ROBERTSON HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION

NEWSLETTER

No 13 Autumn 2008

Yarranga Street Robertson 2577
P.O. Box 212 Robertson NSW 2577
Telephone: (02) 4885 1256

VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAR DAY 2008
HISTORIC RAIL MOTOR CPH 18
HISTORIC WORKING MACHINERY & TRANSPORT DISPLAY
Sunday, 13 April 2008

Vintage & Classic Cars –

We will be hosting a Vintage and Classic Car Day including Pre-war to Classic Holdens, Fords and Leylands. There will be 'People's Choice' trophies for best British, American, Australian, European and Japanese classic cars 30 years and over, plus special prizes for the most original unrestored vehicle and 'Ladies' Choice'.

It is free general admission for all cars but a small fee of $10 applies for entry into the competition. Please contact Murray on 0407 903 857 or Chris on 02 4465 1616 (or e-mail: laurel.bank@bigpond.com).

Historic Rail Motor CPH18 –

Take a "ride back in time" on the beautifully restored Rail Motor CPH18. There are 6 trips between Robertson & Calwalla and Robertson & Mount Murray. With only 38 seats available on the Rail Motor there will be limited seats so DON'T MISS OUT! - book early by phoning 4885 1394 or 4885 2823 prior to the day or book at the Station office on the day from 9.30am.

Historic Working Machinery & "Changes in Transport" History Display –

There will be a very popular and interesting display of restored and functioning vintage working machinery in the "Robertson Common" grounds.

Also, the Fettlers Shed Gallery will be hosting a "Changes in Transport" Display and Exhibition of framed "collector cards" with a transport theme as part of The National Trust's Heritage Festival 2008 theme of "Our Place".

There will also be a kiosk selling food and drink, etc.

The Station and Grounds will be open from 9.30am.

This promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable day with free entry to the public so come along and join in to make the day a great success!

THE Fettlers SHED experience
ART GALLERY & EXHIBITION SPACE

The RHRS committee are very pleased to welcome Penny Levett as the new Gallery Manager. Penny's extensive background and expertise will be of great benefit to the "Fettlers Shed" Gallery.

What's On at the Fettlers Shed, Robertson Railway Precinct……..

"ONE POTATO, TWO POTATO…"

An educational and entertaining display of interesting facts about the potato and its history, to mark the International Year of The Potato, along with artworks depicting agricultural themes (and hopefully a potato or two), to mark the 100 years of South Coast Agricultural Shows.

The 'One Potato Two Potato' exhibition will run in conjunction with The Robertson Agricultural Show on ***Friday 29th Feb and Sat 1st March and continue on Sun 2nd March (10am - 4 pm)*** and ***all weekends in March until Easter***, when it will be turned over and a new exhibition experience will be planted in its place.

(Will possibly open one day mid-week also for school visits if anyone is interested and cares to make arrangements (Call Penny on 0408 610 714).

After Friday's showing there will be an official "POTATO BASH" from 5.30pm onwards, where official guests, show workers, locals and visitors can relax and celebrate the harvest of so much endeavour. Join the fun of a guessing competition (you guessed it – "how many potatoes in…?"), sampling potato products and enjoying the art of locals and Robertson's Potato history.

Anyone wishing to partake in a great cooking experience:
"ALL THE CLEAN DIRT ON THE MUCH MALIGNED SPUD" COOKING CLASSES
Barbara Sinden (local caterer and cooking demonstrator) will provide classes on ***Sun 2nd, Tues 4th, Thurs 6th and Wed 12th March from 10am – 12.30pm*** to show you things to do with potatoes that will really excite you - for

lunchboxes, everyday and impressive cheap entertaining.

Only $40 per person, lunch and surprise gift provided.

Please lodge your interest early so scheduling can be arranged to suit demand. Limited numbers 0408 610 714.

