



# ROBERTSON HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION

## NEWSLETTER

No 26

Autumn 2013

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

### VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAR DAY

Well another Vintage Car Day has come and gone and it was again a great success. This was the fifth of these autumn events we have hosted. The 2013 event on Sunday 14th April dawned fine and sunny to our great relief. The hardy band of railway volunteers set about preparing for the day: putting up marquees, setting out signs, creating the entry point for the vintage and classic cars that began to pour in after 9.00am, setting out food and facilities for our kiosk, welcoming the Berrima District old farm equipment group with their wonderful old pumps and machines, and greeting the mobile coffee man with alacrity. Then the Furies arrived in time to help the many beautifully turned out classic cars park in an orderly fashion so that they could be admired by all the visitors and other contestants.

The station was open and the Cockatoo Run train arrived with a happy load of passengers to join in the fun. The Loop Train to Moss Vale was very popular with around 70 passengers enjoying the trip across the Highlands. The Railway Common was thronged with people and the car contestant area was at capacity. The Fettle's Shed Gallery had an interesting display of local art and the Village markets at the School of Arts provided another attraction for the visitors to enjoy. Shops and cafes, including the Bowl and the Pub, did great business.

So all the hard work by the Committee and volunteers paid off and generated funds to enable our not for profit railway group to continue to host tourist trains and look after the railway precinct. A terrific effort from the tired but satisfied band of workers. Our thanks to the local Bushfire Brigade and to our district Police who put some classic pursuit cars of the 70's on show as well as the latest turbo charged versions. This was of great interest to all and something we will try to do again.

The winners of the various car categories are:-

*American* – 1948 Buick Convertible – **Anthony Huckle** from Catherine Fields.

*Australian* – 1959 Holden Special – **George Schembri** from Girraween.

*British* – 1965 Lotus Cortina – **Geoff Bayliss** from Macarthur District.

*European* – 1966 Volvo P1800 – **Dana Jennings** from Cronulla.

*Original & Unrestored* – 1970 Valiant Pacer – **Jack Albronda** from St Clair.

*Commercial* – 1948 Ford Pickup – **David Peisley** from Koonawarra.

*Best in Show* – 1927 Chev. Tourer – **Ray Hatcher** from Avoca.

So the weather smiled on us, the autumn colours glowed, car contestants and "show and shiners" arrived in numbers to enjoy our pretty village, and a well patronised tourist train to boot. A truly good day. It fulfilled one of our core aims which is to promote tourism in the Highlands. Hopefully many of the visitors will return again to enjoy the area. Like all outdoor events in the highlands good weather is the absolute bottom line for success. Here is hoping that next year's event is as good. Well done to all.

*Steve Carey, President*



Top left Chevrolet Top right: Police cars; Bottom left: McCormack Deering Standard Vintage tractor; Bottom right: You couldn't miss this one!

*Photos by Ian Wallace*

### COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS GRANT

**(Gareth Ward, State Member for Parliament)**

Towards the end of 2012 RHRS applied for funding to add a large awning to the eastern side of the *Fettle's Shed Gallery*. We are very pleased to announce that we have been successful in our application and we received a grant of \$14,000 for this project.

The RHRS committee is particularly grateful to Member for Kiama, Gareth Ward, who supported our grant application. The new extension will provide much needed cover for various events

throughout the year, often during times of inclement weather.

The quadrilateral extension is 14.5 metres long and has an average width of about 6 metres, which provides very good cover. We will also have two outside power points installed. The floor will be laid with concrete pavers.

*Neil Harvey, Committee Member*

### **A VERY QUICK VISIT BY 3642 and 3265**

On Sunday 5 May, Robertson played host to a steam train for only 30 minutes! The steam train was hauled by 3265 and 3642. Loco 3265 was built in NSW in consultation with Beyer Peacock and Co in 1902. 3642, the younger of the two, was built in 1926 by Clyde Engineering NSW. Both these engines have been restored and are widely used on tourist trains.

On 5 May the heritage train came to Moss Vale as part of their 150 years celebrations. This allowed just a short time for the train to make its way to Robertson. It did give some train buffs a good photographic opportunity and who can resist a steam engine anyway!



3642 & 3265 arrive at Robertson for a 30 minute visit  
Photo: Ian Wallace

### **STEAM DAY on 28 September 2013 and WARATAH OPEN GARDEN on 12-13 October 2013**



This year we will not be having the usual Waratah Spring Fair but will be dividing the event into two parts to coincide with both a steam train visit to Robertson and the Robertson Open Gardens.

### **HERITAGE SIGNAL DONATION**

For those familiar with the Robertson Bowling Club you may know that currently a railway signal is situated on the northern end of the Club's car park. It is believed this signal is the very one that was placed on the railway track to the west of the railway station. The Bowling Club has very generously donated this important heritage railway item to RHRS.

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

*Please note the following websites for updated train information:*

[www.heritageexpress.com.au](http://www.heritageexpress.com.au) or [www.3801limited.com.au](http://www.3801limited.com.au) or [www.robertsonrailway.com.au](http://www.robertsonrailway.com.au)

- **“Cockatoo Run” loop train** visits to Station on 9 & 26 May, 5 & 9 June and 14 July. 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](http://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*

- **Saturday, 27 July 2013** - Steam train visit – see [info@heritageexpress.com.au](mailto:info@heritageexpress.com.au).
- **Saturday, 28 September 2013** – Steam Day with a visit from a heritage steam-hauled locomotive and other interests on the day.
- **Saturday/Sunday, 12/13 October 2013** – Waratah Open Garden.