



# RAIL HERITAGE WA

*Members Newsletter*

*November 2011*



## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

***Remember – meetings at 8 pm, second Friday of every month – why not put them in your calendar now?***

### **Friday 11 November at 8pm. Midland Railway Co of WA**

Graham Watson has been able to put together a presentation of one hundred images of the Midland Railway, from our archive collection.

We will also discuss the recent Railfest 2011, future Railfests, what we might do next time, etc. Please bring along your suggestions and ideas.

### **Friday 9 December at 8pm. Christmas Social Meeting**

More details in next month's newsletter.

### **Railfest (Brian Williams)**

I wish to thank all members and volunteers who so ably assisted in the two work days leading up to Railfest and to those who were present at Railfest. Thanks to Allan Brinkworth and his offsiders for performing the shunt movements on the Saturday to place rollingstock in the new platform dock.

I would extend the Society's appreciation to the members of the Bassendean Red Cross Volunteers who provided and served morning tea to our invited guests.

A special thanks to QR National for their support in the provision of an AC class diesel locomotive and to UGL for allowing space for the locomotive to be on display.

Railfest was as successful as last year, however I feel that we can improve and make it an even better event next year.

Brian Williams, President.

### **Locomotive Dd 596**

As members will be aware, we have been calling for expressions of interest in our loco DD596 which is at Gosnells markets, but the new owners of the markets no longer want it there.

A proposal was recently received from the Golden Mile Loopline Railway who have secured funding to re-open the loop line in carefully planned stages. The loopline manager also spoke to our August meeting. As discussed with members at our September meeting and with other members at a recent museum work day, after careful discussion, we have now negotiated an agreement for the Loopline to take this loco. Loopline will pay the very substantial removal costs, will make a payment to us for the transfer of ownership, and will also pay a significant deposit which will be held in trust by us until the loco is transferred and restored and housed securely. (Transfer of ownership is necessary because of pressure vessel regulations placing responsibility on the boiler owner). DD596 is a twin to DD592 at Bassendean – 596 was bought outright by the Society and our original lease to Gosnells paid for a section of our roof.

## **Sales (Geoffrey Higham)**

**Our new book** "Station Masters of Western Australia" was launched at Railfest and has been very well received. Copies are available from the museum shop or online at \$29.50 (\$26.50 to members). A great selection of photos has been included.

**Calendar for 2012:** We have supplies of the Pickering Brook Heritage Group's 2012 calendar at only \$12.00 (\$11.00 to members). Historical photos of railways and related activities in the Darling Range, one page per month with good space to write your appointments, etc.

**Australian Railways Illustrated** magazine: latest issue is now in our shop, and we have also re-stocked earlier issues – these articles and photos do not go out of date so check out any issues you are missing.

## **Final Days of Steam in 1971 (Jeff Austin)**

40 years ago the age of steam was about to end on the WAGR with the complete dieselization of the railway system. At the beginning of 1971, the WAGR still operated 53 steam locomotives, allocated to depots at Midland (10), Bunbury (24), Collie (14) and Narrogin (4). A further 80 locomotives were stowed and one engine, W 956 was awaiting repairs at Midland Workshops.

The first 3 months of the year was much as it had been in the past, with regular steam workings at these country depots and metro area goods services and shunting by DD/DM locomotives. From April however, the steps to full dieselization moved very quickly. The arrival of the new D and RA diesel locomotives and the transfer of many narrow gauge units from the Eastern Goldfields meant that the replacement of steam in the south-west was finally achievable.

Bridgetown was closed to steam on 26 March, followed by Busselton on 24 May and Midland on 31 May. From 1 June, steam operations were confined to Collie and Bunbury, with limited services to Narrogin, Wagin, Collie mines, Brunswick Junction and Bunbury Powerhouse.

Bunbury ceased to be a steam depot from 10 July, with the withdrawal of their last 8 locomotives (5 x W and 3 x V). The sole remaining Pacific-type, PM 701, which had been the standby engine at Narrogin, was also retired at this time and stowed at Midland Workshops. Collie was dieselized from 26 July but this proved to be temporary and steam soon returned, albeit in small numbers.

By November only 5 locomotives were still in service. V 1206 (withdrawn 15 November) and V 1217 (withdrawn 10 November) were used on the coal trains to the Bunbury Powerhouse, while S 549 worked mine shunts and occasional goods services around Collie. Of the two remaining W class, W 943 was shunting at Collie and W 915 was shunting at Narrogin. Two other engines, V 1220 and G 233 were already withdrawn by this time but were returned to service to work ARHS and Bunbury Tourist Bureau tour trains.

S 549 brought to an end the use of steam locomotives on main line goods services when it hauled the mine shunt to Western Collieries No.2 on 24 December 1971. The two W class were withdrawn from shunting duties soon after – W 915 in January 1972 and W 943 in March 1972.

## **Public Holidays and the Museum**

Both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sunday this year, and it has been decided that the Museum will not be open on either of those two days.

## **Storeman Needed!**

The Society has a need for a volunteer to act as a Storeman for the Workshop area to assist in tracking our stock of tools, equipment and material. While it would be ideal if someone has previous experience in this area, it could be done by anyone, as advice and guidance can be

provided. If you could assist your Society in this area, please contact Allan Brinkworth and he will be pleased to provide details.

## Discussion on Railfest

At the August meeting there was good discussion about Open Days, including number, timing, purpose and entertainment. Even though this was very close to the time for Railfest, a number of ideas that could be implemented in the time scale were undertaken.

Now that Railfest is over, there will be an open discussion held at the November meeting, and we would like as many people as possible to come along and provide their thoughts and ideas for future Railfests. Please bring along your suggestions and ideas and join in the discussion.

## Newsletter items (Peter Hopper)

Deadline for the next issue of this newsletter is 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011. If you have any items for publication please contact me via email at phopper@inet.net.au, by snail mail at 58 Sunray Circle, Ellenbrook, or see me at the monthly meeting.

## Museum Rosters

### Sunday Museum Roster (Paul Collin)

DATE	KIOSK/SALES	SITE SUPERVISION	OPEN/CLOSE
6 Nov	P.Collin, A.Drakeford	T.Gillett	P.Collin
13 Nov	G.Turbett, P.Hopper	T.Gillett	G.Turbett
20 Nov	J.Austin, P.Hopper	T.Gillett	G.Watson
27 Nov	G.Higham, R.Higham	T.Gillett	G.Higham
4 Dec	P.Collin, S.Mackay	T.Gillett	P.Collin
11 Dec	G.Turbett, A.Drakeford	T.Gillett	G.Turbett
18 Dec	J.Austin, G.Watson	T.Gillett	G.Watson
25 Dec	Closed Christmas Day		

### Wednesday Museum Roster (Lynda Butler)

DATE	KIOSK/SALES	SITE SUPERVISION	OPEN / CLOSE
9 Nov	George Turbett	Bob Johnson	Lynda Butler
16 Nov	Graeme Bradley	Theo Gillett	Lynda Butler
23 Nov	Steve Rayner	Graeme Bradley	Lynda Butler
30 Nov	George Turbett	Bob Johnson	Lynda Butler
7 Dec	Graeme Bradley	Theo Gillett	Lynda Butler
14 Dec	Steve Rayner	Bob Johnson	Lynda Butler
21 Dec	George Turbett	Graeme Bradley	Lynda Butler
28 Dec	Steve Rayner	Theo Gillett	Lynda Butler