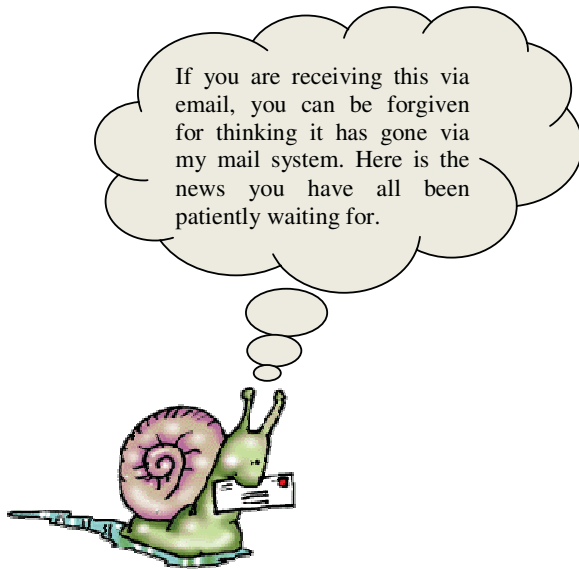


NEWSLETTER OF THE VALLEY HEIGHTS LOCOMOTIVE HERITAGE MUSEUM BLUE MOUNTAINS DIVISION OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES RAIL TRANSPORT MUSEUM
ABN 25 000 570 463
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Web Site: www.infoblueMountains.net.au/locodepot

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



Hello Members,

It has been a while between drinks so to speak, and yes there has been a lot happening both onsite and behind the scenes, since you last received a newsletter.

We do apologise for the absence of news via these pages but we hope this will bring you up to speed with what's been happening and what's about to happen.

We will kick off this newsletter with the most current items of news and then reflect back on what has happened over the last twelve months.

1. CENTENARY PLANS

January 2014 marks the long awaited commencement of our Centenary Celebrations. The celebrations will kick off on Friday 31st January 2014 with the Official Opening of the Museum to launch the Centenary Celebrations.

Back in March of this year, letters were sent to specific high level dignitaries inviting them to the Official Opening.

At this stage we can confirm that the Office of the Governor of New South Wales has confirmed that the Governor, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Barshir AC CVO accompanied by Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE have accepted our Invitation and will Officially Open the Museum.

Invitations were also extended to the Premier's Office, Minister for Transport, Minister for Heritage and Minister for Tourism as well as both our Federal and State Members.

Attached to this Diary is a copy of the flyer that has been prepared to promote the event. This is also being used as a basis for a poster which we are in negotiations with Transport NSW to have them displayed on all Blue Mountains railway stations and with a bit of luck at some major suburban stations.

A dedicated webpage has been set up on our website to promote the Centenary. Please refer to <http://www.infoblueMountains.net.au/locodepot/centenary.shtml> for updates on the planned events.

A Business Plan has been developed aimed at selling the Museum and the Centenary celebrations to the local community. The aim of this document is to gain some financial support from the community towards the Museum to help stage some of the proposed events as well as secure the Museum short to medium term future. This is currently being distributed amongst the community. Some of the events planned will depend on community support.

Ways in which the community can assist is committing to a sponsorship arrangement towards a specific centenary event or project or entering into an Annual Sponsorship Agreement both now and beyond the Centenary, to help secure the Museum's future.

There are several levels of sponsorship at which the community can consider entering into each having a range benefits geared towards their level of financial support. A copy of the Business Plan has been attached to the Museum's Centenary Webpage.

In the lead up the Official Opening some site preparation works have to be completed including the shunting of some exhibits so that the best of our collection is available to be displayed. Some onsite decoration is also planned to try and attract the eye of the passing tourist, commuter. We are also negotiating to see if the Railways can come to the party and have Valley Heights Railway Station decorated with bunting and a banner.

