

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



Above: 3526 sits on the Turntable while 3801 is coaled soon after arrival from Thirlmere on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007, in preparation for a weekend of Steam excitement on the Mountains. Photo: Peter Butler.

## 1. BIG STEAM WEEKEND

As reported in Depot Diary 92 (April 2007) the Museum played host to Steam Locomotives 3526 and 3801 over the weekend 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007. While there are limitations in this edition of the Depot Diary to provide a full comprehensive report on this weekend we trust that the above photo is enough to whet your appetite for a detailed report and pictures in the August (Depot Diary 94) edition. Stay tuned.

## 2. MEMBERS RAILMOTOR TOUR

Reminder to all members that positions in this year's Members Railmotor Tour are filling fast. At last count there were less than 20 seats still available. If you are still interested in joining your friends on this enjoyable day out please contact the Tour Organiser, David Lewis on (02) 9630 6304 or email [floozie2@bigpond.net.au](mailto:floozie2@bigpond.net.au). Don't be disappointed.

## 3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are advised that the Museum's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2007 commencing at

1:30pm. Annual Reports will be forwarded to all Members with the August Edition of the Depot Diary during the first week of August.

## 4. FISH REPORT

First but foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have passed on their get well wishes to me following my recent ill health and subsequent recovery from surgery. I would like to reassure you that I am well on the way to recovery and while it will be another 12 months before I am back to full strength, I am keeping in touch with day to day operations. During my absence I had to delegate the role of Chairman to my two Vice Chairman, Ted Dickson and Andrew Tester. I am encouraged that the efforts of Ted and Andrew were supported by our strong band of volunteers who all worked as a Team to maintain the day to day operations of the Museum. I am particularly thankful to Ted during this time who was not only committed to his normal duties in regards to building services but was also committed to co-ordination of the track work required for the May Steam Weekend, liaising with the Builder regarding the construction of the Tram Shed, talking with council regarding the Driveway, and attending meetings on my behalf with representatives of RailCorp and the Office of Rail Heritage. My sincere thanks to everyone.

As you will see later in this Depot Diary you will learn that construction on the new Tram shed is well underway. My thanks go to Ted Dickson, Craig Connelly, Terry Matchett and John Stanley for their efforts to this project to date. Of course there have been other Museum and STaRPS members who have contributed to get this project to its current stage and to all I thank you. I would also like to personally thank the Builder Warren Byrne who has also made his equipment available for use to the Museum for other projects. Thanks Warren.

The unsealed section of the driveway from Tusculum Road into the Museum has been a long and drawn out episode to get this sealed. Negotiations with Council have been challenging, as they would not commit to financing the complete resurfacing of the entire section. Having received an undertaking to partial funding from State Rail, it would appear as though Council may come forth with funding to complete the section. Any funding assistance that does become available will not be allocated until the Council Budget for the 2007/2008 financial year. Fingers crossed.

The Office of Rail Heritage has engaged consultants to carry out extensive surveys of the Museum site, buildings and assets. This work commenced with a thorough topographical survey of the site, which will be followed by Conservation Management and Asset Management Plans.

It is particularly pleasing to have the President on the parent body keeping a close interest in our activities at Valley Heights. Peter Berriman attends regular executive meetings and calls in at regular intervals to keep in touch with the Blue Mountains Division. Thanks for your support Peter.

The last two editions of the Roundhouse Magazine, which is published by our parent body, have featured articles pertaining to the Valley Heights. February's Edition featured a detailed story written by Stuart Sharp on "Valley heights Railway Station – The Politics of Visibility" while May's Roundhouse published an article written by Jim Longworth on the Valley Heights Ash Tunnel. This article was of particular interest as it has shed light on the design of the Ash Truck that was once used in the tunnel to dispose of locomotive ash from the overhead Ash Pits. Our thanks to both authors and the editorial team of Roundhouse Magazine for publishing both articles.

