

The Depot Diary

No. 83
October.
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.infoblumountains.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 was held on Saturday 27th August 2005. Retiring Chairman Ted Mullett opened the Meeting with his Address to the Members. The Meeting was conducted in the presence of Mr Kerry Bartlett, Federal Member for Macquarie and Mr Peter Berriman, President of the NSW Rail Transport Museum who was called upon to conduct the Annual Election of Office Bearers where the following were elected.

Chairman	Ted Mullett
Secretary	Ross Stenning
Treasurer	Dave Hunt
Publicity Officer	Andrew Tester
Membership Officer	Col Burne
Building Restoration Manager	Dave Torr
Building Services Manager	Ted Dickson
Exhibits Manager	Bruce Saunders
Grounds Maintenance / Perway Manager	Jim Hall
Workshop Manager	Terry Matchett
Model Railway Manager	Ray Beharrell

Nominations were called for the Positions of Honorary Historian, Librarian as well as Patrons. Peter Berriman and Kerry Bartlett were then invited to address the meeting both of whom thank the members of the Museum for their efforts and contributions during the year.

2. FISH REPORT (Ted Mullett Chairman)

Congratulations to Bob Matthew and his wife for reaching 50 years of marriage.

Jim Hall has been hospitalised for 3 days for treatment of an infected finger suspected to be the result of a spider bite.

Col Burne is also in hospital with a suspected Liver abscess. This is on top of a back injury suspected to be a disc pressing on the nerves.

I wish them all the best

We are part of group setting up a Cultural Heritage Association. This is a body consisting of museums, Historical Societies and Heritage groups. This is a group set up with the purpose of interchange of ideas, information and procedures for obtaining grants etc. This was an offshoot of meetings set up to advise Blue Mountains Council of Cultural Heritage.

The setting up of the Library furniture is almost complete. Judith Hill will be soon sorting out and cataloguing all the books, manuals and magazines we have been donated. My thanks to Dave Torr and his team for enabling this to happen. We have experienced some problems with the Signal Box where the power was removed by mistake. It is hoped the power will be restored soon.

Graffiti vandalism continues to be a problem. These small brained persons do not know when to stop.

We are still looking for batteries for the 5 inch gauge models and mannequins for display of uniforms. Please help.

I am also looking for photographs of the depot or Valley Heights station and yard. I am also looking for photographs of the Signal box post 1951 fires and prior to 1980. These are for use in a book we are compiling of the depot.

3. RAILWAYS 150TH CELEBRATIONS REPORT



By the time you receive this edition of the Depot Diary, our long planned three week event to celebrate the 150th Anniversary on the NSW Railways will have concluded.

This three week period tested our resources to the fullest and our thanks our extended to all those members who assisted during the Event. The Museum was staffed around the clock 24 hours a day from the 15th September - 8th October 2005. Approximately 40 members helped staff the Museum during this period on duties including retail sales, model railway operation, tour guiding, general duties and night security. Special thanks and recognition are extended to all members who assisted during this period. While most could only assist on a few days when possible, there were a few whose efforts went above and beyond the call of duty, particularly in a volunteer capacity. Collectively it was a team effort made possible by everybody who assisted that culminated in the overall success of the event. Those who participated in Night Security did a particularly good job with only 1 reported incident where some unwelcome visitors were disturbed at about 1:30am one morning, just prior to them leaving their so called artwork on one set of railmotors. While these culprits were not apprehended they were disturbed and made a quick exit from the museum site, leaving their trademark tools behind as evidence. Although the Security firm were quick to respond to the call made by the members on patrol the intruders were long gone. Apart from this minor negative incident, the event was an outstanding success. Highlights of the events included a display (through HO scale models) of locomotives, passenger trains and freight trains that ran on the western line from the time the line was built to the modern day, Steam Tram Rides on the newly restored Steam Tram, a display on historic local architecture prepared by the Springwood Historical Society, Track Maintenance vehicle rides, a display of 5 inch gauge NSW models, courtesy of members of the Blue Mountains Railway Society at Wascoe Siding and a travelling Rail and Film Festival generously offered by the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. During the 3 week period in excess of 1,500 visitors passed through the Museum. These included some group visits from the students and staff from the Blue Mountains Grammar School Preparatory Campus at Valley

