



The Depot Diary

No. 81
June
2005

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.infoblue-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. FISH REPORT

Hi everyone.

It is getting close to the Annual General meeting (27th August), so please come along and add your support.

The Board of the RTM are having an open forum at Valley Heights at 11.00am. Come and have your say.

Thankyou to OASIS nursery for the donation of their redundant Pulford air compressor and to Tony Brown for transporting it to the Museum. The Compressor needs some minor work and setting up of the electrics. When this is done it will be tested and then moved into the compressor shed.



Pulford Air Compressor

Call in and have a look at the good work being done on the Chargeman's building.

When you look back over the last twelve months it is amazing the amount of work that has been done.

Unfortunately we still have not had any progress on the mannequins we need nor the batteries for the model trains.

The Shell tanker is ready to be lowered onto its frame. The fire brigade have offered to do this as an exercise. Lovel springs have assisted with refurbishment of the springs.

Have a look at our new web site. It is good.

We still need volunteers to work at the Museum. There is a job for every one. Steve Corrigan could do with some help in the shop on open days.

2. RAILWAYS 150TH CELEBRATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT



We have now been meeting and planning for this event since June 2004. While we began with big plans to celebrate this historic event, unfortunately, due to many circumstances beyond our control, some of our plans will not be proceeding, due to excessive costs which probably would not be recuperated by the event and a lack of support or interest from external bodies. Planning still proceeds in earnest towards our event to mark the 150th Anniversary Celebrations. The Schools Art Competition that was being investigated will not proceed due to the minimal interest shown from the schools that
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were invited to participate. Approaches were made to 12 high schools and 12 primary schools between Emu Plains and Mt Victoria, with only a handful of schools indicating their willingness to participate. Given the low level of interest received from the schools and all the other work required by our volunteers to hold the Art Competition as well as organise our main event, the decision has been made not to proceed with the Art Competition.

Our friends within our parent body at the NSW Rail Transport Museum were working with us to operate and base steam operated tours to Valley Heights and out of Valley Heights on local shuttle services, as part of the railways 150th Celebrations, but again, due track repossessions by the RailCorp on the weekends these were planned for, these have been forced to be abandoned.

Never fear we are still holding our event locally where we will be displaying our usual exhibits. These will be complimented with a special display of HO Gauge Models depicting the progress and the development of the locomotives and carriages of the NSW Railways from the 1800's to the present day. It is also envisaged that some 5" gauge models of NSW Locomotives and Rollingstock will be displayed by courtesy of members of the Blue Mountains Railway Society at Wascoe Siding, Blaxland. The Springwood Historical Society has also developed a new display based on local architectural changes following the arrival of the Railway.

Included with this copy of the Depot Diary is a letter addressed to all NSW residing members seeking assistance in staffing for this event during the 3 weeks of the event. We request that you give us some favourable consideration towards assisting us in this event. Areas that Members will be asked to assist in include Retail (Admission Ticket & Souvenir Sales), Overnight Security, Tour Guides, Model Railway, and General Duties. Those of our members who receive the copy of the Depot Diary by email will receive this letter under separate cover through the Mail. Please give consideration to our request for assistance. We require a minimum of 4 people per day between 10:00am and 4:00pm and at least 2 people to stay over night for Security purposes.

3. CARAVAN

The Museum requires the use of a caravan to assist in accommodation for those staying overnight during the 150th Celebrations. The Caravan is required from the 19th September to the 8th October 2005. If any member has a Caravan that is not being used during this period and wouldn't mind offering it to the Museum for the three weeks of our event, please contact the Event Co-ordinator, Andrew Tester on (02) 4735 8601. Thanks.

Ph. 02-47511180

Fax.

02-47519315

Mobile.

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4. WEBSITE

A new addition to the Museum Website is a Sponsor's page. It was decided to include this to recognise those companies who have supported us over the years with our endeavours. While completing this exercise it is very surprising to see the amount of support we have received from within both local and the broader community.

A link to the new STaRPS website has also been included. This site was also designed by Grant Robinson and can be accessed by logging onto www.infoblue-mountains.com.au/locodepot/tram or by clicking on the Valley Heights Steam Tramway link on the Museum Home's Page.

5. VALE: LAWRIE SMILEY

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of member Lawrie Smiley (Member No: 179) on Thursday 26 May 2005 aged 87.

Born on the 21st December 1917 at Burwood NSW, Lawrie spent most of his life growing up in Springwood and Valley Heights, being educated at Springwood Public School.

Lawrie began work as a Tent Maker and Bicycle builder before enlisting in the Army for WWII.

On 1st May 1943, Lawrie married Dorothy Irene Winter, whom he had known since early childhood.

