



# *Whispers from the depot*

Newsletter of The Railmotor Society Incorporated

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## Administration Report

*By Mick Walsh, Secretary*

There has been plenty of activity on the administration side of the Society since the last editions of our Whispers and Paterson Points, keeping the Board Members busy.

Pending our financial statements being returned from the Society's auditor, the Annual General Meeting is planned to be held on Saturday, 11 May 2019. This will be confirmed when you receive your Annual Report and Annual General Meeting notification.

Just a reminder to those members who have not yet paid their 2019 membership fees, only financial members will receive an Annual Report and be eligible to vote at the AGM.

Our annual Christmas Luncheon was held at Club Macquarie on 15 December 2018, which was one of our best attended. Trish Short was presented with the award for Volunteer of the Year. Runner up was Jim Lambkin, with Greg Duncan and Bruce Greenham both sharing the Encouragement Award. There will be more coverage of this event in the next issue of Paterson Points.

As mentioned in the last edition of Whispers, the Board was drafting a 'Caretakers Agreement' relating to looking after the Station Master's Cottage and the depot precinct, including the aspects of duties required for this position. This agreement has been drafted and ratified. We are now actively seeking a caretaker. We seek to appoint this position after painting of the cottage interior is complete. Quotes have been submitted to ARTC (property manager) for this work.

The Board decided, in a change of policy, to appoint a Rostering Officer, who will be responsible for the rostering of Operational Train Crewing and Customer Service Personnel. Graeme Holloway volunteered and was appointed Rostering Officer. The Train Crew Manager and the Customer Service Manager will supervise such rostering. The Fitters Rostering Clerk will continue to maintain the fitter's roster and the Treasurer will continue to arrange crew accommodation.

Any member who wishes to volunteer on a tour as a Customer Service Team Member, can place their name for consideration on either of two 'Tours' white boards,

one being located in the Cottage, and the other in the FZ 'training' car.

Our open days on the third Saturday of the month continue to grow in visitor numbers. Wallarobba shuttles using CPH 3 will be run on the next three monthly open days, commencing 16 March. Hot dogs and drinks will be available on these days. To our members who work during the week, or who cannot make it to our Wednesday workdays, this could be a great opportunity for you to help out on a Saturday. Please contact the Secretary for further information if you are able to assist. The Society looks forward to your involvement.

The Tours Officer is looking into the feasibility of offering 'Birthday Party' trips using CPH 3. Please let the Society know if this would be of interest to you.

We welcome Kaye Burgess to the position of Souvenirs Manager. Kaye takes over from Beverley (Bev) Redman who has retired from this position. We thank Bev for her sterling efforts over many years.

We are also seeking someone who would be interested in taking on the position of Customer Service Manager [managing the on-board train crew]. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested.

Because of the great effort put in by Maree Brown in assisting to prepare the Society's financial statements over the years, and for doing so at no charge, the Board offered and Maree accepted an Associate Membership of the Society.

Early notice is hereby given that our Christmas Luncheon will be held at Club Macquarie on Saturday, 7 December 2019.

The Society welcomes new members:

- Maree Brown from Teralba,
- Patrish Smith from Glenhaven,
- Paul Horder from Thornton,
- Douglas Cullen from Glenmore Park,
- Charles Smith from Fingal Bay,
- Carol Rostron from Osterley,
- the Pannaye family from Raworth,
- Grant Cupples from Thornton,
- Gary Rowarth from Adamstown,
- Leonard Smith from Bolwarra Heights, and
- Gary Odgers from Edgeworth.

The Rail Motor Society wishes to extend its condolences to the family of Ronald White on his passing in January. Ronald was a former Newcastle guard and a long-time member of the Society who had retired to Gunnedah.

To any member who has suffered a recent bereavement we offer our sincerest condolences.

## Rolling Stock Report

*By Mick Walsh, Acting Engineering Manager*

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 will be included in the next edition of Paterson Points.

