



Whispers from the depot

Newsletter of The Rail Motor Society Incorporated

5 Webbers Creek Road,
Paterson NSW 2421

www.trms.org.au

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From the Board

The Society would like to welcome new members: Moira McAlister and Brad Gradwell from Newcastle, Maree Beard from Valentine, Paul Bird from Singleton, Frederick Baker from Lake Cathie, Mark Bennett from Clarence Town, James Talevski also from Clarence Town, Nathan Moore from Langley Vale, and Graham Perry from Tenambit. I trust all are looking forward to a long and rewarding time spent working with us at the Society.

In January this year, the usual trip to Coffs Harbour took place and again was very successful. During our stay, we trialled the security cameras that had been sourced by Warwick Erwin and these were proven to work as intended. We are now looking at installing these for all future operations when our train is stabled away from the depot. The Board would like to thank Warwick for his time and effort put into sourcing and setting up these cameras. After Coffs Harbour, we went on to Kyogle for a weekend of running during the Annual Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival. As has been the case on past visits, our train tickets are “hot property” as everyone wants to travel the Border Loop line to Glenapp. However, on that Saturday afternoon, we ran into some difficulties with a track circuiting problem and were unable to sort this out with ARTC (Australian Rail Track Corporation). As a consequence, we were forced to cancel our Sunday runs which was extremely disappointing for not only us but the many passengers that had booked. This issue is ongoing with ARTC and we look forward to a solution soon.

A committee is looking into where our trains can pick up and drop off, other than at Central, due to the unavailability of stabling locations. The Board is currently looking into the upgrade of our website, with expectations of something a little more interactive and user-friendly.

We have begun organising the celebrations for the Society's 40th Anniversary in November 2024 and if anyone has any suggestions or thoughts please put them forward in writing to Spencer Ross (via The Secretary, PO Box 4268 Edgeworth NSW 2285). Currently, we are thinking along the lines of a member's dinner on the Saturday night, followed by train rides and activities at the depot on the Sunday.

Following on from our ONRSR audit held last August, when some of our Safety Management Systems were found to be out of date, these are currently being updated.

We have been busy behind the scenes collating and preparing our Annual Report and Financial Balance Sheet in time for distribution before the AGM to be held on 11th

May. You should receive your copy around the end of this month.

A gentle reminder to those who have yet to submit their membership renewal. If we do not receive your remittance by the end of March your membership will lapse. It is important for administration purposes to have the membership finalised before the AGM.

Rod Short – President

Operations Report

Tourist operations in 2023 concluded with a 7-day Western Circle tour for Scott McGregor's Railway Adventures. The trip commenced on Friday, 8 December, with 621/721 travelling to Sydney to commence the tour. Saturday, 9 December, was one of the hottest days of 2023 with temperatures reaching more than 40 degrees Celsius. Due to an extensive derailment at Bylong on the Ulan Line, the trip was rerouted via Werris Creek, with a consequent later arrival in Gulgong. The remainder of the trip was relatively uneventful with a near on-time arrival back at Paterson Depot.

Sunday, 17 December, saw the Society celebrate the 100th anniversary of the entry of CPH No.3 into NSW Government Railways service. Over 500 people attended the event with CPH 3 leading four return trips to Maitland during the day. All trips operated at maximum capacity. [*The June 2024 edition of Paterson Points will feature this event—Ed.*]



2024 opened positively with 621/721 travelling to Coffs Harbour where a number of local runs (*The Rainforest Rattler*) were operated for the Christmas holiday tourists. The Society operated two evening dinner tours in support of the Coffs Coast and Clarence CanDo Cancer Trust where significant funds were raised for the Trust. These proved highly successful with most services operating at capacity.