In 1945, Lawrie was offered a trial position at the new Springwood Golf Club, where he successfully held the position of Greenkeeper until 1975.

Lawrie became a foundation member of the Valley Heights Volunteer Bushfire Brigade in 1958. He continued through the ranks to become Captain in 1964 and Group Deputy Captain – East Ward in 1968. Lawrie received the first life membership award from Valley Heights Bushfire Brigade for his services to the brigade and to the bushfire movement. Lawrie and Dorothy were farewelled on 8th June 1979.

Retirement saw Lawrie and Dorothy leave Valley Heights for Wagstaffe where they continued being involved with their new community.

Lawrie's Father and Son held long and distinguished Railway careers both of whom served part of their railway careers at Valley Heights.

To Lawrie's wife Dorothy, children Douglas, Jeanette, Susan and Elizabeth and your extended family, please accept the Museum's condolences.

Our thanks to the Smiley family for their permission to reproduce this information.

6. VALE: JACK GILES

Jack Giles was a supporter of the Museum being a former driver both in steam and electric.

Jack Giles, former long-time resident of Peninsula Road, Valley Heights passed away on Saturday, June 25, at Glen Innes.

Jack was born at Casino, NSW on January 8, 1923, the sixth child of Leslie and Adam Giles. He spent most of his childhood in Penrith and was educated at Henry St Primary School, followed by Penrith High School.

He lived in Peninsula Road with his wife Lauris (deceased) for nearly 40 years. They had four sons, John, Bill, Robert (deceased) and Allan. After the death of his wife he moved to Bingara, NSW and later to Glen Innes.

Jack was a third generation train driver becoming a driver at Valley Heights Loco Depot in 1951 until he retired in the mid 1980s.

Jack was also a former member of Valley Heights Bushfire Brigade

7. MEMBER'S INFORMATION MEETING

The first of our quarterly Member's Information Meetings was held on Saturday 27th May 2005. In total 15 members attended the meeting. Those in attendance were given an update on the planning of our event being organised to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the NSW Railways. Other issues raised included Fund Raising, a 12 Month Calendar of Events for Members and the Museum Website. The next Member's Meeting will be at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) where members will get the opportunity to discuss any issues during General Business following the formal proceedings of the AGM.

8. STaRPS REPORT

We have touched on the tramway collection owned by STaRPS. We will now look at the collection of Railway items. These include 3 steam locomotives, CPC 2 "Stepho", 1022, 1308, Suburban End Platform Passenger Car CBI 1073, freight wagons Louvre Van LV 1478, Open Wagon S 4360. Prior to the fire in Parramatta Park the society did have in its collection many other items some of which were irreplaceable.



Steam Locomotive: CPC 2 "Stepho"

Steam Locomotive: CPC 2 "Stepho"

Built in 1899, by Robert Stephenson & Co in England, with Builders No: 2994. The locomotive was imported for use at the Blue Circle Southern Cement (formerly Commonwealth Portland Cement Company), works at Portland NSW where it spent most of its working life. The locomotive was donated by Blue Circle Southern Cement in 1966 to STaRPS where it was stored at Society's former home in Parramatta Park. In 1993, just prior to the tragic fire that devastated the Society's former home, Stepho was transferred to Thirlmere for restoration to operational service under contract. Upon completion, Stepho

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was transferred to Valley Heights where it received its accreditation for operation in February 2000 and has so reliably carried visitors on locomotive cab rides and been the feature attraction for our visitors.

9. FIREWOOD

The Museum currently has a large collection of firewood which it uses for locomotive lighting up and barbeques. We presently do not need any more delivered to the site and Members are requested **not** to deliver any more until we can use up the oversupply we already have. The stockpiles we already have pose a potential fire threat and it would only take the likes of an unwanted visitor to strategically place a match in the right (wrong) place and this could cause irreparable damage. Considering our friends at STaRPS have already been the victim such a disaster, we as a Museum do not want to suffer a similar fate. **We request that Members observe this request and do not deliver any more firewood to the Museum.**

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10. SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

The Museum was visited by our first school Excursion Group on Thursday 23rd June 2005. Approximately 120 Students and Staff from Years 1 & 2 at Clairgate Public School will visit the Museum for 2 hours in the afternoon. Our second School Group Excursion is also booked. The students from the Blue Mountains Grammar Preparatory School at Valley Heights will be visiting as part of our 150th Celebrations on Friday 16th September 2005 and will comprise of a group of 60 to 70 students staff. It is very encouraging that the schools are starting

to take an interest in our Museum. We will be out to impress these two groups to hopefully spread the good word.

