



The Depot Diary

No. 92
April
2007

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.infobluemountains.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. MEMBERS RAILMOTOR TOUR

It's on again this year. The Annual Members Railmotor Tour is scheduled for Sunday 26th August 2007. Destination - Berry, via Moss Vale and the Illawarra Escarpment. Numbers are restricted to 70 passengers, so first in best dressed. Unfortunately, costs have risen due to an increase in rail access charges. Costs for this year's tour are Adults \$110 and School Students \$60. While payment is not required at this stage, Tour Organiser David Lewis is now taking reservations from interested passengers. To express your interest in this year's tour please call David on (02) 9630 6304 or email floozie2@bigpond.net.au. Don't be disappointed.

2. FISH REPORT

Hello all, we are heading for some big occasions.

The first is the visit of 3801, 3526 and some diesels (Nos. not known at this time) to the Depot on 25th - 28th May. Our head body is using the Depot as a base for the weekend's operations. Saturday 26th 3801 to Orange, 3526 shuttles Katoomba to Mt. Victoria. Sunday 27th shuttles Penrith to Blacktown to Penrith to Valley Heights. Your assistance would be appreciated on the Sunday, see other part of this Diary or contact Andrew Tester on 4735 8601.

With the big engines coming into the Depot, a large amount of track needs repair. The major work is the Arrival road ash pit. The timbers on the southern side will have to be replaced. These timbers are quite large, measuring 356mm (14in) X 200mm (8in) X 4000mm (approx. 15ft) hardwood. Work commences on Monday 23rd April contact Ted Dickson on 4751 1198 for more information. **WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.**

Last Depot Diary I announced we are planning a big occasion for the 2nd of June 2007. All members are invited to attend. See Item 4 on this page for further details. Please stay tuned for more information.

Progress at this time on the new Engine Shed is very slow.

The upgrade of the driveway is in the hands of Blue Mountains City Council. We have received two quotes to upgrade the drive way entrance from the curb of Tusculum Road to the start of the sealed section of the access road. These quotes have been submitted to Council (BMCC). BMCC is responsible for the section from Tusculum Road to the gate across the access road while Railcorp is responsible for the section inside the gate. Railcorp have already undertaken to commit funding to the tune of \$30,000 dependant on BMCC carrying out their part. This money has to be spent by 30th June 2007.

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, or 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 among the group. This week of work has been extended to now have Terry Matchett, John Stanley and Ted Dickson working on Track and Mechanical work.

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

170+ members there is some person who has information on how to obtain these.

3. MAY STEAM WEEKEND

All members should keep the weekend of the 25-27th May 2007 free. This weekend is going to see a great deal of Steam excitement in and around the Blue Mountains with all of it being based from Valley Heights. The excitement begins on the Friday 25th May when Steam Locomotives 3526 and 3801 arrive at Valley Heights in preparation for two days of Steam activities. Upon arrival (approx. 2pm) the Locomotives will be serviced after which the Museum will open the gates for the Public so that they can get the opportunity to inspect the steam giants up close. Access will be by payment of \$5-00 per Adult, \$3-00 per Child or \$10-00 for a family which will give the public a chance to inspect both locomotives up close. On the Saturday all the action centres on the upper mountains with 3526 and heritage diesels operating shuttles between Katoomba and Mt Victoria, while 3801 ventures to Orange for the day. On the Sunday 3801 & 3526 will operate steam shuttles from Penrith to Valley Heights or Blacktown all day. Tickets for these shuttles can be purchased on the day from Penrith Station. There is also the possibility of one way tickets from Valley Heights to Penrith on the first train in the morning *only*, **but this is yet to be confirmed.** Fares for return shuttles from Penrith are Adults: \$25-00, Seniors: \$20-00, School Students: \$15-00 and Family (2 Adults & 2 Children): \$70-00. Stay tuned to the local newspapers and radio for further details in the weeks leading up to the event. For that weekend we will be seeking assistance from Museum volunteers to staff the Museum between 3pm & 6pm on the Friday afternoon, assist with the sale of tickets on the Sunday and staff the Museum at night and to assist with Security on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. If you can assist with this event please contact Andrew Tester on (02) 4735 8601 after 7pm on weekdays and at weekends. Further details regarding the steam activities for this weekend can be obtained from www.heritageexpress.com.au.

