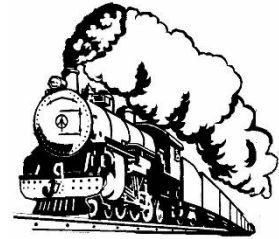




# RAIL HERITAGE WA

## Members Newsletter

March 2020



### FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**Sat 14 March** General Meeting 2pm

*NOTE: As the second Saturday in April falls on Easter Saturday, there will be no meeting in April.*

**Sun 22 March** South-West Rail & Heritage Centre, Boyanup 10am to 2pm.

**Sun 26 April** 'Transport and Trades' South-West Rail and Heritage Centre Open day, Boyanup 10am to 2pm. (RHWA Coordinating)

---

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT (B Williams)

Arno de Smalen is slowly recovering from his mishap in January and has been to the Museum a couple of times to catch up with members and 'to get some fresh air'. It is pleasing to see him recovering so well. Hopefully he will be able to resume duties in the Entry Building on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**One** of the prime assets of any organisation is the volunteers who operate the Museum. Again, I am seeking the assistance of member to volunteer and assist in supporting the operation of the Entry building on Sundays, also on Wednesdays.

As can be seen from the Museum Roster, for Sundays, for the next 8 weeks there is a total of 9 members who are contributing to the Entry Building operation. To those members who contribute I offer a very big thank you.

Not only is the Entry Building in need of more members the Museum as a whole could do with additional support in maintaining the grounds, buildings and rollingstock. No matter how you can assist every small bit counts and helps the rest of the membership in maintaining a pleasant environment for our visitors.

#### MEMBERSHIP – Fees will decrease!

At the recent Management Committee meeting it was agreed that the fees for the next financial year (from 1 April 2020) will reflect the lack of a Westland magazine and result in a reduction of \$10 per membership ie **\$55 family, \$50 single**.

A further discount of \$10 will be given to those who receive their newsletters by email ie **\$45 family, \$40 single**.

The special **volunteer price will be \$30** (minimum of 50 hours a year or more).

Members will receive a renewal notice in the next month. Please note that anyone wanting to pay at the museum must put their payment and completed form in an envelope. This will not be processed in the entry building but processed in the same way as renewals received by mail. This is to assist in the management of renewals.

There are still benefits of membership ie free entry to museum, 10% discount in shop, regular informative newsletters and support for preservation of Rail Heritage in WA. We understand that finances are tight for many people and have endeavoured to manage the membership fees accordingly.

## EXHIBITION BUILDING

Work continues....



On 6 March a small group of volunteers removed the items from this section of wall to enable the lining of the north wall of the Building. This will be covered with ply over the present open frame structure. It makes sense to insulate the north wall as part of this wall. We are just starting with the north-west corner later this month and are in need of pink / yellow batt insulation. **Do you have any spare insulation**, maybe the last piece in a roll or similar? If you do and are willing to donate it, please contact [admin@railheritagewa.org.au](mailto:admin@railheritagewa.org.au) or drop it off to the museum on Tuesdays or normal opening hours.



Significant change continues with Andrew Grayson, Ian Studham and Bruce Key (project coordinator) preparing to remove the last few items ready for racking to be installed. There is plenty of painting of shelving to be done prior to the use of the new racking and the creation of large doors to cover them. New displays will be created to be exhibited on the doors.

All items are being kept ready for potential future display or storage.

The development of content for the new interactive kiosk continues. Basically, this will be eight exhibitions on various topics, a task made easier due to the availability of the scanned and catalogued photo collection. This is a fantastic resource which continues to grow and give access to anyone interested in Western Australia's railway history.

## MEMORIES OF THE “HIGH WHEELER” (Graeme Bradley)

Recent media reports regarding the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inaugural journey of the Indian - Pacific passenger service departing Sydney for Perth on February 23, 1970 brought back many memories of my involvement with running of interstate passenger service on the West Australian section of the railways.



During my employment with WAGR/Westrail I worked in traffic operations at many locations between Perth and Kalgoorlie. Traffic operations staff generally referred to all interstate passenger services as the “High Wheeler” these trains were the “Trans Australian” operating from Adelaide and the “Indian Pacific” from Sydney. Traffic operations staff usually noted the only difference between the two services was that the “IP” was generally a double consist and the “Trans” was a single consist.

With interstate passenger services operating in amongst a heavy freight service it was inevitable that services were delayed with a wide variety of incidents, these were generally compounding result of incidents with freight trains causing at times, very extensive delays to passenger services.

