

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/locodpot

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*Belated Seasons Greetings.
 May all our Members enjoy a
 Happy and Safe New Year in
 2012.*

1. CHRISTMAS AT VALLEY HEIGHTS

In recent years the last Sunday in November and second Sunday in December have signified the arrival of the Festive Season with Santa Claus arriving in the Mountains aboard our very own Steam Tram.

Santa has been noted for ditching his reindeer and sleigh in favour of the Steam Tram. This Christmas has been no different. In fact, Santa is confident that the word is getting out in the local community of his annual visits. With each year the number of visitors coming to see Santa's Arrival is on the increase. Over the two days we were visited by 325 people. Many of these being families bringing excited children to meet the jolly man.



Above Left: Elf Megan Tolhurst aboard the tram in readiness to collect Santa. Right: Santa disembarks after arriving with a tram full of passengers. Photos: Peter Butler and Andrew Tester.

This event has very much been a joint venture between the Museum and STARPS and although both organisations do not have huge budgets to promote

these events, the expense has always been jointly shared.

To publicise this year's events, details were placed online in the Community Newspapers "Events" webpages. This was placed in papers that covered the areas from Lithgow in the west to the Sutherland Shire and the Hawkesbury to the Macarthur Region in the South West.

A lot of time and valuable money was spent in publicising the two days. The Museum's Publicity Manager, Andrew Tester negotiated with the local papers to gain as much bang for our limited bucks with advertisements being placed in both the Blue Mountains Gazette and Penrith Press. In fact, the Penrith Press ran three quarter page ads for the price of two.

The relationship struck with the Sales Team at the Penrith Press availed us to get our advertisements at a distressed rate. This is where a previously booked advertisement has been withdrawn and the paper needs to sell the vacated position at short notice for a significantly reduced price. In fact the casual commercial rate for the quarter page ad is currently in the order of \$1,200.00. This was the total budget that was allocated to promote the whole event.

Not only did we receive the three quarter page advertisements but we also accommodated a smaller advertisement in the Blue Mountains Gazette and was able to purchase some part of the gifts from Santa to the children and still come in under the allocated budget.



Above: The NSW Railway Band added some atmosphere on the first Christmas Day with their three hour performance for our visitors. Photo: Peter Butler.



Left: While greets two young admirers and discusses their Christmas orders, the elf takes wishes and completes a wish list for Santa's next customer. Photo: Andrew Tester.

Radio 2CH also provided plenty of air time in the week leading up to the event.

Planning for the each year's event starts early and as each year goes by we endeavour to improve upon the previous year so that there is something new for return visitors to see. This year Santa received a new throne to add to the area adjacent to the tree. The NSW Railway Band were invited and attended on the first of the two days.

In past years Santa gave the children a small tub of Lollies, this year we purchased some lollies sealed in a clear plastic bag. Being prepacked the packaging included the nutritional value and a best before date. This posed a more professional approach. CityRail also came to the party donating a quantity of Thomas Activity booklets promoting safety when travelling by train. These were very well received.



Above: Santa is flanked by two of his greatest fans – his elf and the Tram Conductor. Photo Andrew Tester.

Megan Tolhurst did a superb job in playing Santa's Elf. Megan has a background in child care and knows how to communicate with the kids. Many of the kids were a bit apprehensive about approaching Santa so while they waited for their turn to speak with Santa, the elf took the children's order and completed a wish list, which they could then talk to Santa about.

Feedback noted in the Visitors Books is encouraging, signifying that we appear to be on the right track with this type of event.

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2. THE ROARING 20s AND ALL THAT JAZZ FESTIVAL

For the second successive year Blue Mountains Tourism Limited (BMTL), in conjunction with Visit



NSW and Bendigo Bank will hold "The Roaring 20s and all that Jazz" festival. The Festival is held during the month of February with a number of events being held across the Mountains to commemorate the era. This year the Museum will be participating for the first time and we have partnered with the Norman Lindsay Gallery to cross promote our events which will be held on the same weekend.

In his role of Publicity Manager, Andrew Tester contacted Norman Lindsay Gallery with the proposal to work collaboratively to cross promote each other's event. This proposal was accepted by the Gallery and contact was made with Wendy Drew, Publicity Officer for the Friends of the Norman Lindsay Gallery.

The Gallery will be holding an event called "**Jazz in the Garden**" which celebrates the birthday of the legendary Artist who once resided in the residence which now forms the Gallery. Their event will be held on the evening of Saturday 25th February 2012 and further details can be obtained from the attached brochure.

The Museum will be holding an event called "**Trains, Trams and Ts**" and will be showcasing transport in the 1920's. Invitations have also been sent to the Model T Ford Car Club requesting their participation. A number of other vintage and veteran car and bike clubs have also been invited together with the Nepean Historical Society.

With our collection of Railway and Tramway rollingstock combined with a display historic road vehicles from the era, this seemed like the best option for us to participate in this Festival.

