



ROBERTSON HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION

NEWSLETTER

No 22

Winter 2011

Yarranga Street Robertson 2577
P.O. Box 3212 Robertson NSW 2577
Telephone: (02) 4885 1256

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday, 22 September 2011
commencing at 5.30pm**

Members and visitors welcome. There will be the Annual General Meeting followed by a short business meeting and light refreshments.

If anyone would like to take on a committee position please submit a nomination beforehand. Also, if anyone has any information they wish to share in relation to the Railway Station generally we would welcome any interest.

WARATAH SPRING FAIR

**Sunday, 9 October 2011
commencing at 9.00am**



**Venue: Robertson Heritage Railway Station
Common
Yarranga Street, Robertson**



- **Waratah Flower Show** – Waratah species in magnificent bloom in Station gardens, displays and sale of flowers and plants
- **Open Gardens**
- **Flower Arranging Competition** – Entries to Gallery by 4-6pm on Saturday, 8 October or 9am on Sunday, 9 October. Enquiries phone 4885 1598

- Display of old **historic farm and working machinery**
- **'Fettlers Shed' Art Gallery**
- **Miniature Railway** and miniature steam train rides (outdoor)
- **Model train** display (indoor)
- **Railway history museum** – display and old artefacts
- A **Band** will provide music on the day
- There will also be a **Kiosk** selling food and cold drinks – also special coffee and delicious icecreams are available
- Also, visit the **Robertson Village Markets** just a short walk away (300 metres)

This promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable day for all the family with free entry to the public. So come along to the Robertson Railway Common and join in to make the day a great success!

**Further information: Phone 02 4885 1598 or Website
www.robertsonrailway.com.au**



GRAHAM CARPENTER ROOM

The main room of the Fettlers Shed Gallery was formally named the "*Graham Carpenter Room*" in a small ceremony on Saturday, 9 July 2011, during a visit from the steam-hauled Heritage Express tourist train. Graham was one of the founding members of the small group that undertook the revitalization of the railway precinct over 8 years ago. As a retired master builder, he generously donated his time and knowledge to the conversion of the very basic fettlers building into the attractive Gallery we enjoy today.

Graham's widow, Robyn, and daughter Dianne, were present when Steve Carey, President of RHRS Inc., named the room, which now features an attractive sign in railway station mode, proclaiming it to be the "Graham Carpenter Room". Dianne said that her dad never considered the work at the Station to be a chore because he was doing tasks that he loved to do. Well done Graham and our thanks to Neil Harvey for designing and commissioning the sign from 'Johno Signs'. Robyn thanked RHRS and all concerned for this thoughtful gesture.

STEAM TRAIN VISITS

Unfortunately there have not been many steam train visits this year but we are expecting a "Heritage Express" steam train "**Southern Highlander**" to visit on **Saturday, 22 October 2011**, when the train will travel from Sydney via Picton to Robertson, spend time at the Robertson Station, then return to Sydney via the Illawarra.

RHRS MODELLERS GROUP

For about 2 years one of our members Stuart Ward has been a driving force behind the development of the RHRS Modellers Group. His role has included engaging young people to join in the group and participate in developing a display of HO gauge model trains. In addition to that Stuart also accompanied the group's members on outings to various model train exhibitions and railway museums.

Stuart has now resigned from that role and the RHRS owes a debt of gratitude for his enthusiasm and guidance. His dedication to this role is very much appreciated and shall be missed.

Neil Harvey and Ron Middleton have now taken over as the "mentors" for this group of about 6 members. The "new guard" will design a layout and have made a commitment for it to be up and running ahead of the 80th Anniversary of Robertson Heritage Railway Station likely to be held in October 2012. A lot has to be done and we are appealing for any young person who may be interested in joining this group to contact us.

POINTS OF INTEREST FOR TRAIN / RAILWAY ENTHUSIASTS

When the RHRS Publicity Officers were travelling through part of New South Wales and South Australia we came across many interesting railway artefacts, museums and so forth. Following are only some of the points of interest encountered along the way:-



Broken Hill - A unique town full of interesting history and points of interest. Their Railway Museum is very comprehensive and a "must see". It includes rail of course but also many other historical artefacts from the community.



Silverton, NSW –an old historic mining just a short trip out of Broken Hill – At the large picnic and camping reserve at Silverton there is an old steam engine on display on the grounds. Of course Silverton is also well known as the place where Mad Max was filmed.



Peterborough, SA – At the end of the township is a very well presented Railway Museum which the volunteers have put a lot of time and love into the project. They conduct day tours which are very comprehensive and interesting. We highly recommend that anyone visiting the Museum should also go to the night-time presentation of "**Light and Sound Show**". It is a very effective, professional and yet moving presentation of the history of the railway in that region. If we pass by Peterborough again we will go again since it was so good. The work and dedication of the volunteers is to be highly commended.



Port Adelaide, SA – We were glad that we made a visit to this Museum as it is so extensive and well-presented with interest for the whole family, particularly in school holiday season. There must have been enormous funding, time and dedication to have put this huge expanse of museum space plus tourist mini-train track together – takes quite a lot of time to look around and the exhibits are all in amazingly restored condition. They have gone to great lengths to make the exhibits accessible whether being able to go inside or simply look through from the outside. We were very impressed at the extent of the work done to bring this Museum to the public in such an organised and presentable way.



The Old Ghan Railway Line - We ran across the old line quite a few times on our way to the northern part of SA. In particular Quorn, Parachilna, Farina (a ghost town now which is being restored,) Marree, Coward Springs etc. Even today you can come across relics of the past including water cranes, old stations and accompanying buildings, quadricycles, old rusty dog spikes, the remnants of old wooden sleepers, bridges and the like. What a trip it must have been in the old days where trains could be delayed by weeks at times due to wash-outs of the line, break-downs etc. But when it was running...what a ride!



***** COMING EVENTS AT THE STATION *****

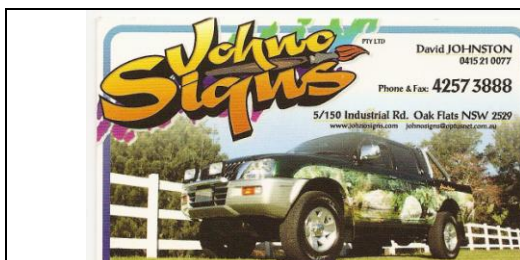
Please note the following websites for updated train information:

www.heritageexpress.com.au or www.3801limited.com.au or www.robertsonrailway.com.au

- “Cockatoo Run” loop train generally runs every second Sunday of the month in conjunction with the Robertson Markets. Tickets can be purchased at the Railway Station for the “loop” run from Robertson Railway Station. to Moss Vale (return) before returning in the afternoon to Sydney. On some Sundays, and occasionally on Thursdays, the “Cockatoo Run” brings tourists to the “Illawarra Fly” in a tourist package which includes a bus which transports them between the “Illawarra Fly” and the Station. **For updated details of trains running and times you need to consult the website - www.3801limited.com.au.**

The Robertson Heritage Railway Station is a voluntary community initiative liaising with 3801 Limited, a Sydney heritage train firm also manned by volunteers

- Waratah Spring Fair – Sunday, 9 October 2011, from 9.00am
- “Southern Highlander” Heritage Express Steam train visit – Saturday, 22 October 2011.



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