While I am personally on the road to recovery I would like to extend the Museum's thoughts to Ken Rudd who is currently going through a rough period with his health at present. Ken continues to keep in touch with Museum activities as and when his health allows. We look forward to seeing you at Valley Heights in the future, Ken.

## 5. NEW TRAM SHED



It is with much delight that we can announce to the membership that work on the construction of the new Tram Shed for STaRPS has progressed in great leaps and bounds since the last Depot Diary. By the time you read this the frame structure,

together with all windows and some doors will have been installed.

Concrete Sleepers and rails have been installed, levelled and laid for the first road, and is now awaiting the concrete floor to be poured. All being well (weather permitting), the construction of the shed structure will be completed by the end of June. Additional Photos and progress Report in the next Depot Diary. *Above The completed foundations for the shed. Right: Installation of the concrete sleepers for the first road. Photos: Andrew Tester.*



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## 6. TRIKE OPERATORS

The Museum and STaRPS would like to hear from any Members interested in becoming accredited in the operation of the Fettle (Trike) Vehicles. While we have a number of accredited trike operators at present, we always seem to struggle in getting enough operators on the first Sunday of each month to operate the Trike rides. Sure, some of the trike operators have other commitments on the first Sunday but we would like to fill these gaps. So if you are at least 18 years of age and interested in this aspect of our operations, please contact the Museum and ask to speak with Andrew Tester or Craig Connelly for further details.

## 7. RAIL ACCESS TO THE ASH SIDINGS AND SIGNAL BOX.

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007, RailCorp Officials met with Museum and STaRPS representatives to discuss future rail access needs to the Museum and STaRPS.

Representing the Museum were Ted Dickson and John Stanley while Peter Stock and Bruce Irwin represented STaRPS. Peter Berriman, in his capacity as President of the Rail Transport Museum was also in attendance on behalf of the parent body.

The main purpose for the meeting was to discuss future rail access arrangements outside the present Museum boundaries so that an operating agreement can be formalised with RailCorp.

This will be necessary so that STaRPS can not only access their new shed in the Ash Siding but extend the length of our present operations to the Signal Box at the Sydney end of the Coal Storage Siding.

We are pleased to report that these discussions with RailCorp were quite fruitful and it is hoped that the operating agreement between the Rail Transport Museum, STaRPS and RailCorp will be in place in the 2007/2008 financial year.

## 8. OPENING OF BUILDINGS

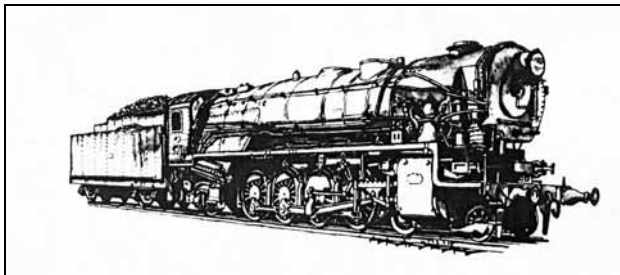
Readers will recall in the April edition of the Depot Diary we announced an event would take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007 to open the recently conserved Chargmen's Building, Amenities (Shop) Building and new Tram Shed. Unfortunately, due to non completion of the shed and a low acceptance response to invitations from official guests, we were forced to postpone the opening to later in the year. Stay tuned for the announcement of the new date which is to become the Museum's Official Opening.

## 9. 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 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.

## 10. 5711 – RESTORATION NEWS



Work on this exhibit is progressing at a slow but steady pace. Work on the restoration of the first Tender bogie is now complete. Some needle gunning work has commenced on the Tender Frame to remove blistering paint and rust. Work on the restoration on the second tender bogie has commenced.

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.

## 11. AROUND THE MUSEUM

**Front End Loader** – After a great deal of expense and frustration we can report that the Terry Matchett and John Stanley who have been working tirelessly to get this recently acquired piece of equipment operational are nearing completion on this project. The Front End Loader has been started for this first time since its delivery from Thirlmere. Adjustments to the power steering proved more challenging than expected but by the time you read this we can expect that the Front End Loader will be ready for use apart from some fine tuning.

