



ROBERTSON HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION

NEWSLETTER

No 24

Winter/Spring 2012

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012 and NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF RHRS

Notice is given of the **Annual General Meeting** of the Robertson Heritage Railway Station Inc. to be held on **Thursday, 13 September 2012, at 7.00pm** in the Fettle's Shed Gallery at the Station. Current members, new members and anyone wishing to become a member of the committee are always welcome at this meeting and any monthly meetings.

The following positions on the committee are to be filled and we invite any nominations for such positions to be submitted to the Secretary, Ian Wallace, by 10 September 2012: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Committee positions such as Minutes Secretary, Publicity Officer/s, and co-ordinators for the station, gardens, safety, buildings and maintenance will also be filled.

Nominations can be posted to Ian Wallace c/o Robertson Heritage Railway Station, PO Box 3212, Robertson, NSW, 2577, or forwarded by email to ianandsandraw@gmail.com. If you have any further enquiries please contact Ian Wallace on 02 4885 2848.

Light refreshments will be provided and we look forward to you joining us. Also, our monthly **Business Meeting** will precede the AGM (at 5.30pm) and you are also most welcome to attend this.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPENING OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN UNANDERRA & MOSS VALE Celebrations on Saturday, 13 October 2012



- ❖ Visit by iconic steam engines 3642 and 3265. Come see and hear these magnificent engines
- ❖ Robertson Public School children will march to greet the steam train, re-enacting the first march in 1932
- ❖ Three mounted lighthorse-men in full regalia will also greet the train.
- ❖ Robertson School Choir

- ❖ Invited dignitaries including Minister for Transport, Member for Kiama, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Larry Whipper (a founding member of RHRS Inc.)
- ❖ Cutting of large celebratory cake by one of the original (1932) children and a currently enrolled school child
- ❖ Brass band and Piper
- ❖ Station and grounds will be ablaze with stunning waratah flowers – Open Garden
- ❖ Old time working farm machinery
- ❖ History display in station building
- ❖ Gallery open featuring photographs of NSW railways
- ❖ Perway Shed open displaying railway artefacts
- ❖ Model train display
- ❖ Miniature train rides on live steam-hauled locos & Jumping castle
- ❖ Food, drink and excellent coffee
- ❖ Waratah flowers & plants, souvenirs and pre-loved books will be on sale as well as other stalls
- ❖ Free admission & plenty of parking

For more information see www.robertson.nsw.au or www.robertsonrailway.com.au or contact Neil or Marion on 4885 2823



ALSO DURING WEEKEND OF SATURDAY 13TH & SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER

- ❖ 'Waratah Tractor Trek' (Saturday) and 'Aussie Ladies Tractor Run' (Sunday) - drive past and display
- ❖ Open Gardens around Robertson
- ❖ Botanical Art Exhibition at "Light Horse Gallery"
- ❖ Arts and Crafts in Robertson including "Village Woodworks"

- ❖ Robertson Markets
- ❖ Eating venues around Robertson

For more information see www.robertson.nsw.au or contact Phillip on (02)48851368 (Open Gardens); Pauline McFetridge on 0412 819 848 (Tractor Runs); and "Light Horse Gallery" on (02) 4885 1171 (Botanical Art)

This promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable special day of celebrations, together with a variety of interests for everyone throughout Robertson over the whole weekend. So come along and join in to make our celebrations and the whole weekend in Robertson a great success!

NOTE Volunteers needed: If you would like to come to planning meetings or are able to help on the day please contact Anne Wilson, our event organizer (ph. 4885 1598). Your help on this our biggest day of the next decade would be just wonderful. Please come along.



VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAR DAY IN APRIL - REPORT

April's Vintage Car day was a great success. The Railway Common was almost completely filled with classic Australian, American, European cars and commercial vehicles. There was also a trophy for the best unrestored classic car. The winners of each category received a hand crafted trophy of a burnished railway dogspike mounted on a stained native timber base. These trophies are unusual and are prized by the contestants. This was our best result in terms of public attendance and patronage of the Loop Train to Moss Vale. A sunny autumn day, leaves turning russet, beautiful, impeccably turned out vehicles, good coffee and our hot food kiosk, provided the recipe for a memorable day. Next year may be an even bigger event and we are seeking extra space from the Bowling Club to handle any overflow of cars. Well done to all our volunteers who worked long and hard to prepare for the day.

Steve Carey, President

STEAM TRAIN VISIT ON 21 JULY - REPORT

On Saturday, 21 July, 2012, the "Southern Highlander" steam train special run by Heritage Express (NSW Rail Transport Museum) visited Robertson. The train was composed of green-painted express passenger locomotive 3642, looking great and working well, after its recent overhaul, followed by bogie water gin and ten

passenger cars, with heritage diesel-electric locomotives 4490 and 44211 providing rear-end assistance. The train arrived from Sydney via Wollongong and departed later in the day for Sydney via Picton. Fortunately for all concerned, the day was fine with sunny to slightly overcast conditions.

