



*Durundur*  
*Railway* **Bulletin**

*Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society,  
 trading as the Woodford Railway, is located  
 25 km west of Caboolture in Woodford, Queensland*

**Volume 38**

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**March/April 2017**



"Dingo Pete" using his mini-excavator to trim the batters of the excavation for the first rail line in the locomotive storage shed on 14 January 2017. Greg Stephenson photographer.

**Running Days: First and Third Sundays**

**Trackwork Saturdays: 18 March, 8 April (note change to avoid Easter), 20 May and 17 June 2017**

**Work Days: Every Saturday; Light Duties on Third Wednesday**

**Our Safety Goal - No Injuries**

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### Scheduled Activities

**General Meetings: 2017:** 17 Feb, 21 Apr, 16 Jun, 18 Aug, 20 Oct, and 15 Dec at 7:30 pm, entry from 7:00 pm; combined with LRRSA at the BCC Library, park and enter at rear 107 Orange Grove Road, Coopers Plains, a 10 minute walk from Coopers Plains Railway Station or a phone call to Dan Sheehan or Bob Gough for transport to the venue. A bus stop is at the front of the shopping centre and Express buses run services from the stop.

**Light Duties Work Day:** Normally 3rd Wednesday of the month. Contact Neil Trevorrow m:0402051546 if planning to attend.

### Donations and Bequests

Donations to the Society's Museum Fund are tax deductible. Please make cheques payable to the 'Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society' and mail to the PO Box above or deliver in person. Remember to include a note indicating that it's a donation, plus your name and address so that a receipt can be posted to you. We appreciate your help and support now, but also consider mentioning the Society in your Will. Donations/bequests can be for a particular project or for museum development (restoration or infrastructure). For details, contact the President.

## President's Report

*Terry Olsson, President*

The 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held at our Woodford site on Saturday 25 March commencing at 2pm. Please mark this date in your diary, come along to hear what your society has been up to, and help plan our future. It is also an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Also, please consider nominating for one of the Board positions. Not only will this give some existing board members the opportunity to have a well earned rest, it is a good thing for an organisation to have an injection of fresh ideas and enthusiasm. We are all busy now days so we need to spread the workload.

Members are reminded that if they have not done so yet, membership renewal for 2017 is now due. Members need to be current in order to vote at the AGM.

As part of some of the reports I need to prepare each year, I need to look at the number of active volunteers we have each year on site. During the twelve months of 2015-2016 we had 36 different volunteers on site who put in a total of 3479 hours of volunteer work. If you consider there is also a large number of hours put in off site this is an incredible effort.

With the recent hot weather, it has been great to be able to be undertaking track work within the new shed. ANGRMS is responsible for constructing the tracks within the shed before the concreter can pour the slab. Extra help is needed for this important task.

Lack of workers continues to be an issue so if you or someone you know can help out please let us know. Unfortunately everyone leads busy lives now days so please do not leave it to the same few.

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**Remember – safety first!**

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## Membership Fees 2017

Members are reminded that fees for 2017 are now due. If you plan to attend the Annual General Meeting on March 25, you cannot vote unless your 2017 fees are paid.

## **Safety and Training Report**

*Dave Caruzzo*

Safety is a very important part of our operation and ANGRMS remains committed to providing a safe railway.

Communication is a very important part of safety and member's feedback is always welcome. Remember there is a suggestion box in the Station Master's Office at Woodford station. Any suggestions will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

One issue which keeps coming up in our internal audits is members failing to sign off at the end of the day. This is particularly so on work days so we have decided to try a second sign on/off book in the cottage. On public running days please still use the sign on book in the Station Masters office. Otherwise, on work days please use the sign on book in the cottage (usually on the kitchen table or nearby). Members are reminded they need to sign off, not just sign on.

During February we received advice that Queensland Transport Rail Safety unit were conducting a desk top audit on the Public Liability Insurance held by groups. The required information has been supplied.

Being summer days can be quite hot and all members are reminded to drink lots of fluids – even if you are not feeling thirsty. Where possible work indoors or in the shade, and if not possible take care and do not over do it. Use a hat and sunscreen when working outdoors.

The other issue is it is snake season, so take care and watch where you are walking. Do not lift up things on the ground without checking under them first. Snakes can also be in the shade under rollingstock so take care.

## **Some Civil Notes**

*Greg Stephenson, Track Day Coordinator*

### **Future Locomotive Storage Shed**

As 2016 drew to a close, Ralph Cumner brought his back-hoe to excavate trenches for 3 of the 4 roof water drainage pipes and pits required. After the pipes were placed, he transported ballast to fill the soakage pits before backfilling them and the trenches. He also moved most of the 160 tonnes of crusher dust previously donated by Bracalba Quarry to commence flattening the batters on the earthworks around the locomotive storage shed.

We then engaged Peter Nuske of "Pete's Dingo & Tipper Hire" to flatten and trim the batters along the picnic area side of the shed. The following weekend, "Dingo Pete", as he known locally, returned to dig out inside the

shed to allow for 2 of the storage tracks to be constructed. He used his dingo to dig and move the "deco" and his mini-excavator to profile the sides of the trenches. The plan was to assemble the two outer tracks so the concrete can be poured and finished.