### CTC 51

Acting Project Manager Arthur Burgess reports that work on CTC 51 has progressed slower than normal due to the absence of Project Manager Stephen Davies, who has undergone knee replacement surgery. Stephen is recuperating well at this time.

The seats in CTC 51 have been fixed to the floor. Painting both internally and externally is progressing well.

The future progress of relocating the carriage builders works from the MHO carpenter's car to the Goods Shed requires a much needed clean-up of their current work area. Under the control of Warren Mills and Rodney Howard all excess equipment on their working stages is being removed to a storage container for safe keeping. Once cleared, the CTC 51 working stages will be relocated to the rear of the present site to allow for further floor concreting within the Rail Motor Shed to proceed.

### CPH 1, 3 and 7

'S3' Grant funding is being used to replace the exterior walls on CPH 1. Work commenced in February and has progressed well to date, with painting expected to be close to completion by the time you receive this newsletter. When the outside cladding was removed it revealed surprisingly little frame damage. The only major damage was to a decayed door upright. A new upright was milled from stored timber and fitted.

There was some slight non-structural damage to a section of the external roof cladding. Temporary repairs will be carried out and estimates prepared to support an application for another 'S3' Grant to replace all the external roof cladding later this year.

All three units should have had their annual services completed by the time of this publication.



### HPC 402

Rail motor 402 will have its annual inspection carried out after completion of the CPHs. It is waiting to have its toilet replaced with one previously installed in 721.

### NPF 621 and NTC 721

Two engine/transmission units have been rebuilt and delivered to Broadmeadow Heritage [the Roundhouse] where a Broadmeadow Maintenance Centre technician will refurbish wiring on both units. Early planning is underway for both engine/transmission units and fuel tanks to be changed out sometime between June and August 2019.

The unit has visited BMC to have electrical equipment checked and serviced, including rectification of a door locking problem for which parts were sourced. While some electrical equipment was changed and wiring checked out successfully, unfortunately the external door locking problem remains unresolved. Just before it was planned to return 621/721 to Paterson, no.2 engine's water pump failed. A new pump was sourced and the faulty unit changed out.

A normal flush toilet is planned to be fitted to the 'Ladies'.

### Locomotive 7344

On a very hot morning on 28 December 2018, 7344 was prepared ready to be transferred from The Large Erecting Shop at Eveleigh to the Rail Motor Depot at Paterson. This was the culmination of many months of work, including servicing, installation of an ICE radio [In-train Communication Equipment] and Vigilance Control to enable the transfer to happen. The crew departed Eveleigh as time-tabled.

All went well until the unit shutdown due to an overheating problem and had to be 'put away' [refuged] at Flemington Markets, where the problem was diagnosed. After switching the fan-drive to manual mode and opening all the canopy doors and waiting for

the engine to cool, the crew set off once more. Thereafter, 7344 had a trouble free run all the way to Paterson. Thanks go to Drivers, Arthur Burgess and Rod Short, and Fitter, Mick Walsh. The crew were ably backed up by support crew, Bruce Agland and Les Davey.

After some looking and searching we were able to procure a set of buffers for 7344 from Richmond Vale Railway. These will be cleaned up and fitted during the repainting of the locomotive in heritage livery. Painting preparation is planned to commence after CPH 1 is returned to operation.

In the meantime, 7344 has been shunting 629/729 around the yard prior to the latter's departure from the Depot [629/729 railcars departed site on 15 March 2019, hauled by locomotive 42103].



## Operations Report

*By Bruce Agland, Operations Manager*

Activity on the operations front has been quiet due to the Christmas break and down time in January to allow our maintenance team to carry out their annual rolling stock inspections.

Operations leading up to Christmas included a service run to Broadmeadow for 621/721 for some electrical work and Mudgee Miniature Railway's annual Gulgong/Dunedoo weekend in November 2018 using 621/721. On the same weekend, our CPHs travelled to Hawkesbury River for a 40th Birthday Party charter. This proved very successful and, as alluded to in the Administration Report, has resulted in plans to offer a similar format for our 'Party Train' offering. Another successful 'North Coast Daylight' trip to Brisbane for Cruise Express rounded out our November operations. This trip also included a local run for Queensland enthusiasts from Brisbane to Casino, arranged by local member Ben Francis.

