



The Depot Diary

No. 97
Feb.
2008

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

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

1. WELCOME TO 2008

Although it is some what late, we would like to welcome our members to 2008 and another exciting year for the Museum. The Museum has a lot to achieve in the coming year and we trust that we can look forward to our Members continued support.

2. VALE: KENNETH IAN RUDD



It is with much regret that we advise of the passing of Valley Heights member and Life Member of the NSW Rail Transport Museum, Ken Rudd. Ken sadly passed away on Thursday 31st January 2008 after bravely fighting his battle with Pancreatic Cancer. Since being diagnosed with the disease, Ken portrayed a strong and positive attitude determined not to let his illness stop him from doing what he loved the most. Apart from his family, Ken devoted much of his

passion to his hobby with trains.

Born on 17th July 1940 at Harden – Murrumburrah Hospital. Ken's father Cyril was a clerk with the railways and when Ken was aged 2, his family moved to Goulburn until 1951 when they again moved to Grafton. Ken finished his schooling and commenced his career as an apprentice plumber. Unfortunately this did not last. Following his sister's marriage, Ken and his parents moved to the Sutherland Shire in 1959 so that Ken could gain employment. While living in the Sutherland Shire, Ken became a surf life saver with the Wanda Surf Life Saving Club.

Ken followed in his father's footsteps and gained employment with the Railways before becoming employed as a Storeman with Qantas. This ultimately led to a career as a Purchasing Officer with many companies until his retirement.

Ken was married to Myrle Botefuhr in 1964 and together they raised two children, Leon and Nicole.

Ken's family shared in his railway interest and spent many weekends as a family travelling the country side on a steam train excursion or working for the Museum at Thirlmere. In more recent times Ken devoted his Museum time at Valley Heights where he commenced work on the restoration of the Water Column. One of Ken's personal achievements was being awarded Life Membership of the NSW Rail Transport in recognition for his dedication as a volunteer over many years.

Ken's children provided him with four grand children and over the past year they spent as much time as possible together which kept him motivated in fighting his illness. In fact, Ken, Leon and Mitchell (Ken's eldest grandson) spent many of these hours building their model railway. Three generations of Rudd's sharing in the same hobby.

To the Rudds (Myrle, Leon, Nicole, Mitchell, Zac, Tegan & Aiden and your families), Ken's passing is a great loss. Indeed Ken's family of train enthusiasts at Valley Heights share in your sorrow. Rest in Peace, Ken.

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3. REMEMBERING KEN RUDD

Ken Rudd left his mark at Valley Heights; being a long time active member at Thirlmere, he also turned his attention to the depot at Valley Heights.

When he became active at Valley Heights, he also brought with him his behind the scenes organisation and knowledge skills.

Ken said he knew people in high places in Industry and what is more, he did!!

In his full time role as Purchasing Officer, he had the contacts to either purchase at the right price or most often; had them donated.

He was an ultimate scrounger.

He was responsible for the procurement of or repairs to:

- Rubber cushions for the bogies of the BL carriage.
- Water tanks for the de-scaling tanks at Thirlmere and Valley Heights.
- Cylindrical Grinder.
- Ride on lawn mower.
- Numerous small tools both air and electric.
- Major work in de-scaling the water tank panels.
- Major repairs to the overhead water columns both at Thirlmere and Valley Heights.
- The connection of the overhead water column at Thirlmere.
- Obtain quotes for the installation of the 20,000 gallon water tank and associated pipe work to include a fire service main.
- Repairs to the electric fork lift.
- Total refurbishment of the Gantry Crane winch from Demag.

He researched with various companies and Authorities and as a result obtained the correct paints and treatment of water column parts.

He was also a member of the Valley Heights Safety Committee. If something was needed, and Ken was asked if he could help, he would simply say "leave it to me, I will see what I can do".

Most times he would come back with the item.