**GRACELANDS
ELECTRICAL**
PTY. LTD.
LIC. NO. 37546

Domestic & Commercial

- NEW INSTALLATION & REWIRES
- MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
- HOT WATER EMERGENCY REPAIRS
- SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEM
- SAFETY SWITCH INSTALLATION

OBLIGATION-FREE QUOTES

4753 6508
Mobile Tel. 0408 272 561
93 CROSS ST., WARRIMOO

Heights, National Trust in Parramatta, (who visited twice), Springwood and Winmalee Uniting Care and residents from the Buckland hostel at Springwood. Blue Mountains Biznet (Chamber of Commerce for Oberon, Lithgow and Blue Mountains also held their October Members Conference on site on the evening of the 5th October. While this gave the members of Biznet the opportunity to network amongst themselves it also exposed the Museum to their membership, which proved very successful. Some issues that arose during the event that we need to investigate further include permanent highway signage, consider opening during school holidays in the future, the need to provide more refreshments and improved access for elderly and less mobile visitors who want to ride the steam tram.

This event has no doubt provided us with the ability to learn and these issues together with any others will be discussed at a post mortem and final wash up of the event by the organising committee. In the December issue of the Depot Diary we will include a small photographic feature on the highlights of the event for the benefit of our members who could not visit. To all those who assisted during this event a big **THANK YOU** for help to make this event the success that it was.

4. STEAM TRAM MOTOR 103A “STEAMS AGAIN”

On Wednesday, 24th August last, Steam Tram Motor 103A passed its boiler test and, at the same time, had the safety valves correctly set. The boiler of 103A had been examined about 12-months previously, but it was deemed prudent not to bring it “on stream” until the majority of the motor’s restoration work had been completed.

Thus, on the appointed day our boiler inspector was present for the lighting-up at 9 a.m. by Craig, David and Steve, assisted by Ted and Peter. This gave the opportunity for the boiler inspector to observe the behaviour of the boiler and appliances. When sufficient steam was available, the “safeties” were set to operate at the boiler’s optimum pressure of 130 lbs. per sq. inch. The setting of the valves was satisfactorily completed by 11.25 a.m.

With 103A in steam, the opportunity was seized to couple tramcar 93B to conduct a very short trial and test. The motor and car moved at 11.30 a.m., but only about 15 metres from the turntable into the roundhouse. Then tramcar was uncoupled, placed back on the turntable, turned, then placed outside No. 1 road of the roundhouse. The motor was then backed onto the turntable, turned, and backed up to the tramcar.

Once coupled this historical consist undertook four leisurely trips to the boundary gate. This gave the members present an opportunity to carefully inspect the motor’s mechanical components, to observe how the car’s re-built bogies performed and have a ride. Once these slow moving trials were concluded, the motor and car were returned to the roundhouse. But not before Robyn had a ride (as a small schoolgirl she witnessed, with her father, the motor undergoing trials at the Homebush backyard in the 1950's).

An operating steam tram was again running in NSW!

Many little fiddly jobs remain to be completed, both on the motor and the tramcar. Once these have been completed, the initial compliance inspection procedures can be undertaken. Once these mandatory tasks have completed, the society can,

with confidence, plan to present the steam tram into limited museum service for visitors on the occasion of the Sesquicentenary of NSW Railways celebrations at our home at the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum.

A special and sincere thank you to the many people, both from within and outside the society, who have in one way or another, generously led/assisted/guided/encouraged the society through its endeavours to return an operating steam tram to museum service. This includes everything from finding a new home after being denied re-establishment in Parramatta Park, rescuing B-cars from the demolition site at Berowra to re-building the steam tram motor.

