

THE GULLY GAZETTE



THE NEWSLETTER OF STATE MINE HERITAGE PARK & RAILWAY, LITHGOW.
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WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of The Gully Gazette for 2002. We hope everyone enjoyed the festive season. The disastrous fire in the carriage shed late last year has not deterred our Museum. Rather, the fire has strengthened the resolve of our membership to bring the tourist railway to reality. To accomplish this, we can expect a very busy time ahead. If you are available, please come along to assist in this restoration or any other aspect of the Museum's activities.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 16 December, 2001. The following members were elected unopposed to executive positions for 2002:

PRESIDENT: Michael Wilson
VICE PRESIDENT: Darryll Cooper
SECRETARY: Ray Christison
TREASURER: Jennifer Christison
BOARD MEMBERS: Liz Hudson
Michael Langford
Steve Overmyer
Niall Power
Geoff Riley

At the Annual General Meeting Michael Wilson presented the President's Report for 2001. In addition, the Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June, 2001 and Balance Sheet as at 30 June, 2001 were tabled. Copies of these documents have been included with this edition of the newsletter.

The Annual General Meeting was well attended and conducted in a spirit of professionalism and enthusiasm. From the tone of the AGM, the Museum is poised for a very successful year.

IN THIS EDITION

- President's Report
- Museum Executive for 2002
- Museum Financial Details
- Emergency Appeal Proforma
- New Promotional Brochure
- Enhanced Mining Displays
- Recent Rail Developments
- Items For Sale – Credit Card Facilities

EVENT CALENDAR

Regular events in the next three months include:

Sunday, 20 January	Regular Operating Day
Sunday, 27 January	Working Bee
Sunday, 3 February	Regular Operating Day
Sunday, 17 February	Working Bee
Sunday, 3 March	Regular Operating Day
Sunday, 17 March	Working Bee
Sunday, 31 March	Members Information Meeting 2.00pm
Sunday, 7 April	Regular Operating Day
Sunday, 21 April	Working Bee
Sunday, 28 April	Museum Official Opening

STATE MINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

The Museum has launched an emergency appeal for funds to upgrade security and provide fire protection in the new carriage shed. To date more than \$3 000 has been received. Thank you goes to everyone who has responded to this appeal.

If you have not yet responded, a proforma for donations has been included with this newsletter. If you are able to contribute or assist in any way, your support will be greatly appreciated.

RECENT RAIL DEVELOPMENTS

Following the fire in the carriage shed late last year, the Board has moved to:

- arrange for a damage assessment of locomotive 2605 by engineers from the Powerhouse Museum. Subject to insurance approval, it is intended to move 2605 to the Lithgow Locomotive Depot for repairs to be undertaken by qualified persons from the Zig Zag Railway;
- rebuild the carriage shed on the existing site but try to replicate the original screens building. Demolition of the former shed was completed during January. Photographs of the demolition have been included in this newsletter; and
- obtain quotes for the repair of railcar 761.

In other rail related news:

- the Rail Transport Museum (RTM) is willing to provide a 660 class set for use on our tourist railway. In addition, they are willing to provide a 10 year lease of two end platform vehicles and one steel bodied car. Although the vehicles are in need of some work, they will provide us with desperately needed passenger rolling stock;
- we hope to take delivery of the Ben Chifley engine 5112 and passenger carriages in the near future. Although we may use these vehicles on our tourist railway, they will be returned to Bathurst at some time in the future;
- a number of alternatives have been considered for the repair or replacement of railcar 761. These include:
 - restoration of trailer car 763 to match power car 661; or
 - conversion of railcar 761 to a middle vehicle in a three-car set;
- the Museum is seeking other surplus passenger vehicles from either CityRail or CountryLink; and
- our contractors, Taylor Rail, have installed one set of points for a run around loop near the entrance to the Museum. Our members will construct the loop and points in the near future. The rail will be obtained from the disused Commonwealth siding at Marrangaroo.

ITEMS FOR SALE

We are pleased to advise that the Museum now has credit card facilities available for purchase payments and Museum subscriptions. Price lists have been included in previous editions of the newsletter.

SITE VISITATION

We have had a pleasing number of visitors to the Museum in 2001. Below is a table of visitor numbers per quarter (up to 4.11.01).

<u>2001 QUARTER</u>	<u>VISITOR NUMBERS</u>
January - March	504
April - June	526
July - September	339
Oct - Nov (at 4.11.01)	203

We have a number of advance bookings early in 2002, including groups of students from Barker College and 3801 Limited.

MUSEUM OFFICIAL OPENING

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Official Opening of the Museum will be held on Sunday, 28 April, 2002.

Future details and program will be provided in the next Gully Gazette.

Please keep this date free!!!

MUSEUM SITE ENHANCEMENT

Recently, a 4.6 metre flag post was erected on the top of the poppet head. We intend to have the national flag flying proudly above our Museum in the near future.

NEW PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of our new promotional brochure. Please use this to advertise our Museum. Additional copies are available for publicity purposes.

