



# The Depot Diary

No. 87  
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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.infoblumountains.net.au/locodepot](http://www.infoblumountains.net.au/locodepot)

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## 1. JOB QUEST

The Job Quest program continues and a great deal of progress is being made. The major work centres on track repairs with the points connecting the Coal Stage Siding and Departure Road to the Arrival Road being the focus of attention when weather permits. Unfortunately this task has turned out to be bigger than first planned. Virtually all point timbers have now been replaced, but replacing the rails to the timbers has proved to be more challenging than anticipated. This has been because the point was not properly constructed when first installed. One checkrail needs to be manufactured to replace an existing checkrail, another section of rail in this point required replacement due to a crack which was detected running along a 2 metre section beneath the rail head. This will be a job well done once completed. We certainly are looking forward to running the tram and fettlers vehicles over these points and putting all this good work to the test. Other tasks that have been undertaken by the Job Quest participants include Fencing relocation, drain repairs, construction of a second barbeque, cleaning up the ladder store and cleaning up the resistor bank bays in 4601 in preparation for the installation of the resistor banks we have stored for this locomotive. Congratulations to all involved and keep up the good work.



Photos: Courtesy of Andrew Tester – Top: The Ash Siding Points are in no fit state to accept regular traffic once the Tram shed is built. Bottom Left: Work on the Departure Road points has revealed the old water main that ran from the depot to the Water Columns in the station yard. Bottom Right: New brickwork around drains.

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## 2. FISH REPORT

As reported above, the Job Quest program is well and truly taking effect and the points to the Coal Road are now operational and would like to thank all the participants especially Ted Dickson for the tireless efforts in preparing the paperwork, supervision and liaising with Job Quest to keep this program up and running.

Our Patron and member of the retirees group Neil Cram has not fared too well lately. Neil has been diagnosed with a brain tumour. He has had an operation and the prognosis is good. In Neil's words "I have hole in the head and it is proven I have a brain." Neil, we all wish you well.

The Tram Shed progress continues slowly offsite, a geodetic survey is now required.

The upgrade to the entrance driveway saga continues. Blue Mountains City Council Councillors moved last August for the Staff to consult with us. To date no consultation!!

4<sup>th</sup> August 2006 is the Centenary of Central Station. There are quite a few activities planned. Preliminary details of the Museum's activities in association with the centenary can be found at <http://www.heritageexpress.com.au/signature.htm>  
The RailCorp centenary web site is <http://www.railcorp.info/central100years>

## 3. RAILMOTOR TOUR

The annual Member's Railmotor Tour took place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Just over 70 passengers joined the Railmotors soon after 7:00am inside the Museum, in preparation for a 7:30am departure from the Down Refuge Siding in Valley Heights yard. The Railmotors shunted from the Museum to the Refuge Siding at 7:28am. Departure from the Refuge Siding proved to be somewhat of a struggle for the Tin Hares and once traction was gained the long steep climb to Katoomba commenced. Lawson was passed at 8:05am and Katoomba at 8:25am. With the climb of the 1 in 33's behind them, a short stop was made at Mt Victoria before a scheduled stop at Lithgow for crew purposes.

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Following the change of crew, our westward journey continued. Soon after leaving Lithgow it was soon becoming apparent how tough our country folk are doing it with the drought. The further west we ventured the dryer it got. With the XPT hot on our tail, our journey was stalled at Wallerawang Junction to allow the XPT to cross. This was scheduled in the timetable with an hour stop at Bathurst. Having left Wallerawang late as a result of the crossing, a spirited run by the

Railmotors saw us arrive in Bathurst in time for our scheduled departure at 11:22am. Soon after leaving Bathurst, the infamous climb of Tumulla Bank proved a challenge for all trains heading west and this was no exception for the little CPH's. But alas the Railmotors did themselves proud and the climb was achieved without a hiccup. Following the climb of Tumulla the Railmotors cruised towards Blayney arriving within 5 minutes of the timetable. Just when we thought all was going well, the crew alighted from the train to make arrangements for our departure for Carcoar when the staff for the Blayney – Cowra section of the Branch line was missing.



