



# DURUNDUR RAILWAY BULLETIN



*Newsletter of...*

## THE AUSTRALIAN NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY MUSEUM SOCIETY

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PO Box 1135

ISSN 0158-785x

Woodford QLD 4514

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**Volume 24**

**Number 268**

**April 2003**

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Claude Blakely using his tractor to lift the points onto the main line from the position where they were fabricated. Greg Stephenson placing lifting chains whilst Leslie Beahan watches on. Photo: Bill Blannin, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003.

## President's Report

By Bob Gough

At the AGM held on 5th March with 16 members present two new members, George Hadley and Terry Olsson, were welcomed to the Board.

At the AGM it was suggested that the DRB be distributed bimonthly with social meetings the other month. This magazine (268, Apr 03) will thus be the last of the monthly ones for a while, the next being in May.

The April social night (with slides and a talk on our past) will be Tuesday 15th, 7.30 pm at 25 Evelyn Street, Newstead. Bring your favourite slides and video.

The Board is looking for possible quotes for public risk insurance and hope that the matter can be resolved and we can run trains shortly.

In the meantime, keep the donations rolling in for the RMP Baguley as we only have until June to pay for this loco and wagons.

I have to report that member Gordon Yarrow passed away in December. Gordon was very helpful to the society by letting the Society store the equipment we bought off the Australian Army from storage at Coopers Plains. The purchase was two Malcolm Moore V8 petrol motor locomotives, a number of wagons, rail points and turntables, all 24/30 lb rail. Gordon was the loco driver at Caladomin Colliery near Rosewood, his home town. The locomotives from that mine are now at Woodford and were made from Fordson petrol/kerosene tractors mounted on ex-QR bogie frames. They are chain driven from the tractor to both wheel sets.

Work parties are still held every Saturday and we are always looking for helpers. Grass cutting, for example, is always required and is essential for keeping the site looking tidy. Greg's report on the major works is in *Track Matters*.

In my first report last year I said that I was going to introduce a membership card, but the cost for a properly printed card was rather high for the small number required. When we print the brochure we'll print the membership card at the same time for a reduced price.

Our members who visit Woodford and look in on the cottage could not help seeing all the books, including Robert Henderson's books which Graeme Prideaux had sorted and catalogued. Some are stacked neatly, others are in a pile on the floor. The Board has decided to sell these books and magazines, which are many years old and a bit rare, to help fund the Society. They'll be on sale at the AMRA Model Train Show and need to be tagged and priced prior to the show. Graeme Prideaux has offered to organise this on a suitable Sunday. Contact Graeme on 3261 2984 between 7 and 9 pm if you'd like to lend a hand.

The AMRA Model Train Show is the weekend of 3, 4 and 5 May. If you can help staffing the stand contact Shane Yore on 3888 1307 or myself on 3848 3769.

Regards and hoping for some good news on the public risk insurance.

## Track Matters

By Greg Stephenson



### Woodford Station Modifications

The last edition of DRB highlighted that the first set of points (No. 9) had been fabricated and was ready for insertion into the mainline. The original plan was to use the Bundy Fowler to tow the points into position and then use the loco to remove the existing panel of track where the points were to be located. When it became apparent that train operations would be “forced” to cease at the end of February, it was decided to install these points whilst we could still operate the locomotive. The work was scheduled for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

The work on the Thursday commenced with digging out the ballast around the sleepers of the panel of track to be removed and to prepare the points for snigging into position. As it turned out, Claude Blakely was on-site using his tractor to clear up some debris from the tree feeling. We co-oped him and his tractor to firstly lift the points onto the mainline and then to tow them down the track to where they were to be installed. Claude left his tractor with us for the rest of the day and we used it to pull the existing panel of track out of the way, to dig out the ballast and to pull the points into position. We finished the day well ahead of the original programme.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> dawned bleak and overcast with patchy drizzle however the work needed to continue if we were to operate trains the next day. Some concession had to be made to ensure our safety – most noticeable being the use of hand jiggers to drill sleepers rather than use power tools in the wet conditions. Fortunately, our good progress on Thursday gave us the time to deal with some other unforeseen problems that had to be overcome during the day. Work with the rail bender was needed to ensure that the ends of the points lined up with the existing track at the workshop end. Much heaving and jacking was required to line up the other end. It then became obvious that the existing rail in the track and the new pointwork were of slightly different profiles. Considerable time was spent grinding the fishplates to ensure a good fit – luckily this could be undertaken in the workshop and out of the rain.

Late in the afternoon, everything was lined up and joints bolted together allowing the points to be levelled and ballast replaced. In the fading light, the Bundy Fowler steam back and forth through the points to test the mainline to allow it to be reopened for our last public running day on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

I must extend my heart felt thanks to those who laboured under trying and uncomfortable conditions to ensure that we could meet our commitment to provide public services on the Sunday.

## Mainline Maintenance and Rehabilitation

One of the unforeseen implications of the current insurance dramas is the we cease to an accredited railway without insurance and it is therefore inappropriate to undertake activities that were part of our accreditation. That being the case, we are not currently undertaking trackwork activities on the mainline.

However our responsibilities as property owners continue and routine site maintenance needs to undertake. For example, we mowed most of the Woodford Station area on 15<sup>th</sup> February - I believe we need to continue to demonstrate our commitment to our Museum to prospective future patrons and the Woodford community. This work will be continuous and ongoing and needs as much support as possible.

Whilst we are not currently able to undertake work on the mainline on our normal trackwork days, there is still a range of other activities that need to be undertaken – the most pressing being to repair the fences damaged by storms at Christmas. With this in mind, I plan to continue the work parties on the second Saturday of the month. The next monthly work parties are scheduled for **Saturdays 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> June.**

If you can help on any of these projects, let me know on telephone 3844 9269 or via email at [greg.stephenson@uqconnect.net](mailto:greg.stephenson@uqconnect.net).



Points in position at the start of a wet day's work. The curve in the points was removed by jacking and barring across during the day. The panel of

track removed from the mainline has been snigged clear of the work area.  
Photo: Bill Blannin, Saturday 22<sup>th</sup> February 2003



One of the two Fordson petrol/kerosene tractors mounted on ex-QR bogie frames at ANGRMS. The chain drive to the rear wheel set is clearly visible.  
Photo: Lynn Zelmer.

## Book Sale

We have a stock of new plastic bags but Graeme Prideaux (3261 2984) asks you you to save your clean used plastic shopping bags for the book sale at the AMRA Show. Obviously, we need to place the books in clean dry bags once they have been sold and using recycled bags will help the environment.



One of our WW-I Malcolm Moore locomotives with several bogies, a CSR cane truck and a Ruston loco from Condong Sugar Mill. Photo: Lynn Zelmer.

## Scheduled Activities and Contacts

<b>Members Meeting: 15 April</b>	7.30 pm at 25 Evelyn Street, Newstead
<b>Track Work Parties</b>	12 Apr, 10 May, 14 Jun
<b>General Work Parties</b>	Every Saturday
<b>Running Days</b>	Suspended until further notice.

Bob Gough	President	07 3848 3769
Shane Yore	Secretary & Operations Manager	07 3888 1307
Steve Baker	Treasurer	07 3857 2495
Terry Ollson	Roster Clerk	07 5497 4285
Greg Stephenson	V.P. & Track Day Coordinator.	07 3844 9269
Paul Rollason	V.P. & Safety & Training Manager	07 3278 9110 or email serpar@bigpond.com
Lynn Zelmer	Webmaster & DRB Editor	lynn@zelmeroz.com
SM's Office	At Woodford	07 5496 1976

## Our Safety Goal - No Injuries