



The Depot Diary

No. 89
October
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

All Advertisements in this Newsletter are free, in recognition for the people and companies who have helped us in our activities.

1. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Enclosed with this Newsletter is your Subscription Renewal form. The current subscription rates are Adults (including Seniors & Pensioners) \$12-00 and Students \$6-00. These rates remain unchanged from last year. It would be greatly appreciated if you could complete the enclosed Subscription Form and return it together with your payment to the Membership Officer at the Museum's Postal Address on the form. All member's membership must be renewed by the 31st December 2006 after which your membership will be deemed unfinancial if your payment remains outstanding. The Museum has achieved a great deal over the years through the continuing support we receive from our financial members. We look forward to you continuing this support.

2. JOB QUEST

Now that the Job Quest program has completed we have been left to finalise the work that remains incomplete. While the majority of the heavy work on the points was completed, the sleeper and rail replacement work on the Coal Stage Siding did not get finalised and the work of repinning the rails to the sleepers has had to be completed by our own members. This work has now been completed, and all that remains to be done is the realignment of the final 20 metres of the siding, which will involve dragging the siding away from the Museum's boundary fence adjacent to the main railway line to allow greater clearance.



Left: The catch point in the Coal Stage Siding finally realigned after work saw sleepers and rail replaced. The points which were reconstructed by Job Quest participants can be

seen in the background.

Right: Re-railing of the Coal Stage Siding nears completion with the rails spiked to every second sleeper. The condition of this siding is a vast improvement.



3. FISH REPORT

As reported above, the Job Quest program is complete and the points to the Coal Road and the Coal Road are now operational, and I would like to thank all the participants

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

especially Ted Dickson for the tireless efforts in preparing the paperwork, supervision and liaising with Job Quest.

Our Patron and member of the retirees group Neil Cram has taken up a position of heading up a small group to catalogue and set up our small exhibits presentation. He will be ably assisted by Phil Robinson, a former railway engineer and Glen Hargrave a former railway employee.

The Tram Shed progress continues slowly, a new engineer has been engaged. Concrete sleepers have been obtained for holding the rail in the shed. Our thanks to Col Wilmot for obtaining the sleepers

The upgrade to the entrance driveway saga continues. I have finally had a face to face meeting with a Blue Mountains City Council staff member.

Our forklift tractor has ceased to operate. Craig Hill of Cess Hill industries has offered to assist with the overhaul. Unfortunately the cost could be quite high. If you have any contacts in the Motor Industry who could assist with parts and machining at the right cost it would be appreciated. The Vehicle is Massey Ferguson with a three cylinder Perkins motor.

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the museum was conducted on Saturday 28th August 2006 in the presence of 32 members. Chairman, Ted Mullett opened and addressed the meeting on the achievements of the Museum throughout the year, before declaring all positions vacant and calling on the current RTM President, Peter Berriman to commence the Annual Election of Office Bearers. This year as in past years the election resulted in little change to key positions with most being refilled by those who had just retired. One exception to this is the position of Treasurer and we would like to welcome Mr Brian Coker who agreed to take on this role following the resignation of our long serving Treasurer Dave Hunt earlier in the year.

The newly elected committee results are as follows:-

Position	Office Bearer
Chairman	Ted Mullett
Secretary	Ross Stenning
Treasurer	Brian Coker
Publicity Manager	Andrew Tester
Membership Manager	Col Burne
Building Restoration Manager	Dave Torr
Building Services Manager	Ted Dickson

Exhibits Manager	Bruce Saunders
Grounds & Perway Manager	Jim Hall
Retail Manager	Steve Corrigan
Model Railway Manager	Ray Beharrell
Workshop Manager	Terry Matchett

5. SUCCESSION

The committee of the Museum has for many years now remained stable with little or no change to the people standing for election in the various positions at the Annual General Meeting. Our present Chairman, Publicity Manager, Building Services Manager and Model Railway Manager have all held office in one position or another since the inception of the Museum. Others have contributed 5-10 years or more service on the committee. As you can appreciate these people cannot go on forever and new people will be needed to drive and direct the Museum into the future. Succession is a problem that is confronting all voluntary organisations and is something the Museum needs to address. The present Committee managers will be seeking to appoint assistant managers to assist them in their roles, with the view of grooming new blood into roles on the Committee.

