



# The Depot Diary

No. 85  
Feb  
2006

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](http://www.infoblue-mountains.net.au/locodepot)

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## 1. HAPPY NEW YEAR



Welcome to 2006. We trust that our Members had a safe Christmas and New Year period. Last year was a tremendously successful year for the Museum and we trust that with our Members continuing support, this success will continue in 2006.

## 2. FISH REPORT

Welcome to the New Year.

Sad news is Jack Mainwaring, one of the last appointed steam drivers at Valley Heights, passed away at the age of 91. Our sympathy to Jack's family. He had a good life!

The 36-class model had to be returned at the end of January. It was disappointing as the more of times this model is moved the more damage is done.

Two of our models, 4601 and the bogie cattle wagon went away before Christmas for repaint and repair. They have been returned and look excellent. Photographs next issue. Ross Stell a sign writer from Ingleburn did the work. Ross was a railway employee who looked after the models when in the care of SRA.

The Library is now well underway. They were rapidly running out of space so additional shelving has been installed. The Librarian, Judith Hill has still to catalogue and remove duplicates etc. Thanks to Dave Torr and crew for assisting with the installation.

We are still looking for mannequins and batteries. **Please help.**

## 3. RAILMOTOR TOUR

For those of you who have put down their names for this year's Railmotor Tour, we can now advise the following details.

**Destination: Carcoar**

**Cost: \$100-00 per Adult is now confirmed**

**Date: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**Timetable: To be advised**

**Please Note:** Due to track repossession by Railcorp preventing the Railmotors from getting to Sydney on the original planned date, we have been forced to reschedule the Tour to the above date. If you can no longer join us on the Tour as a result of the change of date, please advise Tour Organiser David Lewis on (02) 9630 6304 as soon as possible. As it currently stands we have just over 70 people booked on the trip. Accordingly, the books are now closed for any further bookings. Please forward

your money to David Lewis, Tour Organiser, PO Box 571, SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777 to confirm your booking. Cheques/Money Orders should be made Payable to David Lewis. Payment by way of cash can be made to David or a Museum representative at the Museum in person – **PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE THE CORRECT MONEY.** All payments should be received by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006.

## 4. WEBSITE

Don't forget the Museum's Website is regularly being updated. Visit [www.infoblue-mountains.net.au/locodepot](http://www.infoblue-mountains.net.au/locodepot) from time to time. Latest changes to the site include an up to date list of the Open Days for 2006 and maps on how to access the Museum from both Valley Heights and Springwood Stations. Future additions to the site this coming year will include a new page for the Christian Model Railway group, who restore, maintain and operate the Museum's Model Railway, a Retail Page and information for those who are accessibly impaired. We welcome any feedback that you might have to make the site more informative.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership Renewals continue to be received. Thank you for your continuing support to those who have renewed their Membership. We understand that there may have been a problem with some people not receiving the Membership Renewal form with the October Depot Diary. This would mainly concern those who receive their Depot Diary by email. As a result of this problem, members are being given until the end of February to forward their renewal. Should the Museum not be in receipt of your Membership Renewal by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006, your membership will be deemed unfinancial and this will be your last copy of the Depot Diary until payment of your Membership Renewal is received. Please continue to forward your membership renewals and support your Museum into the future.

## 6. JOB QUEST – WORK FOR THE DOLE

The Museum has been approached with the view of employing out of work people on jobs that will benefit the Museum. The Museum has drafted a large list of jobs ranging from track work, painting, landscaping, fencing, to name a few. The Museum has applied for 20 candidates who will be given two days of work per week over a six-month period. The Museum will be paid for the labour and the money is to be used for resources required to do the work. The first and major priority will be track work and once this is completed the participants will be assigned other tasks.

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Some of these tasks include landscaping, fencing and exhibit work. The Museum is responsible for providing adequate supervision of all the participants. Some building repairs may also be included in this work given the appropriate supervision. All being well this work should commence late February/early March and will contribute significantly to the long list of work that needs to be completed around the Museum.

### 7. MEMBER'S INFORMATION MEETING

The next Member's Information Meeting was scheduled for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The Meeting will now take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at 11:00am. This will be a general open forum and is the Member's opportunity to ask questions of the Committee.