He struck up a close friendship with most members of Valley Heights particularly Ted and Ellen Dickson and they will miss his telephone conversations and visits.

The Museum has lost a valuable member and he will be remembered at Valley Heights for his contributions and efforts particularly in the restoration of the water column.

Ken last signed on for Duty at Valley Heights on Saturday 12th January 2008. He may now be missing in soul but his spirit will live on. He will be missed.

4. FISH REPORT

Hello All. Things are happening, Tenders have been called for the driveway and it is anticipated the driveway will be completed by the end of May. This project is jointly funded by RailCorp and Blue Mountains City Council.

The small exhibits exhibition under Neil Cram is taking shape in the Chargeman's Building. Neil has had some of his paintings copied and they will form part of the display. Plans are under way to have stage one open on the October long weekend coupled with a larger one off display.

A new MIG welder has been purchased for the Museum. This will initially be used on the 5711 repairs. As with all equipment any person wishing to use the welder will be required to prove their competency.

The recently repaired and overhauled tractor forklift is nearly ready for general use. Those wishing to use the tractor will be required to be trained in its operation.

The new Shed has had the track laid and levelled. The track will have to be packed prior to concreting. Workdays are being organised to carry out this work please contact Ted Dickson on 4751 1198 if you can help

The track access agreements are nearing completion. The Risk Assessment Report has been finalised and the Draft Safety Interface Plan is being finalised.

The fridge, dishwasher and coffee machine have been fitted in the shop. Steve Corrigan is taking names for those wishing to operate the coffee machine. Hot water is now in place and working.

Farewell Jak and Chris Cuttle. During my years as Chairman and Board Member I had a close relationship with this delightful team. I will certainly miss them.

5. COTMA VISIT

On Saturday 9 February 2008, members of the Executive of COTMA met at Valley Heights. COTMA (Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia) is the umbrella body representing tramway, trolley bus museums and heritage tramcar operators in both Australia and New Zealand of which STaRPS are a member. Each year COTMA conduct an annual conference where member organisations share and exchange information and provide opportunity for work shopping and networking. Apart from the conference the Executive of COTMA are invited by one of their members to meet at their home venue. This year STaRPS played host. The COTMA Executive comprise of representatives from member organisations some of whom travelled from New Zealand, Melbourne and Adelaide to meet at Valley Heights. The group arrived from Sydney by train and were greeted by Peter Stock and Bruce Irwin at Springwood Station fully dressed in their period attire. On arrival at the Museum the Executive met after which the hosts provided lunch, provided them with a conducted tour and ride on the Steam Tram. The hosts then escorted our guests back to the station in time for the return to Sydney.



Above: Representative of COTMA and STaRPS pose in front of Steam Tram 103A and Tram Car 93B, which was steamed for the visitors on Saturday 9/2/2008. Photo: Andrew Tester.

6. 4520 ADMITTED TO CASUALTY AT VALLEY HEIGHTS

On Saturday 27th October 2007 the Rail Transport Museum's train "Central West Aurora" to Orange arrived at Valley Heights in the Down Refuge soon after 8am. Locomotives 44211 and 4520 were in charge of the train, however all was not well, as the 45 class was suffering traction motor problems. The train's Operations Manager ventured up to the Museum's gates seeking if anyone was on site to hospitalise a crippled 45 class. Andrew Tester and Ted Dickson opened the gates and after some shunting the 45 class was shunted into the Departure Road for stabling. Just when all was ready to resume their journey with 44211 solely, Control would not release the train from Valley Heights without reducing the tonnage, claiming that the train was 23 tonnes over the load for a single locomotive from Valley Heights to Katoomba. Further shunting was then required to release the last carriage from the train. After previously shutting 4520 down, the loco crew returned to bring it back to life to retrieve the last carriage from the refuge siding. Upon returning to the loco depot the 45 class and carriage were stabled in the Loco Arrival Road closer to the Turntable for Security purposes. After a lengthy delay finally the train departed to resume its journey west however with one locomotive in charge to tackle the 1 in 33 gradient to Katoomba more time was lost and subsequently the train's journey west was terminated at Bathurst.

