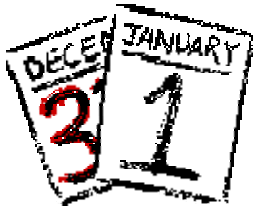


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1. HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to 2007 and yet another new year. We trust that you all had a very Merry Christmas and New Year period. We realise that we are well and truly into the New Year but this is the first opportunity we have had to catch up with the

Membership following the festive season. We look forward to your continuing support during 2007.

2. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - OVERDUE

We are pleased to report that Membership Renewals have been received from a large proportion of our Membership and that we continue to receive late renewals. Any members whose renewal has not been received are now deemed unfinancial and the Depot Diary will not be forwarded until payment of their Membership is received.

3. RESCUE EQUIPMENT DONATED

For many years now the Museum has offered the site as a venue to the NSW Fire Brigades to use for simulated rescues for crew training purposes.

As a result of this affiliation a strong partnership has been forged between ourselves and the NSW Fire Brigades. During these training exercises the Fire Brigades would put their crews through a simulated rescue situation to give their crews practical use of their equipment used to lift heavy rollingstock. Some of the equipment used has now been superseded by modern state of the art gear resulting in many sets becoming surplus to requirements to the NSWFB. Member Phil Pedley who is employed with the NSWFB negotiated the donation of some of this surplus equipment over a period of many months. The equipment donated comprises of two complete sets of Enerpac hydraulic rescue equipment (similar to port-a-power), comprising of 4 different sized lifting rams of varying tonnages and two large and two small spreaders, and two sets of associated add on equipment ie: extension tubes and adaptors as well as an additional high capacity lifting ram capable of lifting 25 tonne and additional high capacity hydraulic pump. Station Officer Bruce Cameron (who was Acting Manager of the Fire Brigade's Rescue Section) made the presentation to Museum Chairman Ted Mullett on Wednesday 17th January 2007. Our thanks go to the NSWFB authorities recognising the Museum as a worthy recipient for this equipment. Furthermore our thanks are also extended to Phil Pedley for negotiating the donation with the relevant NSWFB authorities.



Left & Below: NSWFB Station Officer Bruce Cameron presents Ted Mullett with the donated equipment as Phil Pedley looks on. Photos: Peter Butler.



4. FISH REPORT

Happy New Year to you all and may this year be a big one.

I am pleased to announce we are planning a big occasion for the 2nd of June 2007. Please stay tuned.

Our Friends at Thirlmere have given us a redundant front-end loader. It does require work (doesn't everything.). Terry Matchett, Ted Dickson, John Stanley and Phil Pedley have been stuck into the repair work. The NSWFB donated hydraulic Enerpacs have been put to use. Tony Brown has donated a diesel-powered welder. The motor runs okay but needs a rear oil seal replaced and the electrics checked out. I thank all above mentioned for their work for making these things happen.

On the 17th - 18th March is the Model Railway Exhibition at St. Thomas School. On the Sunday we will be stretched thin as it is also our normal Open Day, if you can assist at either venue please contact Andrew Tester on 4735 8601.

Please Help. Your Museum is run by a dedicated few and we need help. There are many opportunities for you to help. If you can paint, serve in the shop, do mechanical work, carpentry, operate a model railway please contact me on 4751 2485.

We have a very active retirees group. This group will welcome you with open arms. They usually work the week commencing the 2nd Saturday. Whilst this is called the retirees group it also has shift workers in amongst the group. This week of work has been extended to now have Terry Matchett working on mechanical work.

Please take note we are still looking for mannequins to show off the railway uniforms we have been donated.

5. 3801 UPDATE

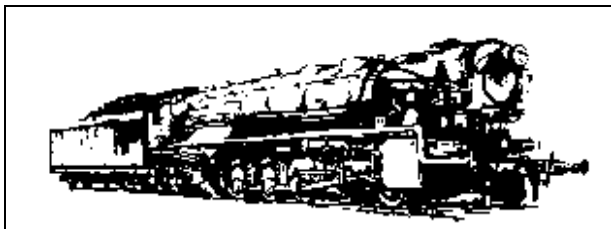
As many of you would be aware Sunday 26 November 2006 saw the end of the lease of locomotive 3801 to the company 3801 Limited. The following day saw the locomotive steam to the Hunter Valley Training Company's complex at East Greta where an extensive assessment of the locomotive's boiler condition was undertaken. This formed the basis for a scope of works required to keep the locomotive operational for the short

term, prior to a major boiler overhaul in the near future, expected in 2008. Following this assessment, 3801 was steamed and returned to Thirlmere where maintenance and remedial work is currently under way to ensure the locomotive is operational in time for the Thirlmere Festival of Steam in March. Leading up to the expiration of the lease of the locomotive, a lot of publicity was generated through all forms of media, which created a great deal of misconception about the future of 3801. For those of you who have access to the internet and would like to know more about the future for 3801 a special webpage <http://www.nswrtm.org/3801/> has been developed with current news including details of tours planned for the locomotive. The Heritage Express web-site <http://www.heritageexpress.com.au> now also lists the full tour program. If you do not have access to the internet, you can be assured that the future of the locomotive is secure. While 3801 will need an extensive boiler overhaul at some stage in the near future, an extensive tour plan has been developed for the coming year and when the locomotive is not on tour, visitors to the Thirlmere Rail Heritage Centre will have greater access to the locomotive. Should you like further details regarding tours for 3801, you can also call the RTM's Sydney Booking Office on (02) 9379 1110 during business hours, weekdays.