Enclosed with this Newsletter are brochures promoting the events being organised by the Museum and the Norman Lindsay Gallery.

For more details regarding our Trains, Trams and Ts event see Item 3 (below).

3. TRAINS, TRAMS & Ts

As mentioned above, the Museum will be holding this event as part of “The Roaring 20s and all that Jazz” festival.

The event will be held on the weekend of the 25th & 26th February 2012, with the Museum opening on both Saturday and Sunday of the weekend.



With the cross promotional opportunities between the Norman Lindsay Gallery and ourselves and that the Gallery’s “Jazz in the Garden” event is being held on the Saturday evening, it was felt that we could capture some extra customers by opening both days.

During discussions with the Gallery it soon became apparent that some people planning on attending the Gallery’s event may well make a day or weekend trip by visiting both events.

By doing so, visitors have the opportunity come up on the Saturday morning, visit the Museum before attending the Gallery’s event in the evening. Alternatively, they might like to go to the Gallery’s event on the Saturday evening, stay in the mountains overnight and then visit the Museum on the Sunday.

Discussions have also been had with the Pioneer Way Motel at Faulconbridge who have offered a small discount on accommodation booked by visitors attending both events.

In an attempt to encourage visitors to the Gallery to attend the Museum we will offer a 10% discount off a visitors Admission ticket upon presentation of their tickets to the Gallery Event.

Our website www.infoblue mountains.net.au/locodepot has been updated with full details of the event. In a Museum first we will also be giving customers the



more than just the best price

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Springwood NSW 2777

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opportunity to pre-purchase tickets. This will be done online through ticketing Agency Oztix. It is hoped that visitors will take advantage of this option which will ease customer loads at our Museum Entry. Should this be successful this may well be a direction for us to consider for all our Open Days in the future.

4. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The Museum’s new Membership Year commences on 1st January 2012.

Enclosed with this edition of the Depot Diary is a Membership Renewal Form for you to complete.

It would be very much appreciated if you would completed the enclosed form and return it together with your subscription, (and any donation you may be able to contribute) to the Membership Officer, VHLDHM, PO Box 484, Springwood NSW 2777.

Donations of \$2-00 or more are Tax Deductible.

Members, whose renewals have not been received by the 31st March 2012, will be deemed unfinancial.

Our members have been very supportive to the Museum over the years. Many of you have been with us from the very beginning and have witnessed a great deal of change which has seen the Museum grow into what we have today.

The next two years will be regarded as the Museum’s most exciting as we approach the Depot’s Centenary and the celebrations that are being organised as part of this milestone. Having said that, we have a lot of work to undertake both onsite and behind the scenes in order for this to be achieved.

The Museum’s Executive therefore trusts that we have your continuing support as we have ahead into the future.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Museum’s Annual General meeting (AGM) was held on Saturday, 29th October 2010. The meeting was conducted in the presence of 36 members. Also in attendance were special guests Ms Louise Markus - Federal Member for Macquarie, Mrs Roza Sage – Member for Blue Mountains and Mr Des Egan – General Manager, NSW Rail Transport Museum.

The Meeting was opened by Chairman Ted Mullett who welcomed all in attendance, particularly acknowledging our Special Guests.

The Chairman addressed the meeting by summarising his Annual Report on the achievement made by the Museum and its members over the previous twelve months.

The Annual Reports were then presented and formally adopted by the meeting.

All positions were then declared vacant and Mr Des Egan was then invited to take the chair and act in the

position of Returning Officer for the Annual Election of Office Bearers, where the following were elected.

Position	Name
Chairman	Ted Mullett
Secretary	Ross Stenning
Treasurer	Brian Coker
Publicity Manager	Andrew Tester
Building Services Manager	Ted Dickson
Building Restoration Manager	David Groves
Grounds Maintenance Manager	Stephen Dive
Membership Officer	Jeff Russell
Exhibits Manager	Rod Hawkes
Small Exhibits Curator	Bruce Coxon
Model Railway Manager	Ray Beharrell
Perway Manager	John Stanley
Workshop Manager	Terry Matchett

Upon conclusion of the Annual Election, newly re-elected Chairman Ted Mullett resumed the chair where he called for nominations for the positions of Honorary Librarian and Honorary Historian. The following were elected.

Position	Name
Honorary Librarian	Arthur Ellis
Honorary Historian	Ted Dickson

The Meeting then confirmed the nomination of Patrons.

The Notice of Motion regarding the increase in Membership Fees was tabled. Following discussion the Motion was unanimously passed.

The special guests were then invited to address the Meeting.

6. RAILMOTORS 670/770 DEPART VALLEY HEIGHTS BY ROAD

In the last edition of the Depot Diary we reported on the onsite scrapping of Railmotors 636/736.

We can now report that the remaining two car Rail Motor set has now been collected by their owner.

Railcars 670/770 were collected in the last week of December, being loaded on the back of prime mover for road haulage to their new home.

