



Signal Post



National Railway Museum Member & Volunteer's Newsletter
Edition 5 – July 2017

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: DAVID BURNETT

As you will have all seen and or heard a major announcement was recently made by the South Australian Government in respect to reintroducing a full passenger train service back into the heart of Port Adelaide. This will have an affect on the museum. It is the Government's intention to use Jacketts siding as the rail line.

I along with our Executive Officer Bob Sampson have had very preliminary discussions with Transport Minister Stephen Mullighan and the Rail Commissioner Michael Deegan.

We must remember that we do not own this land, we have a lease with the Department for Arts and therefore the owners (The South Australian Government) have the call on the land.

We expect that the first of a series of meetings will be arranged in the near future.

I have asked for and am now receiving from members and volunteers' suggestions that will assist us in preparing our submissions to the Government. I would like to thank the many of you that have provided us with information and or suggestions. I understand that this is a very emotive issue for many who have and continue to be involved in the museum. It is absolutely vital that we as a museum prepare the best possible list of areas of concern as far as our business is concerned and from that what is the best way forward to ensure that both the financial position of the museum is not affected and the overall operations are impacted as little as possible.

This is incredibly important as far as the museum is concerned and I again reiterate if you have a suggestion, comment or concern please email either myself chair@nrm.org.au or Bob Sampson exec@nrm.org.au

Please don't delay in putting your suggestion forward, as I have said we need to be ready to go with our list and time is moving very quickly.

In the upcoming July edition of Catch Point Bob Sampson has a detailed article in respect to the DPTI rail service connection into Port Adelaide.

Board Happenings

The Board last met on Wednesday 14 June 2017.

One area of the museum areas that is causing a few issues is the financial area. As many of you would be aware Stuart Scotland our long term Financial Administrative Officer retired in February of this year after nearly 17 years. We have put in place many stop gap measures but still are lacking volunteers to assist in this incredibly important area of museum business. If you are at all interested please let me know.

Another area of museum business that the Board is working on with the assistance of the Curatorial Staff is the Oral History Group. Chaired by Vice Chair Frank Hussey and very ably assisted by John Evans, Gabby Sexton

and Moana Colmer. They have a list of ex railway people who are willing to share their railway stories in the many different areas of railway history. We are hoping that we will commence the recordings soon and we then want to use these as part of our interactive interpretations that we have been working on for some time. Stay tuned !

457mm gauge railway

Loco No 8:

- Bogie springs found to be coil bound. New springs made and tested, on one bogie. New springs to be made and fitted on the second bogie. Some further modifications may be necessary including spring type chain tensioners as the ones designed by the original engineer may not be satisfactory. This is to be looked into further before any decisions are made.
- Cab upholstery being manufactured. To be fitted shortly.
- Brake system need some small modifications made to work correctly. Air gauge to be plumbed up.
- Air-conditioning to be installed.
- Undercoat to be applied next ready for the painting.
- Cab conduit tray to be modified so bogie does not touch it.
- Some “bling” such as small fake handrails on the nose being fitted to improve aesthetics.
- Interior lighting to be fitted once upholstery is completed.
- Windscreen being fitted.
- Side windows and mirrors being manufactured ready for fitting.
- Due to overall excessive weight, causing issues with springs, the 16mm thick steel pilots front and rear need to be removed and fitted with light weight ones

Loco No.6 Bill:

- Loco has been stripped of its boiler in readiness for re-tubing. An acid wash has been organised before re-tubing commences. A pressure vessel welder recommended by our boiler inspector will carry out the re-tube work.
- Damage found around throttle mounting area. Glenn Smythe has offered to repair.
- The wash out plugs will also be replaced with tapered plugs to make them safer.
- The usual 12 monthly inspection work over the entire loco to be carried out.

Loco No.4 Bub:

- Working well after its recent fusible plug, fire box and re-tube work

1067mm gauge vehicle V1990:

- The restoration and repainting of this working exhibit has now been completed, and it was used for the first time since that work was finished, during the Public Transport – the 80s event last month.

Brill railcar No.8:

Not much work has progressed on this exhibit due to the loss of volunteers working on this project. (One now retired and the other gained employment). Chris Dunbar who is building the doors and windows has also been very

busy on PRR work. The required volunteer positions are still being advertised via Graham Vincent. The third volunteer working on this project has a sick wife and can only come in on occasions.

Diesel locos and railcars:

- 515, 801, 400, 321, 257 all working well. A reverser issue in loco 801 not a major issue and will be further investigated.

Young Volunteers Team:

- It has been a pleasure to see new “blood” in the volunteer ranks. Many thanks from me personally to Tom Garland in using his initiative to source and manage these new volunteers. Work which I have not been able to source volunteers to do has been done. Other important jobs such as guard and conductor at Semaphore, taking coal to Semaphore, cleaning up the coal bunker at NRM are all very important jobs. This to me has proven there is still interest in the museum from younger volunteers (not Centrelink) and this will hopefully help out with future succession planning.

2017 Events

20 - 23 July Family Fun Fair - Bub, the Redhens and Peronne all running.

19 -20 August Steampunk Festival'17 – Peronne and Bub running.

3 September National Train & Father’s Day – plenty of trains running

Moana Comer – Curator Exhibitions & Displays

Moana Colmer, our Curator, Exhibitions and Displays will be commencing Maternity Leave in a few weeks and we all wish her well. During her time away Curator, Collections Gabby Sexton and Assistant Curator Kate Davies will work extra days to keep the long list of archival and curatorial obligations and responsibilities moving.

Volunteer Profile



Most of you would know our Operations Manager, Richard Crookall

Here is his story

Stared at Mile End in 1983.Was apprentice cabinet maker at the time.

Was looking for a place to start a social life of some sort. One day while driving by the mile end museum with my mother, we decided to have a look.

While I was checking out the exhibits, my mother was hard at work planning my volunteering future with a young Bob Sampson.

Joined the museum and had a ball. Met many new people and my social life was kick started.

Was invited onto the museum's committee fairly early in the piece.

Volunteered on weekends carrying out restoration work, driving the small train as well as other duties. Avoided mowing the lawns quite skilfully.

In 1988 left my cabinet making job and started the restoration of the exhibits at Mile End for them to be on display at the new (then being constructed) Port Dock Station Museum, working under the banner of the History Trust of South Australia.

In Dec. 1988 after the opening, I became the senior tour guide. This position did not last long and due to my skills I soon became the Site Operations Manager.

After 28 years, I am still here under the job title of Operations Manager.

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