The weekend of 8-9 December saw both our CPHs and 621/721 running excursions between East Greta Junction and Abermain and Cessnock to help South Maitland Railways celebrate their 125th Anniversary. Passenger numbers were disappointing, however all those who travelled expressed their great satisfaction at the opportunity for a run over the SMR 'metals'.

December 28 provided a 'window' during the Sydney Trains Christmas shutdown to enable 7344 to be brought from the Large Erecting Shop at Eveleigh to Paterson Depot. After taking on fuel for the journey, 7344 departed on the Illawarra to Sydenham and then via the Metropolitan Goods Lines to North Strathfield to join the Main North. An overheating problem caused a delay at Flemington Markets, but after rectification the remainder of the journey northwards was uneventful with 7344 arriving in Paterson on schedule.

On 31 December we operated our regular New Year's Eve mystery tour. After picking up passengers at Maitland we journeyed to Dungog for our dinner stop where passengers dined at both the Royal Hotel and the Bank Hotel. After dinner we returned to Paterson for the dessert course, where we were entertained by the local 9 pm fireworks display. Then Mother Nature intervened, by providing a very spectacular lightning show and some heavy rain. After this break, we travelled to Port Waratah for the Newcastle midnight fireworks, where regrettably our trip had to be curtailed due to the cancellation of the planned fireworks due to the earlier electrical storm.

Australia Day saw our regular Tamworth Country Music Festival service run for the Rotary Club of Maitland. Again Mother Nature provided a very hot day and even under these extreme conditions 621/721 performed flawlessly. Following this trip, 621/721 went to Broadmeadow Maintenance Centre for further electrical work, before returning to Paterson on 5 March.

Our first run of our Open Day specials was held on Saturday, 16 March. Due to extended maintenance requirements, 621/721 substituted for CPH 3 on the day's local shuttles. The first run was diverted to Telarah due to work adjacent to the track at Martins Creek. A total of 46 visitors travelled with us.

During February, we had a Compliance Inspection by the National Rail Regulator. It is pleasing to report that all systems that were inspected were proved sound and no adverse findings were made. The inspectors made a couple of observations (suggestions for improvement) and these will be reviewed in the near future.

Our Access Agreement with ARTC has been extended for twelve months to 29 February 2020 and a new

Access Agreement has been signed with Queensland Rail expiring on 30 June 2022.

Thanks to all who participated in crewing these operations and a special thanks to the maintenance team who worked through some extremely hot and trying conditions to make the rolling stock available.

## Infrastructure Report

*By Eric J Larkins, Infrastructure Manager*

Due to the prolonged hot weather work on the KB roof is on hold until the weather cools down.

Beneath the Goods Shed we had to replace some piers and long support beams which had been eaten out by white ants [termites]. The work crew also replaced a number of floorboards on the platform to make the area safe. I've also taken the precaution of arranging for a pest controller to check the property and place some baits around.



Inside the Goods Shed an electrician has replaced some power points and replaced the three old shed lights with three new LED lights, which are activated from one switch located just inside the shed, on the left side wall. The new single switch functionally replaces the three original pull cords positioned down the middle of the shed.

Once again a large eucalyptus tree branch broke off and fell onto the garden area [between the Rail Motor Shed and Cottage], fortunately without causing major damage. There was however some damage done to the garden watering system. Further trimming of tree branches was undertaken as a precaution.

A rubbish skip was ordered and delivered to site to dispose of some rubbish that resulted from the clean out of the Goods Shed, and also from the TAM and BR cars, along with the fallen tree branch and some general rubbish lying about the yard. In no time the skip was

full!