4. OFFICIAL OPENING

A special event is currently being organised to commemorate the completion of conservation work on the former DLE's Building. The opportunity is also being taken to officially open the Former Amenities Building as our Shop/Museum Entrance. All being well we will also be able to at least show off progress on the new tram shed. The proposed date for this event is Saturday 2nd June 2007. Invitations have been sent to various dignitaries including MP's and Railcorp officials.

5. S.E.S. EXERCISE

On Sunday 25th February the Blue Mountains State Emergency Service (SES) conducted a training exercise at the Museum. The aim of the exercise was to allow members to practice some of their Urban Search and Rescue skills. The scenario briefing was that a train carriage had come off the rails and hit a building so the teams had to search the building to locate any victims and also to extricate a number of "casualties" from two of the old train carriages.

The exercise went well and the SES appreciates the opportunity to use the Museum site to allow for more realistic training scenarios in a safe and controlled environment.



Above: SES crews rescue a passenger in a mock rescue exercise.

6. HOLLYWOOD COMES TO VALLEY HEIGHTS or is it "VALLEYWOOD"

Well not quite, but on the 13th January 2007 we did have a local film crew on site as they were producing a short film for the annual Tropfest competition and needed some railway line for their film.

This film was about Japanese prisoners of war held at an army camp at Cowra, NSW towards the end of World War 2.

Just before dawn on the 5th August 1944, 486 of the 1104 Japanese prisoners made a break for freedom. Some were on the run for up to nine days. Many committed suicide to avoid the disgrace of capture, two of which threw themselves under a Blayney to Cowra train and this is where the museum comes in.

What was needed was some low to the ground track shots, so we decided to use the Wickham ganger's vehicle and trailer.

With the camera mounted at the front of the trailer it was pushed along at a slow speed.

We did several runs down to the gate and up to the top of the coal stage road with filming done in both directions.

They also had two actors of Japanese decent and with their costumes on they really looked the part.

Now the tricky bit. With these two laying across one running rail we needed it to look as if the camera was heading towards them but this was not possible, for safety reasons, so we had to film everything in reverse.

So with the actors on the rail and the camera about two feet from their face we had to drive away from them and they would jump to their feet and take a few steps back. This was done about four times.

Next was the cab shot of the locomotive on the train and we volunteered our own museum worker Peter Butler. Peter's job was to act as the train driver on that tragic day in 1944.

We used the cab of 5461 and Pete did what he does best, pretended he was driving the train, by operating the regulator, whistle cord and various other controls on the loco and to make an emergency stop, blowing the whistle and looking forward through the front window, as if the two P.O.W.s, were on the track ahead.

After a few takes all was done and everyone involved had a fun time. This was yet another feather in the museum's cap.

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Left: P.O.W. actors pose for the cameras. Right: Camera and crew travel in trailer for the purpose of capturing close to rail footage.

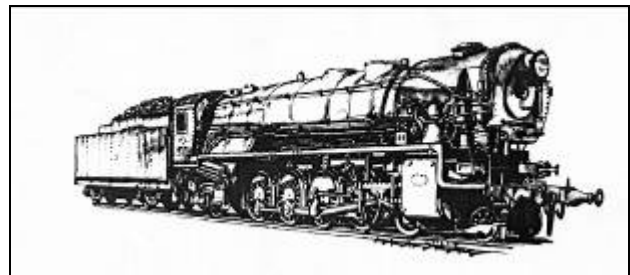


Left: Filming while travelling along the Coal Stage siding. Right: Cab shots aboard 5461 with Peter Butler acting as driver. Photos: Jim Hall.

7. 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.

8. 5711 – RESTORATION NEWS



Work continues on the restoration of the first tender bogie. After lifting the bogie frame to remove both wheel sets, the axle boxes were removed and disassembled for cleaning, greasing and painting. Work has now commenced on the reassembly of the axle boxes to the first wheel set with the same treatment about to be applied to the second wheel set.

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.

