



# *Whispers from the depot*

Newsletter of The Railmotor Society Incorporated

5 Webbers Creek Road  
Paterson NSW 2330

[www.railmotorsociety.org.au](http://www.railmotorsociety.org.au)

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## **From the Secretary's desk**

It has been relatively quiet on the administration side of the Society since the last edition of Paterson Points, although there is still plenty of behind the scenes activities to keep Committee Members busy.

The Board is working on drafting a 'Caretakers Agreement' relating to the aspects of duties required for this position, with the view of seeking a Caretaker to look after the 'Cottage' and the Depot precinct.

The Society has been approached requesting the use of the Depot for a movie to be made. It is early days yet but a visit is being arranged so both parties can work out the suitability and agree on parameters.

We welcome new members: Leo and Kaye Burgess, Aberglasslyn; Colin and Brenda MacFarlane, Cessnock; Peter Russell, East Maitland; Tim White, Cornubia Qld; Noel Cotterill, East Maitland.

Although a long time member, Robert Spencer has been a welcome face on Wednesdays since his retirement. He has agreed, along with Bruce Gehrig, to take on the Publications role. I am sure everyone will give these gentlemen their support and feed them stories required for this newsletter and Paterson Points.

## **Rolling Stock**

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

### **CTC51**

After laying of the floor vinyl, work at present is focused on refitting and realigning two doors that had to be removed to allow the linoleum to be re-laid, followed by painting and relacquering the driver's cab. After the doors have been refitted, work will start screwing the green timbers to the wall and that will allow for the seats to be refitted.

### **CPHs**

S3 Grant for full funding to replace exterior walls on #1 has been approved. This work is being planned for

March–April 2019.

A grant application for partial funding of #7 bogies was unsuccessful.

We have put our new member, Noel Cotterill (a Boilermaker by trade), to work on fabricating a frame under #3 for its portable steps. When this unit is finished the installation of steps on all of our operating units will be complete.

The Mechanical Crew has carried out normal servicing on these units.

### **402**

This unit finally returned to Paterson on 8th October after completion of bogie repairs and change-out of the two compressors. The compressors that were removed have been sent away to be overhauled.

This unit will undergo servicing and readying in preparation for a tour from 2nd to 6th November.

### **621/721**

Normal servicing has been carried out.

S2 funding for electrical and draw gear was granted.

621/721 was transferred to Broadmeadow Service Centre (BSC). The bogies on 721 were changed out on 22nd September. The unit remains at BSC to have electrical equipment checked and serviced, including rectification of a door locking problem for which parts have been sourced.

Draw gear was inspected and only minor adjustments were required (under S2 funding). Further inspection will be required.

A BSC fitter removed an input seal from some spare drive-bogies to ascertain sizing. Two seals have been purchased and arrangements are being made as to when replacement can be carried out.

### **7344**

Inspection of this unit revealed several seized engine components, along with radiator and water leaks. These have been repaired and the engine tested and found to be okay. Several problems with air and brake system have been rectified. Replacement of batteries and fitment of Vigilance Control has been completed. An ICE radio and ancillaries have arrived. Preliminary work by TRMS

personnel and M Burger (radio installer) to fit this equipment is presently being undertaken.

Bruce Agland is working on a TOC (Train Operating Conditions) waiver to put the paperwork in place that will allow the locomotive to come to Paterson under its own power.

### Infrastructure

Excellent progress is being made on all projects. Following is a brief summary on where we are up to on various projects.

#### **KB storage shed**

The KB is getting a new roof. During remediation, many 'hiccups' emerged along the way, necessitating various work-arounds. Repairs are being carried out on the existing roof, prior to fitting a canopy of roofing iron. The inside is being fitted with more shelves in order to house all spares. The shelves will be appropriately labelled.

#### **TAM/BR renovation**

The TAM has been cleaned out and resident book collection sorted. New linoleum flooring has been laid. In the kitchen area a new sink and cabinets have been fitted and internal walls painted. New electrical wiring has been installed throughout both cars. In the BR car an archive room houses Society records.

#### **Shed Floor Concreting**

About 22 square metres of concrete was laid in the middle of the shed, after the A-frame crane was relocated onto no.2 road.

#### **Goods Shed**

The heavy machinery was moved out of the Goods Shed to the extended side of the main shed. This is in preparation for the refurbishment and dedication of the Goods Shed to the wagon builders to conduct their work. The old office will be refurbished as a plan storage/viewing room for the Society's railmotor drawing collection.

### Operations

#### **By Bruce Agland, Operations Manager**

Operationally, the Society has had quite busy six months since the last issue of Whispers. Our local trips to Stroud Road have proved to be very popular with six being run over the winter months.

The Society operated Maitland to Paterson shuttles with our CPHs and four runs on the Mount Thorley Branch for Hunter Valley Steamfest in April. This was followed by a combined trip with the ARHS

(Queensland Division) using 621/721 for a run from Paterson to Brisbane and a local return run to Namoona for Brisbane patrons. The return journey was from Brisbane through to Sydney with Cruise Express, overnighing in Wauchope.

