



RAIL SPIKE



NEWSLETTER OF THE
DERWENT
VALLEY RAILWAY

PO Box 478, New Norfolk, TASMANIA 7140

Even though trains are not running, the DVR has been busy on a number of fronts and planning for a return to the rails.

If you haven't been to New Norfolk for a while you will notice the changes.

- **Asbestos – gone**
- **Compressed air on**
- **New Caterpillar diesel – donated**
- **68 metre carriage shed construction**
- **Maydena tourism plan**
- **X18 restoration**
- **Westerway Station Centenary**
- **New Norfolk Station re-vamp**
- **Week day work crew**
- **Getting ready**

OUT OF THE BLUE



Over the past few years the DVR steam locomotive fleet has grown. All these fine old machines brought joy and a sense of achievement to the railway – they also brought asbestos cladding. M1, MA1 and H5 all had blue asbestos blankets around their boilers and pistons. Quotes for the removal of the asbestos ranged from \$26 000 per locomotive, to \$9 000 for the three!



Needless to say, the board chose the latter quote. To cut down on the cost DVR members removed the external fittings to enable the removal of covers before the licensed contractor arrived to expose the asbestos. DVR's steam locos are now certified asbestos free. The removal was made possible with a Federal Government grant.

AIR - THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Some time ago WIN Television donated a large capacity air compressor to the DVR. Over the last few months a crew have been busy digging trenches through the rock solid yard and installing pipes into the locomotive shed. Having this equipment means that air tools and spray painting equipment will literally have unlimited air on tap. We will be able to use air driven tools and our restoration projects will have the best paint finish because of the filtering system that is part of the set-up.

CAT – THE TONIC

Diesel mechanical shunting locomotive V7 was removed from Dru Point in 1998 for long term storage and eventual restoration. Even though it looks like it is a wreck, it is a basic machine and most bits needed can



be acquired or fabricated. The major component that DVR needed to find was a motor. Originally these locos were fitted with Gardner engines. The Gardners were very desirable for fishing boats and many found their way into marine service. Although not a priority project, a conversation started a few enquiries. DVR member Colin Kay, through one of his large network of acquaintances, managed to secure a BRAND NEW 600 horsepower C18 Caterpillar motor. The DVR would like to express its gratitude to Caterpillar and Dale Elphinstone for this very generous donation. Members are welcome to look at this fine big yellow CAT at New Norfolk on any Saturday work day.

FEDS AND A SHED

The Hon Martin Ferguson, Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism, and a confessed train buff, again visited the DVR, but this time it was to help celebrate the shed becoming a reality and to turn the first sod. With Minister Ferguson that day were The Hon Dick Adams, Federal Member for Lyons and the Mayors from Hobart, Glenorchy and the Derwent Valley. councillors and other distinguished guests attended along with representatives from the Department of Tourism and the media. The sod turning was a great event and a real milestone for the DVR. The



shed kit has been coming together well especially considering the bad weather that we have had - only 3 dry Saturdays since construction commenced. Paul Jones has been the chief shed putter upperer and his willing band has been working tirelessly every weekend to meet the deadline. The task has been made easier by having Matt Davey's Datsun 120Y forklift to do all the lifting and elevated work. The shed will be able to house the rolling stock, including the 3 ACS dual passenger carriages. These carriages are of heritage value and in need of urgent repair and attention.

DP OR NOT DP?

The advent of the Forestry Tasmania Maydena Adventure Hub has presented opportunities for the DVR. A Business Plan has been prepared to put forward a case for funding to Forestry Tasmania and Government. As was reported on television News and in the press, the DVR would be interested in acquiring the DP railcar set owned by Burnie Council. Discussions were underway but the situation was confused when the Don River Railway stated its interest in the railcar set and apparently DRR has the "first option" on their purchase. DVR does not wish to enter into any bidding



wars with kindred groups so hopefully a sensible resolution can be reached.

The railcars running between Maydena and National Park would be a major drawcard for the area and a fund generator for the DVR.....Stay tuned....

18 AGAIN



How nice to be young again! X18 is close to being 60 years old and needed a bit of “face lift”. The cab had corrosion around the floor and was looking pretty drab after working hard for a long time. Derek Jones and Matt Davey have been replacing panels and repairing fittings in preparation for a new paint job and return to work. If we can get a team together we can start work on X10 and X30.



WESTERWAY BIRTHDAY

In December this year the Westerway Station will be 100 years old and we plan to celebrate.

Initial thoughts are to have a party on the platform and tie it in with a general DVR information day. Providing we can get some paint donated we plan to spruce it up for the celebration. Some of this work will be done through the week so if you can't make the weekend work days the week day work may suit you.

Contact Board Member Robert Walker for details.

