



RAIL HERITAGE WA

Members Newsletter

June 2017



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Please note – Meetings will normally be held at 2pm second Saturday of the month, except for January. Why not put them in your diary now.

Saturday 10 June at 2pm. Annual General Meeting.

This meeting will be the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Business will include Annual Reports on operations, presentation of Accounts, and election of office bearers.

Sunday 25 June. SWRHC Open Day at Boyanup. Old Machinery Day.

Saturday 8 July at 2pm. Entertainment Meeting. Paul Collin, Railways of the North-West.

At the May meeting, we had a presentation on the Port Hedland to Marble Bar railway from the Archives, and DVD film of much later heavy iron ore trains. This month Paul will have slide coverage of the iron ore scene over the years, including the wide range of colour schemes employed on these systems.

Sunday 8 October. Railfest 2017

Keep the date free for the major event for the year.

Nick Pusenjak

It is with great sadness that we inform members of the death of life member Nick Pusenjak, at Rottneest in May, while on holiday. Nick was a long time member of the society, and an enthusiast with interests in all forms of transport, including railways, buses, trams, shipping, aircraft and his beloved Jaguars. Nick served as President of the Society for two years in the late 1980s, and for many years was editor of the Westland magazine for the Society, as well as being involved in all activities. He was recognized in 1993 with life membership. He continued his interest in Society activities while also serving in many roles in kindred organisations.

Nick was always a keen photographer of transport and amassed a wonderful collection of images within WA, Australia and around the world. For many years he has sent out his 'Weekend Transport Treats' which provided one or more delightful photographs on a specific subject, together with a thorough history.

Nick is survived by his wife Kerry, and their two children.

Solar Power

The Society is finalizing arrangements to install a solar power system at the Museum.

With available solar installation rebates, and our heavy power usage, the savings from this have a short payback period and provide excellent ongoing savings to us.

The system, of just under 10 kW capacity, will be installed on the north east roof of the exhibition building, and the panels will cover the length of the roof in two rows. The installation activity is expected to take one to two days, and will have minimal impact to operations at the museum, other than a short break while a new bi-directional meter is installed in the meter box.

AMRA Exhibition (Peter Hopper)

The Society had a display and sales stand at the AMRA exhibition on the long weekend at the start of June. Although numbers at the exhibition were lower than in previous years, preliminary estimates indicate that we had a reasonable income from sales, and good interest in the extensive TransAustralian display that was arranged by Philippa.

My thanks go to all those involved in the preparations, transport, setup, manning and cleanup of the exhibit. Many of these people had responsibilities with other displays at the exhibition, but willingly gave their time to assist the Society.

I know that there were a lot of weary and footsore people by the time everything had been sorted out and stored again on the Tuesday. I can assure them it was all worth it!

Around the Museum (Peter Hopper)

Work continues apace around all areas of the Museum. Out at the back, the new security fencing has been completed around the end of the shunting neck, a bad spot that had been used by taggers as a popular access to the museum, and where the ongoing damage to the fence had left it as a patchwork quilt of repairs. In this area a large infestation of bamboo had to be cleared to properly install the fence – no mean feat! Graffiti removal funded by a grant has essentially completed, and everything is looking much neater. Work continues on fitting the necessary safety railing around the inspection pit.

Within the Museum display area the emphasis has been on painting and maintenance. Most of the exhibits along the front of the Museum have been repainted or are being prepared for repaint. Further back, standard gauge Dining car is about to get its remaining paneling installed, and the U class is gleaming. The PM has had its smokebox repainted in gloss black, and work is proceeding on the rest of the loco. This has resulted in a great improvement for visitors. Near the Model Railway Club, the Fs is being sanded down and prepped, while the tender has already been partly painted. This exhibit has been very open to the effects of the elements, and is also very exposed to the gaze of the public enjoying their refreshments, so it is important for this exhibit to be in good condition.

SWRHC News – May Open Day (Norm Chapple)

Well, we didn't see that coming! A sunny fine day and a secret that had clues given every day or two on our Facebook page should have brought us a good crowd. It didn't - it brought us a massive 280 people through the front door and this number included our 1 000th visitor for the year so far and 90 kids. Usually our ratio of visitors is 1 child for every 4 or 5 adults but 1:2 was fantastic - and didn't they give our Kids Corner a good workout, with giant bubbles floating every where, lots of games and activities being used and our "merry-go-round" in almost constant motion.