Although stabled in an area of the Museum's confines deemed safer for Security, concern was still held for the safety of both the Locomotive and carriage from Graffiti. Not knowing how long the two items would be held on site for, members at Valley Heights took action to at least protect the carriage from possible graffiti attack. Four large tarpaulins were wrapped around the carriage. Some three weeks later Locomotive 4803 was sent from Thirlmere to retrieve the carriage and crippled 45 class. Before the 45 class could be towed, some surgery was undertaken to the defective traction motor to prevent further damage occurring during the journey back to Thirlmere.

The photos below show 4520 and carriage (*hidden behind the Amenities Building*) stabled on the Arrival Road – 4803 arriving to retrieve 4520 and carriage and carrying out the necessary repairs to the 45 class before being towed to Thirlmere. Photos: Terry Matchett and Peter Butler.



7. STARPS NEWS

A lot of work is being done behind the scenes so as to comply with the Safety Audit by ITSRR (Independent Transport Safety & Reliability Regulator). The major item is the implementation of the Safety Management Plan. Being a rather large document this is consuming a lot of tiring administration for a voluntary organisation.

All Rail Safety Workers are required to undertake annual medical examinations and we are pleased to report that all have been passed fit for duty.

Steam Tram Trailer 93B has had new brake shoes fitted and brakes adjusted.

Steam Tram Motor 103A now has brass cabinet hook fittings to timber wheel flaps.

99DD (Replica Double Decker Steam Tram Trailer) – Work has started and continues on No: 1 Bogie rebuild. Old plywood ends have been removed and replaced.

Long Term restoration of locomotive 1022 continues with some axle box work being the recent focus.

8. OPERATIONAL & OPEN DAY CHANGES

The Museum's open days are now the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month with Steam operating on both days. Initially the Steam Tram will be employed to provide rides on these days, however we are investigating options for Steam Locomotive CPC2 (Stevo) with 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.

9. ADMISSION PRICE INCREASE

Effective 1st February 2008 the Museum's combined Admission and Ride charges increased. Unfortunately, the Museum needs to review its admission prices on an annual basis. During this process we review our 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. Basically an increase of 50 cents on the Admission component and 50 cents on rides has resulted in a \$1-00 increase on the price of the Adult, School Student and Concession tickets. The price of a Family ticket has also been aligned to better reflect a true family. The Family Ticket price is now set to cover two full paying adults and 1 child. A Family ticket is issued to families comprising of 2 adults and 2 children or 1 Adult and 3 children. Any additional children in the family group must be paid for. The new public admission charges are set 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

10. RTM – NEWS IN BRIEF

Staff – There has been some significant changes within the staffing ranks of the RTM in recent times. We would like to welcome the appointment of Mr Richard Mulvaney as the RTM CEO. Richard joins the RTM with significant, Museum, Marketing and tourism experience. Richard was once Curator at Sovereign Hill in Victoria before becoming Director of the Bradman Museum in Bowral where he has spent much of the last 18 years. Prior to joining the RTM, Richard came to us from the Museum & Galleries NSW. From the Blue Mountains branch of the Museum, welcome Richard and we look forward to a visit from you at Valley Heights in the near future.

Farewell Jak & Chris Cuttle – Long serving employee and member's Jak & Chris Cuttle have announced their retirement from the ranks of the RTM. Chris has been employed by the RTM for the last 15 years where she has been recognised as the Museum's very popular Customer Relations Manager. Jak volunteered his time as the Museum's Membership Officer and both were regular volunteers on the Museum's on train staff. Both Jak and Chris have been honoured with the distinction of Life Membership for their extensive service to the RTM. From your friends at Valley Heights we wish both Jak & Chris a very long, happy and healthy retirement. Following the retirement of the Cuttles, Daniel Page has been recruited as Customer Relations Manager picking up the reins left by Chris. Daniel will be based at the Museum's office at Central. Welcome Daniel.