SPRUCE UP

Over the last few years members have been busy tidying up the yard, the compound area and the station building. All the bits of equipment piled up near the gateway has been moved creating a far more pleasant and tidy “first impression” area. The interior of the station has been de-cluttered and painted and the engine shed and the compound have been made more tidy and organised.

A lot of work still needs to be done and all members are urged to help landscape, mow, paint and tidy at any time that suits – even week days if is more convenient.



“The Herrick Goods” on yard cleaning duty.

WEEK-NESS

While Saturdays have been buzzing of late with an average of 12 workers contributing on a regular basis – there is a great opportunity to utilise workers that can't make it on weekends to work on a week day.

There are many smaller jobs that can easily be handled by a couple of members that would only take a couple of hours to complete. Please let any Board member know if you are able to help and we will be able to get a second crew active.



READY – SET – ALL STATIONS GO ...IF WE GET THE WORK DONE!

As you can see there's been a lot happening at the DVR but there is more still to do and the future is looking bright.

For some years now we have not been able to access the line due to Pacific National having control of the line. With their withdrawal and the State Government buying back the line and the rolling stock there is now an opportunity for the DVR to again look at resuming its services in the future.

You would probably have seen Craig Farrell on the TV or in the paper talking about the possibilities for tourism opera-

tors. As Craig has said, the first priority is obviously to restore the lines and make them viable for a consistent freight service. After that however; there will hopefully be possibilities for tourism operators to run on the line.

This is where the DVR comes in.

With our newly restored carriages and locomotives, we will potentially be able to offer a great tourism experience for visitors to the valley.

There is potential to hook up with the Maydena Adventure Hub and the rail track riders in Maydena. This would benefit both the area in general and particularly the DVR who could draw on the visitors to Maydena. There is also potential for further expansion.

The down side of all this is that we must be ready to go when the line becomes available and that's where all the hard work of our volunteers and Board comes in.

Now is the time to redouble our efforts so that we can take advantage of any opportunities as they become available.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

We've said it before, now it's time to say it again, you can help by donating your time and skills. Cash donations are always welcome.

Membership to the DVR also provides an important income stream – and a DVR membership is a great gift idea for anyone who has an interest in trains, history or promoting tourism in the Derwent Valley.

As always, these things cost money and time and it's often left to a small and dedicated band to purchase and organise these. The new lock system needed to keep the premises secure was purchased by Board members, who put their hand in their pocket and used personal money to ensure the protection of our assets. The bills keep coming in and we must continue to pay the Aurora, Telstra and BOC accounts – or lose those services.

We are calling on members to get behind our revival and help out – either through a cash donation, asking new members to join us, or coming along to give us a hand with the work.

Donations of tools would also be most welcome; again it's the members who are doing the work who put their hand in their pocket when something is needed.

THE FUTURE IS LOOKING BRIGHT

Board Members

Craig Farrell -	6261 4566 – 0418 626 145
Derek Jones –	6286 1177 – 0419 775 349
Charles Court –	6227 9362 – 0401 146 260
Dennis Hewitt –	6249 3250
Lyndon Hewitt –	6249 8429 – 0417 350 002
Damien Jarvis –	0409 880 102
John Mc Devitt –	6261 2894 – 0417 572 420
Robert Walker –	6261 5414 – 0412 888 999
Steve Wheeler –	6261 3118 – 0429 613 118
Stephen Zvillis –	0439 726 517

Safety Report by Stephen Zvillis (Safety & Accreditation Manager)

It has been a particularly busy few months for the administration of the DVR's safety & accreditation obligations.

A major review was prompted by the issue of a new manual earlier this year entitled "Safety Management System Guidance for Tourist & Heritage Rail Operators". It became evident that, as this was to form a major part of prescribing compliance measures, a review of the manual against our existing systems was in order.

To streamline the task, it was decided to establish a sub-committee to undertake the review. The sub-committee met for a succession of meetings to work our way through the manual comparing its recommendations to our existing systems.

Where there were gaps, either amendments were made or entirely new documents were created as required.

Last month the Rail Safety Branch carried out the annual accreditation compliance audit. The impending arrival of the new nationally agreed Rail Safety Legislation comes into effect next year. Compliance never gets easier, so the DVR is prepared to adjust its policies and procedures as required when the new legislation takes effect. The new legislation will act as a convenient trigger for next years accreditation review.

At New Norfolk worksite, the work being undertaken on vehicle restoration, plant installation and the building of the new carriage shed, has been free of injury. I thank members for their conscious regard for safe work practices and encourage you all to maintain our good record by always thinking of the risks before commencing a job.

**To enquire about joining the DVR
call a Board member or write to
PO Box 478, New Norfolk,
TASMANIA 7140**

