



*To maintain, manage, enhance and conserve the Robertson Heritage Railway Station & Precinct*

**News and Bulletin No 24, March 2017**

### Forthcoming Activities

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 - Railway Modellers Group: 1pm to 4.30pm

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - RHRS Planning Meeting: 5.00 to 6.30pm

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Railway Modellers Group: 1pm to 4.30pm

Visit us on  
**Robertson Heritage  
Railway Station**  
on Facebook too

**Annual 2017 FETTLERS HERITAGE ART PRIZE**

official opening Sat 18 March 11am

Prizes sponsored by:  
OPEN 1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE \$400  
LOCAL THEME SUBJECT 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE \$150

EXHIBITION OPEN:  
10am - 3.30pm WEEKENDS ONLY  
18 March - 9 April (Vintage/Classic Car Day)

experience  
YARRAWANGA STREET HERITAGE RAILWAY PRECINCT ROBERTSON

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - RHRS Management Committee meeting in the Fettlers Shed at 5.00pm.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 10:30 – 1pm entries to Fettlers Heritage Art Prize at the Fettlers Shed (please contact Anne Wilson or Penny Levett if you need an alternative drop off) <http://www.robertsonrailway.org.au/art.html>

Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March – 11am Fettlers Heritage Art Prize opening and announcement of prizes

Weekends 18<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April Fettlers Heritage Art Prize exhibition open 10am – 3:30pm

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 10am to 3pm History Group Robertson -drop in any time. Contact Helen Tranter  
*Note: Next dates April 12th and 26th.*

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017: Railway Modellers Group: 1pm to 4.30pm

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017: Railway Modellers Group: 1pm to 4.30pm

### Looking ahead to April 2017

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017: Garden working-bee 9.30am to 12.30pm; morning-tea provided. Contact Ian Wallace for further information on 0412 696 381.

Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017: **Classic Car Show and BBQ** from 10am to 2pm at the Railway Common and Fettlers Shed gallery.

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017: Transport Heritage NSW 'Easter Bunny Steam Train' shuttles departing Moss Vale for Robertson at 10.30am; 12 noon; 2.15pm and 3.45pm. Round-trip takes about 60 minutes.

Robertson Heritage Railway Station

# Classic CAR DAY

**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
**9.00am – 3:30pm**  
(GOLD COIN CAR ENTRY)

HISTORIC FARM MACHINERY  
RAILWAY AND ROBERTSON HISTORY DISPLAY  
WORKING MODEL TRAINS DISPLAY  
BBQ, FOOD, DRINKS & COFFEE  
ART SHOW IN FETTLERS SHED

ENQUIRIES: BOB – 0417 043 940  
E-Mail [president@beac.org.au](mailto:president@beac.org.au)

## Future visits to RHRS by heritage tourist trains

As most RHRS members would know, Robertson station has a recent history of receiving heritage tourist trains, notably the 'Cockatoo Run', on a regular basis.

Typically, in recent years the 'Cockatoo Run' visited Robertson on a twice-per month basis. We have also received steam train visits on a fairly regular, but less frequent basis.

Due to recent events, it appears that this is likely to change. Heritage train operator, 3801 Limited, which operates the 'Cockatoo Run', was evicted from its home base in Sydney, the Large Erecting Shop (LES) at the former Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops effective 1 February 2017. The eviction was by government agency Transport for NSW.



**Heritage diesel-electric locomotive 4918 leads the 'Cockatoo Run' train into Robertson station on its journey from Sydney on Sunday, 15 April 2012.**

Even though 3801 Limited's diesel-electric locomotives and carriages are still located within the LES, the locks have been changed and 3801 Limited is effectively "locked out".

Although there are several versions circulating of what might be happening, the official version given by Transport Heritage NSW, the heritage arm of Transport for NSW, is that the LES is to be converted to temporarily house the operating assets of several heritage train operators on a "shared usage" basis. This, of course, is likely to include Transport Heritage NSW itself.

Rumours circulating suggest that the LES is wanted by Transport for NSW to house XPT cars and electric train sets, while others suggest that the LES could form part of a land sale to a developer - but rumours may be just rumours.

Attempts have been made by RHRS to ascertain the correct version of what is likely to happen and whether RHRS will continue to receive regular visits from heritage tourist trains, as has been occurring for at least 30 years.

To date, nothing of certainty has been revealed so we are left in a degree of uncertainty. We have been advised by 3801 Limited that they would love to continue operating the 'Cockatoo Run' on a regular basis but they are unable to do so.

Transport for NSW has urged 3801 Limited to vacate the LES and to relocate its operational base to another place, to which 3801 Limited responds that there is nowhere suitable and economically viable to relocate to.

So there we have it – RHRS is effectively caught as the proverbial "meat in the sandwich".

We at RHRS will continue in our past and present role of welcoming any, and all, heritage tourist trains that visit our station – which is well-known within Transport heritage NSW.

The likelihood of future visits by heritage train operators to Robertson station is assessed as follows:

- 3801 Limited's 'Cockatoo Run'- uncertain/unlikely (but we keep hoping)
- Transport for NSW steam train – steam train shuttles between Moss Vale and Robertson as the 'Moss Vale Easter Bunny steam train' on Saturday, 15 April 2017; possible occasional visit after that.
- LVR steam train – not likely in 2017 as both steam locomotives (3237 & 5917) are undergoing maintenance
- Rail Motor Society/ARHS – possible, depending on what tours may be scheduled; possibility of stop at Robertson station for lunch
- Another operator – not likely

If there are any questions or comments on the above, please direct them to me on 0412 696 381.

It is not a bright future so far as train visits are concerned, but we remain hopeful, and RHRS will continue with its regular events in April and October as well as with what other opportunities present. One of these about to occur is the annual 'Fettlers Heritage Art Prize', details of which are herein.

**Ian Wallace**  
**Hon. President, RHRS**

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## RHRS Membership

Please consider making a contribution towards the maintenance of Robertson Heritage Railway Station and precinct by becoming a financial member or renewing your membership. (Membership runs for financial years.)

### Download a RHRS Membership Form from:

<http://www.robertsonrailway.org.au/rhrs-friends.html>

## RHRS Contacts

Ian Wallace	4885-2848:	Railway heritage, Trains
Neil Harvey	4885-2823:	Safety, Maintenance
Anne Wilson	4885-1598:	Fettlers Shed Gallery, Art, and Spring Events
Steve Carey	4885-2393:	Meetings, Outings
Rona Goold	4885 2393	Secretary and Website
Helen Tranter	4885-1394:	History of Robertson, Gardens
Andrew Bosa	4885-2623:	3801 Limited & LVR Volunteer
John Hopkins	0418-759-882	Restoration Techniques
Bob Payne	0417-043-940	Classic Cars
Rob Randall	4885-1282:	Old Farm Machinery
David Tranter	4885-1394:	Gardens, Aboriginal heritage

RHRS Contact us via our website <http://www.robertsonrailway.org.au/contact.html>

## Related Websites

RHRS:	<a href="http://www.robertsonrailway.org.au">www.robertsonrailway.org.au</a>
RHRS Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/robertsonrailway">https://www.facebook.com/robertsonrailway</a>
3801 Limited	<a href="http://www.3801limited.com.au">www.3801limited.com.au</a>
Lachlan Valley Railway	<a href="http://www.lvr.com.au">www.lvr.com.au</a>
Heritage Express	<a href="http://www.heritageexpress.com.au">www.heritageexpress.com.au</a>

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