



# RAIL HERITAGE WA

*Members Newsletter*

*April 2009*



## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### **Friday 17 April at 8pm. Member's Slide Night**

Please note the change of date for the April meeting. This has been necessary due to the normal meeting night landing on Good Friday.

Bring along your slides to share. In keeping with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we would like the subject to be any slide taken in WA since 1959 – covering the time and the territory of ARHS (WA Div).

### **Friday 8 May at 8pm. Slides by Noel Zeplin**

Entertainment will be a selection of slides taken by Noel Zeplin in W.A. from the 1960s. As well as slides from the then W.A.G.R. network, it is hoped to include some shots of iron ore railways in the Pilbara in the early years of operation of Goldsworthy Mining, Hamersley Iron and Mount Newman.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner (Ian Studham)**

Saturday 28th March saw the 50th Anniversary celebrations continue with a sizeable group of nearly 70 members and friends enjoying an evening Barbeque buffet under the main exhibition roof at the Railway Museum. Festivities started shortly after 5 with the main course served at 6.30.

Geoffrey Higham had mustered a number of individuals into supplying and scanning photos of members involved in Society activities over many years and the resultant power point slideshow was very much enjoyed by all present. Many members present were featured as much younger individuals.

The President Mr. Brian Williams made a short speech welcoming all assembled and thanking those who had organised the event, then presented a bouquet of flowers to long serving Councillor Philippa Rogers who has recently retired from Council duties.

### **President's Report (Brian Williams)**

The response to the Dinner on 28 March was excellent and all present had an enjoyable time and meal.

Thanks go to Philippa Rogers for her efforts in organising the evening and to Derek Wooldridge for assisting with the bookings and for being 'cashier' on the night.

The evening was spoilt later when the Museum was again attacked by graffiti vandals.

Council accepted with regret the resignation of Philippa Rogers owing to work commitments. Council will look at ways and means of overcoming this loss and will in

due course be seeking assistance from the membership in this regard. Please give some thought to representing not only yourself, but the membership, on Council.

I will be away for the next four weeks touring western China and will return in time for the May meeting. By the time you receive this, Easter will well and truly be over and I hope that the Easter Bunny was good to you.

### **Rollingstock Report (Ian Studham)**

Work on AYC 150 continues, with the focus being on the finishing touches for some areas, including final varnishing around the entry vestibules and toilet end. New laminated glass has been provided for the centre draught-screens and the centre doors. Also, new carpet has been purchased for this vehicle at a very reasonable price, thanks to Dominic Bennet for sourcing and co-ordinating this. Once the old carpet has been removed and the new installed the long awaited process of re-installing the seats can begin. With all the finished fixtures and trim now in place on the interior walls, this car is beginning to look very impressive.

Alan and Jean are partway through a complete repaint of MRWA General Manager's saloon KA 17. The last time this car received major attention was prior to the Centenary of The Midland Railway excursion in 1994. One of the resident carpenter magicians, Derek, is also performing some remedial repairs on the curved roof fascias at the east end, and is also finishing a long standing job of re-installing the roof fascias along each side of the car.

Geoffrey is toiling away on the north side roof of the bullion van, where during recent months he has effected extensive roof-stick repairs. Once he is satisfied that the timbers in that area are properly prepared for re-canvassing attention will turn to the crown of the roof where some remedial work needs to occur around the vent openings.

John Brown continues on his quest to repair and renovate the end communication doors on the various "Australind" cars. Without exception these doors require re-hinging to some extent, along with trueing and re-building of the bottom where they have been dragging across the floor and treadplate.

Neil is making slow headway re-lining the freight doors on the ABCY Standard Gauge relay van. Most of these doors underwent almost complete rebuilds and much work is needed around the doorways to get them back to a state where they seal properly.

Ian S is back dealing with the side fascias and roof guttering of sleeping car AQZ 423, installing secondhand teak fascia boards rescued from elsewhere to replace the badly split jarrah boards formerly in use. Work will continue down the north side of the car replacing life expired masonite panels with new ply.

Allan Lee and Colin are plugging away inside and out on workmans van J1, having re-started this long-dormant project. The results are obvious.

The FOF's continue to diligently attack the many components from the Lake View and Star locomotive, concentrating on cleaning up the many mechanical parts prior to starting the re-assembly of what is currently nothing more than a frame.