Events

There are a series of events planned to commemorate the Centenary both leading up and following the Official Opening. Details of those events we can confirm at this stage include the following:

Prior to the 31st January 2014 there will be a special members opening on **Saturday 14th December 2013**. This event is aimed at getting the members support towards promoting the event. We are also going to have a special Book Sale available for members only. These are books that are deemed surplus to our Museum's Library Collection. Most of the titles are ones which have long been out of print, many of which are Australian or New South Wales aligned. Details of this will be included separately with this newsletter.


Sunday 26th January 2014 - (Australia Day) is the Museum's Regular Open Day. We have opened on Australia Day in the past without much success. This has been attributed to the fact that there are so many FREE events for families to go to in the local area. Given that it is Australia Day and that the majority of our monthly visitors are locals, many of whom have returned once or more paying each time, the decision has been made to make this day a Free Admission day for locals, who provide identification (Driver's License or Rates Notice) that they are a local resident.

Friday 31st January 2014 – Official Opening. Given the significance of this occasion this will be an Invitation Only event at this point in time. This may change closer the date, stay tuned.

Following the Official Opening on Friday 31st January the following Centenary events will take place.

Saturday 1st February 2014 – Trains, Trams & Model T's.

Sunday 2nd February 2014 – Trains, Trams & Model T's.




CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

**VALLEY HEIGHTS
LOCOMOTIVE DEPOT
1914-2014**

Come and Celebrate a Century of History
Official Opening – Friday 31st January 2014
Trains Trams & Model Ts - Showcasing Transport in the 1920s
Saturday 1st February & Sunday 2nd February 2014
Events from February to October

Further Details:
Website: www.infobluemountains.net.au/locodepot
Email: atmuseum@optusnet.com.au
Phone: (02) 4751 4638 – Leave message
Address: 17b Tusculum Road, Valley Heights NSW 2777



Saturday 22nd March 2014 – Community event to witness the arrival of Steam Train from Thirlmere in preparation for Steam Shuttles on Sunday 23 March 2014.

Sunday 23rd March 2014 – Local Steam Shuttles between Springwood and Penrith. This will operate in conjunction with our regular Open Day. There will also be a display by the Local Historical Societies on this day.

A number of other events are being explored at the moment but the details cannot be released at this point in time as venues and details have not been confirmed.

For the time being we enclose a copy of the promotional brochure. Please note these dates in your calendars.

2. BUSHFIRES

No doubt many of you would be aware of the terrible Bushfires that occurred on the Blue Mountains and the catastrophic results that occurred in the Springwood and Winnalee townships. Many residents have suffered either total loss or damage to their properties.

For those of you who are not familiar with the area Springwood is the next town immediately west of the Museum at Valley Heights and Winnalee neighbours Springwood to the north.

Indeed, the fire that devastated both Springwood and Winnalee burned through bushland within 2 kilometres from the Museum as the crow flies.

Given the close proximity the fire was burning to the Museum and the conditions that prevailed over the course of the week where fire conditions were extreme, the decision was made to take some preparatory action to safe guard the Museum site and our valuable works of Art by Phil Belbin and Brian Baigent.

Led by our Small Exhibits Curator, Bruce Coxon, a small team photographed, documented and carefully removed the paintings from the walls of the former DLE's Building. The paintings were then sent for temporary off-site storage, east of the Nepean River, well and truly away from the threat of the fire.

By the time you read this, the paintings will have been returned and the display restored.

Our Building Services Manager, Ted Dickson, with the assistance of others also took appropriate action, rolling out our fire fighting hoses to ensure that the site was adequately covered, should an outbreak of fire occur.

Thanks to go to all those who assisted both Bruce Coxon and Ted Dickson in preparing the site in case of fire.

Many of our members were indeed impacted by the fire being residents of the fire ravaged areas of Springwood and Winnalee. Some of these members are also volunteers with the Rural Fire Service. Naturally their devotion was directed towards protecting their properties and those of their communities.