9. AROUND THE MUSEUM

Front End Loader – As reported in the previous Depot Diary, the Museum had received from our Thirlmere partners the donation of a redundant Front End Loader “Scoop” as she is more affectionately known. Scoop has been receiving some major repairs over the last couple of months so that we have a safe and reliable machine when it enters service. These repairs have included but are not limited to : Steering, Brakes, Hydraulics, refurbishment of the drivers controls and a fresh coat of paint. When completed this vehicle will be a very useful and versatile piece of equipment around the site.

New Tram Shed – The Rain Water Tank for the new Tram Shed has arrived and has been positioned on the concrete slab at the western end of the Ash Sidings. Unfortunately, this will not be put to use until such time as the Shed has been constructed, as the tank will be fed from the rainfall runoff from the shed



roof. As for the shed itself, there is still no news on the commencement of the construction. The Building contractor has been advised that construction can commence and we are now waiting their

current commitments to be finalised. Above: The Rain Water Tank positioned in readiness for the new Tram Shed. Photo: Andrew Tester.



Chargemen's Building – Left Painting inside the Chargemen's Building is well advanced as can be seen in this view. Photo: Andrew Tester.

With all the internal carpentry

now completed, painting internally has now commenced and is 90% complete. The retirees work week in May should see work on this building complete. Depot Diary 77 (October 2004) included Part 1 of an extensive report on the restoration of this building from the commencement of the project in late 2002 to mid 2004. This was followed by Part 2 of the report in Depot

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Diary 78 (December 2004). Stay tuned for the final report with more updated photos in a future edition of the Depot Diary.

10. GET WELL WISHES

The Museum wish to convey its best wishes to two of its hard working stalwarts who are currently experiencing health concerns. Our long serving Chairman Ted Mullett and volunteer and RTM Life Member, Ken Rudd have both been hospitalised in recent times for treatment to different conditions. To Ted and Ken we wish you the best with your recovery and look forward to seeing you both back “on track” in the near future.

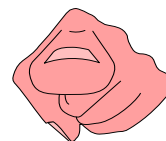
11. STARPS REPORT

STaRPS continue to work through the mountains of paperwork required to bring all the necessary documents and policies up to date to conform with the issues raised from the Safety Audit conducted in November 2006 by the Independent Safety Regulator (ITSRR). These changes will not only effect STaRPS as the accredited operator but any members who are authorised trike operators/tramway personnel will need to be across the changes that effect safety, resulting from the Audit. Over time the Museum as a whole can expect changes as a result Audits expected in the future, particularly around our operations.

12. 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

44 Class book (by the late Ron Preston) is on order and awaiting delivery.

NEW DVD RELEASES

DVD's titled – 46 Adventures - \$35-00, Diesel Diary (Vol 16) - \$40-00

SPECIALS


150th Anniversary Mugs – (was \$12-50) now \$8-00
 RTM 2007 Calendars – (was \$16.00) now \$8-00

13. WORKS REPORT.

Work Hours - The following hours have been logged by our volunteers for the months of February 2007 and March 2007.

Activity	February	March
Services	5	10

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Buildings	264	371
Model Railway	33	25
Workshop	289	187
Exhibits	87	112
Landscaping / Grounds	209	165
Publicity	26	70
Retail	69	96
General / Admin	93	92
Job Quest / WFD	0	0
Total	1076	1128

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.

14. 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
Michael Grantham, Lithgow	477
Ian Hayes, Wentworth Falls	478
Robyn Hayes, Wentworth Falls	479

15. 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.

16. 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
Open Days – May	Sun. 6 & 20/5/2007
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 12/5/2007 & M-F. 14-18/5/2007
Steam Shuttles – 3801 & 3526 Penrith & Valley Heights or Penrith & Blacktown	Sun. 27/5/2007
Official Opening	Sat. 2/6/2007
Open Days – June	Sun. 3 & 17/6/2007
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 9/6/2007 & Tue-F. 12-15/6/2007
Open Days – July (incorporating School Holidays)	Sun. 1, 8 & 15/7/2007 Wed. 4 & 11/7/2007
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 14/7/2007 & M-F. 16-20/7/2007
Members Railmotor Tour	Sun. 26/8/2007

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