11. CLUB VISITS

The Museum hosted visits from two Car Clubs in May. Members and their vehicles from the Classic Car Club and the Willies Car Club visited the Museum on Sunday 15th May 2005 with their classic Holden, Ford, Chevrolets, MG, and Whippets. We have now been approached by the Australian Ex-Military Vehicle Collectors Society who are now planning a visit for the 17th July 2005. The Parramatta National Trust have also approached us for a visit in September. This is encouraging that the Museum is attracting other interest groups as a venue for a social outings.

12. AROUND THE MUSEUM

Chargeman's Building – The retiree group have continued on this building and have made excellent progress on the installation of the insulation and new external weatherboards. All external walls have now received this attention with only the gable sections of the eastern and western walls still needing attention. The first of three new sash windows has also been installed in the rear (northern) wall of this building. Well done retirees.

Cleaning Up – Over the last few months a lot of work has been done around the Museum in cleaning up the site in preparation for the 150th Celebrations. All of this work has been done by regular weekend volunteers. Special recognition for their efforts with this work goes to Jim Hall, Ross Stenning and Dave Hunt who have done a lot towards cleaning up stores, filling in the holes and patching the asphalt surface inside the Museum left after the removal of the three overhead stanchions in February, filling of potholes in the unsurfaced section of the Access Road, breaking up concrete slabs and dismantling of the overhead stanchions.

13. EXHIBITS

Guards Van NDMF 2990C (formerly KHG 34236) – This vehicle has received a fresh coat of paint to remove the graffiti that it attracted while it was located at the eastern end of the loco departure road. This exhibit has been relocated into Road 11 adjacent to the Roundhouse. Thanks to Joe Guilfoyle for his efforts with this work.

Shell Oil Tanker – The first coat of yellow has been applied to the underside of the tank. Once the final coats of yellow have been applied to the tank's underside and the reconditioned springs have been reinstalled above the axle boxes of the wheel sets, the tank will be reunited with the frame, freeing up additional track space in Bay 7 of the Roundhouse.

14. SMALL EXHIBITS

As part of our preparation for the 150th Anniversary we would like some help in sorting through our large collection of Small and miscellaneous exhibits to prepare for display during the three weeks of the event. The work will also include the preparation of the display room. We would require the help of 3 or 4 members to assist the person co-ordinating this work. If you feel you can assist in this work please contact our Publicity Officer, Andrew Tester on (02) 4735 8601 and we will pass on



Toongabbie Spares – 4 Conelia Road, Toongabbie, NSW, 2146
Ph: 02 9636 7222

your details to this project co-ordinator who will contact you to organise a mutual time to start on this project.

15. RTM BOARD OPEN FORUM

The next RTM Board Open forum to be held at Valley Heights will be held in Saturday 23rd July 2005 commencing at 11am. This forum is open to all RTM members and is your opportunity raise and discuss issues directly with the board. Ideally, if you wish to raise a question with the Board, it is requested that you advise the Redfern Office or contact the RTM President, Mr Peter Berriman with your question(s) so that an appropriate answer can be researched prior to the forum. Following the forum there will be a BBQ.

16. WORKS REPORT

Work Hours - As at the end of May 2005, the following hours had been logged by our volunteers for the months of April and May 2005.

Activity	April	May
Services	2	18
Buildings	279	418
Model Railway	16	32
Workshop	22	26
Exhibits	109	127
Landscaping / Grounds	125	118
Publicity	1	12
Retail	90	89
General / Admin	126	123
Total	770	963

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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17. NEW MEMBERS

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

Name	Membership Number
Julie Bryce - Dharruk	407
Michelle Bryce - Dharruk	408
Lee Hawkins - Leonay	409
Craig Hawkins - Leonay	410

18. 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? Getting the Depot Diary emailed, you will not only get it quicker than through the conventional mail system, you will also receive a colour copy of the Depot Dairy.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. RETAIL NEWS

With winter now upon us, now is your time to invest in Museum Jacket. We presently have a small supply of these items in stock. GREAT prices for Valley Heights members. Please see the advertisement (page 3) for details of stock currently available.

22. FUTURE DEPOT DIARIES

The next (August) edition of the Depot Diary will be a smaller edition as it will contain the Annual Report and Notice of Annual General Meeting.

The October Depot Diary will include a special feature on the story of Blaxland (Wascoe) thanks to member Ian Heather.

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.

23. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
Clairgate Public School - Excursion	Thurs. 23/6/2005
Open Days – July	Sun. 3 & 17/7/2005
Australian Ex-Military Vehicle Collectors Society – Club Visit	Sun. 17/07/2005
NSWRM Board Open Forum	Sat. 23/7/2005
Open Days - August	Sun. 7 & 21/8/2005
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 13/8/2005 & M-F 15/19/8/2005
Annual General Meeting	Sat. 27/8/2005

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