Roy, Tony and Les are cutting and pasting on steam loco A 11. Many years out in the elements on the top road haven't done the tender or the smokebox any favours and much cutting out of wasted plate has resulted. A whole new section of plate will need to

be rolled for the crown of the smokebox before the smokestack falls in under its own weight.

Ian Rourke has almost single-handedly finished the new section of railway line along the rebuilt platform face, but got some well deserved assistance last weekend from the younger brigade who drilled and spiked along the whole length. Ian has almost finished the final link-up, then a lift and pack is required before the carriages can go back in.

Allan Brinkworth, whilst keeping an eye on all this activity, has been stripping back and repairing the corridor door from dining car D 20, preparing it for varnishing and slowly returning it to its former glory.

John Wearmouth, with assistance from Mick and Dom, is preparing the small shed to receive end walls and a new reinforced cement floor. This shed will be used for storage as well as serving as the "Bogie shop", and John is laying out the rail which will be embedded in the concrete giving both narrow and standard gauge trackage in the shed.

### **From your Council (April 2009) (Ian Studham, Secretary)**

- Council noted the resignation, effective immediately, of Philippa Rogers due to personal reasons. The President and all Councillors are unanimous in their praise and respect for the prodigious input Philippa has provided to the Society over many years on Council, and would like to publicly express our gratitude and appreciation for her work, advice and dedication. Philippa has agreed to continue to assist with the administration of the Society in a limited manner, working in some very specific areas, so her knowledge and talent is not lost to us. However overall she will be having a much deserved rest from the many unseen yet ever-present duties she has undertaken to deal with over many years.
- The platform upgrade continues with the rail line almost at the point of being completed. Once this has been achieved the rollingstock will be relocated into the platform and the work will turn to organizing for the top road renewal to begin. At a later date consideration will be given to providing a different rake of rollingstock in the main platform, including a locomotive
- Council agreed to the relocation of Museum van ZJ 270 to Boyanup. This van, being a duplicate in the collection, was considered for immediate disposal, however Boyanup has a need for an enclosed and suitably fitted out display area while the goods shed renovation is dealt with, and 270 will serve that purpose well.
- Council is to look at asking the membership to assist with dealing with one-off tasks. In this way members with certain experience or specialized skills may be able to assist the Council without having to commit more time to the administration of the Society than they can afford.
- One of the many things that Philippa Rogers did was organize the mail-out of the monthly newsletter. In the absence of someone else to do this Council has agreed to halt the monthly mail-out until a new volunteer can be found to step forward. Monthly newsletters will still be sent electronically to those members with e-mail addresses provided. Any volunteers?
- It was noted that while the attendance figures for the recently introduced Wednesday openings have been low, they are gradually increasing.

- We were successful in our application for \$47,000 from LotteryWest for storage solutions. This money will provide containers for the storage of items ex-Midland Workshops, assist with the conversion of one of the rear workshops for further storage and allow us to enclose the remaining open verandah section of the Noel Zeplin Exhibition Hall for use as secure small item storage.
- Council resolved to proceed with the project to establish a new enclosed work facility at the rear of the museum site, and to that end start planning and exploring funding avenues and options.

## **Boyanup Notes (Ian Carne)**

Well, its all go down here at the moment. A lot of time and effort has been put into the Royalties for Regions grant for the upgrading of the ablutions block, to bring the existing toilets up to current standards with disabled access, proper pathway access and complying with local LGA health requirements. Incorporated in this application is landscaping of the immediate area. This package comes in at \$79,045.38. However we feel confident. If we are successful it will enable us to open the museum on a restrictive basis. Other project irons in the fire, if the furnace is stoked correctly, total approx \$157,000.00. However I can't reveal what they are at the moment.

I look forward informing you of the success of these future projects.

As always the section 95 guys are busy at it; currently it's the resleepering of 80ft of collapsed track, along with other chores such as clean up, work bench construction, step construction, rebuilding of the roundhouse doors and a variety of other chores too numerous to recall.

Shanghaied volunteers Danny & Dolly Bovinee of Dardanup are doing a tremendous job of clearing the track areas of tall weeds; this has given me the opportunity to apply more KarnKill to the pest weed Caltrop. This year's infestation is low compared to past years so we must be gaining on it. For those who don't know, Caltrop is akin to Doublegee and is a real nuisance

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March saw the Petters motor from WAGR gangers trolley No 317 get a quick head job and a carbie flush. First compression on the crank handle and it burst into life and ran as smooth as silk. Well done Allan Dhu. In the mean time Don Brett was putting in a new second hand floor in the Fairmont trolley

A combined work effort with our volunteers, section 95 crew and volunteers from HMAS ARUNTA is taking shape. The project is to erect an 11m picket fence with gates from the roundhouse wall across to the Lions workshop. Section 95 crew will put in place the posts and gates, our volunteers will prepare the pickets, HMAS ARUNTA volunteers will secure the rails to the posts, attach the pickets and, time permitting, paint the finished product. And of course there will be time out for fellowship. This will take place during HMAS ARUNTA's visit to Bunbury for the ANZAC day parade.