May saw the Society run local trips to Wallarobba for Heritage Week, followed up with a run to the Scone Cup; all trips proving very successful. May also saw the return of an old customer, St. James Rail, for a run to Bathurst from Sydney. Our Gloucester 'Chill Out Festival' trip also proved very popular in late July.

The ARHS (NSW Division) operated a day trip on the newly opened line to Rylstone in September. This was followed by another Brisbane trip from Sydney to Brisbane, overnighing in Grafton. Unfortunately, the regular ARHS (NSW Division) June long weekend had to be cancelled due to low numbers.

Maintenance trips during the period saw 621/721 make two trips to the Broadmeadow Maintenance Centre for a bogie change on trailer 721 and for electrical work on 621. HPC 402 also returned from UGL after 10 months undergoing bogie maintenance.

The remainder of the year is also busy with a 5-day western trip for the ARHS 402 Club, two trains to the Muswellbrook Cup, Mudgee Miniature Railway's Gulgong weekend and another trip to Brisbane (ex-Sydney). In December, the Society will help South Maitland Railways celebrate their 125th Anniversary with local runs between East Greta Junction and Cessnock and Abermain over the weekend of 8 and 9 December.

Our 2019 calendar is also starting to fill with nine jobs for Cruise Express, along with our regular jobs like Hunter Valley Steamfest, Gloucester 'Chill Out Festival', Scone and Muswellbrook Races. This year we run our 620 to Trundle for their annual ABBA Festival in May.

#### **Operations for 2018**

- 2-6 November West - 402 Club [402]
- 6 November Muswellbrook Cup - TRMS [CPH]
- 6 November Muswellbrook Cup (ex-Maitland) - TRMS [620]
- 17 November Hawkesbury River - Whitehead [CPH]
- 17-18 November Gulgong - Peter King [620]
- 22-24 November Brisbane - Cruise Express [620]
- 9-10 December Cessnock SMR 125th - TRMS [CPH, 402, 620]
- 31 December NYE - TRMS [620]

**Operations for 2019**

- 26 January Tamworth – Maitland Rotary [620]
- 29 Mar–1 Apr North Star-Sydney – Cruise Express [620]
- 9–11 April Albury-Sydney – Cruise Express [620]
- 13–14 April Steamfest – Paterson [CPH]
- 13–14 April Steamfest – Saxonvale [620]
- 20 April Hawkesbury River – Peter King [620]
- 3–5 May Trundle ABBA Festival – TRMS [620]
- June Brisbane/North Star – ARHS (NSW) [620]
- 18–20 September Brisbane – Cruise Express [620]
- 10–14 October Griffith – Cruise Express [620]
- 27–29 October Albury-Sydney – Cruise Express [620]
- 3–6 November North Star-Sydney – Cruise Express [620]
- November Somewhere – 402 Club [402]
- 14 December Somewhere – St. James Rail [620]

**Society News and Events*****Feed the Farmers (Fundraiser)***

The Society ran two drought-relief fundraiser trips over the weekend 15–16 September to the Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Waters. A total of \$10,500 was raised! Well done Trish Short for undertaking the organisation and publicity, and to all the volunteers who assisted in making it a great success.

***Railmotor Drawings***

The cataloguing of technical drawings is complete – just over one-thousand of them! These have been sorted and transferred to a ten-draw plan cabinet located in the old office room within the Goods Shed. An electronic register of the drawings resides on Depot computer.

***Vale David Cains***

The Society was saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of our member and benefactor David Cains in April. David had been a member for many years and occasionally travelled on trips when time and work commitments allowed. Unknown to most members of the Society, David was also a benefactor and over a long period paid for the cost of posting the Paterson Points magazines, annual reports and AGM notifications to our members. For this quiet contribution, the Society is very grateful.

We extend our condolences to David's wife Rose, his four children Tara, Navarre, Sian and Piers, his grandchildren and families.

An extract from an article that appeared in the Gresford News will appear in the next edition of the Paterson Points.

***Paterson Points***

The next edition is scheduled for December.

As reported by the Secretary, Robert Spencer has taken over the Editor's role for this newsletter and Paterson

Points, assisted by Bruce Gehrig. Future contributions may be emailed to [trmseditor@outlook.com](mailto:trmseditor@outlook.com) (Robert) or handed over to either Robert or Bruce during regular volunteer work days.

***Diary Dates***

15 December 2018 (Saturday) – Xmas luncheon, Club Macquarie.

***Electronic Distribution***

To save time and printing/mail-out costs, future editions of this Newsletter will be distributed in electronic form (email) where the Society has a member's email address. If you continue to receive a printed copy and have an email address, would you kindly provide it to [trmssec@bigpond.com](mailto:trmssec@bigpond.com) (Secretary).