### 8. STaRPS REPORT

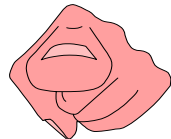
The only items that remain to be introduced in this section are End Platform Suburban Passenger Carriage CBI 1073, freight wagons Louvre Van LV 1478, Open Wagon S 4360 and a 4 wheel shunters Wagon. These will be introduced through the April and June editions of the Depot Diary.

### 9. 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - COL & HAZEL BURNE

Congratulations to Col and Hazel Burne on reaching their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Col and Hazel celebrated this grand occasion on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Col and Hazel were married in Katoomba on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 1956, so it was 50 years to the day. Col and Hazel have two children and five grand children. Col was involved with the Rural Fire Service (formerly known as the Bush Fire Brigade) for over 50 years and has been a rail enthusiast for even longer. Col has been a long time member of the museum and has been a dedicated Committee Member for many of those years, currently serving in the position of Membership Officer. He has been a regular and committed worker at Valley Heights since its establishment and is now a member of the Museum's Retiree Group. We extend our sincere congratulations to both Col and Hazel on this happy and significant occasion.

#### SHOP ASSISTANCE

"We have a need for more people to assist in the shop, so if you like dealing with people, or you think that you would like to work in the shop area, your help would be very gratefully appreciated. No retail experience necessary. Interested persons will be trained by experienced staff and depending on numbers volunteering, be rostered once every couple of months or so. Please contact our Retail Manager Steve Corrigan on 4759 1980 or email: [sjc\\_alco@pnc.com.au](mailto:sjc_alco@pnc.com.au)."



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### 10. CLEAN UP DAYS

During the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations the Museum received some very positive feedback from visitors on the presentation and tidiness of the site. Moving forward it is important that we maintain this presentation. With the reconvening of the Joint Operations and Safety Committee, which comprises representatives from both Valley Heights, STaRPS and the Springwood Historical Society, it was agreed that Clean Up Days be set to take place quarterly on the second Saturday in January, April, July and October.

### 11. CLUB VISITS

The Museum is continuing to foster interest from Club groups for visits. The Humber Car Club and the Austin Motor Vehicle Club have approached us for future visits. If you are a member of a special interest group who is interested in a venue for a weekend outing, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are now in a position to better handle larger group visits with the return to service of the Steam Tram.

### 12. AROUND THE MUSEUM

**Chargeman's Building** – It has been a while since we last reported on the progress of this building. Due to space limitations in this issue we will give you a new progress report on this building in the April Depot Diary.

**Internal Signage** – One on site improvement gained as a result of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations was the decision to have a number of internal signs manufactured to guide Visitors around the Site. The Museum was in possession of the materials and approached sign writer Ray Bannerman to paint and sign write the signs. Ray not only did an excellent job with these signs he also was very sympathetic to the



Museum and was very generous with the invoicing for same. Thank you very much Ray for a job well done. These signs not only look professional but also enhance the appearance of the site and our visitors Museum experience.



**Water Column** – For some time now, member Ken Rudd has been slowly restoring the various components of the Museum’s Water Column. While the majority of these components have been de-scaled, repaired, treated with appropriate primer and paint, the main column component is still in the process of being treated. Leading up to the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations it was hoped to have the main column mounted on its brick pedestal foundation, but circumstances prevented this from occurring. Thanks to Nick Hill, the brick pedestals were completed during the celebrations and they are now ready to support the main column once restored.



*The completed brick pedestal that will support the Museum’s Water Column. Jan 2006 – Photo: Andrew Tester*

### 13. SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The Museum will be opening extra hours during the April School Holidays. In addition to the Usual 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, the Museum will also be opening on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006. STaRPS will be operating the Steam Tram on each of these extra days. The Museum’s usual Opening Hours and Admission prices will apply.