The heritage train conveyed some 400 passengers and Robertson businesses, particularly eateries, had been given advance notice of hundreds of train passengers descending on the village, most of them looking for a feed. That these businesses responded admirably to this challenge is a credit to them, as many satisfied and smiling passengers returned to the train ready for a 3pm departure.

The arrival of the train at Robertson on the forward journey was a bit of a hiccup as the heritage train was placed into the loop at Robertson immediately on arrival, so that a close-following grain train could overtake it. Whilst some confusion and other emotions prevailed while the heritage train was standing in the loop, the train soon reversed out of the loop and re-entered the station precinct, this time on the main line so that the hundreds of passengers could disembark. None of the passengers seemed perturbed at the false entry into Robertson and soon went about exploring the town and sampling its attractions. While passengers went about their visit, the heritage train again reversed out of the station to enable 3642 to take on several one-tonne bags of coal. The train again went into the loop at Robertson, where water was taken and many people were able to admire the heritage train, particularly the gleaming 3642.

An on-time departure of the train in beautiful winter sunshine concluded what had been a very enjoyable day for the passengers and for RHRS. Our kiosk in the Fettle's Shed and the station shop staffed by our volunteers both recorded good takings. Enquiries by RHRS of local businesses shortly afterwards revealed that businesses generally did well out of the day, albeit very busy while the train was at Robertson. The organisation by both Heritage Express and RHRS was tested, but succeeded. Well done to all concerned.

NSW Rail Transport Museum Chairman, Peter Berriman, in his recent Chairman's Report in the house magazine *Roundhouse*, commented "Our operations in July were rounded off by a very successful and heavily booked *Southern Highlander* on 21 July, hauled by 3642 with diesel assistance. With 3642 now in excellent shape, our main line steam operations are going extremely well.

Ian Wallace



A ROBERTSON HISTORY GROUP

Over several years, Ian Foster and I collected material about the history of Robertson, early buildings, occupations, founding families etc. and there were regular history days in the Fettle's Shed. As a result there is a lot of stored material, much more than in the railway station, which could be of interest to a wider group of people. Collecting Robertson history was one of the original aims of the RHRS so there is the opportunity to set up a group within RHRS and the Fettle's Shed would be available for regular meetings.

So if you are interested in the history of Robertson or if you know of any friends or neighbours who would be interested, please contact me (ph.4885 1394) or call in at the station on a day the train comes, to talk about this.

Helen Tranter

BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE

Like all buildings, those in the RHRS precinct need ongoing attention. It is the aim of the committee to maintain the buildings and grounds in excellent condition.

The station building itself has been in need of ongoing care. The window sills, on the north facing side in particular, were in need of repairs and this has been done. In addition the door and window frames require re-painting. This is gradually being done by committee members. Hopefully the painting will be complete sufficiently enough for our 80th anniversary celebrations. We also need to clean down some walls.

The Fettle's Shed Gallery has had its hot water system replaced, this time with a smaller, more economical type. The old HWS lasted many years but it failed and required replacement. Also, plumbing within the building has required some maintenance. This was completed very recently.

As you are probably aware we have extensive grounds and gardens that need attention; buildings need care and maintenance and so on. If you are able to help in

any way your efforts would be very much appreciated. Any help preparing for special days (eg Vintage Car Day, special tourist train visits etc) would also be very welcome.

Neil Harvey

JUNIOR RAILWAY MODELERS' GROUP

This small group has been making good progress in recent times to our HO scale layout in the Fettle's Shed Gallery building. We now have the basis of a back scene, two tunnels and a rocky landscape leading eventually to two stations, a number of sidings, a bridge and a small shunting yard. Plaster of Paris, painting and other modeling techniques are being applied to complete the scene. The railway line itself is having remote points controls put in place soon.

The group was fortunate to have received a generous donation of model railway parts earlier this year. We still need more rolling stock and locos suitable for travelling around tight corners, houses, buildings and other bits and pieces to finish it off. If anyone would like to donate any HO scale products we would be delighted to receive them. If so, please contact Neil Harvey on 4885 2823.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES of \$5.00 are now due and should be made payable to RHRS, and mailed to Anne Wilson, Treasurer, at our postal address above. As a paid member you are also covered for public liability issues while on the Station grounds and also fees assist towards the maintenance of the Station precinct.

*** 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

- 80th Anniversary Celebrations – Saturday, 13 October 2012 with some interests at the Station and throughout Robertson carrying over to Sunday 14 October 2012