A partition wall has been removed from within the FZ car to make more room available to accommodate an increased Wednesday volunteer workforce during their morning refreshment and lunch breaks. The air-conditioning system has been serviced and the Depot's computer has been rehoused in the old conductor's room. Rail motor drawings and maintenance documents which had been stored in this room were relocated to the Goods Shed Office.

Electrical wiring in the FZ car has been tracked and checked, with redundant wiring removed. The telephone line, which had previously not been working properly, has now been rectified.

Both the TAM and BR cars are looking very good and are getting close to being finished.

The garden is looking very nice due to the hard working efforts of members.

A big thank you to all concerned!

## Society News and Events

### Welfare Report

*By Bruce Gehrig, Welfare Officer*

Since the beginning of this year, six of our members have had to spend time in hospitals for varying reasons such as check-ups and operations. The Society extends its best wishes for a speedy recovery whilst recuperating to: Ray Kildey, Stephen Davies, Bev Redman, Ted Dunbar, Jerry Jerome and Geoff Murray.

### New Years Eve Mystery Tour

The New Years Eve Mystery Tour proved just as popular as our previous two trips, with a full train load of 98 passengers. The waiting list would have filled another carriage, and enquiries were still being received on the day of the tour for seats! The destination was revealed in the Operations Report. A full report, including photos, will be included in the next edition of Paterson Points.

Where to next year?

### Tamworth Trip

*By Trish Short*

On Saturday, 26 January 2019, with an early departure of 5 am out of Telarah, 627/721 and passengers set out bound for the Tamworth Country Music Festival. The train made brief stops to pick up passengers at Greta, Branxton, Singleton and Muswellbrook, after which the train was full to capacity.

The passengers enjoyed a bacon and egg roll and fruit

juice for their breakfast, followed by tea or coffee. Already the temperature was rising, with everyone preparing for a very hot 42 degree day that lay ahead. We arrived at Tamworth at 9.15 am.

At 5 pm we departed Tamworth with everyone very hot and exhausted, but all passengers reported having enjoyed a great day at the music festival. During the journey home tea and coffee was offered however most people just requested water due to the heat and were just happy to sit back with windows opened wide to let any breeze in. The train arrived back at Telarah at 9.40 pm.

I would like to thank Maitland Rotary Club and all the train crew for making this a successful day and yet another trip to remember.

### **Monthly Open Days**

*By Bruce Gehrig*

The Society's monthly visitor Open Days are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10 am to 3 pm. Our visitors are taken on a tour of the Depot and are able to inspect the CPHs, 621/721, and 402, plus the TAM and BR cars, and the museum in the old Station Master's Cottage. The tour of our Depot covers the history of the Society, provides inspections of and information on the various rolling stock, furnishes details of tours run by the Society as well as other charters, outlines weekly Wednesday volunteer work-day activities, and offers membership application forms. Questions and photo-taking are encouraged. The tour finishes at the Cottage where visitors are able to inspect the museum and purchase souvenirs and drinks. They are also encouraged to add their name to our tours mailing list so that they may receive brochures containing details of forthcoming tours that the Society will run.

The number of visitors during 2019 were:

- 128 in January,
- 83 in February, and
- 48 in March.

In January, 128 visitors came to our Depot on our Open Day, despite the weather being hot (mid 30s). Over 30 people were waiting at the gates by opening time. Eight tours of the Depot and of CPH 1, 621 (721 was not open for inspection), and the TAM and BR cars were conducted. There were numerous families with children, reflecting the school holidays. Most people were aware of our Open Day via Facebook.

Eighteen people added their email addresses to our tours mailing list and two prospective new members were gained. Thanks go to Peter Russell for his help with the visitors and crowd management.

In February, 83 visitors came to the Depot on our Open

Day. Nine tours of the Depot and of CPH 3 and the TAM and BR cars were conducted. There were many families with children, and again most people were aware of our open day via Facebook. Although 621/721 was at the Broadmeadow Maintenance Centre, visitors were able to see the work currently being undertaken on CPH 1 to replace the exterior walls.