### 14. EXHIBITS

**Shell Oil Tanker** – Work has progressed well on this project in recent months. Leading up to the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations last year, Terry Matchett and John Stanley had completed reassembly of the wheel sets and brake gear. The springs had been reconditioned and refitted. The timber supports that the tank sits in across the frame were repaired with the assistance of Dave Torr & Col Burne. With the assistance of the Blacktown Fire Brigade the tank was lifted off its temporary frame of the last few years and was reunited with the chassis of the wagon. All this was completed just prior to the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations. During the 150<sup>th</sup> event the tanker was parked outside the Roundhouse where visitors could better inspect the progress of this exhibit. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2005, steam locomotive CPC 2 “Stepho” was steamed and the opportunity was taken to perform brake tests on the wagon. We are pleased to report that the tests

were successful. Two photographs taken during the brake testing that show the Shell Tanker rolling on rails for the first time in many years. Well done Terry & John.



*Two views of Stepho hauling the Shell Oil Tanker during the brake testing on Sunday 18/12/05 – Photos: Ross Stenning.*

### 15. AUSTRALIA DAY

Last year the Museum trialled opening on Australia Day. Although the visitor numbers on that occasion were about the same as our average for our normal open days, the day was deemed successful enough to consider opening on Australia Day again this year. More time was allowed to publicise this years Australia Day Opening which resulted in the visitor numbers more than doubling. Approximately 200 visitors passed through the gates on this Day. The Steam Tram was kept very busy with the first two trips departing at capacity, and others departing at near capacity. Passengers riding on the tram were surveyed as to where they heard about our opening, with a large percentage replying that they saw the article in the Penrith Press and affiliated Newspapers. The Penrith Press were also tremendous supporters during the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in October. Our sincere thanks to the Penrith Press for their tremendous support for the Museum.

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## 16. WORKS REPORT

**Work Hours** - The following hours have been logged by our volunteers for the months of December 2005 and January 2006.

| Activity              | December | January |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| Services              | 75       | 40      |
| Buildings             | 267      | 263     |
| Model Railway         | 16       | 39      |
| Workshop              | 27       | 119     |
| Exhibits              | 47       | 40      |
| Landscaping / Grounds | 198      | 274     |
| Publicity             | 10       | 4       |
| Retail                | 109      | 155     |
| General / Admin       | 87       | 182     |
| Total                 | 836      | 1116    |

### Reminder - Attendance Register

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.

## 17. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined and trust they have a long and enjoyable association with the Museum.

| Name                          | Membership Number |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ray Millard - Blaxland        | 432               |
| Donna Moore - Glenbrook       | 433               |
| Nicole Moore - Glenbrook      | 434               |
| Ian Douglas - Horsley         | 435               |
| Paul Dando - Emu Plains       | 436               |
| Michael Hobson - Wangi Wangi  | 437               |
| Geoffrey Simpson - Emu Plains | 438               |

## 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 you copies of the Depot Diary.

9 Ritchie Street Rosehill NSW 2142 - Ph: 02 9637 1864  
Contact: Glenn Johnston

## 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

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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.

Visiting members of Valley Heights, RTM and Springwood Historical Society are advised that while your Membership entitles you to unlimited free Admission to the Museum this **does not** include Tram/Trike Rides. Unlimited Member's rides cost- Adults: \$5-00, School Students \$3-00, Seniors/Concessions \$3-00.

## 21. 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.

## 22. UP COMING EVENTS

| Event                               | Dates   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Open Days - March                   | Sun. 5 & 19/3/2006  |
| Thirlmere Festival of Steam         | Sun. 5/3/2006   |
| Member's Information Meeting        | Sat 11/3/2006   |
| Springwood Model Railway Exhibition | Sat. 18/3/2006 & Sun. 19/3/2006   |
| Retiree Work Week                   | Sat. 11/3/2006 & M-F 13-17/3/2006                                       |
| Open Days - April                   | Sun. 2 & 16/4/2006  |
| Clean Up Day                        | Sat. 8/4/2006   |
| Retiree Work Week                   | Sat. 8/4/2006 & M-F 10-14/4/2006  |
| <b>School Holiday Open Days</b>     | <b>Wed. 19/4/2006</b><br><b>Sun. 23/4/2006</b><br><b>Wed. 26/4/2006</b> |
| Payment for Railmotor Tour due      | Mon. 1/5/2006   |
| Open Days - May                     | Sun. 7 & 21/5/2006  |
| 2006 Member's Railmotor Tour        | Sun. 28/5/2006  |

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