**Track Work** – In preparation for the big Steam Weekend in May a number of track repairs were required both within the Museum and in the down yard at the station so that the 35 and 38 could safely traverse the track. Sleeper and point timber replacement were required at various locations but by far the major area of concern were the timbers beneath the southern most rail of the Ash Pit in the Loco Arrival Road. All were found to be rotted and after close inspection were condemned. Replacement hard wood timbers measuring 14'x8"x12" for the length of the Ash Pit had to be sourced and after investigating the price of new and second hand timbers of this profile, new timbers were purchased at a price \$1000-00 cheaper than second hand timbers. Upon arrival Ted Dickson ably assisted by John Stanley, led of a team of Museum and STaRPS members to replace the condemned timbers. This was hard, heavy and tiring work. On some occasions less than a handful of people were on hand to assist Ted and John with the work on the planned days but to the credit of all concerned the job was completed in the days leading up to the big weekend. Members of the retirees group offered their assistance on days during their scheduled week to help complete the task. This was a great combined effort and goes to show what can be achieved with a combined and co-operative Team effort. Congratulations and well done to all concerned.

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**Chargemen's Building** – We can now report that conservation work on the former Chargemen's Building is now complete. Completion of work on this project was commemorated with a celebratory lunch for the members of the Retirees group and others who have had some form of involvement in the project. Now that this work is completed plans are now in hand to prepare the building with our small exhibits displays.

## 12. CLEANING ASSISTANCE

The Museum is interested to hear from any one who could offer assistance with general cleaning. Duties would include cleaning of the Members Meal Room, Toilets and general cleaning of the Museum grounds. Assistance would only be required on two half days a month. All equipment provided. Anybody interested in this can contact Col Burne on Ph: 4739 2423 or Andrew Tester on Ph: 4735 8601. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

## 13. RETAIL REPORT

### 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.

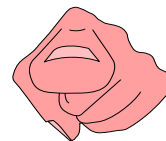
### SPECIALS

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mugs – (was \$12-50) now \$8-00.

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

## 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 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.

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#### 14. WORKS REPORT.

**Work Hours** - The following hours have been logged by our volunteers for the months of April 2007 and May 2007.

Activity	April	May
Services	5	240
Buildings	307	457
Model Railway	16	32
Workshop	132	224
Exhibits	80	125
Landscaping / Grounds	446	600
Publicity	0	182
Retail	303	149
General / Admin	62	54
Job Quest / WFD	0	0
Total	1351	2063

#### 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
Steve GAUT, Oberon	480
Ken BRANNON, Ermington	481
John SMITH, Quakers Hill	482
Robert SMITH, Springwood	483
Alan WHITMORE, Valley Heights	484
Christie CASLEY, Winmalee	485
Shaun CASLEY, Winmalee	486
Ron Russell, Westmead	487

#### 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

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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.

#### 17. 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.

#### 18. 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.

#### 19. 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.

#### 20. UP COMING EVENTS

Event	Dates
<b>Open Days – July</b> (incorporating School Holidays)	Sun. 1, 8 & 15/7/2007 Wed. 4 & 11/7/2007
<b>Retiree Work Week</b>	Sat. 14/7/2007 & M-F. 16-20/7/2007
<b>5711 Work Day</b>	Sat. 28/7/2007
<b>Open Days – August</b>	Sun. 5 & 19/8/2007
<b>Retiree Work Week</b>	Sat. 11/8/2007 & M-F. 13-17/8/2007
<b>Annual General Meeting &amp; 5711 Work Day</b>	Sat. 25/8/2007
<b>Members Railmotor Tour</b>	Sun. 26/8/2007
<b>Open Days – September</b>	Sun. 2 & 16/9/2007
<b>Retiree Work Week</b>	Sat. 8/9/2007 & M-F. 10-14/9/2007
<b>5711 Work Day</b>	Sat. 22/9/2007
<b>Worker's Annual BBQ</b>	Sat. 27/10/2007

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