



The Depot Diary

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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

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1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As you would be aware the Annual General Meeting of the Museum was held on Saturday 28th August 2004. The retiring Chairman Ted Mullett briefly addressed the members before declaring all positions vacant and calling on Peter Stock, President of STaRPS to conduct the Annual Election of Office Bearers where the following were elected:

Position	Office Bearer
Chairman	Ted Mullett
Secretary	Ross Stenning
Treasurer/Finance Manager	Dave Hunt
Publicity Officer	Andrew Tester
Membership Officer	Col Burne
Building Services Manager	Ted Dickson
Building Restoration Manager	Dave Torr
Grounds/Perway Maintenance Manager	Bruce Coxon
Retail Manager	Steve Corrigan
Exhibits Manager	Jim Hall
Model Railway Manager	Ray Beharrell

At the conclusion of the Annual Election, newly re-elected Chairman Ted Mullett resumed the chair and nominations were called to fill the various sub-committee positions whom are elected to assist the Managers in Publicity, Building Restoration, Building Services, Grounds/Perway Maintenance, Exhibits, Retail and Model Railway.

Nominations were then called to fill the following Honorary Positions with the successful nominees being:

Position	Nominee
Honorary Historian	Ted Dickson
Honorary Librarian	Judith Hill

This was followed by the appointment of our Patrons and addresses from Peter Stock (STaRPS) and Paul Trevaskis (Blue Mountains Commuters Association).

2. CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

You will note from the last Depot Diary, that the matter of Membership was raised for discussion at the Annual General

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***Contact: Steve Corrigan at the Retail Shop
Valley Heights.***

Meeting. This has come about following feedback that the Museum has received from Visitors who have stated that it was cheaper for them to become members than it was for the to pay for a visit to the Museum. Given that the Membership structure has remained unchanged since the Museum's formation and that the subscription rates have remained basically the same during this entire time it was felt that the Membership Criteria and the associated Subscription Rates needed to be reviewed. When these were first set, they were based on the fact the Museum could only offer its Members' a Newsletter to keep them informed on the progress and development of the Museum. As a result, the Subscription rate was set basically to cover the costs associated with the production and mailing of the Newsletter. The Museum has come a long way since those times and now offers Members unlimited free access to the Museum on public Open Days. This is no longer financially viable for the Museum to maintain. At the Annual General Meeting, the members approved the following changes to the membership criteria. We now have Adult Membership and Student Membership. The new Subscription rates are as follows Adults \$12-00 and Students \$6-00. These rates are effective immediately and are payable on each individual member. Part of these rates contributes towards each member's first visit to the Museum for that year. All subsequent following visits are free.

3. LIVERPOOL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION



Museum Stand Liverpool Exhibition - Photos: Ted Mullett

The Museum joined forces with the Rail Transport Museum's Retail Division and Heritage Express Operations group to promote the Rail Transport Museum at this Annual Event over the October Long Weekend. Apart from our Display Boards promoting the Blue Mountains Division at Valley Heights the main emphasis was the promotion of the Southern Aurora Train and the tours using this train. To help promote this aspect, a display using 1/10 scale models of the Lounge Car, Dinette Sleeping Car and locomotive 4402. To compliment this display members of staff dressed in the uniform whom normally worked the train were there to hand out promotional material and answer questions about the train to the public. This year's display was very professionally presented and full compliments goes to all who assisted from all groups within the Rail Transport Museum. Special thanks are extended to those who assisted in setting up the display, staffing it over the weekend and dismantling it at the conclusion of the weekend.

4. FISH REPORT

Thankyou for having the confidence in me to re-elect me for my 16th year.

Things are still happening! The retaining wall is complete. At last quotations for the shed are nearly complete. One has been received, two on the way.

Ken Ames has donated a deal of railway memorabilia and books. Thanks Ken. Amongst the memorabilia are several uniforms; as a consequence we are now in need of three (3) mannequins to display these. Help please?

Plans are well under way for the NSW Railways 150th Anniversary. Please let us know if you have any memorabilia you are prepared to loan us for this major exhibition. For this

exhibition we are restoring some of the former 5inch gauge model trains to working order, for these to work we need Heavy Duty Deep Cycle 12 volt car batteries. Each model takes three. If you can help, please contact me on 4751 2485?

