



STEAM SCENE

Newsletter and Journal of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation (Co-Op) Society Ltd.
t/a Valley Heights Steam Tramway.

“Preserving the past,
enriching the future”

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TRAMS, TRAINS AND “T’S”

- “The Roaring Twenties” weekend again.

The “Roaring Twenties” is celebrated annually in the Blue Mountains. As part of this, the museum features a “Trams, Trains and T’s” weekend of live steam and themed events.

This year, the museum’s Publicity Officer, Keith Ward, went to a lot of effort to gain events for the museum over the weekend of 21-22 February. This included an exhibition of model “T” and “A” Ford vintage Ford vehicles by their respective clubs. An exhibition by the Nepean Historical Society of old wares and a demonstration of “wind-up” telephone, together with a demonstration school classroom of old (including dip pens, desks, teacher et al). A real treat was a performance before and after lunch on Sunday, of the Blue Mountains Jazz Band. A very professional group replete with vocalists, provided pleasurable entertainment for museum visitors and added to the overall ambiance of the event. A novel event this year was a photo contest for the best ‘roaring twenties’ outfit. Weather-wise, it was very warm humid on both days with Sunday featuring occasional showers, one quite heavy.

Final figures through the gate were 322 for both days. Sales in the shop of food, drink and other saleables, did particularly well again demonstrating, the present and potential importance of this area of activity

Many people contributed to making the weekend a success. Not least were the per-

way gang who toiled in frightfully hot and humid conditions to get the track modifications near the depot terminus, in place and operable for the tram operation.

Many thanks too, for the efforts of Keith Ward, Andrew Tester and new Museum Chairman, Bruce Coxon for their organizing and co-ordinating of the event and support services. Likewise, the grounds maintenance team, who beaver-away quietly to keep the precinct looking ‘smik’.

Not forgotten are the ‘trammies’ who got the tram motor and car ready for maintaining a consistent service on both days.

I am certain from the responses in the Visitors Book and from personal one-on-one comments, that our visitors and exhibitors had a very enjoyable and satisfying day.

This event can only get bigger and better as the word spreads. Its success depends on the input of a small number of hard-working volunteers. They can always do with a hand be it in retailing, light cleaning-up, guiding etc. So if you can possibly lend a hand at any time to any of the museum’s or society’s activities, please make contact to any person listed on the information directory on page 6. There wont always be “someone else can do it”.



(Above) Driver Ted Dickson, trying to find where to insert the key to get the motor started! (Below) Some of the vintage cars on display with our tram in the background. (Photos, courtesy Peter



New Track Work

Over recent weeks a lot of work has been done by the Museum’s perway team led by John Stanley and Ted Dickson. The task has been the re-installation of the points connecting the Despatch to the Arrival roads near the depot turntable. These had been removed long before the Museum took over the site. The re-installation will enable 5711 to be more easily moved into the roundhouse at a later date. Apart from this, the points will enable more flexibility with our own operation when two consists are available to us. Visiting locos will also be advantaged. All rail and point work has been laid in 107lb rail which makes for heavy and tiring work even with mechanical aids. Full ballasting and alignment re-adjustment remains to be done. The final connection to the Despatch Road (far left) and further restoration of the Arrival Road, will be done at a later date. Congratulations to all concerned for a very professional job done.



(Top left) Former track removed and excavation made. (Above) Point leads nearest the turntable. (Left) Contemplating adjusting the ‘frog’.

(Photos, courtesy Peter Butler)