This commenced a frenzy of telephone calls between Train Control and the crew to identify where the staff was and whether permission could be granted to proceed to Carcoar. As it turned out the staff was at Cowra having been used for a train movement some four days prior to our arrival. Thankfully, after a 40 minute delay (plenty of time for the Tin Hares to catch their breath after their assault on Tumulla), permission was obtained and the journey to our destination continued. After leaving Blayney at 12:40pm, we arrived at Carcoar by 13:00 giving passengers a 1 hour



stop over to have lunch and go for a short stroll through the town, enjoying the warmth of the late Autumn sun. Departure from Carcoar was at 14:02 and a brisk 20 minute journey back to the main line at Blayney was made. Following completion of the necessary paperwork we departed Blayney at 14:43. Bathurst was reached at 15:30, Wallerawang 16:40 and Lithgow at 16:55 where a scheduled crew change was made. The final leg of our journey home commenced with the climb out of Lithgow, past the famous Zig Zag and through the ten tunnels. Having reached the peak of our final climb the Railmotors cruised their way down the mountains. Plenty of time was allowed in the timetable enabling the train to cross to the down main at Springwood so that we could shunt back into the loco depot arriving at 18:25. Thus completed a most enjoyable day out for our members. To David Lewis our Tour Organiser, a big thank you for your efforts in planning yet another successful tour. *Photos - Andrew Tester: CPH 7 leads the Tour Train at Blayney, awaiting permission to depart for Carcoar and having reached our destination CHP 1 & 7 rest during our 1 hour stop over at Carcoar.*

#### 4. STaRPS REPORT

The last Exhibits to detail in the STaRPS report are the S Truck open Wagon, Louvre Van LV1478 and Shunting Match Truck.

**S Truck (S 4360)** – The original S type open wagons were built between 1907 and 1921 but during the 1940's a replacement programme was instituted with the ordering of 10 000 standard underframes and components from Commonwealth Engineering, with the bodies from Clyde Workshops. The wagons have a steel underframe with a steel and wood composite body and a wooden floor. The sides are 915 mm high and there is a 2.13 metre downward folding door each side. These wagons were a general purpose freight wagon and were used to transport a wide variety of goods, ranging from coal, early containers, farm machinery and much more all over the State.



**Louvre Van (LV 1478)** – A representative of the milk traffic vehicles. Built by the NSW Government Railways in Eveleigh in 1910. This was an early form of refrigeration van with the louvres allowing for air to flow through the van to keep its contents cool while a train was moving. Acquired by the society to be used as a representative of the long closed Camden tramway/railway. This vehicle arrived at the Parramatta Park tramway on 30 June 1983, following purchase from the NSWGR. After the 1993 fire, the van remained in open storage until its transfer to Valley Heights on 4 February 1998.



**Shunters Match Truck (L 32)** – Little is known about this particular vehicle. Purchased by STaRPS the vehicle now shows the scars of the Parramatta Park fire in 1993. This vehicle is now stored at Valley Heights awaiting restoration to commence.



This now completes the introduction the exhibits held by STaRPS. Future editorial in this section will report on the progress and news of our friends. *Photos: of STaRPS Exhibits courtesy of Grant Robinson & Andrew Tester.*

#### 5. HONORARY TREASURER

It is with much regret that we advise that the museum's Honorary Treasurer, Dave Hunt has formally tendered his resignation from this position and the Museum has regrettably accepted Dave's decision. Dave has been a tireless worker both onsite and behind the scenes particularly with the countless hours that he contributed in his capacity as Treasurer. As a result of Dave's resignation, the Museum is now in need of a willing person who would be prepared to fulfil the role of Treasurer. We would also like to hear from anybody interested in filling the role of assistant Treasurer. Interested persons are invited to contact our Chairman, Ted Mullett on ph: (02) 4751 2485 for further details.

