



Whispers from the depot

Newsletter of The Rail Motor Society Incorporated

5 Webbers Creek Road,
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www.trms.org.au



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President's Report

Well, it has been a year like no other with COVID-19 and the cancellation of many of our planned trips and jobs.

Although the depot was closed to volunteers for much of the year, work continued on 621 with contractors coming in to complete the repair work following our involvement in an accident in April, near Griffith. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Noel Price for his dedication and expertise in the rebuilding of our beloved train and also Peter Macfarlane for being available to repaint the train for the second time this year. We just have a few minor things to complete, and then we plan to do a test run to Stroud Road and return in mid-December to confirm that everything is okay.

Whilst everyone works together for the benefit of the Society, and we are thankful for every one of the volunteers, it is also important to recognise the hard work of some individuals and acknowledge the contributions they make to the Society. In doing so, if I fail to make mention of individuals or important accomplishments, then I apologise for this.

I would like to thank the following:

- Our Operations Manager, Bruce Agland, for his tireless work and diligence in gaining the contract with Sydney Trains for the testing of overhead wiring in the Metro area. This contract is for 5 years with an option of a further 3 years. Bruce handles all the operational matters for the Society and I thank him for a job well done.
- Graeme Holloway for his diligence as our Roster Clerk.
- The maintenance team, under the supervision of Robert Spencer (Engineering Manager) and Mick Halls (Maintenance Co-ordinator). I thank both for their dedication.
- Mick Walsh for persistently drawing our attention to funding grant opportunities and the many hours he spent compiling and submitting application forms. Mick is also our dedicated Secretary.
- Our treasurer, Trish Short, has continued to maintain the financial records of The Rail Motor Society. She is instrumental in the planning and organisation of many of our trips, to the financial benefit of the Society.
- Bruce Gehrig our Welfare Officer, for his kind and caring approach to his fellow members. Bruce also conducts tours of the depot on our monthly open days.
- The Board members for their support and dedication to The Rail Motor Society during what has been a difficult year. Some hard decisions have had to be made but everyone has 'stepped up' and we have had a productive year.
- To all the volunteers for your support and contribution to the Society. You are highly valued and greatly appreciated for all you have done. Thank you.

To any members who have suffered the loss of a loved one, please accept my condolences.

Next year we have a very busy calendar of events. This will impact our operational crew, passenger attendants and maintenance team. I have every confidence our team of volunteers are up to the challenge of working together for the benefit of the Society to achieve success on all our trips.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a happy and safe Christmas and a COVID safe new year.

Rodney Short - President

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Lance Nelson (Woodberry), Wayne and Suzanne Curtis (Metford) and Andrew McGloin (North Arm Cove).



A recent communication forum for Depot staff

Operations Report

The Society's operations have been curtailed by COVID-19 Delta variant restrictions since July 2021.

During early October, CPH 1 and 7 were hired to Lachlan Valley Railway for an inspection train to the south-western branches for UGL Regional Linx. Society crews delivered the train to Goulburn where it was handed over to the LVR crew on Monday 11 October. Our crews collected the train from Goulburn on Friday 15 October for the return run to Paterson.

Our first passenger operation was a Stroud Road tour for Tuncurry Coaches on 28 October. Over the weekend of 29 October–1 November, 7344 travelled to Branxton to assist Sydney Rail Services with the first mainline steaming trials for their converted Victorian R Class locomotive R766. 7344 was coupled to R766's tender and led the loco (running tender first) to Singleton before returning to Branxton. This trip was repeated a second time.

Our next passenger operation was another Stroud Road tour, this time for Southern Cross Coaches, on 2 December. We are pleased to welcome a new customer, Captains Choice, for a western circle tour, commencing from Sydney on 5 December. CPH 1 and 7 did the honours, substituting for 621/721 which is now completing its final repairs from the April accident. The tour visited Hawkesbury River on the way from Sydney before