



The Depot Diary

No. 82
August
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.infoblueMountains.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 Museum's Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 27th August 2005. The Meeting will be held in Bay 4 of the Roundhouse. Please find included with this Depot Diary your Notice of the Annual General Meeting together with the Annual Reports for 2004/2005. At the conclusion of the Annual Election on formal proceedings the Meeting will be open for general business. This is the member's chance to ask questions of the committee about the Museum. This will be regarded as the 2nd of the quarterly Members Information Meeting following our first meeting that was held in May. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

2. FISH REPORT (Ted Mullett Chairman)

Hi All, this is the last report before the AGM.

Attached to this Diary is the annual report etc. Come along to the AGM if you can, we would like to see you there.

Thanks to all who have assisted over the last year, without your help we would not as good a museum as we are.

We have had a visit by an enviro company to investigate hazards in the soil and water table. It looks good so far. They dug several bores one has a water recovery of around six litres per minute, the others are less than two litres per minute.

Jim Hall has been busy obtaining redundant fencing. He will be looking for assistance soon to erect the fence.

A report to Council 2nd of August meeting does not support our application for assistance for upgrade to the driveway. This is despite Rail Infrastructure Corp. supporting the upgrade and pitching to the tune of up to \$30,000 I will be addressing Council on this issue. Please make your feelings known to council.

3. RAILWAYS 150TH CELEBRATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Please find attached a copy of our Promotional Brochure for our Event on September-October 2005. You would have all received a letter from the Museum in the last few weeks seeking assistance to help staff the Museum during this event. Just to remind you we require assistance in Retail (Admission Ticket & Souvenir Sales), Overnight Security, Tour Guides, Model Railway, and General Duties. Thank you to those members who have already offered their assistance to the event so far. 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. During the event, STaRPS have indicated their willingness to operate steam on every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday between the 19th September and the 7th October 2005, except for Saturday 24th

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September 2005. At this stage, this is most likely to be locomotive CPC 2 "Stepho" that will perform the steaming duties, however STaRPS are close to completing the restoration of the Steam Tram Motor. Who knows, 103A may make a guest cameo appearance during the celebrations. On all other days we plan to operate the many Fettle's vehicles that we have accredited for operation. **STOP PRESS:** The Museum was approached by the National Museum of Australia in Canberra who are assembling a small travelling exhibit on 150 Years of Railways in Australia. The Exhibit focuses on the development and future of Railways in Australia. We have been invited to host this exhibition. This invitation has been accepted and we will be hosting this exhibit from the 2nd October - 7th October 2005. This will be an unexpected bonus for our event. Who knows what this may lead to in the future.

4. CARAVAN

The Museum would like to thank both Jim Ferguson and John Stanley who have both offered the use of their Caravan/Mobile Home to Museum as accommodation for those staying overnight for Security purposes during the 150th Celebrations. Thank you gentlemen, we will be in contact with you closer to the start of the event.

5. THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Another year has come to an end and the Museum's Committee would like to extend its sincere thanks to the many sponsors who have supported us in one way or another, during the year. Thank you to following for your generous support.

Gracelands Electrical Pty Ltd
Hook Up Electrical Services
Terry's Truck Hire
Toongabbie Spares
Blue Mountains Gazette
Macquarie Road Auto Repairs
Gordon Leven Tyres
Statewide Protective Services
Leonay Plumbing
TD Video Productions



Tony Brown
Kevin Gerrard
Austrains
Blackwoods

6. MUSEUM WEBSITE

The Museum's website now has details of our Event for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

Web Site: www.infoblueMountains.net.au/locodepot

7. STaRPS REPORT

CPC 2 "Stepho" - The pride and joy of the STaRPS collection (and the Museum for that matter) was recently subjected to its Annual Boiler Inspection. The Boiler Inspector wanted to thoroughly inspect the Boiler and requested that the locomotive's cab, dome cover and saddle tank be removed for the purposes of the Inspection. This Inspection was carried out on Monday

Blue Mountains Division
New South Wales Rail Transport Museum

4th July and are pleased to report the boiler received a clean bill of health. We would like to extend the Museum's congratulations to Craig Connelly and the STaRPS Team for not only succeeding with getting the boiler passed fit for service but reassembling the locomotive so that it was ready to resume operations in time for the Open Day on the 3rd Sunday in July. Well done STaRPS.

We will continue on with the series on the STaRPS collection in the October Depot Diary, where we will introduce you to Steam Locomotive 1022.

8. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The Membership year concludes on the 30th September 2005. Membership Renewal Forms will be sent out to all members with the next Depot Diary No: 83 (October 2005). We thank our members for their support over the last year and trust we can look forward to your continued support into the coming year.

9. SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

As reported in the last Depot Diary we received a visit from Year 1 & 2 Students and staff from the Clairgate Public School on Thursday 23rd June 2005.



Students from Clairgate Public School gather around the Turntable for a locomotive turning demonstration on Thursday 23 June 2005.
Photo: Peter Stock.

Our next School excursion will be on Friday 16th September 2005 by Student and staff of the Blue Mountains Grammar School Preparatory Campus. This Group will comprise of approximately 60 student aged 4-10.

10. CLUB VISITS

Members of the Australian Ex-Military Vehicle Collectors Society visited the Museum on Sunday 17th July 2005 bringing with the 5 ex Military vehicles. Parked beside the Museum Studebaker Fire Truck, the Military Vehicles comprising of Blitz, Studebaker, Jeeps and Utility took pride of place and were a definite attraction for our visitors.