## 6. CAR CLUB VISITS

The Museum hosted a visit from a small band of members of the Packard Car Club on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Packards were regarded as the US equivalent of the Rolls Royce. Unfortunately, other commitments in Cooma resulted in a smaller than usual attendance by members of the Car Club but we were fortunate enough to be graced with four examples on the day. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2006, members of the Singer Car Club came to the Museum for the day and on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2006 we are expecting a large contingent (possibly up to 15 Cars) of members from the Austin Car Club. Be sure to mark that day into your calendar to visit the Museum if you have not been before.



Above: Packards on Display on Sunday May 2006. Photos: Andrew Tester.

## 7. DISPLAY CABINETS

It is with great delight that we can advise the Membership that the Museum was recently deeded a number of Display Cabinets from the National Museum of Australia (NMA) in Canberra. These Cabinets were recently made redundant following the conclusion of a travelling exhibition. As the NMA had no further use for them, the NMA's Exhibition Manager, Ms Stephanie Magri-Bull contacted the Museum offering the museum first option of the Cabinets. Following an inspection of the Cabinets the decision was made to accept the offer. Thanks to Terry Howells of Terry's Truck Hire and 5 members from STaRPS and the Museum, the cabinets were collected from Fyshwick on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and safely delivered to Valley Heights. Stephanie holds a soft spot for our Museum as she is a former Valley Heights girl having grown up with her family in the area. Our sincere thanks go to the NMA and Stephanie for making the donation of these Display Cabinets possible.



Steve Corrigan & Craig Connolly prepare to load 1 of the 16 Display Cabinets that were donated to the Museum. Photo: Courtesy of Stephanie Magri-Bull – National Museum of Australia.

## 8. AROUND THE MUSEUM

**Shipping Container** – Since the last Depot Diary the Museum has taken delivery of a shipping container. This container has been made available through the kind generosity of our patron Neil Cram who has donated both the cost of the container and the crane hire to lift same into position. The container is being used by our retirees group as a store for timber and tools for work associated with the

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conservation of the former DLE Building. Our sincere thanks to Neil for this kind donation.



Above: Our new shipping Contained kindly donated by Neil Cram. Photos: Andrew Tester.

**Conservation on the DLE Building** - Since the donation of the shipping container all timber, shelving and some tools that were previously stored in the DLE Building have since been relocated into the container. This has freed up lot of space within the building making working within the building a lot easier. Progress on the building in the last month has seen much of the internal lining timbers replaced. Attention is now drawn to preparing these timbers for painting. With the shipping container now onsite and materials now stored within same, progress towards the completion of this building is moving steadily forward.

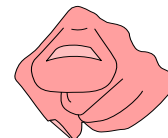
## 9. RETAIL REPORT

### 2006 RTM CALENDAR SALE

Our retail department has a supply of 2006 RTM calendars now available for **\$5-00** each. Anybody interested in purchasing one of the calendars at the reduced price, please contact our Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan on (02) 4751 4638 on open days or call into the Museum and purchase them direct from the shop.

### 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. WORKS REPORT.

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

Activity	April	May
Services	11	8
Buildings	249	170
Model Railway	12	40
Workshop	98	92
Exhibits	71	202
Landscaping / Grounds	211	113
Publicity	5	14
Retail	274	109
General / Admin	112	59
Job Quest / WFD	196	384
Total	1239	1191

### 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.

## 11. 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
Paul Torrice, Strathfield South	447
Michael Yalden, Warrimoo	448
Michelle Yalden, Warrimoo	449
Matthew Walton, Blaxland East	450
Stephen Miller, Mt Druitt	451

## 12. 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.

## 13. 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.

## 14. 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.

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.

## 15. 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.

## 16. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
Open Days - July	Sun. 2 & 16/7/2006
School Holiday Opening Dates	Sun. 2, 9, & 16/7/2006 Wed. 5 & 12/7/2006
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 8/7/2006 & M-F. 10-14/7/2006
Austin Car Club Visit	Sun. 16/7/2006
Clean Up Day	Sat. 22/7/2006
3801 to Mt Victoria	Sun. 23/7/2006
Signal Box Clean up	Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2006
Open Days - August	Sun. 6 & 20/8/2006
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 12/8/2006 & M-F. 14-18/8/2006
Annual General Meeting	Sat. 26/8/2006

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