The Chairman's Report For 2001

This past year has seen the organization move into within striking distance of being able to deliver what it has been preaching for the last eight years. The State Mine Heritage Park and Railway is the corner stone of Lithgow's cultural heritage tourism base. Despite all the work that has gone into tourism development in the last few years within Lithgow by Council, the Tourist office and other operators, Lithgow's fledgling tourism industry at best can be described as being fragmented. For this reason the development at the State Mine, the operation of the railway to link the other attractions in the valley and the shuttle between Eskbank and the Zig Zag Railway are so important.

A number of notable events and milestones were reached during the last twelve months; -

1. Taylor Railtrack completed work on the Extension of the railway from Lake Pillans to Eskbank Goods shed.
2. Earthworks and drainage around the Eskbank Loco Depot has paved the way ready for tracks to be laid back into the depot. However after 12 months we are still waiting for RIC to build the retaining wall and remove the communication cables from one of the servicing pits.
3. The recent installation of a turnout outside the compound at the mine will facilitate the run around of trains and the development of passenger platforms once the loop is installed.
4. The appointment of a special Projects Officer Mr. John Oates through the Regional Assistance Program. This is a Federal Government initiative and worth \$100000 over two years. As our organization is not set up to employ people an arrangement has been set up with the Business Enterprise Centre to administer the scheme.
5. Two separate Work For The Dole Schemes are now in place and work at the mine on various aspects of the site. Initially they were for a duration of 26 weeks each but now run continually with a revolving door of participants.
6. A number of first class displays in the House have been developed and is part of an ongoing program to develop and showcase various aspects of the mine and its history.
7. The museum was able to take delivery of some mining exhibits made possible through the efforts of Mr. Ross Mannwaring who has given his time to travel great distances to ensure these items were saved from certain destruction and were delivered to the State Mine. These items include a mercury rectifier from Kandos Colliery and a working battery operated mine loco from Nebo Colliery.
8. The Heritage Park also took delivery of two D Class diesel locomotives from Port Kembla. D20 and D21 as well as a large quantity of spare parts were donated by BHP. These locos together with sister engine D23 will ensure that the State Mine has a sustainable future in being able to operate tourist trains over its network for years to come. The delivery of these engines would not have been possible without a generous donation being made by Mr Alan Dukes of Duke's Earthmoving.
9. The issue again of the Gully Gazette has facilitated communication of activities and happenings to the Museum's members. This newsletter is both informative, first class and is out every two months - on time. I would like to thank Bill Allen for his efforts.
10. The museum also has a first class Web Site that is being continually updated and a new brochure has also been released to better reflect what is happening on site at present.
11. The Board at present is pursuing options to have an under ground experience developed on site as one of those MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS. On going discussions are continuing with The Shirley Spectra a company well experienced in this sort of attraction.
12. After many months of long and protracted discussions with Bathurst City Council it is likely that the Ben Chifley engine 5112 and the 5 steel passenger cars will reside here. The engine will be restored commercially and we will have the use of a set of passenger cars.
13. A working party has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Member for Bathurst, Mr Gerard Martin to facilitate an all of government approach to cutting through red tape to achieve government funding for capital works projects that are associated with the development of the Heritage Park Concept of which the State Mine and the Zig Zag Railway are major players.
14. Ian Thornton has been appointed Operations & Training Manager for the State Mine Railway. Ian has many years of experience within the railway industry and is well respected by DOT and RIC. He has already begun to train some of our train crews as well as fine tuning the Safe Working Manuals.

On October 31st the devastating fire that ripped through the Carriage shed rocked the organization. Taking with it 3 end platform cars, a sleeping car, badly damaging 2605 and destroying the trailer car off our operational 660 class rail motor set and just about everything else in the shed. The cause of the fire may never be known however the police list it as being suspicious.

News of the event spread far and wide and expressions of condolence had been coming in from other rail-based groups, individuals and the public in general. An appeal was set up on our website to assist us in security and fire suppression systems in the new shed. Since then a constant stream of donations has been flowing in. Both 3801 and the Rail Transport Museum have also been very helpful and the extent of their generosity will become evident in the next few months.

I would like to thank the present Board for their efforts over the last twelve months. This has been a very harmonious board to be involved with all with a common goal, all heading in the one direction for the advancement of this organization. Also a special thanks to Jenny Christison for taking on the job of computerizing all of our accounts. To Howard Fisher our Chairman up until three months ago who resigned because of work and other community commitments. To Ray Christison for his work in keeping the paperwork rolling and writing those all-important submissions for funding. To Daryle Cooper who has been there on the site for anything that has cropped up – you need to change your phone number!

Despite the set back with the fire I feel a Phoenix will rise from the ashes. Our plans for running trains may have been put back a little longer but it won't stop the overall result of providing the town with an integrated tourism attraction second to none. 2002 will indeed become our year!

Michael J. Wilson
Chairman SMHP& R
16/12/01



The scene following demolition of the former carriage shed in January, 2002.