5. RAFFLE

The Museum is currently raffling a framed print of 3517. Titled "The Night Flyer" 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 5th December 2004. If you have not got your tickets in this Raffle you will have to hurry as this will be the last edition of the Depot Diary that this reminder will appear in.

6. STaRPS REPORT

Following on from the two part introductory history on STaRPS we will introduce you to the collection of exhibits owed by STaRPS over the coming editions of the Depot Diary. We start with the Pride of their fleet Steam Tram Motor 103A in the December issue of the Depot Diary.

7. MANNEQUIN NEEDED

We require the services of three Mannequins to model our collection of railway uniforms. The Museum would like to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts of any unemployed Mannequins that could be donated to the Museum's Exhibits.

8. FIREWOOD

The Museum has a large stockpile of firewood, which is offering to its Members a no cost. If any member has a slow combustion fireplace and requires some firewood for next winter, please contact the Museum on (02) 4751 4638 and make arrangements for its collection. Members must be prepared to load what they require and provide their own transport.

8. ASH TUNNEL TROLLEY

The Museum would like to hear from any members or past depot employees who may have plans or photographs of the hand operated Ash Trolley that was used in the Ash Tunnel. The Trolley ran on a narrow gauge track through the Ash Tunnel and was used in the cleaning of locomotive Ash from the Ash Pits in the Arrival and Departure Roads above the tunnel. As it is the Museum's Plans to restore this unique feature of the depot, the Museum is interested in hearing from anybody who hold photographs or plans of this trolley. If you can help, please contact the Museum on (02) 4751 4638 at weekends.

9. WORKS REPORT

Work Hours

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

Activity	August	September
Services	14	3
Buildings	279	226
Model Railway	18	34
Workshop	29	18
Exhibits	121	52
Landscaping / Grounds	236	87
Publicity	3	2
Retail	91	93
General / Admin	143	88
Total	934	603

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Reminder - 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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10. THE CHARGEMAN'S BUILDING Part 1

An overview by the Building Restoration Manager, David Torr

In the early planning of the Valley Heights Locomotive Heritage Museum, this building, better known as the "DLE" building, was to be the shop and tearoom. Andrew Tester put forward a most practical suggestion that these two functions could be better provided in part of the former Amenities Building, because of its closer location to the actual point of entry for visitors.

The proposal was adopted without reservation and that is the reason why work on the Amenities Building commenced when it did. It gave the Museum the opportunity to have a covered and secure location to use as an entry and sales area. Accordingly, as a temporary measure half of the Chargeman's Building was adapted to house and display the small and miscellaneous exhibits. The other half was used for the storage of all sorts of things and materials. The building had come to the Museum in a run down condition with three doors and three windows missing. One door and an internal partition wall were replaced to provide security for the small and miscellaneous exhibits, and temporary doors and weatherproofing were provided to other openings as required. In short, the Chargeman's Building was not a happy place.



The building is of timber framed construction, supported on brick piers, with a corrugated iron gable roof, timber floor, and is sheathed externally with timber weatherboards. The internal walls and ceiling are lined with timber vee jointed lining boards. A corrugated fibro sheeted skillion roof veranda with a concrete floor was added at a later time. And at an even later time part of that veranda was enclosed to provide additional office space.

In 2002, the New South Wales Heritage Office, under its Heritage Incentives Program, invited applications for Site Works and Presentation Projects. Applications closed on 22 March 2002 and on the Museum's behalf, the late Arthur Tester submitted an application in relation to the Chargeman's Building for a grant of \$27,000, with labour input costs by the Museum of \$55,000.

The proposal was to bring the building back as close as possible to its original three rooms, plus the veranda which would be open for its full length, in order that it could house small railway exhibits and an art gallery for public display. I was named as the contact person in the application.

Our first contact was a letter from the Heritage Office to me acknowledging receipt of the application, and confirming some administrative matters.

Our next contact was a letter in July 2002 from Mr Andrew Refshauge MP Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Housing, advising that he had approved of a pro rata grant.