To best of our knowledge none of our Museum members who live in the fire effected areas have lost their properties. If we are wrong in this assumption we do

apologise and our thoughts go out to you and your families. If a member has indeed lost their property as a result of these fires, the museum would like to see you maintain your association with us. From the Museum's perspective we would like to offer any fire effected members free membership for the 2014 Membership year. If you have fallen victim to these fires please contact our Museum's Membership Officer, Jeff Russell and an arrangement will be made to have your Membership extended for the coming year at no cost.

Given that the Museum's core staff had properties to protect or were involved in the fire fighting efforts themselves, our resources were stretched to be onsite to protect the Museum. This is where the close camaraderie between ourselves and STARPS really shines. To those members of STARPS who were present on consecutive days during the threat of the fire to ensure the Museum site was staffed in case a fire broke out, we thank you.

3. ZIG ZAG RAILWAY

We at Valley Heights were lucky enough to escape unscathed by the recent threat of Bushfires.

Sadly, our friends at the Zig Zag were not so lucky.

Since the suspension of regular passenger services back in May 2012, the Zig Zag members and staff have been working tirelessly to bring their Safety Management System and Operating Rules up to date, to the satisfaction of the Rail Safety Regulator.

They had progressed to point that a resumption of passenger services was likely towards the end of this year. This is despite being effected by minor flooding damage earlier this year.

The fire that originated from the Department of Defence's Marrangaroo Army Range burnt its way towards the State Mine Gully and beyond with devastating results at the Zig Zag railway precinct.

Most of the devastation took place at Bottom Points depot complex where large carriage losses together with the destruction to the Workshop facilities and office, occurred.

A summary of the losses include:

- Up to 10 items of passenger Rollingstock.
- The workshop facilities including valuable machinery such as lathes, milling machines, drills, grinders.
- Office and associated equipment including computers.
- All Members amenities lost.
- Radio and other communications equipment.
- Hundreds on brand new timber sleepers.
- Relay Equipment Hut at Top Points.
- Mobile Crane and Front End Loader located at Edgecombe Siding.



Above: The remains of the former passenger carriages used at Accommodation for volunteers who stayed the weekend.

Below: The burnt out shell of Rail Motor Carriage No. 2016.



Below: Nothing remains of the volunteers amenities.





Above: The burnt out remains of what was once the Workshop and Office within the Bottom Points depot. Out of all this despair there is hope and some good news to share.

All is not lost.

- The Society still has enough rollingstock to resume passenger operations in the future.
- All the locomotives and carriages stored in the Depot complex at the time of the fire escaped largely untouched.
- The original Signal Box from the main line that has been rebuilt at Bottom Points was saved.
- All three Station Buildings (Bottom Points, Top Points and Clarence) and the Administration building also at Clarence were not touched by fire.

Naturally we are devastated by the tragedy suffered by Zig Zag and we would like to extend our best wishes to their members and volunteers as they begin the long task of rebuilding.

Donations to assist the Zig Zag can be made via their website: <http://www.zigzagrailway.com.au/donation.php>.

We would also like to acknowledge that all photos contained in this feature are courtesy of the Zig Zag's Facebook Page.

We wish the Zig Zag all the best with their rebuilding.

4. FIRE SHED

For those of you who read our last newsletter and have got a good memory will recall the Museum was successful in securing funding by way of a grant to build

a Fire Shed to house our Fire Protection Equipment, including our Fire Truck.

The funding was made available from the NSW Government's 2011 Community Building Partnerships Program to the amount of \$30,000-00.

We are pleased to advised that the shed has been completed. This is despite some unexpected challenges that were encountered before construction could commence.

As the site is protected under the State Heritage Register any work performed onsite is required to be assessed and approved. This requirement resulted in delays being experienced and extensions on the original completion date had to be sought twice from the Office of Communities to comply with conditions of Grant.

Firstly we must acknowledge and thank the Office of Communities for their support and consideration to allow the original grant conditions to be varied by extending the completion date for the project.

