



The Depot Diary

No. 96
Dec.
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.infoblue-mountains.net.au/locodepot

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1. SEASONS GREETINGS

The Museum's Executive would like to wish the families of our Members, Supporters and Sponsors



A very Merry Christmas and Happy Safe and Prosperous New Year.

We trust that we can look forward to your continuing support in 2008.

2. APOLOGY

We would like to apologise to our Members for the late delivery of the October Edition of the Depot Diary and the Membership Renewal Forms that accompanied that edition. As a result of the late distribution of the Membership Renewals the Museum will accept Membership Renewals up until the 31st January 2008. Failure to renew by this date will deem your membership as unfinancial. We trust that we can look forward to your continuing Membership into the new year.

3. FAREWELL KERRY

With the Federal Election now behind us, most of our membership would be aware of the major swing that was inflicted away from the Howard Liberal Government. This swing saw many liberal seats change hands and our seat of Macquarie was no exception. For the last 11 years Macquarie has been the heart and soul of our former member Mr Kerry Bartlett. Kerry took pride in representing his constituents and showed a great deal of interest with the community of his electorate. We are pleased to say the Museum was a benefactor in many ways from Kerry's hard work and Kerry paid a great deal of interest in the Museum and its development during his time as the representative for Macquarie. Kerry, the Museum would like to thank you for all the effort and support you have given the Museum since winning the seat in 1996. We would like to wish you every success in what ever the future holds for you and hope that you can keep in touch with the Museum. Please feel free to drop in if you are passing by on any of our Open Days – you would be made more than welcome.

4. THE YEAR THAT WAS 2007

The year 2007 has been a significant year in the Museum's history with many projects advancing through to completion, allowing work to commence on other projects. Certainly our Building program received a significant boost with the completion of conservation work on the former Chargemen's Building.

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completion of the shop and construction of the new Tram Shed which is nearing completion. On top of this we also had the unforgettable visit by locomotives 3526 and 3801 for a weekend back in May. We hope that the photos below give you a pictorial recap on the year that was 2007.



Above: Foundations for the new Tram Shed (April) and the Shed stands all but completed (August). Photo's: Andrew Tester.



Above: (May) The nearly completed Chargemen's Building glows with pride under the gleam of the veranda lights. This is a true testament to the workmanship invested in this building by our Retirees Group. Well done boys! Below: 3526 & 3801 en-route for Valley Heights, Friday 25th May 2007. Photos: Peter Butler.





Above: 3526 & 3801 depart Valley Heights in the sun on Saturday 26th May 2007, with a train load of passengers at the start of a very long day, Orange bound. Photo: Peter Maskill

5. FISH REPORT

Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year to All.

Finally there is movement on the surfacing of the driveway off Tusculum Rd. Work hopefully will start early in the New Year.

With the completion of the Chargemen's Building, work is underway with the outfitting of the internal display under the control of our Small exhibits Curator. It is starting to look very good. When you visit come and have a look.

Recently the former member for Macquarie made an announcement of a \$125,000 grant providing he was re-elected. It is too early to say whether this will carry on with current Labor Government.

Work is carrying on with fixing the track in the new engine shed. Our small band of workers would like some help. If you can help contact John Stanley on 4754 1297. As soon as this work is completed the floor will be concreted and the track work will then move to outside fixing the track into the shed.

There has been another meeting in the steps towards establishing a track access agreement from the main line into the Depot. These meetings have been very fruitful.

Our retirees group have been very busy. The shop internals have been completed and the fitting of the fridge, dishwasher and coffee machine will now take place. The group have moved to repainting the outside of the building. Preparatory work is underway to repair/rebuild the roundhouse windows. This work will be in readiness if we are successful in our grant application. With all the rain the termites have become very active. Our thanks to Kevin Gerard for his assistance in controlling these pests.

6. STARPS NEWS

It is with much delight that we can announce that member Ted Dickson and STaRPS member Steve Tolhurst recently completed and successfully passed their Boiler Attendants Certificates. This allows both Ted and Steve to qualify as Firemen for the Tram and Stepho easing the load off the existing limited number of qualified men. Congratulations to both Ted and Steve. Having qualified for their Boiler Attendants Certificate, the next step for Ted and Steve

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is to Driver and when these examinations take place, the next two to qualify as firemen will also be tested.

Both the Steam Tram and Stevo have recently been through their Annual Boiler Certificate examinations while the Steam Tram passed without any problems, Stevo required 9 firebox crown stays to be re-washed. These repairs have since been completed and the locomotive is again ready for service.

7. OPERATIONAL & OPEN DAY CHANGES

Following the withdrawal of the Trike rides from service, the Museum in conjunction with STaRPS has consulted to review the Museum's operations. We were faced with a few options for consideration and have finalised on moving our Open Days to the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month with Steam operating on both days. The main reason the decision was made to shift our operational days centred around volunteer resourcing, which is some what limited on the 1st Sundays. Initially the Steam Tram will be employed to provide rides on these days, however STaRPS are looking at alternatives to use Steam Locomotive CPC2 (Stevo) with an appropriate car, preferably an End Platform (Cowboy) Car. This option is still under investigation but it is hoped that we can implement this as soon as possible to reduce wear and tear on the tram and provide some operational variation for our visitors. The change in our Open Days becomes effective from February 2008.