770 was the first carriage to be lifted from its wheel sets on Thursday 29th December 2011 followed by 670 on Friday 30th December 2011.

The removal of these Railmotors has brought to an end the long term (temporary) storage of these items and will hopefully discourage the graffiti artists from returning when they realize their billboards have been relocated permanently.



Above: CT770 sits aboard a new set of wheels behind Valley Heights Signal Box prior to departing on what is likely to be its final journey. Photo: Garry Kahler.



Above: Final adjustments are made to 670 as it is lifted aboard the truck on Friday 30th December 2011. Photo: Rod Hawkes.

7. LOOM SHED

Prior to the closure of the Depot, a building known as the Loom Shed was located immediately behind the Roundhouse adjacent to the extension of Road No: 1. Upon closure of the Depot, this building was subsequently dismantled.

Presently the area in which this building was located is not very appealing to the public eye, with many parts stored in the open, exposed to the weather elements.

The Museum has identified a need to have this building reinstated to provide additional facilities and undercover protection for exhibits being worked on. This building would also provide much needed additional storage.

A funding proposal has been prepared and submitted to the Federal Member for Macquarie and the Member for Blue Mountains to make representations on our behalf in support of funding for the shed.

8. GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Museum has recently made applications for funding under the NSW Government's Building Community Partnerships 2011 program and in the federally funded Your Community Heritage Program.

Building Community Partnerships – Application has been made for funding support to construct a Fire Shed to house our heritage fire truck. If successful the shed will be located centrally on the Museum site and will not only accommodate the truck but all our associated fire fighting equipment and spares.

Your Community Heritage – Applications to this scheme are made through the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. There are five different categories contained within this scheme from which applicants can apply for funding. Those being – Protecting National Historic Sites, Recovering from Natural Disasters, Commemorating Eminent Australians, Sharing Community Heritage Stories, Celebrating Community Events.

Initially we were preparing to apply for funding under Protecting National Historic Sites category to replace the existing Perimeter Fencing. Projects up to the value of \$500k are funded under this category. Much to our disappointment however, we soon found out that we are ineligible to apply for funding in this category for two reasons. The first being that the Locomotive Depot is not listed or recognised as a National Historic Site. The second reason was around our level of contribution to the project. Under this category, applicants were required to contribute 50% towards the total cost of the project and given that the quote received to replace the perimeter fencing was in the vicinity of \$180k, we could not support the 50% required either financially or in volunteer labour.

With the Centenary of the Locomotive Depot approaching, our focus then turned to the categories of Sharing Community Heritage Stories and Celebrating Community Events.

Under these categories, applications have been completed and lodged for funding to support the construction of a Model of the Locomotive Depot in HO Gauge and the completion of a documentary DVD on the early settlement of Valley Heights and the role railway and the Locomotive Depot played in the Development of the town.

The model of the depot will be based around the 1950s and will be used to induct visitors to the site, before they walk out into the Museum.

The model will demonstrate what the depot looked like at the time and the role the locomotives based at the depot played on the operation of the railway.

The model will be built by the members of the Blue Mountains & Nepean Christian Model Railway Group whose members have been restoring, operating and maintaining our existing model railway for a number of years.

As at the time of writing it is not known as to whether these applications have been successful, however we do hope to know more within the first quarter of 2012.

9. RAISING COMMUNITY AWARENESS

On the afternoon of Wednesday 16th November 2011, the Museum conducted its inaugural “Museum Introduction & Induction”.

The idea has come about following feedback from visitors who advised that they had trouble finding how to get to the Museum and after calling into local businesses for guidance were advised that they did not know that a Museum existed.

Invitations were sent to over 40 local businesses inviting them to attend the event. Twelve people attended our first afternoon including, Mrs Roza Sage, Member for Blue Mountains, Mr Daniel Myles Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council and representatives from Blue Mountains Bus Company, Valley Heights RFS, Valley Heights BP Service Station, John Lockley Smash Repairs, Local Hire Shop and Kerrys Motors Pty Limited.

A PowerPoint presentation outlining the history of the railway and the Locomotive Depot along with the future Centenary Celebrations was first on the Agenda followed by an afternoon tea.

Our guests were then taken on a guided tour so they could see what was presented to them earlier, in reality.

The duration of the afternoon went for 2.5 hours and at the conclusion some encouraging and very positive feedback was received from those who attended.

We plan to hold these every quarter between now and the centenary celebrations. Schools are going to be added to the list of invitees.



10. WORKING BEE – SIGNAL BOX FENCE

For quite some time we have been talking about running the Steam Tram to the Signal Box. In our last report to the members we advised how our negotiations were progressing with RailCorp and the need for a fence to be built that would prevent passengers on the tram from alighting onto RailCorp’s operational lines at the Signal Box Terminus.

To build the fence would require Museum volunteers to access the Valley Heights yard, which of course encompasses the Main Operating lines. RailCorp were not enthusiastic about Museum staff constructing the fence at times when regular train services were running. So we were forced to wait for an opportunity to arise when a shutdown was in place on the Blue Mountains line. That opportunity occurred on the weekend of the 24th & 25th September 2011.