5. STaRPS REPORT

Steam Locomotive 1022 – Continuing on with our introduction to the STaRPS collection, Locomotive 1022 was built in 1916 by Vulcan Iron Works, Wilkes Barre, U.S.A., for the Public Works Department. 1022 together with sister engine 1023 were used in the construction of the Metropolitan goods lines but most of their work has been in and around Enfield locomotive depot, moving tenders and “dead” engines. During World War II. they were hired, in 1943 for the duration, by the U.S.A. Army, along with a locally-built “American” suburban car for work at the United States Quartermasters Corps’ store area near Sandown.

An engine identical to 1022 and 1023 was purchased by Emu Gravel Company a year earlier and became their No: 1. This engine came into the possession of Parramatta Park Steam Tramway and 1022 was given to NSW Rail Transport Museum. However as 1022 would only have been a static exhibit at the RTM and it was in operational condition it was agreed that the two societies exchange engines, the changeover occurring on 20th October 1970. 1022 saw active service until damaged by fire on 7 June 1993.



*The charred remains of 1022 showing the scars following the June 1993 Parramatta Park Fire. This locomotive is now the subject of a long term restoration program by members of STaRPS.
Photo: Andrew Tester*

6. COMBINED ADMISSION & RIDE TICKET

With the return to service of Steam Tram 103A and Tram Trailer 93B, the Museum and STaRPS have taken the opportunity to review the general Admission charges.

Following this review it has been decided to introduce a new structure which includes Museum Admission and unlimited Rides. As a result, the following details the new admission price structure effecting October 2005.

Adults	\$12-00
Seniors & Concessions	\$8-00
School Children	\$8-00
Family	\$28-00
Children (Aged 4 & under)	Free
Note: There is no charge for additional rides	

Ph . 02-47511180

Fax.

02-47519315

Mobile.

0418971052

FREE

QUOTES.

ABN86 681 834 432

1-4-2002



These new admission charges were effective during the recent 150th Celebrations and worked well and appeared to be favourable to our visitors.

7. SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

Our second School excursion occurred on Friday 16th September 2005 when approximately 60 Students and staff from the Blue Mountains Grammar School Preparatory Campus visited the Museum. The students ranged in age from 4-10 and were shown around the Museum which was in the final stages of being prepared for the 150th Anniversary Event. The highlight for the students and staff was the opportunity to be the first fare paying passengers to ride behind the Steam Tram following its restoration. Only earlier in the morning on the day of the visit was the Steam Tram and Trailer accredited for service by the Transport regulator.



Students from Blue Mountains Grammar Preparatory School – Valley Heights gather beside Steam Tram 103A on Friday 16 September 2005.
Photo: Andrew Tester.


8. BLAXLAND STORY – Ian Heather

Museum member, Ian Heather, has written an article on the Railway Sidings of Blaxland. With the permission of Ian a reproduced copy of this article is included with this Depot Diary for your information. Hope you find this extra feature of interest and thanks to Ian for making this available to our members.

9. RETAIL NEWS

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.

Retail Items - 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.



CORNELIS H. GEELAN
Proprietor
Contractors Lic.41628

QUALITY ELECTRICAL WORK
FREE QUOTES

• Commercial • Industrial • Domestic
INSTALLATIONS • MAINTENANCE • REPAIRS

8 JUDITH AVENUE
MT RIVERVIEW 2774

Ph: (02) 4739 8235

BROWN TONY PTY LTD

CRUSHED SANDSTONE
SANDSTONE FLAGGING
BACKHOES & TRUCKS
LAND CLEARING & GRASS SLASHING
CAR PARKS & ROADWORKS
CONCRETING & BITUMEN WORK

4751 1935

Faulconbridge **0428 241 311**

10. AROUND THE MUSEUM

Overhead Watering Column – Work continues of the column with the brick foundations now being completed in preparation for the main pedestal to be mounted on top. Thanks to Nick Hill for the work on the foundations.

Shell Oil Tanker – Some significant progress in the restoration of this exhibit has been achieved since the last Depot Diary. The tank after an extended period of time has been reunited to the chassis of this wagon. The first coat of yellow has also been applied to the underside of the tank before reuniting the tank with the frame. Reuniting the tank with the chassis has freed up 20 feet of undercover rail storage in Bay 7 of the Roundhouse. Well done to Terry Matchett and John Stanley for their work on this exhibit to bring to its present condition.

