



RAIL HERITAGE WA

Members Newsletter

November 2008



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Friday 14 November 8pm Entertainment Meeting – Lindsay Watson will make a presentation on the Peak Hill Tramway (constructed 1929-1931) which used G class locos.

Friday 12 December 8pm Entertainment and Christmas Social Meeting

Bring along your slides (and a plate of food) to share!

Membership

For your information and anticipation the next issue of the Westland is at the printer and will be sent out with the December mailout.

Ideas are being put in place for our **50th Anniversary** celebrations next year. In February the monthly meeting will have speakers reflecting on our history and hopefully some interesting pictures too. There will be a special publication for the 50th anniversary, so why not start writing your memories or funny stories and sorting out those photos of Society activities. In March a catered social evening is planned and so on. A train trip and historical activity will be amongst other activities. Do you have any ideas? Bring them along to a meeting and share them or pass onto one of the members of your Council? (Ed: we'd be delighted if you could help organise something too!)

Museum (Philippa Rogers)

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER -RailFest was another great day and the participation from kindred bodies and ARG was a key factor in this outcome. What wonderful sausage sizzle cooks the ARG staff were!!! Their product was in great demand! And the presence of Q 4016 for display was an attraction enjoyed by the hundreds who attended the day. Thank you to all those you assisted in any way.

Numbers were a little less than last year but this did not detract from the success of the day. It is intended that, as next year is our 50th Anniversary year and the 20th anniversary of the first RailFest, 2009 will see our best RailFest yet.

Increased opening hours – Council has agreed that in 2009 we will trial a change in our opening hours. Beginning from 1 March the museum will be open on Wednesdays and Sundays each week, but not open on public holidays – these always cause a problem as to whether we are open or not!

Wednesday openings will be in school hours and it is hoped that this will provide a timeslot for school groups, etc. The WAMRC will also be open on those days.

We are therefore looking for someone to be responsible for the Wednesday openings for the year i.e. open and close the museum as well as staff the kiosk / take tour groups. **To acknowledge the commitment by an individual to do this we are offering a reasonable honorarium to cover costs of travel and recognise the on-going commitment.** Volunteer assistants for the kiosk will be on a roster and we will undertake a special recruitment campaign outside the Society in an endeavour to increase the number of people available. We do hope that those on the usual Wednesday school holiday rosters will be part of this as the school holiday time slots will continue to be an important part of our public openings.

If you are interested in this Wednesday position, or know of someone who may be interested, – then please contact Philippa on pmrogers@iinet.net.au or evenings on 9379 1424 or weekends at the museum or on 0417 961187. We will need to start promoting these changes early in 2009!

Life after Midland Workshops – the saga continues

To accommodate the rollingstock that had been / is still located at Midland as well as the new donation of the old Prospector Railcar and trailer we need to have a further 500m of trackage. 260m of this must accommodate standard gauge – including the proposed museum display tracks.

It had been hoped that land to the west (owned by WaterCorp) could be utilised as part of our expansion program. However engineering advice from that organisation has been that we cannot. We have been more fortunate in recent negotiations with the Town of Bassendean and have been able to secure land that will enable a new parking area and space for four 18m vehicles as well as separate access to services from May Holman Drive. This has yet to be approved by Landgate and so it could take 6 -12 months before this land is available for development.

Your Council is therefore supporting the proposals by Dowerin Shire for a facility in that area (both in town and at Minnivale) as well as the opportunity for a small changing display in a purpose built shed at Walkaway. Our involvement with Boyanup is also now critical to the future of our collection and more vehicles can be sent there but roof cover will be needed.

As part of the process a re-evaluation of why we have some items in our collection will occur, though any disposal is expected to be quite limited and will generally reflect duplications of items.

The Midland Development Authority (MRA) have written to us in the last month and advised that we need to empty the storage area that they provided for us in the Oil Store. This contains palletised parts (now unobtainable elsewhere), furniture and machinery for workshop use – stored there in anticipation of our return to Block 1 after the asbestos roof was replaced. So a major storage problem is now approaching in addition to that already faced at the museum. Container storage is one of the options being considered. But once again our efforts are being directed to activities demanded by an outside body and this means that both day-to-day work and strategic planning energies are directed elsewhere. We certainly need more people prepared to assist in the actual 'doing' of things.

The proposed replacement of the roof area at the rear of the site into a workshop is

essential to our future but the very construction of such a facility means that the rollingstock stored in it will have to be displaced and so we will have less trackage available. It is essential that the MRA continue to store the remaining items there for us whilst this is undertaken and that the other options listed above are undertaken as expediently as possible. There are solutions and we should end up with an excellent museum and workshop facility but it will take time and a massive commitment from our volunteers.

Situation Vacant – Newsletter editor / compiler

This is a task that can be undertaken in the comfort of your home at a time you choose! Email communication is essential to ensure current news. You don't even have to visit the museum – in fact you could live in the country or even interstate.

However the current 'fill-in' editor will **not** be able to do this after December. As there is no mailout in January then we need a new editor for February 2009 and beyond.

Please contact Philippa on pmrogers@iinet.net.au or evenings on 9379 1424 or weekends at the museum or on 0417 961187 to discuss this.

Museum Roster (Paul Collin)

DATE	KIOSK/SALES	SITE SUPERVISION	OPEN/CLOSE
Sun 16 Nov	C Lofthouse J Austin	<i>Vol Reqd</i>	P Collin
Sun 23 Nov	S Rayner P Vanderwal	D Inglis	G Watson
Sun 30 Nov	G Higham R Higham	T Gillett	P Collin
Sun 7 Dec	A Higgs K Freind	<i>Vol Reqd</i>	K Freind
Sun 14 Dec	A Drakeford S Rayner	T Gillett	G Watson
Sun 21 Dec	P van der Wal P Tranter	<i>Vol Reqd</i>	P Collin
Sun 28 Dec	P Rohan A De Smalen	T Gillett	A DeSmalen

Note: Not opening Wed 24 December.

School holiday Wednesday openings start 31 December.

The museum will not be open on public holidays in December and January. This is consistent with the practice of the last two years.