

Durundur Railway *Bulletin*

Newsletter of ANGRMS, the Australian
Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society

Margaret Street, Woodford

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Neil Trevorrow and Michael Wood touching up the Trolley before going for display at Caboolture and Woodford museums. Peter Hall photographer.

Running Days: First and Third Sundays

Trackwork Days: 9 July, 13 August, 10 September

Work Days: Every Saturday; Light Duties on Third Wednesday

Our Safety Goal - No Injuries

| | | |
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Scheduled Activities

General Meetings: Second Friday: Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec; combined with LRRSA at the BCC Library, Garden City Shopping Centre, Mt Gravatt; 7:30 pm, entry from 7:00 pm (after hours entrance at rear of Library)

Light Duties Work Day: Third Wednesday of the month. The gates open 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Bequests

We appreciate your help and support now, but consider mentioning us in your will so your contribution to ANGRMS can be remembered. A bequest can be left for a particular project and commemorated through the placement of a permanent plaque or the naming of the project.

Bequests also allow us greater access to grants when a matching contribution is required from us or to assist with additional costs. For more information, contact the President.

President's Report

Terry Olsson, President

It is with great sorrow that I have to report the loss of two of our members. Founding member David Thornton and Honorary Life Member George Bond both passed away early June. They will both be greatly missed and our sympathies go out to their families.

Recently I was having a conversation with one of our members about what passengers liked about ANGRMS, and why a lot kept coming back. It was most interesting to hear that they had come to the conclusion that it was not any one thing, but the combination of everything we provide – from safe rolling stock/track and friendly staff, right down to the clean and tidy station and site. Every little bit plays its part and is important in the overall scheme of things. This is something I have to agree with – and something everyone who makes a contribution, no matter how small, can be proud of. Even small things like a couple of members picking up and disposing of the chips left over after chopping BBQ wood can make a difference. These chips, if left where they were would not only have caused possible damage to our mowers, but made that area look untidy. As I have said, we are in the Entertainment Industry, not the transport industry.

In September last year, the new Rail Safety Act was passed by the Queensland Parliament. This requires certain changes to our Safety Management System, which must be completed by 1 September this year. We are also taking the opportunity to rearrange the SMS so it reads better and is more user friendly. This is a lot of work, and I would like to thank everyone involved for the efforts, in particular Cairns member Graham Wilson who is doing the bulk of the work. His help and assistance has proved invaluable.

As mentioned in the Engineering Report, we are making great progress with ANGRMS first rolling stock inspection pit. This has certainly been a long time coming, with the columns for the pit beams welded up about 15 years ago! This pit will be invaluable in helping us improve the way we inspect rolling stock.

Another improvement we are presently putting in place, is the fitting of a two way radio system to our railway. At this stage one base radio has been fitted to Bundy and one in the Woodford Station Masters Office. Once finalised, we will begin training for those staff involved. A big thank you to Geoff West for his help in setting this up.

Remember – safety first!

Safety and Training Report

Gordon Anderson, Vice President, Safety and Training

Training

No training of Volunteers has occurred since the last report.

If you would like to become a member of the team of volunteers who keep our train operating on our running days, contact me and we'll provide the training required for the positions you wish to fill.

Three of our Volunteers have passed away in recent months. They are missed not only for their dedication to the positions they filled but as active members of the Society.

ANGRMS depends on volunteers to keep our railway operating. Why not become part of ANGRMS running day volunteer team?

Check Lists

Running Day Staff: Please ensure that you use the Check Lists provided for the position you are filling as they are a valuable aid in ensuring required tasks are fully completed.

Some Civil Notes

Greg Stephenson, Track Day Coordinator

The previous issue of DRB referred to the visit by delegates to the 10th Narrow Gauge Railway Modelling Convention. Amongst the visitors were members of the Illawarra Light Railway Museum Society from New South Wales. They operate their 2 foot gauge railway at Albion Park, near Wollongong. Much of their equipment and rolling stock has been sourced from the sugar industry so is similar to that operated by ANGRMS. The visitors included their track work superintendent so it was interesting to discuss track related issues with a kindred spirit. They have many similar issues and it is always useful to compare standards, methods and approaches. The move to a National Rail Safety Regulatory makes these interstate contacts very beneficial.

Number 2 Workshop Road

Considerable progress is being made on converting Number 2 Workshop Road from a storage track to a servicing track. The point work has been refurbished and No. 3 Workshop Road – the former mainline – has been reconnected.

Refurbishment of No. 2 Workshop Road proceeded relatively quickly. The biggest challenge being the depth of ballast required to achieve the finished

levels. Fortunately, Ralph Cumner has been available with his back hoe to fill the “old” ballast wagon as required.