If it were not for their acceptance of our requests for extensions, we would not have the shed we now have.

At the completion of the project a final report was submitted and under the terms of the original funding agreement an amount of \$945-00 was returned as a surplus.

The Office of Communities have since made contact with the Museum and are keen to return this surplus to the Museum, if there is some additional work that can be undertaken on the project for which the original investment was allocated.

We had identified that some concreting is required and are currently obtaining quotes for the Department to facilitate the return of the surplus funds.

We would like to thank the NSW Government and the Department of Communities for making this funding possible for this important piece of infrastructure in time for our Centenary.

The photos below illustrate the progress of the sheds construction.



Above: The first sections of framework are assembled – 1 July 2013 Photo: Ted Mullett.



Above: Frame completed cladding is applied to the roof and walls. Photo: Andrew Tester



Above: View inside the near completed shed – 5 August 2013. Photo: Andrew Tester.



Above: Mrs Roza Sage MP, Member for Blue Mountains cuts the ribbon to declare the Fire Shed Officially Open – 25th August 2013. Photo: Andrew Tester.

5. VALLEY HEIGHTS – 1950s

Grant funding was also received to help us develop a permanent visitor orientation exhibit through telling the story of the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot during its peak period of operation – the 1950's.

This funding was received from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities under the Federal Government's Your Community Heritage Program.

Funding under the Grant totalling \$20,000-00 is being used to construct a HO Gauge model of Valley Heights in the 1950's (focusing on 1951), which will be the centrepiece for this display. This model will have some limited working capacity to demonstrate the depots operation.



Above & Below: Construction of the model of Valley Heights depicting the 1950s takes shape. Photos: Andrew Tester



This will be accompanied by a model of The Valley circa 1890. This will provide visitors with a perspective of how the railway developed from the 1890s to the 1950s. The model of The Valley has been largely completed and is just waiting on the construction of a cabinet to rest the model on which when complete will be set up in its new home.

Wall mounted light boxes with images and captions of depot operations will feature in the display.

Finally a brochure is being prepared which will be printed for visitors to take away. The brochure will enhance the story giving the a broader time span to the story and will include brief snippets of former employees experiences.



Above: The model of The Valley (circa. 1890) built by member Lyle Davis. Photo: Ted Dickson



Left & Below: The No 2. Ash Siding complete except for tamping. A new set of points has been partially installed for a new bogie siding will branch off to the left as you look towards the shed. Photos: Andrew Tester



This short section of track is where the tram departs from and during the 1980s a slab of concrete was poured over this section by depot staff, burying the rails and timbers until recently.

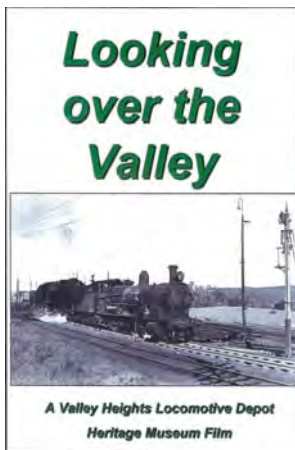
Movement in the track when rollingstock traversed this section indicated that the timbers beneath the concrete had deteriorated to the point that repairs were necessary to allow anything heavier than the tram to travel onto the turntable.

Given that this will be necessary for the centenary activities next year, our Perway Manager, John Stanley booked this section out of use during the month of September to allow the repairs to be undertaken.

The work included the lifting of the old concrete slab, the rails and old timbers. With the track lifted the opportunity was taken to carry out repairs to the underside of each end of the turntable. This would otherwise be inaccessible.

Once the concrete slab was removed the true condition of

6. DVD - "LOOKING OVER THE VALLEY"



This relatively new released DVD has been produced by the Museum's Honorary Historian, Ted Dickson and documents the History of Valley Heights.

The DVD is a two disc set and gives a comprehensive historical overview from the exploration of mountains by the explorers and answers questions about How

Valley Heights got its name, What was at Valley Heights and Why Valley Heights Loco was built?