Locomotive 3642 – After an absence of over 10 years the RTM's maintenance staff have recently completed the restoration of Locomotive 3642. A major component of the restoration involved replacement of the locomotive's boiler.

Work commenced on the Pig's restoration in mid 2007 and successfully culminated in its steam trial to Couridjah on Friday 18th January 2008. The 36 has been returned to traffic to compliment the Museum's operational locomotive fleet while 3801 undergoes its essential repairs.



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11. AROUND THE MUSEUM

New Tram Shed – Work inside the new Tram Shed has slowed to a crawl. Since our last report work has concentrated on getting the second of the two storage roads laid. At the time of writing the second road has been laid but the long task of leveling the rails to floor level and then tamping beneath each sleeper needs to be completed. It is hoped that this process will be completed in the next few months so that the concrete slab floor can be cast.



Above and Top Right: The Museum's newest (although far from new) piece of plant is put to good use in assisting with the laying of concrete sleepers inside the new Tram Shed. "Scoop" as it is more affectionately known, was obtained from Thirlmere and was in need of some major repairs before being employed in this work. Photos: Peter Butler.

12. GET WELL SOON



The Museum wish to pass on its best wishes to Member Bruce Coxon, who is recovering at home after suffering a Heart Attack recently. Bruce is a dedicated regular worker on site and your mates wish you all the best for a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you back on deck in the near future. Bruce –

make sure those girls of yours make a fuss over you.

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Amenities Building – The retirees group have been focused on completion of the Amenities building. Most of this work has included the the rubbing back and repainting of the external weather boards and window frames. Internally, installation and connection of the washing up sink as well as the fitting of a new hydroboil, hot water service and dishwasher have all been the latest inclusions to our shop area.



Above: Although "retired" the Museum keeps these three good looking members of the retirees groups fully employed for one week each month. Photo: Peter Butler.

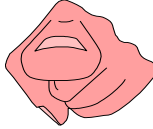
13. RETAIL REPORT

Refreshment Sales and Coffee Machine Operators – The Museum has just received its Coffee Machine back from a service and is in the process of installation in the shop. Once installed the Museum will be looking at expanding its range of refreshments that it currently offers to the public with the possibility of including Devonshire Teas as a menu item. As a result, we are now looking for assistance from people who would be interested in learning how to operate the Coffee Machine or assist with Table Service and Refreshment Sales. We would be particularly interested in hearing from the ladies. Steve Corrigan our Retail Manager has already had expressions of interest from 4 people. Our aim would be to get another 4-6 people so that we have a pool of 10 people who could be rostered on every 6-8 weeks. If you feel you would like to become involved in this part of the Museum, please call the Museum and leave your name and number and Steve Corrigan will return your call to discuss further details.

Stock Clearance – Attached to this edition of the Depot Diary is a list of items that our Retail Manager has currently reduced to clear stock. Please note that the usual workers concession price cannot be offered on reduced items. Please contact Steve Corrigan on (02) 4751 4638, at the Museum on Open Days for further details.

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

14. WORKS REPORT

Work Hours – The following hours have been logged by our volunteers for the months of December 2007 and January 2008.

Activity	December	January
Services	28	29
Buildings	330	355
Model Railway	22	24
Workshop	54	53
Exhibits	144	102
Landscaping / Grounds	123	156
Publicity	199	3
Retail	122	136
General / Admin	2	90
Perway	96	217
Total	1120	1165

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 to be established. 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 that they have a long and enjoyable association with the Museum.