An Acceptance Agreement was received from the Heritage Office in early August 2002, which had to be completed and returned, and official approval to proceed was received on 26 September 2002.

The Museum had also been advised that at least 50% of the project must be complete by 30 May 2003 and that the completion date for the Heritage Incentives Program was 30 May 2004. Another condition was that a Conservation Architect had to be employed to supervise the work, and a local architect was engaged. Between August and December in 2002 meetings were held between the Museum, Architect and the local Council, and we were advised that the proposed conservation work would have to be approved by the Council. This entailed the preparation of plans and application forms, and finally a submission to Council on 28 January 2003.

Because formal approval had not been granted, the work on the site was limited to cleaning out the building. This was commenced on 16 and 17 December 2003 in extremely hot conditions, the temperature reaching 39 degrees both days. This initial cleaning allowed us to inspect and assess the work that was considered necessary. The need to commence the work was becoming more urgent and it was my decision to proceed without approval, on 10 May 2003. Approval from Council was received on 29 July 2003, which was six months and one day after application.

Our first consideration was to determine the structural condition of the building, and to do that a lot of unwanted materials had to be removed. For the sake of discussion we have numbered the rooms as 1, 2, 3 from the western end. Room 1 and half of room 2 were in relatively good order with the lining boards to the ceiling and walls in fair condition. The wall to the remainder of room 2 had been sheathed with hard board, which was removed. This showed that there had been a solid fuel heater in the north eastern corner of the room, and the two walls from the corner had been painted out approximately 900 each way with black bituminous paint, which in turn had been charred in many places by the massive heat which must have

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been generated by the fire from time to time. In fact, it is probably a minor miracle that the building has survived.

In room 3, the original ceiling lining boards had gone. In its place timber battens had been fixed to the underside of the ceiling joists, then hardboard sheet to the battens and then canite acoustic tiles to that. The whole problem was that there was two different sizes of structural timbers holding all of this together, but it was all spanning an area of 15'0 x 15'0, with no stiffening member above to tie it all together. It again was another potential disaster. All the walls in this room were sheeted with hardboard, and this was also removed.

While all this work was happening at floor level, Jim Hall was busy inside the roof area above rooms 1 and 2, cleaning out the rubbish, which consisted of soot, bird droppings, and old electrical installations. Bucket after bucket of rubbish was removed from this area, and then the whole area was finished off with a vacuum cleaner. It was an enormous but very necessary job, because it enabled us to work in some degree of comfort and cleanliness.

(Part 2 of this feature will be continued in Depot Diary 78 (Dec. 2004))

11. AROUND THE MUSEUM

Chargeman's Building – Work continues on the work associated with the restoration of this building. Included in this Edition of the Depot Diary is the first of a two Part Overview on the Restoration of the Chargeman's Building, prepared by the Building Restoration Manager. This has been included as a supplement to this Depot Diary (and the December edition) to give our Members an idea of the work that the Team involved in this project has contributed to this the building so far. We trust you find the content of interest.

New Retaining Wall – The contractor has now completed the building of the new Retaining Wall adjacent to the Ash Sidings. We are now in the process of obtaining quotes for the construction of the new shed that is to be built over the Ash Sidings to house the STaRPS collection.



*Retaining Wall completed in preparation for STaRPS new Shed.
Photo: Andrew Teste*

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	Membership Number
Don Payne - Glenbrook	399

13. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Members Annual Subscriptions are NOW due. Membership Renewal forms are enclosed herewith or are attached separately (if you received your Depot Diary by email). Please note the new rates payable for the 2004/2005 Membership year as details in "Changes to Membership" (Page 1, Section 2, above), and ensure you forward the correct amount. It would be appreciated if all Members could renew their Membership by returning the attached form and the applicable Subscription to the Membership Officer, VHLDHM, PO Box 484, Springwood NSW 2777, by no later than the 31st December 2004. If we have not received your renewal by this date your membership will be deemed as unfinancial.

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

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.

16. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
Membership Renewals Due	From Fri. 1/10/04
Open Days - October	Sun 3 & 17/10/04
Open Days - November	Sun 7 & 21/11/04
Glenbrook Spring Fair	Sat 13/11/04
Open Days - December	Sun 5 & 19/12/04

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