Ex Military vehicles on display to Museum Visitors on Sunday 17th July 2005. Photos: Ross Stenning.



11. RETAIL NEWS

Jackets - Just a reminder, the Museum still has limited stock of our Jackets available for sale. Please see the advertisement in the last depot Diary (No. 81) for details of current stock.

New Book - A new publication especially produced to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the New South Wales Railways has just been released by the NSW Rail Transport Museum. Retailing for \$17.50 the book contains many historic photographs and details the development of the NSW Railways. Limited stock is on hand at the Museum Shop. Please contact our Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan on (02) 4751 4638 on Open Days to arrange your copy. Don't be disappointed.

Coffee Mugs - We also have in stock a series of new Coffee Mugs available for sale. All three have been bought out to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Railways and have either the RTM Logo, Southern Aurora or Railway Refreshment Room emblem on them. Once again, please contact our Retail

Manager, Steve Corrigan on (02) 4751 4638 on Open Days for further details.

12. AROUND THE MUSEUM

Overhead Watering Column - During June a steel template was manufactured for the positioning and drilling of the four holes in the concrete foundation base. Drilling of the four holes to a depth of 14 inches (350mm) in the concrete base was undertaken by Ted Dickson on the 12th July 2005. These holes will house 20mm bolts to which four solid hot dipped galvanised angle iron pieces, will be welded. The angle iron pieces will then have four 1 1/2' bolts welded to them which will secure the column pedestal to the two brick plinths being constructed by Nick Hill, which will sit the column at the correct height above rail level.

1000 Litre De-scaling Tank - Wiring of the new 1000 litre de-scaling tank has been completed by Ted Dickson. The column pedestal base can now be placed into the de-scaling tank for treatment. Once this is ready the tank will be filled with water and 60 kilograms of washing soda will be added to start the Electrolysis process of de-scaling. This will take 4-6 weeks on the column pedestal base. This tank can also be used to de-scale other large items such as wheels, shafts, piston blocks, etc.

200 Litre De-scaling Tank - This is our first de-scaling tank and was decommissioned on the 23rd July 2005 after 3 years of sterling service. As the washing soda was no longer having the desired effect, this tank will now be cleaned out and electrically checked. Once this has been

completed fresh water and washing soda will be added, after which this tank can be recommissioned.

This tank is used for the de-scaling of smaller items and up until now has been used primarily in the de-scaling and cleaning of the smaller components of the watering column. This tank and the 1000 litre tank will prove to be extremely useful items with our restoration work saving endless hours and countless dollars in manual labour costs.

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

14. WORKS REPORT

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

Activity	June	July
Services	33	59
Buildings	262	259
Model Railway	15	31
Workshop	6	9
Exhibits	180	145
Landscaping / Grounds	132	130
Publicity	48	NIL
Retail	68	110
General / Admin	99	139
Total	843	882

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. It is also a requirement for Insurance purposes, should anything unforeseen happen to a worker while on the site.

15. NEW MEMBERS

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

Name	Membership Number
E Tonurist - Penrith	411
Rachel Morales - South Penrith	412
Samuel Cooper - Merrylands	413
Kevin Kraft - Wimallee	414
Terry Robinson - Concord West	415
Joshua Taylor - Emerton	416

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. FUTURE DEPOT DIARIES

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.

20. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
Open Days - August	Sun. 7 & 21/8/2005
Retiree Work Week (August)	Sat. 13/8/2005 & M-F. 15-19/8/2005
Annual General Meeting	Sat. 27/8/2005
Open Days - September	Sun. 4 & 18/9/2005
Retiree Work Week (September)	Sat. 10/9/2005 & M-F. 12-16/9/2005
School Excursion - Blue Mountain Grammar Preparatory School	Friday 16/9/2005
150 th Celebrations Event commences	Mon. 19/9/2005 - Fri. 7/10/2005
Membership Year 2005/06 commences - Membership Renewals due from today	Sat. 1/10/2005
Open Days - October 2005	Sun. 2 & 16/10/2005
150 th Celebrations Event (continues)	1/10/2005 - Fri. 7/10/2005



VALLEY HEIGHTS LOCOMOTIVE DEPOT HERITAGE MUSEUM

**“Celebrating 150 years of the Railways of New South Railways and the role the
Blue Mountains Line played in the development of the system”**

Celebrate this historic Event

Monday 19th September 2005 – Friday 7th October 2005 (10:00am – 4:00pm)



(The Valley – 1880's)



(Valley Heights Loco Depot circa 1950)

- **See the development of the Locomotives and Rollingstock of NSW Railways through a display of over 100 scale models**
- **Open for the School Holidays**
- **Historic Track Inspection Vehicle Rides**
- **Display by the Springwood Historical Society on local architectural changes that occurred following the arrival of the Railway**
- **Display of live steam models Courtesy of members of the Blue Mountains Railway Society at Wascoe Siding, Blaxland.**
- **Display by the National Museum of Australia on the Development and Future of the Railways in Australia (2nd October – 7th October 2005).**
- **Experience the sight and sound of an operational steam locomotive. Steam will operate each Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday from 19th Sept – 7th Oct 2005 (except Saturday 24th September 2005).**

For Further Details, contact

**VALLEY HEIGHTS LOCOMOTIVE DEPOT HERITAGE MUSEUM
TUSCULUM ROAD, VALLEY HEIGHTS PH: (02) 4751 4638
WEBSITE: www.infoblueMountains.net.au/locodepot**