Name	Membership Number
Adam Dalzell	495
Mervyn Beckingham, West Ryde	496
Stephen Dive, Springwood	497
John McCarthy, St Helens Park	498
Steve McCarthy, Ingleburn	499

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

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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? Receiving Depot Diary by email, you will not only get it quicker than through the conventional mail system, you will also receive a colour copy of the Newsletter.

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: \$6-00, School Students \$4-00, Seniors/Concessions \$4-00.

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.

Coming up in the next edition of the Depot Diary is the final report prepared by Dave Torr on the conservation work carried out on the former DLE's Building.

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OH&S AND MEMBER'S SAFETY

As you can appreciate, Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) is very much a part of our daily lives particularly within our working environment.

Even as a volunteer organisation we (as a Museum) have a duty of care to our visitors and working members who offer their services to ensure that their Safety is not at risk at any time while on site.

The Museum has a Joint Operations and Safety Committee (JO&SC) that is made up of members of the Museum, STaRPS and the Springwood Historical Society whose job it is to ensure that operational issues and items of safety are discussed and addressed accordingly.

This new section of the Depot Diary will form the communication channel through which the Members will be bought up to date regarding onsite Museum Safety.

Each issue will have items of safety contained within this column, some of which will be repeated from one issue to the next.

In the interest of all our Members safety, particularly those who work on site we encourage you to read this column in each issue and become familiar with its content for the benefit of your personal safety.

Members are advised that when working onsite it is important that you sign on for duty in the Sign On book located in the member's Meal Room at the rear of Road 5 of the Roundhouse. Likewise at the end of your time, please ensure that you remember to Sign Off before you leave for home. This is important for Workers Insurance purposes, as it is a record for when you were on duty at the Museum should something unforeseen occur.

Safety Clothing – We ask that when you come to work for the Museum that you come appropriately dressed for the work that you intend to do. If you are working with or near any operating plant we ask that High Visibility clothing (Tee Shirt or Vest) is worn. Like wise if you are working on track work particularly in close proximity to the Main Line that High Visibility clothing (Yellow or Orange and **NOT** Red) be worn.

As volunteers we cannot enforce what clothing we want you to wear but have listed below items of minimum protective clothing we recommend members wear while working onsite. These include:

- Work Boots (preferably steel capped).
- Overalls or appropriate work clothes
- High Visibility Tee Shirt or vest (when required).
- Gloves

When working in the workshop or around noisy machinery we ask that members wear suitable ear and eye protection. While the Museum does have a limited supply of goggles, ear muffs and dust masks we recommend you consider supplying your own for your personal use.

If you suffer from an injury while working onsite, please ensure you report the injury to a fellow worker onsite and that the nature of the injury is recorded on an Injury/Incident Report. These are located in the Member's Meal Room.

The Safety of our Members and Visitors at Valley Heights is of paramount importance. If you are concerned over any aspect of onsite safety please ensure that you inform the Duty Officer at the Museum or any member of the Museum's Executive on the day you notice the potential safety risk, so that corrective action can be implemented as soon as practicably possible.

REGULAR FEATURES

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.

UP COMING EVENTS

2008	
Open Days – March 2008	Sun. 9 & 23/03/2008
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 8/3/2008 & M-F. 10-14/3/2008
Springwood Model Railway Exhibition	Sat. 29/3/2008 & Sun. 30/03/2008
Model Railway Group – Work Afternoon	Sat. 29/03/2008 (2 PM)
Open Days – April 2008	Sun. 13/04/2008 & 27/4/2008
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 12 /4/2008 & M-F. 14-18/4/2008
Model Railway Group – Work Afternoon	Sat. 26/4/2008 (2 PM)
Open Days – May 2008	Sun. 11/5/2008 & 25/5/2008
Retiree Work Week	Sat. 10/5/2008 & M-F. 12-16/5/2008
Caves Express Re-Enactment (www.heritageexpress.com.au)	Sat 24/5/2008 & Sun. 25/5/2008
Model Railway Group - Running Afternoon	24/5/2008 (2 PM)

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