The DVD is available from the Museum Shop on Open days for \$44.00.

7. TRACKWORK

Our Perway team have been hard at work through out this year completing two significant pieces of track work.

Ash Siding No. 2 – Construction and connection of the second Ash Siding to the Tram shed has been completed. Part of this work includes provision for a set of points where a new bogie storage siding will extend to provide more valuable track storage.

Having this siding now connected to the Tram Shed provides opportunity for us to shunt exhibits into and out of both roads of the Tram Shed.

Arrival Road – The 20 metre section of track that leads east away from the Turntable towards the servicing pits and Station yard has been deteriorating for a number of years.

Model Railway Proudly Supported by



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Webpage: [Http://homepage.idx.com.au/austrain/index.htm](http://homepage.idx.com.au/austrain/index.htm)

the rails and timbers were revealed. Those timbers closest to the turntable had split and rotted and the foot of the rails had rusted away in places to the point that the spikes that once secured the rails to the sleepers could no longer hold the rails in place.

We can now report that this section has now been re-laid with new sleepers and heavier rail. Given that the concrete slab will need to be re-poured over this section the old timber sleepers were replaced with second hand concrete sleepers. This should mean that this section of track will never need replacement in the future.



Above: With the Arrival Road lift on the approach to the Turntable, excavation work commences in readiness for the new bed (left) to be laid. Photos: Lee Hawkins.

Below: Replacement sleepers and rail sit atop the new bed waiting to be fixed in place. Photo: Andrew Tester.



What do you call a train man who steps on a live 3rd rail?

A conductor!

Below: The new track is completed and ready to carry traffic. This work was carried out over a four week period by the museum's perway crew. A job well done. Photo: Peter Stock.



8. No. 1 ROAD RETAINING WALL

Those of you who are familiar with the Museum site would know that Road 1 which runs directly across the Turntable and into the Roundhouse extends through the rear workshop and out to what is known at the restoration area.

An embankment that supports the former depot workers (future member's) car park, runs adjacent to the extended Road 1. Some time ago during heavy rain we experienced a landslip from this embankment, posing a potential safety risk.

Given the concern around the embankment stability and safety approaches were made to have the slip rectified. Thanks to the assistance from the former Office of Rail Heritage (ORH), contractors were called to tender for the construction of a retaining wall to stabilise the embankment.

Prior to the ORH ceasing in June of this year the successful tender was awarded.

We are please to advise that work on the construction of this retaining wall has commenced and is due for completion by the end of November.

Progress on the completion of this wall, together with photos will be reported in the next edition of Depot Diary.

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The Year In Review

We have now brought you up to date with the current news, but there is a lot more to report on that has happened throughout the year. In this section we will briefly touch on events that have occurred in the year, look back at the news from the Retirees Group, Exhibit restoration progress, Membership renewals.

9. EVENTS

Christmas 2012 – We again hosted Santa and his Elf in November and December 2012. This event is slowly but surely growing with interest with each year.

Trains Trams & Ts - Roaring 20s & All that Jazz Festival – We again participated in the Roaring 20s & all that Jazz Festival with our Trains Trams & Ts event. This year's event was held over the weekend of the 23rd & 24th February 2013.

The weather for the entire month had been remarkably good until the Saturday. On this day the Roaring 20s become more aptly known as the Pouring 20s with torrential rains virtually washing out our event. We stayed open and had a visit from the Steam Punk group who came dressed for the occasion.



Above: Steam Punk Group braved the elements and had a good time exploring the Museum. Photo: Andrew Tester.

Thankfully the weather on the Sunday was fine and visitor numbers were considerably better than the previous day, but Mother Nature had left her mark on the event this year. Consequently, the event was not as successful as it was in 2012.

School Excursions – For the last three years the Sacred Heart Primary School from Mt Druitt have chosen us as their venue for their Year 1 School Excursion as they study Transport.