So what was the "surprise" that brought all of these people to the SWRHC? A couple of months ago the Bunbury Musical Comedy Group played a season of "The Railway Children" and consequently a train was required as part of the performance. Not being content with a flat panel

train, master craftsman Norm Flynn constructed a rather large 3 dimensional train which had to be in 3 pieces in order to get it in and out of his shed and then bolted together for the performances. At the end of the season the question was asked, "Now what are we going to do with it?" Being too good, and big, to put in the bin, they contacted me to see if the SWRHC could use it. Not being known for refusing anything to do with trains, I accepted and it was duly delivered to the site, with the intent that it would become a "play thing" for would be young train drivers. As the door to the shed opened and the train was revealed the "oohs" and the "ahhs", and they from the parents, said that I had made the right decision. The kids didn't waste time with sounds, they headed straight for the train to try it out - and it was thumbs up all round. Thanks to the Men's Shed the train had a floor put in it and thanks to blacksmith Brian we had a name plate to put on the front of the boiler - the train is henceforth known as the "Norm Flynn Express" and the train will be available for the kids to play in whenever the weather is fine (being made of ply wood, it's not suitable for outside use in wet weather).

As massive as the crowd was is my thanks to our volunteers who handled the crush with ease - great job Graham on the door, Barry in the roundhouse, who made a very welcome return after several serious health issues, Steven and Kelly slaving over a hot "stove" and selling out of sausages and Eevee, Heather, a very welcome "newby", Anne and Anna in the Picnic Van who were very nearly left with only the tables and seats for people to eat and Don who patrolled the grounds to help visitors learn more about the exhibits.

Equally big thanks to our on site groups. Garry, Harry and Picko were often lost in the crowd watching the model trains pass by and admiring the scenery which continues to develop. The site of the fair has been invaded by stalls and games, along with a miniature railway under construction while the town site has gained a number of new businesses. Harry was a bit sad that his business was put in a side street so next time you visit the SWRHC ask Harry to show you his hair and beauty salon - an apt business for a man with such soft and delicate hands!

Our blacksmiths went "back to school" as Master Blacksmith Malcolm demonstrated to them some new techniques which they spent the day mastering in order to be ready for next Open Day when they will make a start on a new group project which should get finished at our July Open Day, themed the "Blacksmith Bash".

Next door in the machinery shed Don and Terry set about replacing some rusted out pipes on the Victoria engine, the first stage being to cut the pipes to length then bend them to the required shape. For a little relief from that hard and heavy work they thought that they might start up the recently restored engine that always starts first time. Yep, you guessed it, after many "swings" on the fly wheel, not a peep! With under their breath mutterings, the engine was put away and it was back to the Victoria which didn't seem that hard and heavy after all. During the morning Allan and Jacob arrived, the latter always keen to get into the machinery despite his tender years but Allan was severely restricted by recent surgery. We all wish him a speedy recovery and that everything settles down so he can get his hands dirty again. And all of this activity was under the watchful eye of Elwyn who has our dairy display taking shape very nicely.

In the roundhouse John and Gary continued their excellent restoration of carriage ACM 391, with it getting closer and closer to completion. Those who stayed and watched for a while would have seen just what is required in restoration work, such as John having to make replica pieces to replace lost or broken intricately shaped items and Gary having to use "elbow grease" to restore the shine to metal fittings. Unfortunately Roy was also suffering from some health issues and we wish him a speedy recovery - hopefully running his model trains is keeping his spirits up.

At the back of the roundhouse Gordon was "on duty" to show and tell what the Men's Shed members get up to. They too are very skilled in wood work and metal work and often make items to order for other community groups. They are also right into cooking, and eating, sausages and a number of them were next door helping Meadowbrooke Lifestyle Village with its Open Day.

As well as the new train being unveiled, we offered a once only "back blocks" tour of the parts of the site that are off limits to visitors but contain interesting rail exhibits. A small group of intrepid explorers joined me for this and they got to see and hear the story of a number of pieces of rolling stock that are usually "invisible" to visitors to the SWRHC.

One of the things they saw, and a big story in its own right, was the boiler from "Leschenault Lady". It had been returned from Manjimup 2 weeks earlier and will be placed back on the loco's frames just as soon as the last few repairs and cleaning has been completed as this work can't be done if the boiler is on.

Another display that we had on show for the first time was Gordon's grey Ferguson tractor. These little machines were, and still are in some smaller holdings, the back bone of many agricultural areas and it is being restored to operating condition by Ian and Gordon.