I was involved in recovery operations many times to assist in getting services resumed as soon as possible. A few of these incidents that come to mind are:

Not long after the Indian Pacific started, I was Yard Foreman West Kalgoorlie when an eastbound IP was delayed 40 minutes on arrival at West Kalgoorlie. The yard had not been completed and this also involved provision of a signal control panel. All safe working between West Kalgoorlie and Kalgoorlie was the very old staff and ticket system under direction of the Yard Foreman on a motor bike. On this day, the IP arrived early, and I had been delayed getting enroute to West Kalgoorlie.

A few years later, I was working as Yard Master Forrestfield, on a Sunday shift the IP was arriving on approach to the carriage wash. Forrestfield was a major service depot for interstate passenger services and all trains were washed on arrival. On this occasion the train was conveying a wagon of “Woman’s Weekly magazines” on lead of train, these had to be detached prior to train being washed to avoid water damage. Shunting crew had been delayed away from yard, so I detached wagon myself, moving forward, standing on bottom step of GM locomotive when I realized I was approaching the side bush on the carriage wash, I jumped off the step just in time to avoid possible injury.



Another occasion I was Acting Area Manager Merredin when a westbound IP was held at Merredin due waiting on clearance of a derailment near Tammin. It was about 3.30 am and I had to walk through the train to locate the Senior Conductor to find out if further provisions were needed to serve breakfast to passengers. It was challenge walking through the two sit up carriages, it appeared several people found it better to sleep on the floor than the seats.

I was responsible for traffic operations in Northam one time on a Friday afternoon when there were four passenger services between Northam and Merredin. It was the only time of the week that this occurred, there was the non- stop Prospector service east bound, followed by the stopping Prospector, the east bound IP and one west bound Prospector. The call came from Northam Control, the CTC panel between Northam and Merredin had blacked out. I quickly arranged for two other safe working staff with cars and myself to proceed out into the territory to introduce Pilot Key working, the objective being reduce the time that would be involved with proceed orders for many trains. Luck prevailed; we were just leaving the car park when panel was restored.

When working in head office there was a general reshuffle of mid managers, I was nominated to act for a few months as Passenger Business Manager (Country and Interstate services) this was waiting on a new appointee taking up. Interstate services were still under control of each operating system at the time. A few weeks after starting in the position (still with L-plates on) I was required to attend a Passenger Business Managers conference in Sydney, I had never actually been on the Indian Pacific, I felt it was appropriate I travel to the meeting by train in order to have first-hand knowledge of the service. Great trip had a first-class deluxe roomette.

It was disappointing to see the decline in frequency of interstate passenger train services but the reality of competition with air travel had to be accepted.

## SOUTH-WEST RAIL and HERITAGE CENTRE



**Next open day is:  
Sunday 22 March.**



**Open Day  
March 22nd  
we will be  
featuring  
Stationary  
Engines , da-  
ting from the  
early 1900's  
to 1950's.**



### **Caltrop**

A recent large outbreak of Caltrop has been identified at Boyanup, including a large area of plants around the railway yard at SWRHC. Under the *Local Government Act 1995* it is a prescribed pest plant in a number of shires in the Perth metropolitan area, the southwest and the wheatbelt and needs to be treated.

**We are in Turner Street ,Boyanup  
Open from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.**

On entry you will pass through the Model Train displays, also working away will be the Blacksmith's, well worth a look. Come and have a look at the Capel men's shed and see their new alterations . The round house has many items on display, pieces from days gone by .



Thanks to Andrew for going to Boyanup and striking the first blow in its control.