Above: Museum volunteers at work on the fence adjacent to the Signal Box Terminal Siding, during the weekend shut down in September. Photo: Peter Stock.

Although no regular train services were operating, RailCorp insisted on a certified Protection Officer to be engaged before allowing us onto the site. This of course had to be sourced at the Museum's expense at "overtime" rates.

Having sourced the Protection Officer, the all clear was given for Museum Volunteers to construct the Fence. A working bee was hastily organized where 14 members availed themselves to assist.

All Members were required to wear full Personal Protective Equipment due to the area in which they were working. This included hard hats, high visibility shirt/vest, long trousers, and work boots as a minimum requirement.

Work commenced on site at 9am and by 3pm the fence was completed.



Bottom Left: The fence begins to take shape between the Terminal and the Tangarra Sidings. Photo: Peter Stock.

To all our members who assisted in this working bee, many thanks for all your efforts. You have bought our goal of operating Tram services to the Signal Box one step closer.

Special thanks are extended to Jean & Barry Grundy who kindly offered to provide refreshments by way of morning tea and lunch to the work crew. This was much appreciated.

11. WORKING BEE – 4601 & MRC

On Saturday 6th November 2011, another working bee was held to assist in some of the work that is currently being undertaken on the cosmetic restoration of locomotive 4601.

Further details of the work that has currently been undertaken by the team working on this exhibit can be read about in Item 13 "Exhibits".

The primary aim of this Working Bee was to install the missing resistors that were removed from the locomotive to keep other 46's operating, prior to the class being withdrawn from service in the mid 90's.

Thankfully, we have in our stores a full set of resistors to install in the locomotive. However, because of where they were stored and their weight, relocating them back in the locomotive was too big a job for the restoration team to undertake themselves.

The working bee was called and again a very good response was received from the members.

The members were divided into teams where some would remove the resistors from their storage location and pass them onto a team for cleaning before they were passed on for installation into the locomotive.

Because of their weight each bank of resistors had to be lifted using a forklift and once they were positioned members would slide them into place.



Page 6 (Bottom Right) and below: Installation of the resistors in 4601 was made that much easier with the use of our electric forklift. Photos: Ted Dickson.



In conjunction with the work on the 46 another team of workers were moving spare parts that were stored in the MRC van into the compactus cabinets that the Retirees Group had just recently finished installing in the rear store room.

Again refreshments for the members working was supplied by Jean and Barry Grundy, which as always was very much appreciated.

All this work would have taken weeks to achieve if left up to the volunteers of the restoration team, however we have again proven that an organised and co-ordinated approach to a goal can achieve huge results in a small space of time.

Congratulations and many thanks to everyone involved.

12. FUTURE WORKING BEES

Organized working bees have always demonstrated success in achieving the goals the working bees were arranged for. These have been well supported by the members. The Museum is fortunate to have such willing members.

Following on from the success of these, in particular the two detailed above, working bees are certain to continue as we can achieve a lot in a short space of time.

There will be some big track work planned for this year and our Perway Team will no doubt require some assistance here.

Our friends within STARPS also have a lot of work on their plates and working bees may also be called to assist them achieve some of this work.

With our Centenary Celebrations approaching a lot of effort will be required over the coming 12 to 18 months to prepare the site for the celebrations. This will include some site cleaning up, tidying up the Roundhouse so that we can better present our exhibits,

assistance with landscaping and grounds maintenance as and when required. Working bees will no doubt feature to assist in the preparations.

13. DEPOT CENTENARY PLANNING

The Centenary Committee has not met in recent times but will soon resume meeting in the New Year.

A lot of work now needs to start focusing on preparing the site in readiness for the Centenary.

As mentioned above there will no doubt be some working bees organized to assist in this work.

We have already made approaches for some funding through Grant Applications to assist us in achieving some of our Centenary Goals. We will also be looking for additional Grant schemes that may be able to assist us achieving further goals.

We will also be promoting ourselves to some of the business owners and schools to sell the upcoming Centenary with the aim of gaining community support for the event.

14. OFFICE OF RAIL HERITAGE – VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Office of Rail Heritage (ORH) has again recognised volunteers involved in Rail Heritage activities.

Rail Heritage Organisations were invited to nominate members for the awards with Valley Heights nominating three candidates for recognition.

In previous years the awards were presented at an official function at the Powerhouse Museum. However, the presentations took a different format for the 2011 awards.

ORH thought the presentations may have more meaning for the recipients if their awards were received at a function in front of the colleagues.

For this year's awards Brian Coker, Dick Butcher and Phil Robinson were nominated and all three were successfully recognised.