Not too far away from the Fergie, Terry has our McCormack Deering W6 tractor nearly ready to become the site work horse. She now purrs like a kitten (literary licence taken here!), doesn't leak oil and a coat of paint after a good rub back will have looking a million dollars.

Next door, the blacksmiths have taken delivery of a new metal fretsaw and Brian has restored a large whet stone to working order. This latter item will be useful to all of our groups when they need to sharpen tools - and also shows to visitors how it used to be done.

On the other side of the machinery shed, Peter from the Men's Shed has been using his modern welding skills to construct racks for the Men's Shed to store its timber on, which helps keep the site tidy.

Prior to the opening of the gates for the Open day, everybody was busy getting the site ready. Ray had had a couple of his grand kids staying with him and they got into the swing of things too and were a great help in a number of areas - thanks kids, you are both champions!

During the day, long time Boyanup resident Lloyd Merritt popped in and passed on a photo of some local fitters from many years ago. It is a great photo but more importantly it records their names which helps us in our research of the rail history of the area. Thank you Lloyd.

I also must thank Gordon for completing the clean up after April's Open Day - guess who forgot to put away some of the interpretive signs! I won't promise but I will try to stop giving you a hard time about how many toasted sandwiches you devoured this month, Gordon.

And so to June's Open Day. This will be our Old Machinery Day when machines from our collection are joined by machines from private owners in a wheeze, snort, bellow and bang concerto (or should that be cacophony) to show how our grandparents and their parents used machinery to make their working and home life that bit easier and allowed them to retire some of their manual implements.

For more information about our June Open day or anything else about the SWRHC you can email me at swrhc@railheritagewa.org.au, check (and like) our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthWestRailandHeritageCentre/> or call me on 0459 712 552.

100 Years Ago in the Weekly Notices (Peter Hopper)

On the Kondinin - Merredin railway, PWD began accepting traffic for Cumminin (sic), 22m from Kondinin and 271m from Perth. By the end of the month Cumminin was renamed South Kumminin.

At Calingiri, the Railway Construction Department established a depot at a new siding approximately 50ch beyond Calingiri.

At the end of June both Dangin, Kookynie and Woolgangie closed as booking stations. Nookanellup was provided with stockyards. Guppy's Siding, at 21m on the UDRR, was closed, and the points spiked.

Newsletter items (Peter Hopper)

Deadline for the next issue of this newsletter is Monday 26th June 2017. If you have any items for publication please contact me via email at rhwanewsletter@inet.net.au, see me at a general meeting, or post to me at Newsletter Editor, PO Box 363, Bassendean, WA 6934.

Museum Rosters

Last minute changes (Peter Hopper)

If you need to make any last minute changes to your rostered day and time, please try and make a swap or alteration with someone else on the list. If you are unable to, please contact me on my mobile – 0408 944 771.

Sunday Museum Roster (Paul Collin)

Date	Kiosk/Sales	Site Supervision	Duty Supervisor
4 Jun	K.Freind, P.Hopper	M.Searle	K.Freind
11 Jun	P.Hopper, S.Mackay	P.Collin	P.Hopper
18 Jun	P.Hopper, J.Austin	A.Murray	P.Hopper
25 Jun	A.de Smalen, M.Miles,	L.McBeath	A.de Smalen
2 Jul	K.Freind, P.Hopper	M.Searle	K.Freind
9 Jul	A.de Smalen, A.Murray	B.Williams	A.de Smalen
16 Jul	J.Austin, P.Hopper	P.Collin	P.Hopper
23 Jul	A.de Smalen, P.Rohan	S.Mackay	A.de Smalen
30 Jul	M.Miles, G.Higham	L.McBeath	G.Higham

Wednesday Museum Roster (Lynda Butler)

Date	Kiosk/Sales	Site Supervision	Duty Supervisor
7 Jun	A.de Smalen	G.Bradley, C.Perry	A.de Smalen
14 Jun	A.de Smalen	S.Rayner, C.Perry	A.de Smalen
21 Jun	A.de Smalen	G.Bradley, C.Perry	L.Butler
28 Jun	A.de Smalen	S.Rayner, C.Perry	L.Butler
5 Jul, School Holidays	A.de Smalen	G.Bradley, S.Rayner, C.Perry	A.de Smalen
12 Jul, School Holidays	A.de Smalen	G.Bradley, S.Rayner, C.Perry	A.de Smalen
19 Jul,	A.de Smalen	G.Bradley, S.Rayner, C.Perry	A.de Smalen
26 Jul	A.de Smalen	S.Rayner, C.Perry	L.Butler