



ROBERTSON HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION

NEWSLETTER

No 10

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75th ANNIVERSARY – OPENING OF ROBERTSON RAILWAY STATION and UNANDERRA-MOSS VALE RAILWAY LINE

On **18 August 2007** we will be celebrating the anniversary of the opening of the Robertson Railway Station and the Unanderra to Moss Vale link railway line on 20 August 1932. In conjunction with this event is the "South Coast and Southern Highlands Steam Spectacular" with 3801 and 3830 steam locomotives running from Sydney to Moss Vale and return, via Wollongong and Robertson. There will be a short stop-over of the train at Robertson Station. There will be special celebrations at Robertson Heritage Railway Station on the day to commemorate its 75th anniversary with special invited guests. Everyone is invited to join in on this special occasion.

PRESENTATION BY MIRIAM MARGOLYES

On **16 September 2007** Miriam Margolyes, a noted actress, celebrity and local resident, will be presented with a "Golden Spike" award. Miriam Margolyes will be interviewed by an ABC reporter on the day. There will not be a special train scheduled for this day but we would appreciate as many people as possible supporting this occasion.

VINTAGE/CLASSIC CAR DAY

Our annual vintage car fun day was a success, particularly when one considers the chancy weather (sun and showers) and the fact that it was held on Easter Sunday. There were around 40 cars all told. Trophies were given for best European, best Australian, best American, best Japanese and best British cars. The winners were selected by the car buffs and wonderfully appropriate trophies (chrome pistons) were awarded to the delight of the entrants. This is an annual event to be held every 2nd Sunday (market day) in April. Our special thanks go to Chris Bult and Murray Power for their organisation and management of the day. Well done boys! The added attraction of an excellent art show in the Fettle's Shed Gallery featuring paintings and drawings by Penny Levett and an excellent hot food kiosk run by Anne Wilson and her volunteers made for a happy family day for all.

SPRING FAIR

On the October long weekend, **29 September to 1 October**, Robertson will be holding its annual Spring Fair with plenty of items of interest for all. A special steam train from Sydney, hauled by 3801, has been scheduled for Sunday, 30 September.

SOUTHERN AURORA – 29 April 2007

The *Southern Aurora* special charter had travelled through Victoria and was returning to Sydney on 29 April. It was scheduled for a short stop over at Robertson on its return journey but due to an engine breakdown of one of the locomotives the train was running very late. As such the *Southern Aurora* could not stop at Robertson but went straight through.



"...here it comes"

"... and there it goes!"

VISIT BY STEAM LOCOMOTIVE 3112

We had better luck when the beautifully restored and grand old steam loco 3112 visited us on Sunday, 27 May, remaining at Robertson for 3 hours while passengers had lunch and otherwise occupied themselves.

This particular locomotive is over 92 years old and is still in excellent condition after having been lovingly restored by its owner, Barry Tulloch.



Steam Loco 3112 at Robertson 26 May 2007

The visit attracted a good deal of interest from people, including the local press, who came to see this beautifully restored old locomotive in steam.

Barry Tulloch advised us on 1 June 2007 that he had sold the locomotive, which had been on the market for a year or so. He advises that he still has three more runs with 3112 to honour commitments to 3801 Limited, and that 3112 was sold to a gentleman who, reportedly, owns properties in

country NSW as well as a castle in Great Britain. He also owns railway carriages and plans to operate 3112 in NSW, including some travel on country branch lines. Initially, it will operate in conjunction with 3801 Limited, continuing to be based at Eveleigh, in the Large Erecting Shop.

The following is a brief account of 3112:

Steam locomotive 3112, a member of the C30 class of locomotives, entered service with the NSW Railways on 4 November 1914. It had been built by Beyer, Peacock of Manchester, England, and was brought to Sydney by ship. It entered service bearing the number 1240 under the 1890 numbering system, a member of the, then, S class 4-6-4 side tank locomotives. A total of 145 such locomotives were constructed to improve services on Sydney's rapidly expanding suburban passenger network. Along with its sister engines, locomotive S 1240 was immediately put to work on suburban passenger services. It was renumbered 3112 in 1924 and continued on this work until its withdrawal from service in February 1972, clocking up some 2.4 million km. Between 1945 and its withdrawal in 1972, 3112 worked out of locomotive depots at Clyde, Eveleigh and Broadmeadow in operating suburban passenger services in the Sydney and Newcastle areas. It spent its last period of service working at Bathurst depot as a yard shunter.

After withdrawal, 3112 was sold to Lachlan Vintage Village at Forbes, along with several other NSW Rail locomotives. However, the original plans for this village did not eventuate and it was purchased by Barry Tulloch, an experienced fitter, who operated his own engineering business in Homebush, Sydney. The locomotive was transferred by low-loader from Forbes to Eugowra, then the terminus of the Cowra-Eugowra branch line. From Eugowra, it was conveyed by rail to the old roundhouse at Cowra, and with the cooperation of the Lachlan Valley Railway organisation based there, rebuilding commenced. The locomotive was painstakingly restored to operating condition and, over the years, many improvements have been made to keep 3112 serviceable and able to meet modern safety conditions. In association with 3801 Limited, Barry and 3112 have operated many tours through NSW, and have even travelled to Melbourne for a railway festival. They regularly participate in special steam events at Thirlmere and Maitland. For many years, 3112 has been based in the Large Erecting Shop at Eveleigh, near Redfern.

