



The Depot Diary

No. 76
August
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

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

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum (Blue Mountains Division of the NSW Rail Transport Museum), will be held on Saturday 28th August 2004. The Meeting will be held in the Springwood Historical Society's Room commencing at 1.30pm.

Please find enclosed herewith the Notice of the Meeting, Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting and Annual Reports.

2. MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The matter of Membership Criteria will be raised for discussion at the Annual General Meeting. The current Executive Committee will be asking the membership to consider changes to the existing criteria structure so as to incorporate new types of Membership criteria. (ie: Husband & Wife/Family membership) Accordingly any changes could bring about changes to the Membership Fees.

3. FISH REPORT

Hi all another year comes to an end, thankyou for your continued support. This report will be brief.

Our thanks to our Patron Tony Brown who has donated a new battery and new rear tyres for our tractor. Thank you Tony.

Stage two of the retaining wall is well underway.

We have taken delivery of ten RSJ supports for our overhead crane. Thankyou Rail Infrastructure Corporation.

Don't forget AGM Saturday 1.30pm 28th August. See you there

4. 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.

5. STaRPS REPORT

The last Depot Diary (No. 75) we introduced The STaRPS Report, featuring Part 1 of a brief history of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society. We will now continue this report with Part 2 of this organisation's history.

In the days following the devastating fire that destroyed the Society's home for the last 37 years, members of STaRPS

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Yet another year has concluded which has seen the Museum advance in its development and progress towards one of the major tourist attractions on the lower Blue Mountains. However, this progress could not be achieved without the invaluable support of our generous sponsors.

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- * *Hook Up Electrical Services*
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We trust we can look forward to your continued support into the future. Sincere Thanks.

began the long and painful task of ravaging through the remains of their once unique collection to salvage and secure what valuable items were left.

Arrangements were quickly made for the transportation and temporary relocation of the Society's collection. The charred remains of Steam Locomotive 1022, Steam Tram Motor 103A, and the parts of Steam Locomotive 1308 (*which was disassembled and stored outside the depot building at the time of the fire*), were transferred to Thirlmere. Other salvageable parts from the remains of their collection were housed in shipping containers and at the Loftus Tramway Museum, until a new home could be built or found.

Negotiations commenced immediately with the Parramatta City Council and the Parramatta Park Trust to gain a commitment that the Society can re-establish within the Park. However, it soon became apparent that the Society was no longer welcome within Parramatta Park and so the long historic association between Steam Trams and Parramatta had come to an end.

With an uncertain destiny hanging over the future of the Society, the search for a new home began in earnest. If the Society could not re-establish at a new location their collection (or what remained of it), may have to be split up and the Society dissolved.

After months of searching and unsuccessful negotiations with other organisations for a new site, STaRPS commenced negotiations with the NSW Rail Transport Museum (NSWRM), who recommended that they approach their Blue Mountains Division to investigate the feasibility of them relocating to Valley Heights.

Exploratory talks between STaRPS and the Blue Mountains Division of the NSWRTM, were held and an understanding and agreement has since been finalised.

With the search for a new home behind them, the job of rebuilding the Society from its ashes began. The first of their exhibits, two replacement Tram car bodies, retrieved from a house at Berowra arrived at Valley Heights in March 1997. These were followed by the Stephenson Locomotive (which escaped the fire), steam locomotive 1022 and the steam tram motor 103A in February 1998. Restoration work on some of these exhibits has commenced, the results of which can be seen at Valley Heights.

Construction on a new shed (similar to the Dubbo Engine Shed) is expected to commence in the near future. This will be located in the Ash Sidings adjacent to the new Retaining Wall, currently under construction. Once this has been completed STaRPS will be based in the new shed, separate from the existing location in the Roundhouse.

Considering the small number of volunteers the society has they can justifiably be proud of what they have achieved since the fire and we at Valley Heights welcome them.

6. SMALL EXHIBITS

The Museum would like to hear from members who can assist a small team in the sorting, cataloguing and labelling of our large collection of Small and miscellaneous Exhibits. Up until now these items have been displayed with little or no labelling to describe to our visitors what the exhibit is. Members, Neil Cram and Glenn Hargrave have agreed to lead a team of volunteers to carryout this task. The aim will be to have the small and miscellaneous exhibits catalogued and labelled in time for the 150th Anniversary of the Railways of New South Wales, in September 2005.

At the completion of this task the Museum will be able to exhibit these items in a professional manner, within purpose built display cabinets, once the restoration on the Chargeman's Building is completed.

If you feel you can assist and would like to contribute with this work, please contact our Publicity Officer, Andrew Tester on (02) 4735 8601.

7. 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	June	July
Services	13	47
Buildings	236	277
Model Railway	7	40
Workshop	26	13
Exhibits	81	55
Landscaping / Grounds	104	130
Publicity	0	0
Retail	73	77
General / Admin	87	87
Total	627	726

Reminder - Attendance Register

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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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8. AROUND THE MUSEUM

A more thorough report on the activities around the Museum will be included in the next Depot Diary, including a comprehensive report on the restoration progress on the former Chargeman's Building.

9. 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	Membership Number
Peter Chinn - Springwood	398
Don Payne, Glenbrook.	399

10. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The current membership year expires on 30th September 2004. Membership Renewals will be included in the October edition of the Depot Diary.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
Open Days - August	Sun 1 & 15/8/2004
AGM - VH	Sat 28/8/2004
Open Days - September	Sun 5 & 19/9/2004
Membership Renewals Due	From Fri. 1/10/2004
L'pool Model R'way Exhibition	Sat-Mon 2-4/10/2004
Open Days - October	Sun 3 & 17/10/2004