Brian Coker was nominated for almost 50 years of continuous dedication to the NSW Rail Transport Museum (RTM). Brian has been involved in many RTM activities over the years but is more nown for his contribution to the managing the Museum's finances where he has either appointed to the position of Treasurer or assisted other Treasurers. Brian currently fills the position of Treasurer at Valley Heights and has done so for the last five years. Brian was nominated for and was awarded in the category of Lifetime Achievement. Unfortunately, Brian could not be present for the official presentation but has received his award privately.

Dick Butcher and **Phil Robinson** were also nominated for extensive service given to the RTM in various capacities. Both these gentlemen have been

active members dating back to the 70s when the RTM was located at Enfield Locomotive Depot. Dick and Phil were also involved in the Museum's move from Enfield to Thirlmere and assisted in the building of Thirlmere. Their service to the RTM has also continued at Valley Heights with Dick providing technical advice on welding and doing some heavy duty welding on some specific jobs. Dick has also offered his advice and services to other kindred organisations.

Phil continues to work with our Retirees Group.

Dick was awarded in the category of Rail Heritage Conservation, Preservation, Restoration or Reconstruction while Phil was awarded in the category of Encouragement.

These awards were presented in the presence of Marianne Hammerton, Jacqueline Irwin and Sarah Grosse from the ORH and Mr Peter Berriman, President of the NSW Rail Transport Museum.



Above: Ted Mullett, Peter Berriman and Marianne Hammerton accompany Award recipients Dick Butcher (second from left) and Phil Robinson (right). Photo: Andrew Tester.

15. EXHIBITS

3214 – There is no progress to report on 3214. We are still awaiting confirmation regarding the asbestos removal from around 3214's boiler. We continue to lobby the Office of Rail Heritage regarding a decision on the asbestos removal program.

It is planned for this exhibit to play a key role in our Centenary Celebrations However, if a decision is not made by the locomotive's owners about the asbestos removal by mid 2012, there is doubt that the locomotive will be completed in time for the Centenary.

5711 - With work on 3214 coming to a temporary stop, attention has returned to 5711's tender. Rod Hawkes has devoted all his time and efforts towards the tender body and frame.



Above: Rod Hawkes needle guns rust and loose paint from the side of 5711's tender tank. Photo: Andrew Tester.

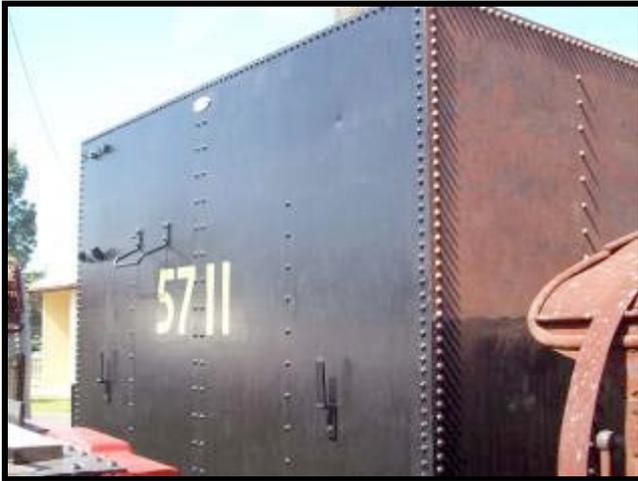
The tender body has been needle gunned to remove old paint and loose rust and then wire brushed. As each section was completed, primer was applied to prevent surface rust from developing. As at the time of writing all external surfaces of the tender tank and coal space have been treated and received at least one coat of black.

The locomotive numbers have also been painted on the back of the tender body.



Above: Half of one side of the 5711's tender has been treated and given its first coat of black paint. Photo: Andrew Tester.

The tender frame has also been fully painted but before the tender body can be reunited with its frame some repairs are required to the frame including replacement of some rivets. Great job Rod.



Above: The back of the tender has been treated, painted black and had the locomotive's number applied. 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:

Blue Mountains Division,
NSW Rail Transport Museum,
PO Box 484,
Springwood NSW 2777.

Stay tuned and thank you for your support.

4601 – For a number of years member Paul Crollick had invested some time in this locomotive doing some minor work externally and in both cabs of the locomotive. Unfortunately Paul could only commit to this as and when work commitments allowed.

In the last six months, a team has commenced work on a more committed attempt at the cosmetic restoration of this locomotive. With work being done on most Saturdays during the last 6 months some significant progress has been made. Apart from what was reported in Item 9 above, some of the other progress we can report includes:

- Needle Gunning and wire brushing of the locomotives bogies to remove years of road grime.
- Painting of the bogies.
- Removal of the resistor bay doors to allow cleaning and painting of the resistor bays.
- Repairs to the roof above the resistor bays.
- Cleaning and priming of the resistor bay doors.
- Installation of the resistors to both resistor bays.

Most recently work has commenced on some external body repairs to rust as well as cleaning the locomotive's roof.

Should work continue at the current rate it is likely that this locomotive will also become a feature for the Centenary.

MRC – Work continues on the external repairs to the timber panelling of the carriage body.