If you are approached with the view of being appointed to an assistant position, it would be appreciated if you could give this your serious consideration. Your involvement will differ depending on the role you will be assisting, however at some stage or another you will be invited to attend Committee Meetings to gain

6. OPEN DAY SET UP ASSISTANCE

The Museum is keen to hear from any local members who can give us some assistance for 1-2 hours in the morning on the 1st & 3rd Sundays. We understand that some members cannot give up all their Sundays and probably feel that a couple of hours would not be of any assistance. The Museum has some tasks on Open Days that need to be completed before opening times, which would only require a minimum of 1-2 hours of your time in the morning. These tasks include display set up, assistance with road side signage and onsite cleanliness. If you cannot assist in the morning assistance in the afternoon with packing up the site would be very much appreciated, particularly with collection of road side signs. Times your assistance would be required would be from between 8:00 and 10:30am in the morning or from 3:30pm to 4:30pm in the afternoon. If you are a local member and feel that you can assist during these hours we would be keen to hear from you. Please contact Andrew Tester on (02) 4735 8601 after 7pm

7. STARPS REPORT

STARPS have been forced to temporarily withdraw Tram Trailer 93B from service as a result of loose wheels on one bogie. This occurred on Sunday 15th October 2006 when it was detected that the brakes on the one wheel set were



sticking resulting in one set of wheels jamming and the car not travelling smoothly. Upon investigation it was discovered that the wheels had begun to spread on one axle. This immediately resulted in the car's withdrawal from service. 93B was immediately shunted back into the Roundhouse where work commenced on lifting the car and partial dismantling of the brake gear to allow the removal of the defective bogie. Work is now progressing to get the Tram Car back in service prior to the November running day while investigations into the cause of the loose wheels and their subsequent repair commences.

Steam Tram Motor 103A was taken out of service following the running day on Sunday 15th October 2006 due to the expiration of the Motor's Boiler Certificate. The Motor is now being prepared for its annual Boiler examination where it is expected that the Certificate will be renewed prior to the November running day.

8. AUSTIN CAR CLUB CAR CLUB

The Museum hosted a visit by members of the Austin Motor Vehicle Car Club on Sunday 16th July 2006. Members with 15 cars displayed their vehicles in the Museum for the benefit of the visiting public. Club members were also escorted around the Museum on guided tours. Following the visit a very complimentary letter was received from the Car club expressing how much their Member's enjoyed the visit and thanking the Museum for their hospitality.



Above: Austins on display on Sunday 16 July 2006. Photos: Andrew Tester.

9. HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Two of our very hard working and loyal retirees have had or are about to celebrate Birthdays. Col Jarrett who recently turned a credible 80 years young and Neil Cram who celebrates his birthday in November. The Museum extend their best wishes to you both.



10. GET WELL WISHES

It is with much shock that we learn that long time RTM member and dedicated Valley Heights retiree, Russ Noble recently suffered a stroke. To Russ we extend our thoughts to you and your wife at this time and trust that you experience a speedy recovery. All the best mate.

Like wise, our thoughts also go to Bob Matthew and Roslyn Reynolds, both of whom have recently experienced ill health and resulted in brief hospitalisation. The Museum's best wishes are extended to you both.

11. AROUND THE MUSEUM

Ash Sidings – Monday 25th September 2006 marked another milestone for us with growing relationship and co-operation with Rail Corp assisting to lift the rails in the Ash Rd



sidings. This work was necessary in preparation for the construction of the new shed for STaRPS.

This task was made possible with the help of Peter Melbourne, Regional Manager Metro West RailCorp.

The rails in the siding closest to the retaining wall are not in good condition and the sleepers have gone away somewhere.

The rails and sleepers on the adjacent track are in good condition with only a few missing.

