



Whispers from the depot

Newsletter of The Railmotor Society Incorporated

5 Webbers Creek Road
Paterson NSW 2330

www.railmotorsociety.org.au

Vol. 1, No. 1, **March 2018**

From the Secretary's Desk

Hello fellow members. This is the first newsletter in a change regarding letting members know what is happening within the Society. Paterson Points will revert to a twice yearly publication, with the occasional newsletter such as this, or in some other format, along with regular updates on our Facebook Page and our website.

The AGM will be held in the Station Master's Cottage, Paterson, on the 12th May 2018 commencing at 10.00 am. Your Annual Report and Balance Sheet will be mailed to you, when finalised, in the not to distance future.

It is with much sadness we received the resignation of Bryan Hicks as a Board Member and Rolling Stock Manager. Bryan's resignation was reluctantly accepted by the Board. Bryan is a Life Member, being one of the founding fathers and up until now still active in the operations of this Society. There would have been no Rail Motor Society without the dedication, hard work and sacrifices of people like Bryan. With the passing of time, we hope that we have not seen the last of Bryan.

Mark Oxford tendered his resignation from the Board and as Editor of Paterson Points. These resignations have left two casual vacancies, under the constitution, the Board offered one of these vacancies to Bruce Greenham. Bruce has agreed to fill this vacancy. The Board seeks expressions of interest from any member wishing to fill the other casual vacancy.

We welcome new members: Gwen Gurr from Rutherford; Liz Ede from Telarah; Peter Larkins, from Armidale; Daniel Conway from Beresfield; Walter Woods from Semaphore SA; Howard Collins, OBE Sydney and Joy Kildey from Bolwarra.

Since retiring as an engineer in the mines, member Robert Spencer has been a welcome face on Wednesdays. Robert has taken on the unenviable task of locating and cataloguing all the drawings that are spread around the place. He informs us he has almost completed the cataloguing part of the task.

Heritage Open Days, 19-20 May 2018

Everyone is welcome to come and share some history and take a step back in time by taking a ride on one of our shuttles up through the tunnel to Wallarobba and return. There will be three (3) shuttles each day at 9.55 am, 11.15 am and 1.00 pm and tickets are just \$5 per adult and \$2 per child or \$12 per family (2 adults + 2 children).

During your visit you will be able to look at the museum and have a guided tour through our Depot. Food and souvenirs will also be available during the day. Bookings would be appreciated to avoid disappointment – please phone Trish Short on 0413 672 408.

Infrastructure and Rolling Stock

Following is a brief summary of where we are up to with our infrastructure and rolling stock projects and maintenance. More detailed reports on the individual projects, including pictures will be included in the next edition of Paterson Points.

CTC 51

Stephen Davies will take over as Project Manager of CTC 51 and is gathering information in regards to how the project will proceed.

TAM/BR renovation.

With Rod Short as Project Manager, work has commenced on the TAM and as you will appreciate this is going to be a slow process with the limited manpower available and with everything else going on. However we have commenced cleaning out the five sleeper areas and there is some necessary painting being done. The kitchen area has been commenced and work there will start to take shape over the next few weeks.

Following this, the toilet and shower area will be next.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure crew has been very busy around the Depot. A platform for access to the relocated KB has been completed. After many long years of service our *then-second-hand-when-acquired* air compressor finally failed. Our new compressor was installed by the crew. Upgrading of the shed's electrical wiring has been completed.

New fire extinguishers have been fitted around the Depot, including 621/721, CPHs 1, 3 and 7, 402 and TAM/BR.

Inside the Main Shed, the area between No. 1 and No. 2 Roads has been cleared for concreting to take place, with Rod Short looking after this project.

Due to the hazard of falling limbs, the trees near the containers have been lopped. The gardens around the cottage have been weeded and new plants added. A job very well done by the person concerned.

Rolling Stock

CPHs.

The tri-annual inspections on all three cars are complete. Ultrasonic testing of the axles and air tank inspections have taken place with satisfactory results.

HPC 402

402 was transferred to UGL Broadmeadow in mid-November 2017 to have its bogies overhauled and replacement of its nearly out-of-spec wheelsets. Several delays and problems removing parts have hindered the projects progress and it is continuing slowly. We are not sure when we will see its return.

621/721

After the Tamworth trip for the Country Music Festival, 621/721 was taken out-of-service for a five-week period, to have the flooring and floor coverings replaced, and the interior painted. This was to be carried out under a 'S2' funding grant from Transport Heritage NSW. All flooring in both units has been replaced, and new vinyl floor coverings have been installed including the driver's cabs, which were not in the original scope.

Painting has been completed. Curtains have been reinstalled after being washed and pressed.

A new 230 litre fridge and inverter have been installed at the 621 end. New kitchens have been fitted to each end and upgraded wiring has been installed for the new equipment in the 621 end. During this period a long term problem with the auxiliary power supply to 721 was resolved, allowing the supply to be removed from the lighting batteries and returned to its original position on the auxiliary generator isolator.

The unit was ready for its first outing to Brisbane with a day to spare. We wish to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all of the volunteers who took on some of the not to pleasant tasks during this project. Every time a task was requested it was met with an enthusiastic *yes!* and nothing was a problem. It just goes to show what can be achieved when we have a common goal. A

big thank you to all involved.

Also under our 'S2' funding grants we have two sets of bogies for 721 being refurbished, an engine and transmission being overhauled, and some new fuel tanks being fabricated.

Future Editions:

If you wish to receive future editions of this Newsletter by electronic form (i.e. email), could you please supply your details to trmssec@bigpond.com