This school again returned this year for the fourth consecutive year. This is encouraging for us as an organisation. We appear to have the program of activities right for the school.

This year Beaumont Hills Public School also visited us. This was quite a challenge for us as there were 200 students from Years 1 & 2 that we had to cater for.

Thankfully the school were receptive to splitting the group in two and having visits on two separate days. This proved quite successful and on both days the schools staff and students left happy.

We hope Beaumont Hills return in future years and that both schools spread the word of their experience.



Above: Year 1 Staff and Students from Beaumont Hills Public School assemble around the Turntable in readiness for a demonstration. Photo: Peter Stock.

10. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

This year, the number of financial members was down on the 2012 Membership Year.

Membership renewals will be due effective 1st January 2014 and will be sent to members before the end of the year.

We trust we can look forward to your continued support as we enter a very exciting year, being or Centenary Year.

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.

11. EXHIBITS

3214 – There is still no progress to report on 3214. We were asked to obtain quotes for the removal of asbestos from around the boiler, which was in the hands of the Office of Rail Heritage. But as the ORH no longer exist it is expected that this whole process will have to start all over again once details of the new Heritage Organisation are finalised.

5711 – Some work has commenced on riveting repairs to the second bogie before it can be placed back under the tender frame.

Plans are afoot to have the locomotive shunted into Bay 1 of the roundhouse in time for the Centenary.

4601 – The team lead by Sergio Sequen has applied the first coat of Indian red to the locomotive. The numbers off the side of the locomotive have been chrome plated. They are now securely stored until the locomotive has been completed.

Work on other aspects of this project's restoration continues.



Above: 4601 sits on the turntable wearing its first coat in Indian Red.

Left: The Chrome plated numbers. Both Photos: Rod Hawkes.

All the spare parts held for this locomotive has been sorted and are now centrally located. These still need to be identified and catalogued.

MRC – The mid-week team working on this project continue to make terrific progress.

The external timber panelling is largely complete with attention turning to the restoration of the centre doors located on both sides of the van.

The following photos show the progress made on this exhibit.

What kind of loco has the strangest anatomy?

A steam locomotive – It has a “back head” and a “steam chest”!



Left: MRC soon after arriving from Thirlmere, prior to the commencement of the restoration work. Photo: Andrew Tester 20.09.2008.

Right and below: The MRC bathes in the spring sunshine in front of the Roundhouse. These two images clearly show the good work that has been made on the timber bodywork and roof of the carriage. Photos: Ted Dickson 10.10.2012.



RBR1049 – There is a lot of work being carried out on this exhibit. This carriage is a First Class Sitting Carriage with Buffet Kitchen. This carriage formed part of the Caves Express.

A Conservation Management Plan has been submitted and approved to restore this carriage to its Caves Express.

Prior to the commencement of the project, there were a lot of parts that were identified as being either missing or needing replacement and many trips were made to Thirlmere to source the parts. Thanks are extended to Alan Leaver for assisting our Exhibits Manager Rod Hawkes locating a large percentage of these parts.

Work commenced inside the carriage on one of Sitting compartments and much time has been spent repairing seats, cleaning and polishing the timber panelling and

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replacing missing pieces.

A start has also been made on the exterior of the carriage. As the RBR sported matchboard panels in its Caves Express service, the carriage will be restored with the matchboards between the windows and along the side of the carriage below the window sills.

At the time of writing the matchboards have been sourced and purchased. All the masonry and ply cladding that was fixed to the side of the carriage when it was modified later in its service life has been removed and a start has been made installing the matchboard timbers.

A follow on report will be included in the next Diary but the picture below illustrates some of the progress to the exterior of the carriage.

Below: RBR1049 is prepared to have the matchboards fixed to the carriage side. Photo: Rod Hawkes.



12. RETIREES GROUP – Jeff Russell

The retirees meet during the week after the second Saturday of the month. Our hours are from 8am to 3pm.