After 21 years of operating 3112 under a 'labour of love', Barry advises that, while it has been fun, it has also been demanding, and he has had enough. He is glad that he has been able to sell the locomotive to someone who is interested in keeping it operational. While 3112 has been a frequent visitor to Robertson over the years and has been enormously popular with passengers and visitors alike, it may yet steam to Robertson in the future. Watch this space!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM is usually held in August for the election of a new executive committee to manage our not for profit, volunteer organisation for another year. This year it will be held in the Fettle's Shed on **Thursday, 23 August, at 7.30pm**. This will be followed by a light supper, coffee and chat to welcome the new committee and talk with members about our achievements and aims for the future. This is our 75th birthday year and we are hosting major events such as the commemoration of the opening of the railway, the Miriam Margolyes interview and talk with Andy Ford and our annual railway Spring Fair. So spread the word that we are looking for a good roll up and a continuation of the excellent and committed management group we currently have.

GENERAL INTEREST

We are planning to improve the signage for the RHRS to make the public aware of what is on and be more readily directed to the Station site, whether they come by road or rail.

The Fettle's Shed now has a new roof due to obtaining a grant for the cost of its repair.



←Exotic Geranium
from 'Fettle's Shed'
Garden



Native Grevillea→
'Jubilee' from 'Bowling
Club' garden

The gardens have been greatly improved and we are endeavouring to get volunteers to help maintain designated small sections of the gardens at their leisure. If anyone is willing to assist with this please let us know through the above contact information.

RHRS has hosted many visits from heritage trains in recent times, have established a small railway museum within the station buildings and have substantially improved and enhanced the various buildings and grounds within the Railway precinct. Further, RHRS have erected a sculpture, designed by noted sculptor Bert Flugelman and constructed of used timber railway sleepers on the Village Common near the station to commemorate the workers who toiled on the construction of the link railway line during the years of the Great Depression. We have also had erected wooden carved poles in the "Commemorative Garden" signifying pioneers and original aboriginal land owners in the district.

We are endeavouring to attract more people to come to Robertson by heritage rail such as liaising with members of the new "Canopy 01" nature walk at Knight's Hill to find some common ground to work together for the good of both organisations.

FETTLERS SHED GALLERY

We invite people to place exhibitions in The Fettle's Shed Gallery and note that we would like those exhibiting to become registered as official members at a fee of \$5.00 which will cover them for public liability insurance under the RHRS insurance policy.

Wynne Gibson has had several e-mails from people who attended 'Get the Show' seminars in March who wrote (to the effect) they greatly appreciated how The Fettle's Shed

had organized the day and the excellent catering provided, as well as the publicity arranged through the Robertson Heritage Railway Station Inc.

They nearly all wanted to know if there will be “follow-up” workshops on (1) getting good media coverage, and (2) doing your own picture-framing. Wynne Gibson cannot promise a picture-framing workshop, but will liaise with Leanne Stefanac about that. She is willing to hold a practical (hands-on) workshop for anyone who wants practice in writing media releases and getting them placed. Anyone interested in such a workshop during October could e-mail Wynne Gibson at <wynne.gibson@bigpond.com>.

VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Regarding our previous request for volunteers for the roster to assist with the Railway Shop/Museum we advise that this roster will also cover manning the Gallery when there are exhibitions showing there – Sundays, 12 noon until 3pm.

Please note that the Gallery is temporarily unavailable in June only due to refurbishment.

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NOTICE OF TRAIN VISITS TO ROBERTSON

Sunday, 24 June 2007 – Steam locomotive 3801 will be hauling a special “Yuletide theme” train from Sydney ‘up the mountain’ to Robertson and proceeding on to Moss Vale. Many passengers will be dining at Ranelagh House. Arrival time at Ranelagh House is 12.15pm, Robertson 12.23pm; departure from Robertson 3.40pm, Ranelagh House 3.42pm, heading for Wollongong and Sydney.

Saturday, 30 June 2007 – Steam locomotive 3112 will be bringing a special Bill Peach tour ‘up the mountain’ with one car only and will stay at Robertson from 1.20pm to 2.50pm while the passengers have lunch, then will proceed to Bowral to drop off the passengers to continue their tour. The train will then return empty to Sydney.

Sunday, 1 July 2007 – Normal ‘Cockatoo Run’ from Sydney, arrive Robertson about 12.45pm, depart about 3.00pm (check with station to confirm times).

Saturday, 18 August 2007 – Advance notice “South Coast and Southern Highlands Steam Spectacular with 3801 and 3830 – celebrating 75 years of the Illawarra Mountain Railway and Robertson Railway Station”. The special train from Sydney, via Wollongong, is due to arrive at Robertson at 12.18pm, remain at the station for 30 minutes, then proceed to Moss Vale. On the return journey to Sydney, the train departs from Robertson at 3.30pm, travelling via Wollongong.

We would like as people as possible to visit the station on 18 August to join in with the extensive celebrations planned for the day. We expect it to be a great day. Activities commence at about 10.00am and will conclude after 3.45pm, following the departure of the special steam train. A detailed timetable of the day’s proceedings will be made available shortly.

COMING EVENTS AT THE STATION

2007 is our 75th Anniversary year

- Thursday, 14 June 2007 – 7.30pm - Business Meeting
- Sunday, 24 June 2007 - “Yuletide” train, with steam locomotive 3801.
- Saturday, 30 June 2007 – Steam locomotive 3112 on special “Bill Peach tour”.
- Sunday, 1 July 2007 – Normal “Cockatoo Run”
- Saturday, 18 August 2007 – South Coast and Southern Highlands Steam Spectacular / Commemoration Celebration, including steam train from Sydney hauled by steam locomotives 3801+3830.
- Sunday, 16 September 2007 - Visit by Miriam Margolyes - 11.00am (Presentation of “Golden Spike” Award)
- October Spring Festival – 28 September to 1 October 2007, including special steam train from Sydney on Sunday, 30 September.
- Sunday, 11 November 2007 – Special steam train from Sydney hauled by 3830.