11. MUSEUM WEBSITE

The Museum Website continues to undergo additional improvements. The most recent change being the inclusion of a small 30 second promotional video on the Museum. There are two versions suitable for both Dial Up and Broadband Internet users. Access to this video is from the Museum Website Home Page.

12. DISABLED CAR PARK

In recent times, Members working on site are utilising these facilities to park their car in. These facilities are there for the use of members and visitors who hold certified Disabled Parking permits issued by the RTA, which must be displayed when using this area. We are required to provide these facilities in order for us to open and members are asked to respect that this area is designated for the use of those who are unfortunately less mobile than most of us. On the days when we are not open to the public, parking of cars within the Museum is generally accepted in most areas, however if parking is at a premium on these days you are asked to park either along the access road, visitors car park or in the top members carpark. On days when we are open to the public it is preferred that members use the top members Carpark.

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.

Model Railway - The Model Railway Group continues to carry

MACQUARIE RD AUTO REPAIRS

Mechanical Repairs
Wheel Alignments
All Makes & Models
Rego Checks

Unit 2/65 Macquarie Rd,
Springwood

02 4751 6620



out improvements to the Model Railway.

14. WORKS REPORT

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

Activity	August	September
Services	42	9
Buildings	207	298
Model Railway	26	76
Workshop	3	13
Exhibits	385	203
Landscaping / Grounds	129	173
Publicity	101	1500
Retail	106	242
General / Admin	147	68
Total	1146	2582

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 September, and trust they have a long and enjoyable association with the Museum.

Name	Membership No.
Jeffrey Russell - Springwood	417
Blain Mundt - South Penrith	418
Bruce Allen - Barandudt, Victoria	419
Nicole Goodwin - Faulconbridge	420
James Moore - Glenbrook	421
Ron Moore - Glenbrook	422
Jake Carden - Hawkesbury Heights	423
Frank Coy - Warrimoo	424
Peter Fitzpatrick - Blaxland	425
Peter Goodman - Chipping Norton	426
John Martin - Faulconbridge	427
Michael Eastham - Blacktown	428
Bernard Lawrence - Hazelbrook	429

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. 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.

17. 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

Depot Diary No. 83
October 2005



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.

18. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The new Membership year commenced on the 1st October 2005 and to those members who have already renewed for the new membership year, we thank you for your continued loyalty. Membership Renewal Forms are included with this copy of the Depot Diary. Also included as part of this year's renewal is a membership survey (on the reverse side of the Membership Form). Please complete this survey prior to returning your Membership renewal. These surveys are designed to provide us with information about our members which may be of use to the Museum in the future. Information such as Trade skills, administrative and management skills which we may need assistance with. (*If you have already renewed your membership and received your new membership card, please disregard the enclosed renewal form, if received*). All membership renewals are due by 31 December 2005. Non receipt of your membership renewal after this date, will result in your membership being deemed as unfinancial. We look forward to your continuing support.

19. FUTURE DEPOT DIARIES

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
Membership Year 2005/06 commences - Membership Renewals Due from today.	Sat. 1/10/2005
Open Days - November	Sun. 4 & 18/11/2005
Retirees Work Week	Sat. 12/11/2005 M-F. 14-18/11/2005
Open Days - December	Sun. 4 & 18/12/2005
Retirees Work Week	Sat. 10/12/2005 M-F. 12-16/12/2005
Merry Christmas	Sun. 25/12/2005
Happy New Year	Sun. 1/1/2006
Retirees Work Week	Sat. 14/1/2006 M-F. 16- 20/1/2005
Open Days - January	Sun. 15/1/2006
Australia Day - Open Day	Thur. 26/1/2005

Model Railway proudly Supported by



Suite 10 1017 Victoria Road, West Ryde

Telephone: 02 9809 6954

Email: austrain@idx.com.au

Webpage: <http://homepage.idx.com.au/austrain/index.htm>