Light refreshments are available from the Picnic Van

Entry by Donation

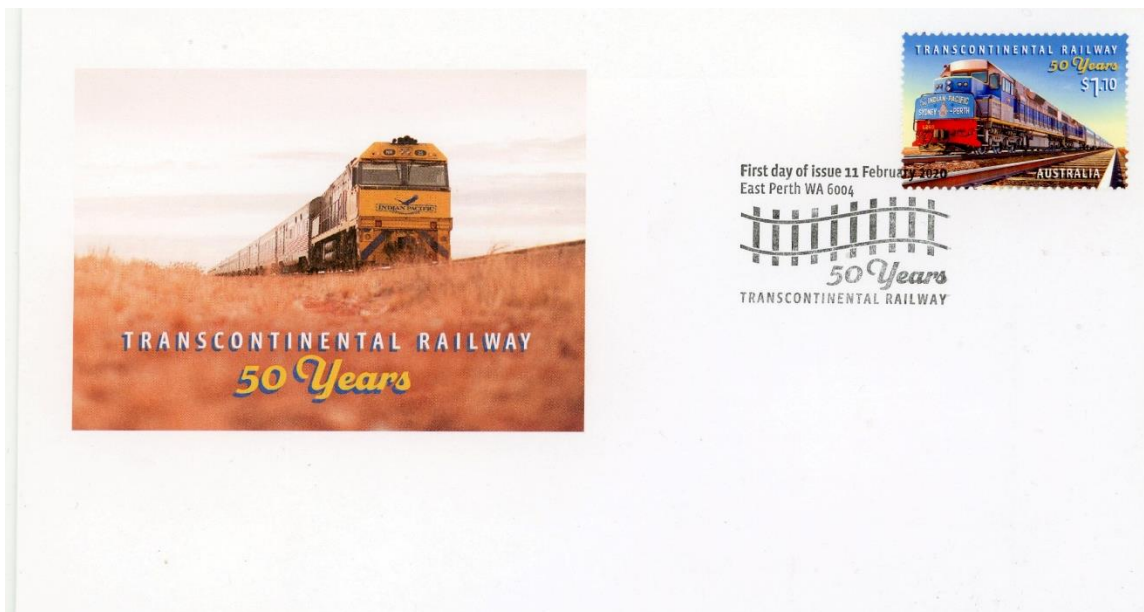
For more information contact David on 0415 366 937

# FROM THE ARCHIVES (G Watson)

50 years ago!



Australia Post issued a special stamp, maxi card and first day cover to mark the occasion of the first run of the Indian-Pacific. A photograph taken by Adrian Gunzburg, known to many members, was chosen by Australia Post for use.





Seen on 16 March 1970 is Prince Charles alighting from a Prospector railcar with a guard of honour of four Westrail hostesses. (WAGR)

Taken 2 March 1970 by Eddie Woodland with W 916 on a WA Division's Outing Committee Special (ARHS tour train), between Collie and Brunswick Junction.



On 28 February 1970 John Joyce photographed PMR 731 and PMR 730 steam locomotives shunting on the 104 goods train in Darkan.





In March 1970 X 1031 "YAUERA" was the locomotive on the Australind in Bunbury. (D Beazley)

Also in March 1970 David Beazley photographed a line-up of locomotives around the turntable pit in Bunbury.



On 27 March 1970 John Joyce captured AA 1518 on the "Kalgoorlie" going through East Perth.

## Archive Requests for February 2020

Pinjarra-Dwellingup railway drawings	Model railway
Zanthus photo details	Newsletter
Pichi Richi loco W22 details	Newsletter
PMR 735 history	Self

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE (S BARBER)

### JOURNEY BEYOND

The *Indian Pacific* train service between Sydney and Perth celebrated its fiftieth anniversary during February 2020, with the inaugural train having arrived in Perth on 26 February 1970. To mark the occasion, a ceremony was held at East Perth Terminal on Sunday 23 February. NR86 and 26 hauled the train east on the day, with speeches being made by the various dignitaries in attendance. One point of interest was a desire expressed by the Minister for Transport, Rita Saffioti MLA, for the *Indian Pacific* service to one day reach Fremantle. Media coverage of the train was extensive throughout its journey. The occasion was also marked by the issuing of a special coin by the Royal Australian Mint, and a stamp and first day cover by Australia Post.

### PTA / METRONET

Preliminary work has commenced on construction of the railcar assembly plant at Bellevue. Alstom will be erecting the new C series railcars on site for Transperth. The last remnant of the CBH silo formerly on the site has been removed, and earth clearing works undertaken. Also being undertaken are preparation works for the Arc Infrastructure ballast and rail facility at Kenwick. This facility will enable relocation of the Flashbutt compound from Bellevue, clearing space for the railcar construction and maintenance plants.

The tunnel boring machine *Grace* broke through the dive structure at Bayswater in February, marking the completion of the 8 km bore from Forrestfield. It will be dismantled and craned out of the dive. The second TBM, *Sandy*, is expected to complete the second bore during May. Train services are planned to commence on the Forrestfield – Airport Link during the second half of 2021.

Enabling legislation for the Ellenbrook – Morley railway was passed by both houses of State Parliament during February. (Ed: The rail line will take passengers between Ellenbrook's Town Centre along Drumpellier Dve, through Marshall Road before running down the middle of Tonkin Highway and connecting with the Midland Line at Bayswater. Stations will be built at Ellenbrook, Whiteman Park, Malaga, Noranda and Morley with a possible future station at Bennett Springs East also in the design.)