Again we are fortunate to have another Jobs South West horticultural class, which is held in the cottage garden area. This class commenced on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March and again they have applied themselves with much enthusiasm. After the initial clean up on day one, the effort commenced in establishing a organic vegetable garden incorporating companion planting. Of course this is only one training unit of many. One unit is propagation and as an exercise the students will be looking for old grapevines eg Muscatel to propagate to use as screening plants along parts of the fence. Most

gangsters' and examiners' humpies had old style grapes growing on them. Even the examiners at Forrestfield had grapes growing.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of March saw the museum visited by a contingent of Capel Shire Councillors. Feed back was very positive, with one lady offering her services when she retires from council at the next election.

### Newsletter items (Peter Hopper)

I can be contacted by email at [phopper@iinet.net.au](mailto:phopper@iinet.net.au), at monthly meetings, or via snail mail at 7/4 Centro Avenue, Subiaco, 6008. While email contributions do make the editorial activities easier, I am quite willing to accept written items and reports. I can be contacted by phone on 9380 4106, however I am unable to take items verbally over the phone. Please, all contributions do need to have an identifiable contributor; could you ensure that you provide your name and contact details with all items.

**Next issue** - Deadline – 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2009; contact [phopper@iinet.net.au](mailto:phopper@iinet.net.au)

### Museum Rosters

#### Sunday Museum Roster (Paul Collin)

DATE	KIOSK/SALES	SITE SUPERVISION	OPEN/CLOSE
<b>Sun 12 Apr</b>	S Rayner G Watson	G Costello	G Watson
<b>Sun 19 Apr</b>	B Peacock P Tranter	T Gillett	A deSmalen
<b>Sun 26 Apr</b>	G Higham R Higham	M Searle	P Collin
<b>Sun 3 May</b>	A Drakeford K Freind	T Gillett	K Friend
<b>Sun 10 May</b>	L Hunter A deSmalen	T Gillett	A deSmalen
<b>Sun 17 May</b>	C.Lofthouse J Austin	T Tobin	P Collin
<b>Sun 24 May</b>	G Higham R Higham	T Gillett	G Watson
<b>Sun 31 May</b>	P van der Wal B Peacock	T Gillett	P Collin

## Wednesday Museum Roster (Ruth McCole)

DATE	KIOSK/SALES	SITE SUPERVISION	OPEN/CLOSE
Wed 8 Apr	Ray Webster Radeea Morshed	Trevor Tobin	
Wed 15 Apr (S. Hols)	Jim Bond Gay Cruickshank	Simon Barber	
Wed 22 Apr (S. Hols)	Steve Rayner Kim Friend	Theo Gillett	
Wed 29 Apr	Diana Chin John Adamson	Ray Webster	
Wed 6 May	Radeea Morshed Gay Cruickshank	Trevor Tobin	

## Closure of Midland Railway Workshops Interpretative Centre (Philippa Rogers)

A note to all members that we have been advised (by the Labour History Society) that the Midland Railway Workshops Interpretative Centre has closed and may reopen in 2-3 years.

## Did you know.....

### 100 years ago from WAGR records and Weekly Notices

The railway system was expanding, with a number of new sections under construction. On the last day of March 1909, the extension from Jarrahood to Nannup was opened to traffic. G class engines were the motive power, with the load being 110 tons in each direction.

In many cases, as new lines were being built, the sidings provided were identified by their mileage, or by simply numbering the sidings. Official naming would occur later. During April of 1909, No 1 and No 2 Sidings on the Noggerupp to Boyup extension were renamed to become Wilga and Benjinupp respectively. Note the spelling; this was still the era when the standard spelling of aboriginal names now ending in 'up' were given as 'upp'.

Closer to Perth, there were changes made to the interlocking at Pinjarra, in conjunction with the construction of the railway line into the Darling Range to Marrinup. While the signals to and from the Marrinup line were provided at this time, they were not brought into use until the later opening of the line.