



# Signal Post



National Railway Museum Member & Volunteer's Newsletter

Edition 4 – April 2017

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN: DAVID BURNETT

Here we are in April already with Easter coming up very quickly. There is a lot going on at the museum with lots of volunteers continuing to do their very best for the museum. We are very grateful for the enormous contribution that so many of you do for the museum.

At each Board meeting the Board is provided with the number of volunteers who volunteer in the preceding month and the number of hours that are worked.

Below is the table that was provided at the March 2017 meeting. This was for the period February 2016 – January 2017. These are amazing figures.

Month	Number of Volunteers	Hours volunteered
February 2016	110	3547
March 2016	113	3345.5
April 2016	114	3450
May 2016	119	3661
June 2016	114	3250
July 2016	124	4067
August 2016	108	3750
September 2016	110	3355
October 2016	121	3582
November 2016	107	3437
January 2017	114	3390

To showcase the incredible work that the many volunteers do an exhibition has been arranged to showcase the many and varied tasks that you the volunteers undertake on the museum's behalf.

The exhibition "Priceless" Celebrating our Volunteers will be launched in the Fitch pavilion on Friday 12 May 2017 at 10am followed by a thank you morning tea. If you can attend the launch and morning tea we would love to see you there. Please either leave your name in the museum shop, phone Chris Gordon on 8341 1690 or email Chris at [bookings@nrm.org.au](mailto:bookings@nrm.org.au) for us to ensure that we cater appropriately. Please join us and celebrate the fabulous work that you all do.

While I am talking about volunteers, we have commenced with a new and very important strategy that for the museum's longevity is extremely important, Youth volunteers. On Saturday 18 March 2017, Bob Sampson inducted nine new volunteers who are under the age of 25. There will be a more detailed article in the May 2017 Catchpoint, keep an eye out for it. In the meantime you will see the guys around the place, please make them welcome.

They will be working with many of you to learn how you do the duties that you do for us because when you retire we need to be in a position to keep the museum operating and these volunteers are our future.

We are still looking for more volunteers in our shop. We also have other numerous volunteer positions available; have a look on our web site [www.nrm.org.au](http://www.nrm.org.au) (in the volunteer section). As you enter the museum you will see a sign with current positions that are available. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the NRM's Volunteer Co-ordinator, Graham Vincent email: [volunteering@nrm.org.au](mailto:volunteering@nrm.org.au) or phone 8341 1690 to make a time to meet and discuss where you can come and join us.

## Board Happenings

The Board met on Wednesday 15 March 2017. Unfortunately, the newly appointed Treasurer Lewis Stratton has had to resign from his position due to work commitments. I would like to thank Lewis for what he has done as Treasurer for the time he held the position and wish him the very best into the future.

## 2017 Events

**18 & 19 March** Unveiling of GB8394 – special train running e.g. 801 with Centenary 376 and GB.

Unfortunately, 801 gave us a few problems but due to the skills of our mechanical team the train was still able to run on both days. It was great to see GB8394 looking so smart following its restoration and running with Centenary car 376. A great couple of days.

**23 April** Welcome back Bub – after a serious illness and 12 months out of service Bub is back and celebrating its birthday. Kestrel drivers experience on both Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 April have all been sold.

**20 & 21 May** History Festival Month – Barossa Wine Train inspection tours. Bluebird Kestrel will be running, in addition to Bub.

**24 & 25 June** Drivers Experiences on the Redhens, and on Peronne.

**20 - 23 July** Family Fun Fair - Bub, the Redhens and Peronne all running.

**19 -20 August** Steampunk Festival'17 – Peronne and Bub running.

**3 September** National Train & Father's Day – plenty of trains running

As you will have seen in Catchpoint the Trans Australian Railway is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. There is an unveiling of a new joining the rails monument on Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 4kms west of Ooldea. The NRM will be launching a TAR Centenary display to celebrate this event as well. Keep your eyes open for other events to celebrate this important occasion. Additionally on Friday night 13 October, a special TAR Centenary cocktail function will take place at NRM. Stay tuned for more details.

## Operations and Site Works Report

### Bill

At present at Semaphore. Motion counterweight separated from motion recently and could not be located. New counterweight fabricated with improved fixing method and fitted to loco. Some boiler tubes are showing signs of weeping and are being monitored.

### Bub

Boiler repairs have now been completed and the boiler has been returned to NRM. It has now been reassembled and undertaken some steaming trials – with success. It will now be the star attraction for Bub’s birthday event on 23 April 2017.

### 457mm gauge loco No.8

There is much work being undertaken in preparation to having this loco up and running soon. Some successful trial runs occurred on Thursday 6 April.

### Railcar 8

Sheet metal work and carpentry work on going. Carpentry slow down due to shortage of carpenter. Inspection parts / checking dimensions of parts on bogies in progress. Railcar 8 has now been moved to the adjacent track for access to eastern side, for sheet metal work repairs.

### Red Hen Railcars

Car 321 the necessary engine repairs have been completed and the railcar has been successfully tested.

### Railcar 257 Kestrel

The necessary engine related repairs have been completed and the railcar has been operated successfully.

### Volunteers

In the last edition, we introduced Board Member Dr John Radcliffe AM.

This edition we learn more about long term volunteer Chris Gordon



I originally came from England, landing in Australia in 1969

I started with the museum 25 years ago in 1992 for what was supposed to be a one off helping in the second shop the museum used to have in busy Friends of Thomas week.

At first, I started volunteering in the shop on weekends, which gradually ended up being a couple of days during the week and also weekends. Eventually I became team leader for the shop, which that lasted about 20 years.

In 1994, I did a term of two years as Vice Chairman.

Late last year, I stopped being the shop team leader to concentrate on being the Office Coordinator, Duty Manager and train Roster Clerk. If required I do help out if required for lunchtime breaks in the shop. I spend 5 days per week at the museum.

In my spare time, I like to spend it with my 9 beautiful granddaughters and as many trips back to England as I can manage.

If you have any questions or queries please send either myself [chair@nrm.org.au](mailto:chair@nrm.org.au) or Bob Sampson [exec@nrm.org.au](mailto:exec@nrm.org.au) an email.