Recently we have been working on the following jobs:

The Small Exhibits Room has been finished and it looks fantastic. The walls and ceiling have been cladded and painted. The entrance doors have been fixed and look ‘a treat’. Visitors now have a much better presented viewing area where railway memorabilia can be seen. The exhibits in this room will be changed from time to time.

The toilets have been painted internally. Some repairs have also been carried out where required.

The Model Railway Group are building a model of the Valley Heights Railway precinct (1950’s vintage) in the front room of the Amenities Building (where visitors enter the Museum). This is being done as part of the preparation for our Centenary celebrations. The Retirees have painted this Room to give it a much needed makeover.

When the Tram operates some people have experienced difficulty in climbing from the tram platform into the tram. A step up arrangement is being constructed to enable easier access.

The re-construction of our historic Railway Gates has commenced. When completed these gates will be installed in the area near the Museum entrance adjacent to the fishpond. This is a rather large project and will take some time to complete.

A roof has been built and now covers the table and bench seats located in the courtyard of the Amenities building.

Inspection of our termite traps is an ongoing concern. This task is an absolute must for the protection of the Depot’s buildings – approximately 8 years have been spent repairing termite damage to the DLE Building and the rear wall and windows of the roundhouse.

A second shipping container has very generously been donated by a member of the retirees group. Much of the Retirees timber supply has been transferred into this second container and neatly stacked on a large rack.

We are always looking for more help so feel very welcome to come and join us – no particular skills are required. We always have a great time together as we work.

Ring Dave (‘Chief Chippy’) on 4751 8117 or Jeff on 4751 2471 if you would like some information about joining our group or feel free to drop into the Museum during the week after the second Saturday of the month.

13. 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.

We would like to also thank those who continue to assist in the operation of our Coffee Machine.

Thanks to Glenn Hargrave, 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 – The retail arm of the Museum has a range of Video and DVD products slashed to clear surplus stock. A list of stock will be published in the next edition of the Diary.

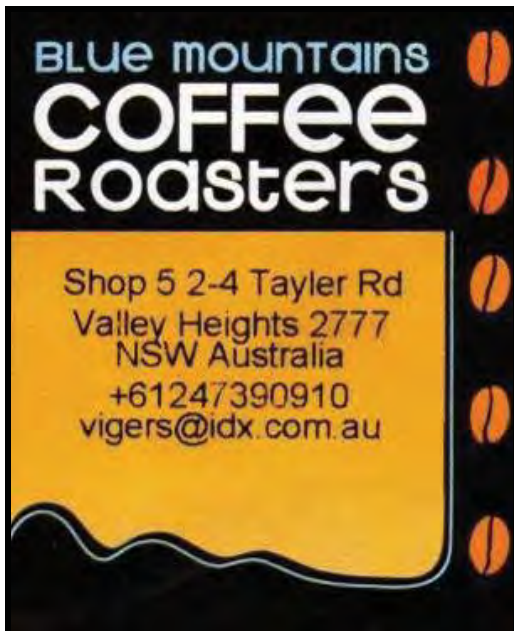
Calendars – We have a number of “Out of Date” Calendars still available for sale. Although they may have surpassed their Best Before Date they are certainly not past their Used By Date.

These have all been drastically 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.

Some of the expired stock held include NMRA 2010 - Calendar Steam & Diesel, Australian Tram Calendar 2011 & 2012, RTM Calendars 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR 2014 CALENDAR YET?

RTM 2014 Calendar - \$16.00



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

14. WORKS REPORT

Work Hours – Normally we would summarise the number of work hours our volunteers have contributed since the last Depot Diary.

Given that this diary is covering a twelve month period we will not include these hours in this edition.

This regular item will return with the next Depot Diary.

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.

Example:

B-Rh – 3 Hrs & E-54 – 4 Hrs

B = (Building) / Rh = (Roundhouse)

E = (Exhibits) / 54 = (5461)

A full list of the Work codes is located on the notice board adjacent to the Sign on book.