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 roadside 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 roadside 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 – RESTORATION NEWS



Above: Tender bogies and Tender frame (sitting on temporary bogies) just after arrival at Valley Heights. Photo: Col Burne.

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Most members would now be aware of the re-launch on the 5711 Restoration project following the transfer the tender frame and bogies together with some locomotive parts from Thirlmere to Valley Heights. Many members of the group that were working on the project during the early 80's and 90's have reformed. The project group is being led by Tim Ball and Robert Smithers and work has commenced on the first bogie where the bogie frame has been lifted so that both wheel sets and axle boxes can be removed. All axle sets have been cleaned, painted and axle journals greased. Cleaning and Painting of the bogie frame has also commenced. All work on this bogie has been undertaken in Bay 7 of the Roundhouse so that work can continue during all weather conditions. The photos below show some of the work in progress to date.



Left: 5711's partly restored cab soon after arrival at Valley Heights. Photo Col Burne.

Right: Robert Smithers steam cleans the first of four Axle boxes. Photo: Andrew Tester.



Left: The bogie frame lifted and wheel sets free to allow work to commence. Photo: Andrew Tester.

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.

8. AROUND THE MUSEUM

New Safety Fence – As reported in the previous Depot Diary, the Museum and STaRPS have invested in the installation of a new powder coated Picket fence in front of the former Amenities Building to protect our visitors from crossing the running line. This picture illustrates the completed fence.



Photo: Jim Hall.

New Tram Shed – As you all know, progress on the new Tram Shed has been pain stakingly slow to say the least. Some work has commenced with the pouring of the first part of the concrete slab. This slab which is located at the base of the stairs at the western end of the Ash Sidings, is where a large rain water tank will be positioned. The water contained in this tank will be used for gardening and fire fighting purposes. Heres hoping it will never be needed for fire fighting.

Chargemen's Building – By the time you read this we can report that all carpentry work on this building will be completed and internal painting of this building will become the focus. Work has already commenced on painting and all rooms have received a coat of undercoat. As this building has formed the home of the retirees for the last few years and work is now nearing completion all the machinery that has been used by the retirees during the conservation of this building now has to be relocated. This will allow the Small Exhibits Team to occupy this Building to start displaying our small exhibits.

9. STARPS REPORT

The results of the Safety Audit conducted in November 2006 by the Independent Safety Regulator (ITSRR) have been received. The results reported no serious issues operationally however identified a number of administrative issues that require reviewing. These include documenting Policies, reviewing Risk Assessments and writing Training Manuals. In addition to this, all accredited Rail Safety Workers are required to pass medical examinations by a qualified GP. Our thanks are extended to member Dr Andy Kryzston who agreed to assess our Rail Safety Workers, all of whom, we can report passed the required level of fitness. Considering we are all volunteers, the powers that be certainly know how to make having fun hard.

Work has commenced on the replica Double Decker tram car (99DD). The top deck roof canopy and seats have been

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removed to allow replacement of roof support timbers.

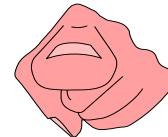
10. SMALL EXHIBITS

With conservation work in the former Chargemen'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 to us in May of last 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.

11. 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."



YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU

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.

New Book Arrivals

Sydney's Forgotten Quarry Railways (features Emu Plains and Yarramundi lines) - **\$15.00**

Country Railway Stations – Part 6 - **\$33.00**

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New DVD Releases

Two different DVD's titled – Glenreagh Mountain Railway - **\$29-95**

Specials

150th Anniversary Mugs – (was \$12-50) **now \$8-00**

RTM 2007 Calendars – (was \$16.00) **now \$8-00**

12. WORKS REPORT.

Work Hours - The following hours have been logged by our volunteers for the months of December 2006 and January 2007.

Activity	December	January
Services	1	11
Buildings	383	318
Model Railway	46	40
Workshop	56	121
Exhibits	152	88
Landscaping / Grounds	335	170
Publicity	5	12
Retail	122	139
General / Admin	76	181
Job Quest / WFD	0	0
Total	1176	1080

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.

13. 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
David Wrigley – Glenbrook	475
Rona Jarrett – Emu Heights	476

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
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
Open Days – April	Sun. 1 & 15/4/2007
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 10/4/2007 & M-F. 12-16/4/2007
Open Days – May	Sun. 6 & 20/5/2007
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 10/5/2007 & M-F. 12-16/5/2007
Steam Shuttles – 3801 & 3526 Penrith & Valley Heights or Penrith & Blacktown	Sun. 27/5/2007 (See attached flyer for details).
Members Railmotor Tour	TO BE ADVISED

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