Work has now commenced on the servicing area with excavation and low retaining walls being constructed. Special thanks to all those that have help with manual excavations – it has been quite an archaeological dig identifying different layers of fill, ash, coal and metal objects.

This project will continue as resources and weather permit!

Track Maintenance Work

An impromptu track day was held on Saturday 18 June 2011 when we replaced six isolated defective sleepers between Ch 175 and Ch 230 – from the Workshop points to the start of Freeman Cutting. Since these were on the main line through the reverse curves near the gates at the entry to Woodford Station, they were given priority.

The regular wet weather has caused substantial weed growth in the open areas of the main line. Attempts to poison the track have also been hampered by wet weather. A good start was made on this activity on Saturday 18 June 2011.

Future maintenance works planned for future track day include lifting and packing the main line from the Compound Points to the Workshop Points. The track is starting to “pump” in the middle of the curve and strengthening with additional ballast is required. A group of defective sleepers around Ch 600 will also be replaced.

Continuing to treat these defects as they are identified ensures we keep “on top” of maintenance and maintain a safe operating track. We plan to continue our commitment to routine maintenance activities with the monthly track work parties held on the second Saturday of the month. The track work days are scheduled for Saturdays 9 July, 13 August and 10 September 2011.

June Light Duties Work Day

Peter Hall

Wednesday workers were low in number in June so the work on Railmotor Trailer PL111 is still ongoing. Neil Trevorrow and Michael Wood took the opportunity to touch up and polish the Pumper Inspection Trolley (see cover photo) so that it can be taken away to be displayed at Caboolture and later at the Museum at Woodford.

Operations, Sales And Marketing

Terry Olsson, Operations, Sales and Marketing

Public running days continue on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. The impact of the floods earlier this year, the wet weather, and rising prices

such as fuel are having an impact on our passenger numbers, but thanks to the efforts of Brian Webber, Mark Gough and all of those other members who help out, we are managing to maintain our passenger figures at a similar level to last year. While this may not sound all that special when you first read it, please remember that some other similar groups are suffering downturns in the order of 20% in recent months, so to be holding our own is a great effort.

Roster

Neil Trevorrow has now taken over as ANGRMS roster officer so please direct all enquiries to him by e-mail: trevorrow26@optusnet.au, (07) 3263 6761 or m: 0402051546.

I would like to thank Neil for taking over this role, which will enable me to spend this time on other things. This is an excellent example of a member taking on a role to help spread the work load.

By now all train Operations staff should have received your roster for July to Dec 2011. If you have not received this yet please contact Neil.

Brochures

Colour brochures: Thanks to the excellent work of Mark Gough, we have had some colour brochures donated (see article later in this newsletter).

White passenger information brochures: Thanks to the efforts of Brian Webber, the Moreton Bay Regional Council has generously provided us with 1000 of our white double sided information handouts which we give to passengers on our train.

Monthly Statistics

| | May 2011 | June 2011 |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| Paying Passengers | 246 | 167 |
| Guards Sheet | 302 | 220 |

Special Running Days

Brian Webber is the co-ordinator for special running days and group bookings. Therefore if you have any suggestions or contacts in bus companies, car clubs etc please let Brian know (Ph 07 33542140 or e-mail bwebber5@bigpond.com.)

Bus Groups/Car Clubs etc

We had a visit from Northern Highlands Travel on Monday 6 June. This group did not have a train ride, but rather had a guided tour of our site thanks to Steve Baker. Being a group of rail enthusiasts, we received a generous donation which is much appreciated.

On our normal running day on 3 July, we will be having a group visit from the Peachester History Group. Thanks to Ron Trim from the Woodford Historical Society and our Brian Webber for arranging this.

We have another bus group booked for Saturday 27 August so please mark this in your diaries.

We now have a car club booked to visit on our normal running day on Sunday 16 October.

Weddings

We now have a wedding booked for Saturday 10 September so please mark this day in your diaries. Not only will we need help in operating the train, we will also need help in cleaning the train and loco during that morning.

Shows

AMRA Show - 29 April and 1-2 May 2011 – This annual model train show is our largest sales outlet for the year and has now passed. Thanks to the sales of the new release book “The South Coast Railway” which had the author signing copies at our stand all through the show, we managed to bring in just under what we did in 2009, which was our record year. Thank you to everyone who helped, both during the show as well as before and after.

Toowoomba Model Train Show – 4 and 5 June 2011 – This show has also now passed. Unfortunately sales were down about 20% however it is still an important sales and marketing outlet for us. Thank you to those who helped.

Caboolture Historical Village Show – 2 and 3 July 2011 – As well as assisting this local historical organisation, our being there is a valuable marketing outlet and PR exercise for us. We will be taking the hand pumper trolley this year, and I would like to thank those members who recently touched up the paintwork and gave it a polish.