Our thanks to Bruce Clark, Civil Team leader, RailCorp West Region, for his assistance and guidance and to his staff and their willingness to help.



Left: The RailCorp work crew assisted by some Museum members commence work to lift the first of the two Ash Sidings. Photo: Ted Dickson.

Right: Lifting the rails proved very successful but what about the sleepers? In some places the sleepers that were supposed to be fixed to the rails – are no more! Photo: Ted Dickson.



Left: Job completed and the rails and sleepers (or lack there of) are clearly visible. Photo: Ted Dickson

Fire Risk Hazard Reduction – With the onslaught of summer comes the ever increasing risk of fire. Working Bees are being held with the view of removing excess combustible material particularly from the garden between the Coal Stage Siding and the Departure Road to prevent to minimise and prevent an outbreak of a fire and the potential damage that a fire may cause.

Signal Box Working Bee - On Saturday 29th July 2006 a working bee was held at the signal box. Work carried out included a clean out of the interior of the Signal Box, clearing of vegetation from around the building, rubbish removal from the site as well as additional construction work and repairs to the perimeter fence. Well done to all concerned as the work has made a marked improvement to the Signal Box site.

12. SMALL EXHIBITS

With conservation work in the former Chargmen's Building nearing completion we will soon be in a position to commence planning our Small Exhibits displays and making use of the display cabinets we were donated in May of this

**GRACELANDS
ELECTRICAL**
PTY. LTD.
LIC. NO. 37548

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

year from the National Museum of Australia. To start with the planning of these displays a small Team comprising of Museum Patron Neil Cram, Glen Hargraves and Phil Robinson has been formed. Neil will lead the Team who will look at what and how we will display our small exhibits including themes for displays. Another task to be performed by this group is the cataloguing of our small exhibits and maintaining a register of same. If any other Members would like to become involved with this work, please contact Andrew Tester on (02) 4735 8601 or Ted Mullett on (02) 4751 2485 and we will get you in contact with the Small Exhibit Team Leader.

13. 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.

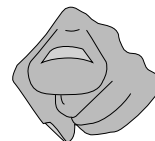
NEW RELEASE – DVD Railmotors to Carcoar

Produced by Guilwright and Cartfoyle.

This DVD follows the journey of CPH's 1 & 7 from Valley Heights to Carcoar through a series of video and digital images. Retailing for \$15.00 the DVD is available from the Museum Shop. 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."



YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU

14. WORKS REPORT.

Work Hours - The following hours have been logged by our volunteers for the months of August and September 2006.

Activity	August	September
Services	10	11
Buildings	217	174
Model Railway	33	9
Workshop	10	NIL
Exhibits	72	53
Landscaping / Grounds	101	378
Publicity	12	3
Retail	121	74
General / Admin	242	226
Job Quest / WFD	348	97
Total	1166	1025

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.

15. 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
Tony McDonnell - Westmead	455
Keith Brown - Blaxland	456
Robert Wilson - Moss Vale	457
Brian Coker - Springwood	458
Hazel Riedy - Springwood	459
William Riedy - Springwood	460
Raymond Kennedy - Lawson	461
Jacob Lenaz - Springwood	462
Joseph Lenaz - Springwood	463

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.

Model Railway Proudly Supported by



Telephone: 02 9809 6954
Email: austrain@idx.com.au
Webpage: [Http://homepage.idx.com.au/austrain/index.htm](http://homepage.idx.com.au/austrain/index.htm)



CORNELIS H. GEELEN
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

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.

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 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.

18. 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.

19. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
Membership Renewals Due	1/10/2006
Open Days - November	Sun. 6 & 20/11/2006
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 12/11/2006 & M-F. 14-18/11/2006
Open Days - December	Sun. 3 & 17/12/2006
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 9/12/2006 & M-F. 12-16/12/2006
Open Days - January 2007	Sun. 21/01/2007
Australia Day	Fri. 26/01/2007

Ph . 02-47511180

Fax.

02-47519315

Mobile.

0418971052

FREE

QUOTES.

ARN:86 681 834 432

1-4-2002

