Depot, however upon arrival, passengers quickly detrained and those whom paid for a prepaid catered lunch were promptly fed. After all passengers had alighted from the first train, 3112 reversed the train back into the Storage Siding in the Station yard in preparation for 3526 to arrive with her train.

3526 soon arrived with the second train consisting of classic Pullman Carriages. Once again, the passengers detrained and those whom paid for a prepaid catered lunch were promptly fed. 3526 was uncoupled from her train and shunted onto the Turntable for turning. 3112 then attached to the Sydney of the second train and shunted the Pullman Carriages out of the Arrival Road and onto the Coal Stage Siding. This then allowed for 3526 to shunt from the Turntable to the De-ashing Pits where the locomotive was serviced.

Once all servicing of the locomotives were completed, both trains were marshalled on the Arrival Road ready for departure to Sydney.

While all this sounds as though the day ran smooth, this was not to be, before the trains had even left Sydney, they were delayed for two hours thanks to the derailment of a Countrylink Explorer set which trapped the steam locomotives in Eveleigh until the derailment was cleared. This subsequently threw the whole timetable out by 2 hours for the day.

However to the credit of our own volunteers everything on our part ran smoothly. From those who assisted with serving food to ensure our customers were fed promptly to those who helped Steve Corrigan in the shop a BIG thank, you as they were run off their feet all day.

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## 2. RAILMOTOR TOUR - MUDGEES



Following on from the visit by 3526, on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2004 between 60 & 70 members and friends of STARPS and Valley Heights enjoyed a day tour to Mudgee using the Railmotor Society's, CPH Railmotors No's 1 & 7.

Organised by David Lewis to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society, the Railmotors arrived at Valley Heights on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2004, (not long after the departure of locomotives 3112 & 3526).

The CPH's were stabled in the Locomotive Depot overnight ready for a 7:00am departure the next morning.

Departing Valley Heights on time, the Railmotors proceeded up the mountains to Lithgow and beyond. A couple of photo stops were held along the Mudgee line before arriving in Mudgee approximately 30 minutes late. While this restricted the stay at Mudgee all passengers enjoyed the opportunity to bask in the warm autumn sun of Mudgee, while partaking in their lunch.

The return journey to Valley Heights was slightly delayed at Lithgow, but a spirited run back down the mountains saw the Tin hares arrive back at Valley Heights approximately 6 minutes late.

A very successful day was had by all in attendance. Many thanks to David Lewis (STARPS) who organised the tour for everyone's enjoyment. Congratulations to STARPS on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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### 3. FISH REPORT

Hi All. The stage 1 of the retaining wall is complete and stage two has commenced. At last, the compressor shed is also complete. During the excavation work 3 supports for the original fibro water mains have been found.

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

The Board of the RTM visited for the regular forum on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. Discussion was primarily around the new Corporate Plan. RIC have verbally approved the relocation of Warrimoo Model Railway Club to Valley Heights.

The STaRPS trip by rail motor to Mudgee on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May was a fantastic day. There was one person who stayed at the motel so he would not be late. Guess what, he was late. The railmotors performed superbly, even had to hold back. Quite a deal of wild life could be seen from the train. Everyone had a good time. Question being asked when is the next trip. My thanks to STaRPS and Dave Lewis.

Reminder the AGM is coming up on the 28th August at 1.30pm followed by a sausage sizzle.

Malcolm Johnson the RTM President is standing down in August. He has moved to Lennox Head. Malcolm has been a nearly full time President. He has set a high standard for his replacement to follow.


Planning is underway for our Museum to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Railways. If you have any memorabilia which you may wish to exhibit please contact Andrew Tester 02 4735 8601.