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. 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 Dairy 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.

16. 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
Phillip Goodisson, Blaxland	115
Kenneth Gilmore, Winmalee	120
Ian Reid, Winmalee	121
Michael Pensini, Blaxland East	125
Alice Mitchell, Merrylands West	140
Dennis Mitchell, Merrylands West	141
Bob Randall, Warrimoo	142
Paul Mitchell, Merrylands West	152
Jonathon Mitchell, Merrylands West	153
John Taylor, Blaxland	154

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 Dairy.

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 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.

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

20. 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.

As you can appreciate, Workplace Health and Safety (WH&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 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.

Effective 1 January 2012, new legislation governing Workplace Health and Safety (formerly known as Occupational Health and Safety) took effect.

The new legislation effectively brought the former state governed OH&S Guidelines into one uniform national legislation.

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.

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

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.

RAIL SAFETY WORKERS - REMINDER

All Rail Safety Workers (*those who have been accredited by STaRPS and issued with Photo Identification Cards or 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

Please Note: The dates shaded in the table below are dates for Centenary related events. Please take note of these dates. Event details will be circulated via email to members and posted on the Museum Website site and Facebook page.

DECEMBER Open Days – Christmas <i>(See Page 14)</i>	Saturday & Sunday 07/12 & 08/12/2013
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 16/12 to 20/12/2013
Centenary Clean Up	Saturday 21/12/2013
2014 – Centenary Year	
JANUARY Open Days	Sundays 12/01 & 26/01/2014
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 13/01 to 17/01/2014
Centenary Clean Up	Saturday 18/01/2014
OFFICAL OPENING – Centenary Launch	Friday 31/01/2014
FEBRUARY Open Days (Roaring 20s Event – 1&2 February – Trains, Trams & Ts)	Saturday & Sunday 01/02 & 02/02/2014
	Sundays 09/02 & 23/02/2014
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 10/02 to 14/02/2014
Clean Up / Working Bee	Saturday 15/02/2014
MARCH Open Days -	Sunday 09/02/2014
	Saturday & Sunday 22/03 & 23/03
Retirees Week	Mon – Fri 10/03 to 14/03/2014

BOOK SALE

Saturday 16th November 2013 1pm to 2pm.
(following the Museum's Annual General Meeting)

1pm – 2pm *(or until sold out)*

Opportunity to purchase rare books and magazines, videos at bargain prices.

- *Australian Titles*
- *Railway Publications*

Mostly rare items – long since out of print.

EFTPOS Facilities available



Welcome Santa and his Elf

to the Mountains at the

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum
(Tusculum Road, Valley Heights NSW 2777)

See Santa arrive aboard Historic Sydney Steam Tram 103A

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December 2013

Santa arrives at 11am & 2pm

Bring the Kids, Grandkids, Nieces, Nephews

Don't forget the Camera. Santa available for photos

Museum's Standard Admission charges apply and includes unlimited rides and a Free Gift for the Kids

Note: Steam Tram operates subject to weather conditions.

Further Details:

Phone: (02) 4751 4638 *(leave message)*

Email: atmuseum@optusnet.com.au

Website: <http://www.infoblue-mountains.net.au/lozodotop/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Heights-Locomotive-Depot-Heritage-Museum/224121597699539>

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



VALLEY HEIGHTS LOCOMOTIVE DEPOT 1914-2014

Come and Celebrate a Century of History

Official Opening – Friday 31st January 2014

Trains Trams & Model Trains - Showcasing Transport in the 1920s
Saturday 1st February & Sunday 2nd February 2014

Events from February to October

Further Details:

Website: www.infoblue-mountains.net.au/lozodotop/

Email: atmuseum@optusnet.com.au

Phone: (02) 4751 4638 – Leave message

Address: 17b Tusculum Road, Valley Heights NSW 2777