Caloundra Air Show – 2 and 3 July 2011 – We have been invited to attend this event, which is a great marketing opportunity for us in an area we have not previously tapped.

Strathpine Model Show – 20 and 21 August 2011 – This show is another valuable marketing outlet for us as it is also part of the same shire. It is also a valuable sales outlet for us. Please mark this weekend in your diaries as it will be a busy weekend with our running day on the Sunday.

New Sales Items:

The South Coast Railway by Alan Arundel: Published by WaterStreet Productions, this new book was released at the AMRA show at the ANGRMS stand. It is a fascinating book on the Queensland Railways Gold Coast Line and has some great old photos. A must have for any one with an interest in

railways as well as those with an interest in this part of Queensland generally. Price: \$34.95 plus \$15 P&P if required.

Rail Motors, Railcars, EMUs and Tilt Trains of Queensland by Percy Hanlon and Brian Webber: Another great new book released at the AMRA show, this book co-authored by ANGRMS member and well known author Brian Webber, covers the railmotors and their variations in Queensland Railways from the first rail motors through to the Tilt Trains. A must have for any rail enthusiast, or any one with an interest in this fascinating part of railway operation. Price: \$35.00 plus \$15 P&P if required.

Bill Blannin



Bill Blannin receiving the ANGRMS Certificate of Appreciation at the 2011 Brisbane Train Show. Brian Webber photographer.

Bill Blannin is one of ANGRMS' early members. In recognition of his lengthy service to the Society, he has been presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Society President, Terry Olsson, at a short ceremony on the Monday of the 2011 Brisbane Model Train Show.

With nearly forty years of commitment to ANGRMS, there is little that Bill has not done – from the very early days of clearing the site to his present day involvement with restoration of the rail motor trailer. In the intervening years, he has poured concrete, constructed station buildings, driven diesel locomotives, built BBQ facilities, renovated rolling stock, kept our track and lineside free from weeds and foliage, and a whole lot more.

Bill has always been a keen photographer and his extensive collection of photographs includes a comprehensive and valuable record of the growth and development of Woodford Station and the Durundur Railway.

On behalf of all ANGRMS members – Thank you Bill.

[Editor's note: A selection of Bill's photos can be accessed from the web image collection using ANGRMS' Memories as the search term.]

Vale George Bond - 13/11/1913 to 06/06/2011

With great sorrow we record the passing of Honorary Life Member and noted railway historian George Bond at the age of 97 years.

George was born on 13 November 1913 at Wondai. During his school years he attended schools at Wondai, Sandgate, Toogoolawah and Bundaberg, before starting his working life at the Millaquin Sugar Mill and Refinery in 1930. He then became a stone mason before enlisting in the RAAF in 1942. He was discharged in 1948 and returned to his craft, being involved in the manufacture and erection of thousands of headstones for various war cemeteries. He again joined the RAAF in 1952, and was discharged in 1966 as a survey draftsman after several Australian and overseas postings. He was for a time caretaker at Newstead House and was employed at the University of Queensland library before retiring in 1977.

George was widely known for his railway research into Queensland government and private railways, along with the sugar cane railways of northern NSW and the phosphate railways of the Pacific Ocean. He was a generous researcher and made his material freely available to others with similar interests. On moving to a retirement home on the Gold Coast in 1986, he passed on his railway history files for the benefit of future researchers. Those on Queensland private railways, cane and other Australian industrial railways were placed in the custody of David Mewes. George asked David to ensure that these files would continue to be freely available to researchers, and requested that he continue to add to the information. George's deep interest in history also included genealogy and monumental masonry.

George was a long-time member of ANGRMS, LRRSA, ARHS and RHSQ. He wrote his first article in the ARHS Bulletin in 1948, and was given Honorary Life Membership of the ARHS and ANGRMS about 30 years ago.

Brian Webber recently presented George with a Life Membership Certificate for ANGRMS [see DRB 309] which George proudly hung on his wall. A photo of George receiving his certificate was displayed on his coffin at his funeral at Nerang on Friday 10 June. Several ANGRMS members attended his funeral.

Our sympathies go out to George's family.

[Editor's note: Over the last six weeks I've been scanning, optimising and cataloguing a selection of cane and shire railway oriented photos from Ted Ward, another long time rail fan. Among the more than 270 images from Ted are a number that originally came from George Bond's Collection. They can be retrieved from the on-line Image Collection using either George or Ted's name as the search term, or by using individual mill, locomotive or manufacturer as the search term.]

