

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. CHRISTMAS CHEER



Yes – it is that time of the year we all look forward to. We only wish it didn't come around quite so fast. Christmas is here again and as another year draws to

a close we would like to extend to all our Members, supporters and sponsors (and your families), all the very best for the Christmas/New Year period. If you are fortunate enough to get away from the hustle and bustle of normal day life during this period, be sure to arrive at your destination and return home safely. The Museum's Executive Committee trust that you have a Happy, Joyous and safe Christmas and we look forward to you continuing your support for a challenging New year in 2007.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - REMINDER

For the benefit of all members, particularly those whom have not renewed their Membership for 2006/07 year, your membership renewals are due by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006. Those whose Membership Renewals have not been received by the end of December will be deemed unfinancial until your renewal is received. Membership Renewal Forms were sent with the last Depot Diary. Should you require a new renewal form please contact the Museum as soon as possible, or call into the Museum Shop on Open Days and pay direct to our shop staff. 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. 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.

## 3. VEILS ON RAILS

In today's modern era, organisations such as ourselves cannot solely rely on the passing tourist trade to keep the dollars rolling and other opportunities need to be sourced. Our Museum is ideally located for any number of opportunities if marketed in the correct way.

One such market to be encouraged is that of Wedding Photography. The Museum with its historic charm of yesteryear provides photographers with a varying array of items to challenge their creative skills when photographing their subjects. Our Museum and Tramway personnel can also be involved dressing up for the occasion. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2006, the Museum entered the Wedding Photography market as a venue for Bridal Party's to have photos taken after their Marriage ceremony. Prior to this date, Matthew Buckley and his Bride to be Samantha Martin approached the Museum expressing their interest in using the Museum as at backdrop



for their wedding photos. Here are the stunning results of *Left: The happy Bride and Groom step off the Tram.* Photo: Andrew Tester

what we can provide to future bridal party's thinking of a venue for their photos.

Prior to the conclusion of Matthew and Samantha's Wedding shoot, an exchange of brochures took place between the photographer and Car Hire operators and hence

our networking into the Wedding Market commenced.



*Above: 5461 admires the "Beauty of the Bridal Party". Photos Andrew Tester.*

The Museum would like to thank Matthew and Samantha for selecting the Museum as the venue for their photos. You have provided us with the opportunity launch our drive into the Wedding market for the future. To Matthew and Samantha, the Museum pass on our sincere congratulations to you both and wish you many years of happiness together.

Anybody wishing to enquiry about wedding photography should contact the Museum on (02) 4751 4638 and leave a

message for the Museum's Publicity Manager, Andrew Tester, who will arrange a meeting to discuss arrangements. A hiring charge for the use of the Museum will be applicable which will be regarded as a donation, for which a Tax Deductible receipt will be issued to the couple. Payment of this will be required in advance and can vary depending on the couple's requirements. (ie: if they would like steam included in their photographs or not).

#### 4. FISH REPORT

Another year has come to an end and may I take this opportunity to wish all our Members and their family my compliments for the festive season. I would also like to thank all the hard working members who regularly contribute onsite for their continued support and efforts throughout the year. The camaraderie we continue to enjoy amongst our members from all groups is fantastic.

I am please to report that some progress has been made on the shed. The first portion of the concrete slab that will support the rain water tank at the western end of the new Tram Shed has been poured. The structural engineer has also submitted his plans to the builder of the shed.

As you will see else where in this edition of the Depot Diary, restoration work on steam locomotive 5711 will recommence, with the work to be carried out at Valley Heights. While there is only limited work for people to carry out at this stage we would like to advise that if you would like to assist but cannot help onsite you can contribute financially to the project as donations to the 5711 Restoration Fund are being accepted through the RTM's Sydney Office or by the Blue Mountains Division. The 5711 Restoration Fund has always and will continue to remain open. So please open your wallets. Donations of \$2-00 or more are tax deductible.

The Small Exhibits Committee headed by Museum Patron Mr Neil Cram has met to commence planning for the future display in the former DLE's building. With conservation work on this building nearing completion I would like to thank Dave Torr and his band of retirees, for the excellent work that has gone into this building. The rewards for your efforts are really starting to show and it is something that you can all be very proud of.

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

#### 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 in which you will be assisting, however at some stage you will be invited to attend Committee Meetings to gain background experience in the management of the Museum.

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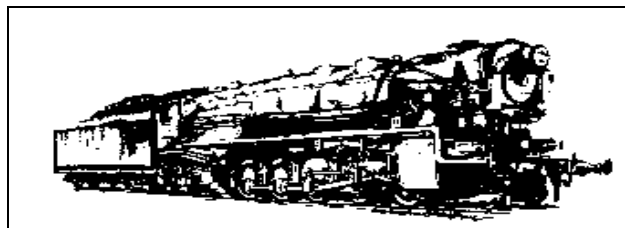
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#### 6. OPEN DAY SET UP ASSISTANCE

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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. We understand that some members cannot give up all there 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. 5711 - RETURNS TO THE MOUNTAINS



Before all you steam enthusiasts get too excited by this headline, we should point out that it is not to the unique beat of its 3 cylinders.

During the 1980's a strong group of RTM members dedicated one day a month to travel to Thirlmere and carry out restoration work to this locomotive. Unfortunately, due to a culmination of reasons, work stopped part way through the restoration program and for many years the 5711 project has been stalled. We and the RTM are pleased to announce that a large proportion of the group that started the restoration of this locomotive back in the 1980's have reformed and work on the locomotive is to recommence.