When completed this carriage will be restored to represent the Milk Vans used to transport milk from the Nepean Milk Co-operative factory located at the western end of the Up Yard at Penrith (now National Foods).

16. OPERATIONS TO THE SIGNAL BOX

The most recent news on this front is that RailCorp have completed the Draft Interface Agreement and a meeting was held onsite the go through the document.

The document is now with the Rail Transport Museum's legal representatives to review.

All being well, the next time we meet with RailCorp will be to sign the document, after which running to the Signal Box can commence.

17. TIN APPEAL

We now have a good supply that is sufficient to meet our needs for the medium term.

As a result of your response we:

NO LONGER NEED ANY MORE TINS

Thank to all of those who have donated empty tins to the Museum.

18. RETIREES GROUP – Jeff Russell

The Group meets one week each month (the week after the second Saturday). We start at approximately 8.00am and finish at 3.00pm. Some members come most days while others come for a day or two.

We come from varied backgrounds – some of us have limited trade training but we all pitch in and perform various tasks according to our abilities.

During the past six months some of our projects have included:

- Completing the windows at the rear of the Roundhouse. This has taken about three years to finish but the result has been worth the time and effort.
- Re-erecting a compactus which was removed from Delec a few years ago. Many rusty panels were cleaned before painting. The compactus now houses many items which were taking up valuable space elsewhere in the depot.
- Replacing the roof truss timbers that were removed from Bay 4 of the Roundhouse when the mezzanine was built many years ago.
- Examining the termite traps each month in an effort to detect early any possible infestations.
- Preparing supports for hot water tanks in the meal room and male toilet.

- Making carrying handles for the large ganger's box currently positioned on the Chargeman's building veranda.
- Beginning the lining of parts of the rear wall of the Roundhouse.
- Repairing the west wall of the toilet block.
- Painting – yes we are always painting. We have a saying that if you were to stand still for too long a period in the Roundhouse you run the risk of getting primed, undercoated and top coated!



Above: New timber trusses installed by the members of the Retirees Group in the Roundhouse roof above Bay 4. Photo: Andrew Tester.

Soon we will work on the doors of the small exhibits room at the rear of the roundhouse. Another major project to commence in the immediate future will be the repairing of the main wooden supports at the front of the Roundhouse.

There will always be work for us to do as the Depot is nearing its centenary and as such, maintenance must be carried out to ensure its continuance.

Therefore we are always looking for more members (and non-members) to come and volunteer. We especially need the services of another carpenter. There is always a happy working atmosphere among the Retirees and we enjoy each other's company.

If you would like any information please feel very welcome to ring Dave Grove (Buildings Restoration and Maintenance Manager) on 4751 8117 or Jeff Russell (Membership Officer) on 4751 2471.

19. MEMBERS MESSAGES

Brian Coker

Our Museum Treasurer, Brian Coker went into hospital just prior to Christmas for surgery on his ankle. Following the surgery Brian returned home to recuperate. Unfortunately for Brian the effects of the surgery resulted in his mobility being severely impeded for the short term. We are however, pleased to report that Brian's recovery is well and truly on the improve. Brian, your Museum friends wish you well in your continued recovery.

20. VALE: Dorothy Ball



After a lengthy battle with Lymphoma, member Dorothy Ball lost her battle with the disease - passing away on 5th October 2011. Dorothy was the soul mate to our Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan.

Dorothy supported Steve in his railway interests in particular his Museum activities. Dorothy, was often seen at the Museum assisting Steve in his duties or at other promotional activities, until her illness prevented her from continuing.

Cooking was a special interest of Dorothy's. When entertaining Dorothy loved to cook. She would often add her own variations to recipes and create some delicious meals.



Earlier in her life Dorothy used to assist at Camp Fletcher often cooking or assisting with catering.

Dorothy was a generous person. She would often help others more needy before helping herself. She regularly provided transport for people needing to get to medical appointments, all at her own expense. She would also run around collecting clothing for overseas missions.

Dorothy was very much a devout Christian. Together with Steve - Dorothy was deeply involved in her local church, where she will be sorely missed. We are sure Dorothy will always remain present in spirit and will continue to be in their prayers.

The Museum would like pass on our condolences to Dorothy's two sons Greg and Peter, their wives and families at the loss of your loved one.

To Steve - Dorothy has left this world knowing she will join so many of our other Museum friends in a new world free of sickness, pain and suffering. Like all our other friends, Dorothy will join them watching over us. Her presence will always be felt.

21. RETAIL REPORT

Refreshment Sales – Our Retail staff play a very important role in our visitor experience. To the regulars who continue to support our Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan and his assistant John Carter, the Museum expresses its sincere thanks.

Jean Grundy continues to support our Refreshment Team. Jean has proven to be a valuable asset to our Sales staff assisting with the handling of food. This

enables our sales staff to handle the money separately and eliminates potential health issues associated with handling both. Jean has extensive experience from working in school canteens. This experience has seen us trial new food ranges including small pizza slabs and sandwiches, which give our customers a greater range of choice and are slowly becoming a popular choice.