Amongst the visitors on this occasion were a group of thirteen from the Ford Model A Car Club of NSW, who parked their vintage cars inside the Depot. Thanks go to Bruce Agland, Paul Horder, Gwen Gurr and Carol Roston for their help with our visitors on this occasion.



During the March Open Day, the first tour group included 12 people from the annual Paterson Historic Walk who included our Depot on their itinerary.

It is interesting to discover where our Open Day visitors have journeyed from. Most visitors were from the Hunter Region, ranging as far north as Dungog, west to Scone, south to Belmont and Cessnock, and from towns and suburbs in between. However, others had travelled from places much further afield, including: Wingham, Forster, the Central Coast, Sydney suburbs, and Wollongong. We also hosted two interstate visitors from Murray Bridge (SA) and a couple from Gloucester (England) visiting on holidays.

Due to public demand, the Board approved the running of two shuttle trips per open day using CPH 3 to Wallarobba, commencing in March. This is an added attraction for visitors in addition to inspecting our static rolling stock and museum. Fares are set at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. In March we had 39 passengers on the morning shuttle at 10.30 am, and 7 on the 1 pm afternoon shuttle (held in pouring rain!).

#### **Next Visitor Open Days:**

- 20 April
- 18 May
- 15 June

### Donation Acknowledgement

The Rail Motor Society presented Robert Spencer with a commemorative plaque (pictured) in appreciation for an especially generous recent donation. The presentation was made by the Society's Secretary, Mick Walsh, during the lunch break at Paterson. The money will go toward the cost of the recent refurbishment of the bogies on HPC 402 (on which Robert has become a regular traveller).



### Recycling Report

By Bruce Gehrig

The Society continues to recycle cans and bottles from the Depot and train charters to aid environmental protection, as well as help subsidise the future costs of water and soft drinks provided to members working at the Depot and whilst crewing our trains. Reasonable amounts per trip can be earned through recycling plastic bottles and aluminium cans. So far this year nearly 1,000 cans and bottles have been put into the 'Return and Earn' bins.

### Paterson Points

Submissions for the next edition are sought by mid to late June 2019, with publication envisaged to be early in July. Earlier submission of material (photos, tour reports, project updates, events, etc.) where possible is most welcome and encouraged!

Email submissions to: [trmseditor@outlook.com](mailto:trmseditor@outlook.com)

### Diary Dates

- 11 May 2019 - TRMS Annual General Meeting (subject to confirmation)
- 7 December 2019 - TRMS Christmas Luncheon at Club Macquarie

### Electronic Distribution

To assist the Society to save printing and mail-out costs, as well as our volunteer's time collating this newsletter

for posting, electronic distribution via email is preferred. If you continue to receive the Whispers newsletter by ordinary mail, but are able to receive it by email would you kindly advise the Secretary ([trmssec@bigpond.com](mailto:trmssec@bigpond.com)) by providing or confirming your email address.

### Forthcoming Operations (Provisional)

23 Mar	Rosehill Racecourse
29 Mar to 1 Apr	Moree, then North Star to Sydney
9-11 Apr	Albury
13-14 Apr	Maitland Steamfest
20 Apr	Hawkesbury River
27-28 Apr	North West Pub.
3-5 May	Trundle (ABBA Festival)
18-19 May	Heritage Event (t.b.a.)
10 May	Scone (2 trains)
18 May	Muswellbrook
7-11 June	Albury, Seymour, Yarrowonga
28 June	Macksville
28 July	Gloucester
4 Aug	Berry
19 Sep	Stroud Road
18-20 Sep	Brisbane
5-7 Oct	Gulgong
10-14 Oct	Griffith
27-29 Oct	Albury
3-6 Nov	North Star
3 Nov	Local
5 Nov	Muswellbrook
18-22 Nov	North West Branches (HPC402)
30 Nov	t.b.a.
14 Dec	t.b.a.
30 Dec	N.Y.E. Mystery