Some time ago the RTM's Exhibit Management Group were presented with a proposal to transfer this locomotive to Valley Heights so that work on the restoration and reassembly of the locomotive could recommence. This proposal was subsequently submitted to the RTM's Board and the proposal was approved. Subsequently, a Conservation Management Plan and a Restoration Project Plan were drafted to guide the restoration team through the work.

Funding to support this project will primarily be supported by the RTM, from funds already held within the 5711 Fund, however an extensive ongoing budget has been planned to maintain work on this locomotive into the future.

The primary aim of the team is to restore the locomotive to static condition however all work that is carried out is not to prevent the possibility of the locomotive's potential return to service.

Initial work will start on the tender with the engine to be transferred at a later date once the tender restoration program in nearing completion and there is more storage space available. By the time you read this we can report that the tender bogies and frame together with the locomotive's cab, main air reservoir, running board components, main steam pipe and many other essential parts have arrived at Valley Heights and that the group has already commenced work. Stay tuned to the Depot Diary for further updates and how you can assist with this project.

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How can you help restore 5711?

**\$\$\$ 5711 RESTORATION FUND \$\$\$**

You can contribute to the restoration of 5711 by making a Donation to the 5711 Restoration Fund. Donations of \$2-00 or more are Tax Deductible. Cheques should be made payable to the **NSW RTM – 5711 Restoration Fund** and can be sent to the **RTM's Sydney Office** or to the **Blue Mountains Division's** mailing address at **PO Box 484, Springwood NSW 2777**. Stay tuned and thank you for your support.

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**AROUND THE MUSEUM**

**Mercury Truck Restoration Project** – Another project that has start in recent months has been the restoration of the Mercury (Prefect) Truck. This project has been taken on by three of our younger members, Lee Hawkins, Matthew Walton, Eric Walton and Adam Walton. The project commenced with a thorough survey and assessment of the vehicle. Consideration was given to relocating the vehicle from Bay 8 of the Roundhouse to the Workshop area, however it has decided to concentrate on getting the steering box and hand brake working first. This has therefore been the initial focal point for the project. With this determined attention has been given to removing, cleaning, repairing and sourcing spare/replacement parts to suit the vehicle. If any members can provide assistance in any way with this project, whether it be advice to the team or donation of suitable parts, please do not hesitate to contact the Museum.

**New Safety Fence** – For many years now the Museum has been fencing of area to restrict access by the general public with the use of redundant road barricades. One such area where this system has been in use has been adjacent to the running line from the Tram loading platform, (just east of the Turntable) to the front of the Springwood Historical Society in the former Amenities Building. Apart from these being a hazard on windy days as they were prone to being blown over, the one major concern was that small children could practice their limbo skills and simply walk underneath these barricades into the path of an approaching vehicle on the running line. Thankfully this has never happened, but to prevent this from happening, the Museum and STaRPS have jointly invested some money in having a removable picket fence installed in this section. The fence has been installed so that it can be easily removed at any time in the future so that large vehicles can gain access to the

area in need. This fencing was chosen to compliment the historic nature of the site and because of its aesthetic appeal. Being manufactured from powder coated materials, it was also chosen because of its low maintenance qualities. We also opted for cricket oval pickets tops as opposed to the the spear tops, to minimise the risk of serious injury.

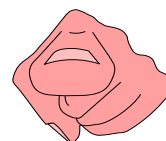
**8. SMALL EXHIBITS**

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 of the display cabinets we were donated in May of this 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 have 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.

**9. RETAIL REPORT**

**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)."



**YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU**


**NEW RELEASE – DVD**

**Railmotors to Carcaor**

Produced by Guilwright and Cartfoyle.

This DVD follows the journey of CPH's 1 & 7 from Valley Heights to Carcaor 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.

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## 10. WORKS REPORT.

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

Activity	October	November
Services	0	9
Buildings	305	340
Model Railway	20	9
Workshop	16	0
Exhibits	114	176
Landscaping / Grounds	203	278
Publicity	14	58
Retail	262	91
General / Admin	301	91
Job Quest / WFD	0	0
Total	1235	1052

### 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
Lauren Scott - Penrith	464
Greg Taylor - Penrith	465
Jan Bardsley-Smith - Springwood	466
Barry Madden - Blaxland	467
Lachlan Parker - Claremont Gardens	468
Gordon Stevens - Katoomba	469
David Povey - Faulconbridge	470
Steven John Shepherd - St Clair	471
Roger Hennessy - Glenbrook	472
Beth King - North Richmond	473
Michael King - North Richmond	474

## 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 Dairy 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
Membership Renewals Due	1/10/2006 - 31/12/2006
Open Days - January 2007	Sun. 21/01/2007
<b>Australia Day</b>	<b>Fri. 26/01/2007</b>
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 13/1/2007 & M-F. 15-19/1/2007
Open Days - February	Sun. 4 & 18/2/2007
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 10/2/2007 & M-F. 12-16/2/2007
Open Days - March	Sun. 4 & 18/3/2007
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 10/3/2007 & M-F. 12-16/3/2007
Springwood Model Railway Exhibition	Sat. 17/3/2007 & Sun. 18/3/2007

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