A menu board has been installed in the dining area to highlight to our visitors the range of refreshments on offer on Open Days. It is hoped that this will entice our customers and enhance our refreshment sales.

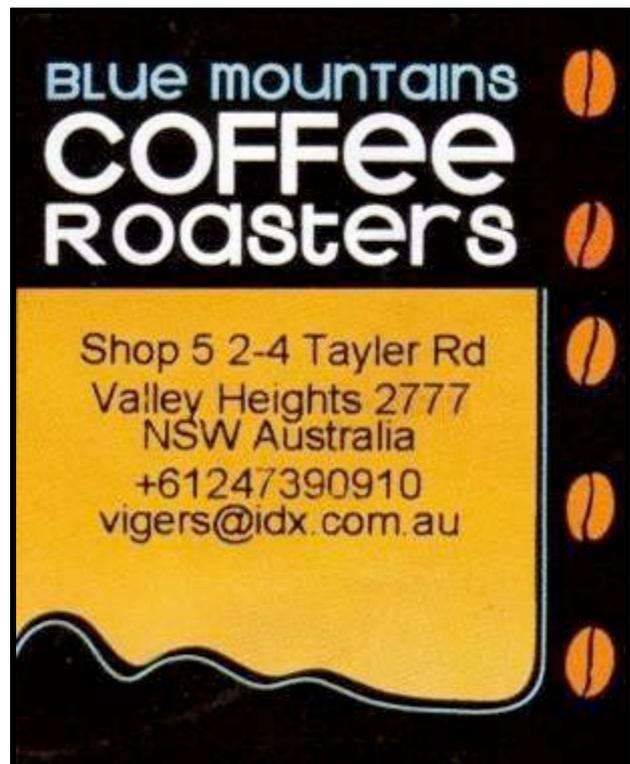
We would like to also thank those who continue to assist in the operation of our Coffee Machine. Thanks to Glenn Hargrave, John Voytas, Robyn Stock, Ted Mullett, Megan Tolhurst and Heather Dickson who continue to assist in this important aspect of our business.

Coffee Machine – We are always on the lookout for more up and coming baristas. If you feel you can assist us in this aspect of our operation, our Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan would welcome you with open arms to his rank of helpers. Training will be provided no previous experience required.

DVD & Video Stock Clearance Sale – With the many advances in technology in recent years and the increasing media channels through which video footage can be viewed sales of Videos and DVD's have plummeted.

The retail arm of the Museum has a range of Video and DVD products slashed to clear surplus stock. The items listed below have been reduced as follows:

Title	Product	Original Price	Reduced Price
Various Rowlingstock Titles	Video	Various	\$11.00
Diesel Diary Vol. 13	DVD	\$39.95	\$30.00
Diesel Diary Vol. 15	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00
Diesel Diary Vol. 16	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00
Diesel Diary Vol. 17	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00
Diesel Revival	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00
Diesels South Vol. 1	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00
Diesels South Vol. 2	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00
Diesels South Vol. 3	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00
Diesels South Vol. 4	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00
Double Headers	DVD	\$39.00	\$30.00
Easter Steam 2000	DVD	\$50.00	\$40.00
NSW in Steam Vols. 1&2 - 2007	DVD	\$80.00	\$60.00
NSW in Steam Vol 1 - 2008	DVD	\$45.00	\$35.00
NSW in Steam Vol 2 - 2008	DVD	\$45.00	\$35.00
NSW in Steam Vol 3 - 2008	DVD	\$45.00	\$35.00
Stories of Steam Vol 9	DVD	\$40.00	\$30.00



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."



YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU

Calendars – We have a number of 2010 Calendars still available for sale. These have all been reduced to clear. The year might be over but the pictures used to illustrate the calendars are usually worth the price alone and make great wall pictures when framed.

NMRA 2010 - Calendar Steam & Diesel - Normally \$18.00 reduced to clear now just \$5.00

Australian Tram Calendar 2011 - Normally \$11.95 and features our very own Steam Tram 103A reduced to clear now just \$8.00

RTM 2010 & 2011 Calendar – Normally \$16.00 reduced to clear now just \$ 5.00

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR 2012 CALENDAR YET?

RTM 2012 Calendar - \$16.00

22. WORKS REPORT

Work Hours – The following hours have been logged by our volunteers for the months of June 2011 to November 2011.

Activity	June	July
Services	12	45
Buildings	175	158
Model Railway	2	37
Workshop	128	35
Exhibits	277	237
Landscaping / Grounds	51	8
Publicity	0	0
Retail	116	120
General / Admin	64	218
Perway	111	227
Total	936	1085

Activity	August	September
Services	9	8
Buildings	191	163
Model Railway	14	41
Workshop	5	19
Exhibits	387	355
Landscaping / Grounds	115	43
Publicity	3	0
Retail	109	95
General / Admin	261	209
Perway	224	163
Total	1318	1096

Activity	October	November
Services	33	29
Buildings	200	159
Model Railway	15	28
Workshop	111	162
Exhibits	353	392
Landscaping / Grounds	115	152
Publicity	8	76
Retail	97	126
General / Admin	266	275
Perway	27	9
Total	1215	1408

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.