The following would be appreciated: Volunteers for "Potato Bash" night; loan of a fan-forced convection microwave oven; egg cartons; scrap wool and material etc. for "Mr Potato Head" competition; sponsors for exhibition panels and showbags. *(Contact Penny on 0408 610 714.)*

Helpers sought for the Gallery:

Penny is asking for volunteers who:-

Are interested in minding the gallery when the train comes in;
Are interested in sharing hobbies, existing skills or learn new skills, and can then teach others or share those skills – music, art, trades such as woodwork or handyman, etc;
Have homescience or nutrition training;
Have a product (homemade or otherwise) they wish to promote to the wider community;
Wish to raise money for a pet project/charity;
Have arts or crafts related to fruit and vegetable/agricultural;
Have a theme of saleable quality that is not already hanging in the Robertson Show or elsewhere – theme is important!
Anyone who wishes to participate in any other way that has not been thought of yet please *call Penny on 0408 610 714.*

"ILLAWARRA FLY" TREE TOP WALK

Further to our last newsletter, "Illawarra Fly" Tree Top Walk will be ***opened on 8 March 2008, with the official opening being on 17 April 2008***. It is an elevated tree-top walk 600-metres long and averages 20 metres about the forest floor. The tree-top walk provides the visitor with a magnificent rainforest experience and breathtaking views over the south coast and Pacific Ocean. It has the potential to attract large numbers of visitors to the highlands and therefore Robertson, the closest village. "Illawarra Fly" will attract national and international tourists and is an exciting future prospect for the Station and Robertson.

In conjunction with "Illawarra Fly", 3801 Limited and RHRS have arranged for a heritage train to Robertson for the "Illawarra Fly" visitors as another option of travelling to the area from Sydney via the coast and through the Highlands. Passengers who alight at Robertson will be transported by coach to and from Knights Hill. This is a tourist package inclusive of train, bus and tree-top walk experience and we hope that visitors will also spend time in the township of Robertson. Initially this magnificent combination of train journey and scenic experiences will ***commence on Sunday, 16 March***, then after that will run every Thursday and Sunday.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION GROUP

The Heritage Conservation Group is up and running well. The Fettlers/Perway Shed has been tidied up and is being prepared for restoration.

The group was able to obtain some pieces of equipment used by Fettlers in the past. The group acknowledges the generosity of the NSW Rail Transport Museum for some pieces they donated. Also the NSWRTM is allowing us to borrow a Villiers Quadricycle to display for two weeks. The Quadricycle is thought to be of the same type that was used at Robertson years ago. The Quadricycle and Fettlers/Perway Shed should be ready to view by 13 April, the day the RHRS hosts the visit by Rail Motor CPH 18 and the Vintage Car Day.

The current Lamp Shed, which currently stores pieces of gardening equipment, will also be tidied up and prepared so that it will also display artifacts and information about the Station's history.

Again, we ask if any members would like to contribute equipment, articles or their time we would very much appreciate their input. Should you wish to get involved please feel free to contact (02) 4885 2823 or sassafrasgrove@westnet.com.au

TRIPS AWAY

The RHRS will be conducting possible tours to relevant heritage sites in 2008. Some example of sites to be visited include Goulburn, Crookwell, Yass, Canberra, Oberon, Thirlmere and if this goes well even to sites further away like Tenterfield.

RAILWAY STATION FAIR
in conjunction with SPRINGTIME IN ROBERTSON

Just a reminder that the Railway Station Fair will take place on the long weekend, 4 & 5 October, which is the first weekend of the Springtime in Robertson events. We will provide further details in upcoming newsletters.

COMING EVENTS AT THE STATION

****** Please note amendments to previous newsletter timetable ******

- "Cockatoo Run" loop train runs every second Sunday of the month in conjunction with the Robertson Markets. The "Cockatoo Run" will bring tourists to the "Illawarra Fly" for the first time on 16 March and then will be bringing tourists on Thursdays and Sundays as part of a tourist package.
- Sunday, 13 April 2008 – Vintage & Classic Car Day, CPH18 Rail Motor short trips to Calwalla & Mount Murray, & Historic Working Machinery.
- Sunday, 1 June 2008 – Steam charter train to Robertson
- Sunday, 15 June 2008 – Robertson round trip (out via south, back via Illawarra)
- Sunday, 3 August 2008 – Robertson round trip (out via south, back via Illawarra)
- Sunday, 26 October 2008 – Steam up the escarpment to Fountaindale Grand Manor (Ranelagh House) and Robertson