### 4. ONSITE CAR PARKING

Can all members please be aware of parking their cars inside the Museum? This matter was recently discussed at committee level as problems have been experienced with those who have driven the tractor/forklift and fire tanker. While parking is generally permitted on days when we are not open to the public, it is requested that vehicle owners please be conscious that we often need to move the tractor around the museum grounds, often with loads on the front forks. This can restrict vision for the driver and judging clearances of members' vehicles can be impeded. To avoid possible damage to your vehicle, please do not obstruct driveway clearances as authorised drivers of the tractor/forklift or fire tanker will not be held liable for any damage.

On days when the Museum is open to the public, parking is not permitted inside the Museum grounds period. Cars can be driven into the Museum to unload equipment required for the day, after which members must park their cars outside.

Please be conscious that priority is given to our visitors to parking along the Access Road and in the Visitors Parking Area and Members are encouraged to use the top Member's Car park.



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*Valley Heights*

### 5. VALLEY HEIGHTS MEMBERSHIP CARDS

It has been brought to our attention that some members of Valley Heights have been trying to use their Valley Heights Membership Cards to gain free admission into the Thirlmere Museum.

Although Valley Heights is recognised as the Blue Mountains Division of the NSW Rail Transport Museum, your Membership Card to Valley Heights **only gives you free entry into the Valley Heights Museum.** As a member of Valley Heights you cannot use your card as a means to gain free entry any other Museum. Nor does it give you permission to access State Rail property that is not normally accessible by the general Public.

New Membership Cards are currently being investigated, to be issued in time for the new Membership Year, which will highlight these conditions.

### 6. STaRPS REPORT

Introducing the STaRPS Report. This is the first in a new regular report that will appear in the Depot Diary. Given that STaRPS are working with us to create a live working Museum it is felt that the membership should be kept informed on not only the work that they are performing but also the excellent working relationship we hold between ourselves as two separate organisations sharing the same site.

We would like to kick off this report by introducing the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society (STaRPS) to our membership by providing you with Part 1 of a brief history on this organisation.

The Society was formed on the 11th June 1954 with the aim of preserving, restoring and operating a Steam Tram, an early means of transport that had long since disappeared from Sydney streets, some 20 years earlier.

The Society purchased Steam Tram Motor 103A and initial restoration commenced in a suburban garage, while negotiations with the then Parramatta Park Trust commenced for a permanent home to base the Society from.

Successful negotiations saw the Society construct a depot within Parramatta Park. On the 8th November 1956 Steam Tram 103A was moved to its new home and was steamed for the first time at this location only two days later. Shortly afterwards the society obtained two Tram Trailer Cars to accompany the Steam Tram Motor.

Regular operations commenced with the official opening of the Parramatta Park Tramway on Sunday 20th September 1964. From this date forward, the tramway operated on the third Sunday of each month, and on other special occasions.

Over the next three decades the Society's collection of tramway and light railway locomotives and rolling stock had grown and included the following items - 1 Steam Tram Motor (103A), 4 Tram Trailer Cars, 3 Steam Locomotives, 1 CPH Railmotor, 1 End Platform Passenger Carriage, 1 Composite Car, 1 Guards Van and a small collection of freight rolling stock. The Society also had the body of Steam Tram Motor (133A) which had been matched to diesel powered underframe and was used for shunting.

Patronage on the Tramway within Parramatta Park was high on every occasion the tramway operated and the future for the Society looked secure until the night of the 7th June 1993, when disaster struck. The Society's Depot for the last 37 years was gutted by fire and their historic collection was all **but** destroyed.

**"TO BE CONTINUED".**

## 7. ASH SIDINGS - RETAINING WALL



As was briefly mentioned in the Fish Report of Depot Diary 74, work has commenced on the new retaining wall adjacent to the Ash Sidings.

Work commenced with the demolition of the old Sleeper and Rail retaining wall which had deteriorated to the point where it was no longer safe. Excavation work then commenced from the ash disposal tunnel to the western end of the Ash Sidings. During the excavation work, stone steps that had been placed on each side of the tunnel portal were discovered. Forming for the reinforced concrete foundations were prepared and the poured.