Vale David Thornton - 08/06/1955 to 10/06/2011

It was with great sorrow that we recently learnt of the passing of founding member David Thornton. While David has been ill for quite some time, it was still a shock to receive this sad news.

While David attended the first meeting of ANGRMS, he did not actually join until the second meeting (which was typical of David not to rush into anything). He was member number 23.

David not only took an active part in work and train running days, but also was involved behind the scenes as a Board Member and was a member of numerous sub committees at various times. His contribution to the society was invaluable over the many years of his involvement.

In later years, even though he had some serious health issues, he did not let this stop him and still regularly helped out at ANGRMS running days as Station Master. Despite the difficulties, he still performed his role in a bright and cheery manner. As a tribute to his efforts and excellent public relations, he was awarded the Association of Tourist Railways of Queensland CHUFF AWARD for "Front of House" in 2006. These awards are open to all Tourist and Heritage railways in Queensland so it was a great tribute to David that he won this.



At the Society's Christmas party on the 15th December 2008, David and his wife Diane were presented with a certificate in recognition of their dedication and hard work for the Society over a long period of time.

David did not want a public funeral so Gordon and Moya Anderson, Bob Gough, Greg Stephenson, Laurie and Caroline Erb and Terry Olsson attended the wake held at his

sister's on the 16th June 2011.

David will be missed and our sympathies go out to Diane and his family.

David Thornton (above) with the Certificate of Appreciation he and Diane received at the ANGRMS Christmas Party in Dec 2008. Ian Thompson photographer.

New Colour Brochure

Mark Gough

From time to time my wife and I attend business network meetings put on by the Caboolture Business Enterprise Centre, an opportunity for business people to get together and learn about what others do in their businesses.

At one of these events I got chatting with a local printer whose printing business is just a few doors up from my work. He also happens to be a resident of Woodford and aware of our operations. In conversation over the evening we talked about how ANGRMS advertises and I was invited to his shop to discuss a colour brochure option. After a few ideas, and a few adjustments, the result is a new colour brochure that should make us stand out from the crowd.

We have a limited number of these new colour brochures so they will be placed in strategic locations, such as local motels, to maximise the return and boost the number of paying passengers on running days.

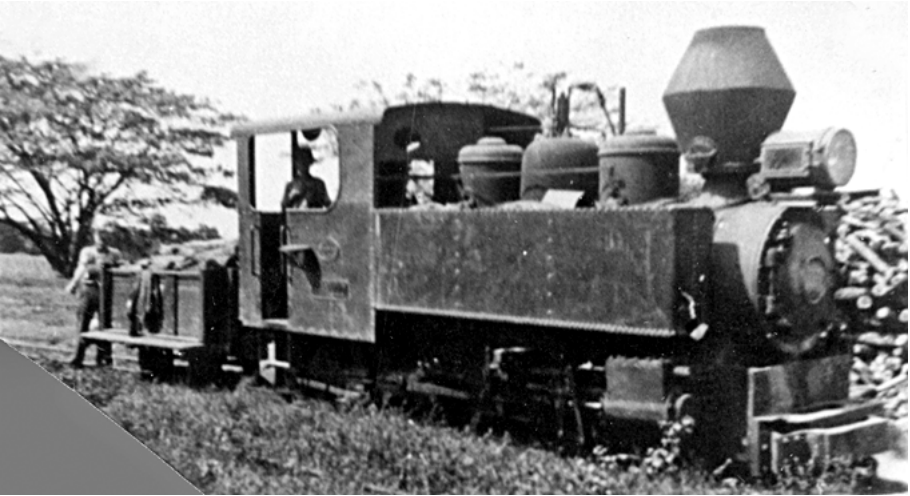
Thanks must go to Richard Payne and staff of Nicholson printers who were so helpful with this project and donated the new brochures. We are very grateful to them for this contribution to our society.

Nicholson Printers, 4/16 Aerodrome Road, Caboolture 4510, (07) 5498 3783, e: richard@nichoprint.com.au, w:www.nichoprint.com.au.

[Editor's note: The double-sided colour brochure can also be downloaded for printing from the Society's home page.]



Victoria Mill Hudswell Clarke with a cane train crosses the QGR main line at Ingham station with the Station Hotel in the background, 1964. Peter Bruce photographer (when touring the north as a teenager).



No 2 Miallo (0-4-2T, John Fowler 20276, 1934), Mossman Mill Yard, 1943. EM Loveday photographer, G Bond Collection, one of 276 images scanned from the Ted Ward Collection. Miallo is now in the ANGRMS collection.



Diane and Neil Trevorrow, Terry Olsson and Brian Webber at the Quality Desserts Toowoomba Model Train Exhibition in June. Working at such events helps bring in needed income as well as providing the interested public with books, DVDs, models and other educational and entertainment items.