### WATCO WA RAIL

The two DR locomotives 1564 and 1565 have continued to break new ground, visiting locations which never received a visit from a WAGR D class unit. The locos arrived in Perenjori on a rail train on 1 February, having worked firstly over the Midland Railway to



Narngulu, then east via Mullewa. Geraldton had been served by a DR hauled rail train during 2019. On 25 February, the pair provided the inaugural running of a former D class unit on the Miling branch. While the train was planned originally to go the terminus station of Miling, the run was terminated at Calingiri. The DR units ran back light engine to Bolgart on 26 February, then returned to the Flashbutt siding at Bellevue on the following day, leaving the loaded rail fleet at Calingiri.



DR1564 and 1565 at Calingiri with 3RT1 rail train on 26 February. (Kieran Wright)

## AURIZON

ACN4168 has entered traffic following an overhaul at Gemco Rail and a repaint into Aurizon yellow and red livery. ACN4145 has now gone into overhaul at Gemco.

Q4004 and 4015 are both undergoing overhauls at Gemco, with Q4014 and 4015 receiving attention at the Aurizon Forrestfield workshops. AC4302 is also slated for a return to service following a period of storage.

## SECOND-HAND BOOKS AND DVDS (BERNARD HORTON)

We currently have an estimated 1000 books and 200 DVDs, amassed as donations to the museum. Below is a small sample list of books and DVDs currently available.

Title	Author	Price	Condition
Railway Blunders	<i>Adrian Vaughan</i>	\$5.00	as new, p/b
British Pacific Locomotives	<i>Cecil J. Allen</i>	\$8.00	Mint, Hardback
16 Colour Photographs – Grease Rag Yarns		\$3.00	good, paperback
Steel and Rails in Newcastle	<i>Keith McDonald</i>	\$6.00	good, paperback
The Railway Age In Australia	<i>Robin Bromby</i>	\$10.00	good, hardback
When We Rode The Rails	<i>Patsy Adam-Smith</i>	\$5.00	Mint, hardback
Motive Power	<i>Leon Oberg</i>	\$4.00	good, hardback
The Baldwin Locomotive Works 1831-1915	<i>John K Brown</i>	\$8.00	good, paperback
Hear the Train Blow	<i>Patsy Adam-Smith</i>	\$2.00	good, paperback
The Lithgow Zig Zag	<i>James Bentley</i>	\$2.00	good, paperback
Railways – A History of Australian's Trains	<i>Brian Carroll</i>	\$2.00	good, paperback
Railview's New South Wales	<i>S.Halgren/D. Lowe</i>	\$2.00	good, paperback
Steam Album – Second Division		\$2.00	good, paperback

DVDs: British Railway Journeys – South Wales & The Borders \$2.00  
 British Steam – Rare Archive Footage \$2.00  
 Britain's Railways Then & Now – GWR \$2.00  
 The Glory of Steam – Volume Two \$2.00  
 How to Drive a Locomotive – Steam/Diesel \$2.00

## MUSEUM ROSTER

The Society is looking for additional Volunteers to assist with the operation of the Museum and your support would be greatly appreciated.

If you can assist, please contact Brian [president@railheritagewa.org.au](mailto:president@railheritagewa.org.au)

### Sunday Museum Roster

Date	Ticket/Sales		Site Supervision	Duty Supervisor
15 March	G Higham	B Keay	B Williams	G Higham
22 March	B Williams	B Horton	D Raine	B Williams
29 March	L McBeath	G Higham	M Miles	G Higham
5 April	K Friend	P Hopper	R Johnston	P Hopper
12 April	B Williams	B Horton	G Watson/M Gillooly	B Williams
19 April	A De Smalen	B Williams	B Keay	B Williams
26 April	L McBeath	G Higham	M Miles	G Higham
3 May	K Friend	P Hopper	R Johnston	P Hopper

If you would like to find out more about the various tasks please come along on any Sunday and the on duty team will explain it all.

### Wednesday Museum Roster

Date	Ticket/Sales	Site Supervision	Duty Supervisor
11 March	S Rayner	Cherie, Curtis & Moose	S Rayner
18 March	G Bradley	Cherie, Curtis & Moose	G Bradley
25 March	S Rayner	Cherie, Curtis & Moose	S Rayner
1 April	G Bradley	Cherie, Curtis & Moose	G Bradley
8 April	S Rayner	Cherie, Curtis & Moose	S Rayner
15 April	G Bradley	Cherie, Curtis & Moose	G Bradley
22 April	S Rayner	Cherie, Curtis & Moose	S Rayner
29 April	G Bradley	Cherie, Curtis & Moose	G Bradley