Bob Gough, Wayne Harmen and Morrie Mason using crow bars to adjust the alignment of the track panels prior to concreting the floor of the locomotive storage shed. Greg Stephenson photographer.

We have had some very good attendance on recent work parties and the panels of rails and sleepers for both the outer tracks have now been fabricated and placed. This has been a period of record high temperatures so working on the track inside the shed does offer a little respite from the heat. The precision part of this exercise has been to support the track panels to the correct level and line so that the track does not move when the concrete is being placed. We are now ready to hand over to the concreter to place his side formwork and reinforcing steel before placing and finishing the concrete.

Whilst the two outer bays of concrete is curing, "Dingo Pete" will return to dig out for the centre track which will then be fabricated and placed so that the concreter can complete the floor.

Now that the final levels of the floor and location of the internal tracks are fixed, we can turn our attention to external trackwork to link up to the shed.

### **Track Maintenance**

The independent track condition inspection in December 2016 showed that there was one cluster of 3 consecutive defective sleepers near the 750 metre mark. This section has now been repaired. Whilst only 3 sleepers were marked for immediate replacement, the opportunity was taken to install 6 prestressed concrete and one steel joint sleeper in this location.

During this period of record high temperatures, inspections have been undertaken before running days to ensure that the track remains in sound condition.

Future track days will concentrate on renewing defective timber sleepers in steel or concrete in the mainline. A number of steel joint sleepers have been fabricated for installation in the mainline. The long point throw-over lever timbers on some points in the workshop area require replacement with steel sleepers. It is proposed to continue these renewals with the monthly track work parties generally being held on the Saturday before the second running day of the month and are planned for 18 March, 8 April, 20 May and 17 June 2017. The April trackday is the second Saturday to avoid the Easter weekend.

### **Peterson Road**

This work has been temporarily mothballed whilst the track work associated with the new running shed is undertaken.

## **Operations, Sales And Marketing**

*Terry Olsson, Operations, Sales and Marketing*

During January and February our passenger numbers have plummeted and we are down approx 50% on this time last year. Hopefully this is just the ongoing heat wave conditions but if you have any ideas/suggestions to boost patronage please do not hesitate to let Brian Webber or myself know.

While we cannot do anything about the weather, it does mean we need to put in an extra effort when it comes to opportunities to market our railway, such as shows. If you have any ideas to help us market our railway, please let Brian Webber know.

On Australia Day, Brian and myself looked after a stand at the Caboolture Historical Village. As well as supporting a local historical group, we gave out

a lot of brochures with a good response. These events are an excellent opportunity to promote our railway at the right price!.

The recent heat, combined with a limited volunteer workforce, means when we return to steam operation we need to seriously look at running diesels in the hotter months. I would like all members to think about this and let me know your thoughts.

Unfortunately during October last year a tragedy occurred on one of the rides at Dreamworld and our sympathy and thoughts go out to the families of those involved. Not taking anything away from this tragic event, an important lesson to be learnt is the ongoing impact this sort of thing can have on an organisation.

A lot of people just think about the lost revenue on the actual day, but the impact goes much further. In addition to the lost revenue from the 5 weeks Dreamworld was shut down immediately after the incident, December patronage was down 63% and January patronage was down 50.4%.

Dreamworld has a large marketing budget to try and attract patrons back but we don't. Therefore, it is very important that we run when we say we are going to run. With the internet, Facebook and other similar modern day means of communication word spreads at lightning speed and can have a severe impact for a year or more.

We continue to be very short of volunteers for our Operations so if you can help in this area please let Neil Trevorrow, one of the Board members, or myself know.

### **Date Claimers:**

**AMRA Show 6 and 7 May 2017:** We have been accepted for this show so please mark the date in your diaries. It is almost upon us so please let myself or one of the Board members know if/when you can help. This is our biggest sales/promotions event for the year and requires a lot of helpers to set up on the Friday as well as during the show on the Saturday and Sunday.

**Toowoomba Model Trains, Craft and Hobby Expo 3 and 4 June 2017:** We have also been accepted for this show. Also being a running day weekend, we will need extra help. Not only is this show a valuable source of sales income, a surprising number of locals travel down our way and ride our railway. Please let me know if you are not required at Woodford on the Sunday and can help.

**Pine Rivers Model Train and Hobby Exhibition 5 and 6 August 2017:** Being at Strathpine this show is not only a valuable source of sales income, it is an important opportunity to promote our railway within our local government area.

### Monthly Statistics

	January 2017	February 2017
Paying Passengers	71	73
Guards Sheet	96	85



Above: Ralph Cumner commences backfilling of one of the roof water drainage pits for the locomotive storage shed. Greg Stephenson photo. Below: New members Barry and Bill help Greg laying track within loco shed A, 28 January 2017. Terry Olsson photographer.