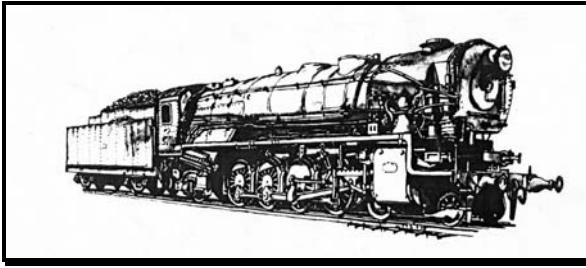
8. ADMISSION PRICE INCREASE

As you would all be aware, every year the day to day cost of living continues to increase in line with inflation (and in some situation above inflation). As you can appreciate the Museum is not immune to these day to day expenses because of our charitable status. Our service providers have increased costs which are passed onto us as the consumer. We too therefore need to recover these costs to ensure we stay afloat and on par with inflation. The Museum, as like all businesses, conducts an annual review its overheads for the past year and whilst we don't like to have to increase our charges, we are forced to in order to remain viable. An example of the overheads an organisation such as ourselves has to cover includes the cost of Security, Electricity, Water, Telephone, Insurances all of which are essential services to our business needs. Our friends at STaRPS have overheads in excess of \$7000-00 to recoup in the coming year before they can effectively turn a wheel or buy a bolt. The only way for us to recover these costs is to increase our Public Admission Charges and some retail items. Effective from the 1st February 2008 the new public admission charges will be as follows.

Adults	\$13-00
Seniors / Pensioners and Student Concessions	\$11-00
School Students	\$9-00
Family (2 Adults & 2 School Students)	\$35-00
Children (Aged 4 & Under)	FREE



9. 5711 – RESTORATION NEWS



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.

5711 Fund Raiser

Miniature 5711 Builder's Plate
Stick Pins

\$6-50 each

*All proceeds go to the
Restoration of 5711*

10. AROUND THE MUSEUM

Shop – The Shop building is now all but completed internally. Final fitting out of taps to the washing up sink being the remaining item outstanding. The Coffee Machine the museum purchased some time ago is currently away being serviced. On its return it will be installed and instruction given on its use. We will then be moving towards extending our range of refreshments including Devonshire teas. We have also recently purchased a small bar style fridge and dishwasher for installation in the shop. Our Thanks are extended to the management of Retravision Springwood who offered these two items at cost to the Museum. The latest addition to the shop is the inclusion of an Ice Cream Freezer. We now offer a small range of Ice Creams for sale to the Museum Workers and Visitors.

Amenities Building – To finish this building off completely the retirees group have started rubbing back the lower weather boards affixed to the external cladding of this building. This is in preparation for repainting of same which will be completed in the new year.

11. 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 our Open Days. 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.

12. CLEANING ASSISTANCE

The Museum would like to thank member John Parker for offering to take on this task. While we have got John on board I am sure he would like an assistant or two just to ease the burden of this mundane task. Unfortunately this is a task that needs to be done and the regular onsite workers are already committed full time to many other tasks both on and offsite. Please give this some serious thought and not leave this up to John and those who are already fully committed to the Museum. If you feel you can assist John with the task of cleaning please contact Col Burne on Ph: 4739 2423 or Andrew Tester on Ph: 4735 8601 and they can arrange to put you in contact with John who I am sure would be more happy to show you the ropes. Assistance would only be required on two half days a month. All equipment provided. Any additional assistance would be greatly appreciated.

13. RETAIL REPORT

NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

Great Eveleigh Workshops - \$45.00 while stocks last.

NEW DVD RELEASES

NSW In Steam – Volume 1 (Duration 100 Mins) - \$45.00. (*Volume 2 expected in the near future*)

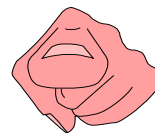
SPECIALS

150th Anniversary Mugs – (*was \$12.50*) now \$8.00.

RTM 2008 Calendars – \$16.00. Discounts available for RTM and VH members.

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: sic_alco@pnc.com.au."



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14. WORKS REPORT

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

Activity	October	November
Services	2	29
Buildings	410	376
Model Railway	67	66
Workshop	71	91
Exhibits	54	105
Landscaping / Grounds	17	90
Publicity	119	7
Retail	264	128
General / Admin	1	78
Perway	229	128
Total	1234	1098

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
Warwick Anderson, Penrith	493
Robert Nelson, Springwood	494

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.

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

2008	
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 12/1/2008 & M-F. 14-18/1/2008
Open Days – January 2008	Sun. 20/01/2008
Australia Day – Open Day	Sat. 26/01/2008
Open Days – February 2008	Sun. 10 & 24/2/2008
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 9/2/2008 & M-F. 11-15/2/2008
Open Days – March 2008	Sun. 9 & 23/03/2008
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 8/3/2008 & M-F. 10-14/3/2008
Open Days – April 2008	Sun. 13 & 27/04/2008



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