If you perform work on two or more different projects please indicate the number of hours spent on each project.

For Example:

B-Rh: 3 Hrs & E-54: 4 Hrs

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.

23. 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? 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.

24. 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
Serge Sequen, Emu Plains	71
Vincent Dobson, Blaxland	72
Harry Bird, Springwood	73
Roger Cordery, Springwood	74

25. 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.

26. 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 Rides. Unlimited Member's rides cost – Adults: \$6-00, School Students \$4-00, Seniors/Concessions \$4-00.

27. 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.

28. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Effective 1 January 2012, new legislation governing Occupational Health and Safety takes effect.

Currently OH&S legislation from state to state differ but the new legislations will uniform and bring the legislation into line nationally.

The current legislation does not classify a volunteer worker, as not being an Employee. Under the new legislation any worker whether they be employed, contracted or working in a voluntary capacity will be deemed as an employee.

This will place a greater emphasis on volunteer organisations to ensure a safe working environment for all.

As an organisation we will have to take a good look at where we can improve our work areas to minimise any risk of a workplace accident.

To ensure we maintain a safe workplace for all we need to ensure we keep our eyes open to any possible problem, report it and take some immediate preventative action.

No doubt, non compliance with the Act, could bring about penalties to the Organisation and potentially members. Let's ensure we all keep an out for our fellow members and friends.

Your Museum will need the assistance of all members to ensure we stay on top of Safety.

29. JOINT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Museum's Joint Operations committee comprising of representatives from the Museum, STaRPS and the Springwood Historical Society has recently reconvened after not meeting for some time. The Committee meets to discuss Safety and Operational issues of the Museum and Tramway together with planning of events. Where necessary recommendations to the Museum's Executive Committee are submitted in cases where funding is sought. This group is an important channel to maintain two-way communications between all occupants on the site.

Ph. 02-47511180
Fax.
02-47519315
Mobile.
0418971052
FREE
QUOTES.
A87N86 682 834 432
1-4-2002



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & 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.

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.

Important Safety for all Members to be aware of when on site.

• General Safety

When you are the only person working on site, a phone call should be made to a Museum officer, to advise them that you are on site and an approximate time that you will be leaving. A list of Museum contacts is in the Ticket Office near the phone. When you have finished make another call to the same officer to tell them you are locking up.

No heavy work (*including heavy lifting, track work, use of mechanical tools or Museum plant*) is to be performed when on site alone.

If you know that you are going to be onsite to do any form of heavy work or need to use certain tools or pieces of equipment ensure that you make prior arrangements for someone else to be on site with you.

• Mobile Plant and Tools

Use of heavy machinery such as mobile plant (*tractors, forklifts, compressors, ride on mowers*) and certain tools (*welders, oxy acetylene*) are not permitted unless there is a second person on site at all times.

• Tractors and Forklifts

Authorised Tractors and Forklift operators are to ensure that a second person (*preferably another authorised operator*) accompanies the operator at all times when the Tractors and or Fork Lifts are lifting and transporting loads.

• **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. Likewise if you are working on track work particularly in close proximity to the Main Line that orange High Visibility clothing is worn. (Red clothing must **NOT** be worn).

As a volunteer organisation 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 full length 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 in the top drawer of the filing cabinet.

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.

RAIL SAFETY WORKERS - REMINDER

All Rail Safety Workers (*those who have been accredited by STaRPS and issued with Certificates of Competency*) and members of the Museum involved in track work and the movement of rollingstock should make themselves familiar with the Penalty Notices Facts Sheet and accompanying documentation, copies of which can be provided on request.

UP COMING EVENTS

2012	
JANUARY Open Days	Sundays 8/1 & 22/1/2012
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 16/1 to 20/1/2012
FEBRUARY Open Days	Sundays 12/2/2012 Saturday 25/2/2012 Sunday 26/2/2012
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 13/2 to 17/2/2012
MARCH Open Days	Sundays 11/3 & 25/3/2012
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 12/3 to 16/3/2012
APRIL Open Days	Sundays 8/4 & 22/4/2012
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 16/4 to 20/4/2012
MAY Open Days	Sunday 27/5/2012 ONLY
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 14/5 to 18/5/2012
JUNE Open Days	Sundays 10/6 & 24/6/2012
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 11/6 to 15/6/2012
JULY Open Days	Sundays 8/7 & 22/7/2012
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 16/7 to 20/7/2012



With our TRAINS TRAMS & Ts event focusing on Transport in the 20s - its only fitting we close this Diary with a scene from the 20s era.

Left: A Sydney bound passenger train pulls into Valley Heights. The passengers on the platform are most likely depot employees on their way home after completing their latest shift. Photo: Andrew Tester Collection.