



Signal Post



National Railway Museum Member & Volunteer's Newsletter
Edition 6 – August 2017

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: DAVID BURNETT

The year keeps marching along at a very quick pace, footy finals aren't far away and summer will again be upon us. Preparations are well underway for the Semaphore to Fort Glanville season which commences on Saturday 30 September 2017.

The meeting that we had scheduled to meet with Minister Mullighan and Rail Commissioner Deegan has been postponed but we would expect to hear something in the near future. I want to thank the many members and volunteers for their suggestions. It is great to see the great number of emails. I have had a lot of discussions with many people and groups within the organisation.

You can rest assured that as soon as we are in a position to advise more specific details, I will send out the information promptly.

Board Happenings

The Board last met on Wednesday 9 August 2017. There were many matters on the agenda including the proposed budget for 2017/18.

Operations & Site Works Report

Bill

- New boiler tube plate in production. Next stage on completion of tube plate will be inspection by boiler inspector. If passed welding to boiler shell to commence and re-tube of boiler.
- Richard is in regular contact with contractors regarding progress on boiler.

Bub

- Operating with no problems to report for this period. Recently operated the FFF event double headed with loco No7

Loco No.7 KEN

- Recent modifications to the engine crankcase breathing system has resulted in the spark plug oiling problem being eliminated, resulting in improved performance.
- A recent change to driving practices, involving transmission selection, has improved performance.

Loco No.8 (457mm)

- Brake system modifications in progress.
- Chain drive tensioning improvements in progress.
- Reworking bogies in progress.
- Cab interior to complete.
- New pilot manufacture in progress. This was required for weight reduction.

Railcar 8

- Sheet metal work ongoing.
- Door and window manufacture in progress.
- Bogie work ongoing, one bogie set of leaf springs has been stripped, cleaned and re-assembled.

Red Hen Railcars

- Car 321 has had an intermittent fault of not always engaging the A transmission with 321 leading. Fault tracing led to the magnet valves for this transmission being inspected and the solenoid plug wiring found to be faulty. Rewiring of the plug and wiring looms and replacement of a faulty circuit breaker have been completed. Test runs and operation on the FFF event was successful with the fault not occurring at any time.
- Both cars are scheduled for minor ongoing maintenance tasks.

Jumbo Railcars

- These cars are a very low priority at present. Recent attempts to turn the DA over resulted in a sheared bolt and further investigation revealed a solid DA engine. There appears to be a lot of condensation internally of the engine.
- Further investigation as and when time permits.

Railcar 257 Kestrel

- Minor ongoing maintenance tasks of some cooling system hose replacement to be progressed before the next event in September. This involves shunting the car to Jacketts for access as all the coolant has to be pumped out.

Loco 801

- Operated a shunt movement since last report with no faults indicated.
New fuel filter element required to be procured.
Contact with the original manufacturer has indicated they may not be available and will have to be made.

The Centenary of the Trans Australian Railway occurs on 17 October 2017. The Museum is having an exhibition which is to be officially opened by Mr Greg Mackie, Chief Executive Officer, History SA on Friday 22 September 2017. This exhibition will be available for all to see from that date until the 17th of December. In addition, the Museum will be holding a "cocktail party to celebrate this important national event. We will be opening a limited number of places to members soon, so keep tuned.

The Steampunk Festival has just concluded for another year. A great success with a good number of Steampunkers availing themselves of the event.

Kanni

Our long-term volunteer Mick Searle is currently working on a great project –

Mick gives us a run down on what he is up to –

Work on the former caretaker's residence at Kanni is making progress.

Painting of the walls in a silver blue in Room 1 has occurred with the sealing and top coating of the ceiling also addressed by volunteers. Phil Smiler has fitted new pelmets over four windows and construction of display benchwork continues.

An agreed style of “retro” ceiling light is being sought and some other mounting brackets have been installed. A door frame has been modified and a new door leading into Room 3 will be shortly added.

Removal of a twin tub sink and the sanding and sealing of the floor were addressed previously. Some minor wall cracks have been filled and the reglazing of cracked windows are yet to be effected. Also, the KANNI sign has been removed for a repaint.

Room 1 will be a display area featuring up to 140 builder/number plates bequeathed to the NRM by the late Arnold Lockyer. Arnold was a long-standing member of the NRM from the early Mile End Museum days and passed away in 2010. The western and southern side walls have been cladded in 16mm MDF to accommodate this extraordinary collection. Mounting of these is currently occurring.

Volunteer Profile

David Williams is the second of Our Government Appointed Board Members –

Here is his story



Board member David Williams grew up in Port Augusta in the 1950s when there were picnic trains from Quorn to Port Augusta in the summer and from Port Augusta to Mambray creek in the spring. He recalls sitting on the wool bales at the Port Augusta wharf watching the Budd cars being unloaded from the heavy lift ship *Bellbetty* was heaven on a stick.

David started with the board in 2012 and is now into his second four-year term as one of the two members appointed by the SA Government. He was no stranger to the NRM and kindred groups having previously been a long-term member of the Tramway Museum at St. Kilda, including its secretary for 10 years.

Now retired, his last day job was CEO of St Peters Council. Prior to that he was Chief Local Government Advisory Officer in the Dept. of Local Government. He holds an MBA degree from Uni SA and moonlighted as a Lecturer in Management at Flinders University for 9 years. He was a member or Chair of local, state and national local government working parties, has received state and national awards for management innovation and was co-author of the standard text on meeting law and procedure in local government.

If you have any questions or queries please send either myself chair@nrm.org.au or Bob Sampson exec@nrm.org.au an email.