Construction of the new wall commenced and by the time you receive this newsletter this first section of the wall will be completed. Work will then commence on the construction of the wall east of the Ash disposal tunnel.

## 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 May-June 2004.

### Building Restoration

**Chargeman's Building** – Restoration work on the former Chargeman's Building continues. All materials are now onsite and the total amount of money that was available under the grant has been spent and claimed back.

A more thorough report on the progress of this project to date is currently being prepared by the Project Manager, Dave Torr and will be published in a future edition of the next Depot Diary.

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** – Materials for the construction of the Compressor Shed have been delivered and the Contractor has commenced construction of the new shed.

### Building Services

**Machinery** - The small grinder has been set up in the workshop for machine tools only and not general grinding. A 10 Metre long 3 phase extension lead has been made up thanks to one of our many Electricians Kees Geelan. Terry Matchett and John Stanley have been busy repairing one of the large screw jacks.

**Electrical** - The contractor on the Shaper has been repaired and the Shaper is now operational. Donations of 2 x 100 Metre rolls of Electrical building cable and some Emergency lighting units have been received.

**Plant** - A new nozzle has been made for the Steam Cleaner.

**Water** - Small leaks were repaired on the fire hose reel tap on No 1 road of the Roundhouse.

### Exhibits

**BL356** - Although Peter Sage is still not well enough to come to the depot, Peter's son, Ted continues restoration on the BL carriage continues. A number of coats of Venetian Red have been applied to one end of the carriage. In the meantime the Museum would like to pass on its best wishes to Peter and hopes all goes well for a speedy and successful recovery. Hope to see you at the Museum soon, Peter.

**Fettlers Vehicles** - The Museum with the help of STArPS now have a number of Fettlers Vehicles accredited to use for rides on Open Days. These will be used when the Steam Locomotive is not operating to give visitors an added attraction on non-steaming days. These can only be operated by certified crews.

### Model Railway

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

### 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.

The Museum has just taken delivery of a new range of Shirts, Jackets and Caps. All are embroidered with the Museum emblem. 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

A report accompanied by a colour photograph on the visit by Steam Locomotives 3526 & 3112 was published in the Blue Mountains Gazette.

## 10. WORKS REPORT

#### Work Hours

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

Activity	Apr.	May
Services	18	5
Buildings	293	364
Model Railway	2	56
Workshop	48	12
Exhibits	62	68
Grounds	71	127
Publicity	5	230
Retail	203	120
General / Admin	43	62
Total	745	1044

#### 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.

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## 11. CONDOLENCES

The Museum extends its condolences onto member John Howe who lost his dear wife Marjorie, on the 1st July 2004, after a short illness. John has worked with the retirees group in the past, working on the former Chargeman's/DLE's Building and other projects. To John and his family, the museum extends its deepest sympathy.

## 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.

*Model Railway proudly Supported by*



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Name	Membership Number
Joanne Comito - Lawson	392
Wendy Bowden - Emu Plains	393
Lisa Painter - Kingswood	394
Jean Proctor - Winnmalee	395
Peter & Millisa Voglsom - Springwood	396

## 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.

## 15. CONGRATUATIONS

The Museum would like to pass on its congratulations to member Dave Torr and his wife Wendy, who recently became proud grand parents for the first time, to a grand daughter "Selene". Selene was born on the 1st May 2004 to parents Simon and Sylvia. The Museum extends its congratulations to the proud parents and grand parents on the new arrival. Well done.

## 16. RAFFLE

The Museum is currently raffling a framed print of 3517. Titled "The Night Mail" the print is a limited edition and has been made available by the kind generosity of Orion Fine Arts. Tickets for the raffle are \$1-00ea, 3 for \$2-00 or 7 for \$5-00. Tickets can be purchased from the Museum on open days. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 19th December 2004.

## 17. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
Open Days - July	Sun 4 & 18/7/2004
Open Days - August	Sun 1 & 15/8/2004
AGM - VH	Sat 28/8/2004
Open Days - September	Sun 5 & 19/9/2004