

Newsletter
September 2005



TRACKS



The ATRQ Inc Newsletter

Chat from the Chair

Welcome to the fourth issue of the ATRQ newsletter. It is hard to believe that over half of 2005 has gone already and that we are steadily heading towards Christmas. With all the regulatory changes going on around us combined with the day to day operations of our railways there doesn't seem a lot of time for work and our families.

Each and every member needs to be extremely careful how much time they devote to the running of their railway and not to forget or neglect their family. Without the support of your family you really have nothing in life. I am first to recognise that it is a very fine balancing act to satisfy your family whilst trying to keep a railway running. I am not trying to say that we should give up on our railways but you should consider all that happens around you. To ease the workload of others, I would encourage all members to participate in some small way. Anything from organising displays, brochures, gathering information, submissions and all the way through to participating on the ATRQ Management Committee would be greatly appreciated to reduce the burden on the faithful few. However just being on the committee to fill a position is not the aim; we have to be outcome based.

The most significant event since the last newsletter was the **May meeting** at the Workshops Museum at Ipswich. ATRQ had its normal general meeting at The Railway Workshops Museum. The day was intensive as usual with the morning session consisting of two workshops. The first being an Occupational Health & Safety Workshop led by Charles Ivin & Brian Seaborn and topics included machinery safety and lifting equipment safety & hazardous materials. Following this Greg Ford, Senior Business Manager of Queensland Transport Rail Safety gave an update on National Rail Reform and other changes and what it means to the tourist & heritage rail sector. The remainder of the day was the general meeting which covered many topics.

The **membership of ATRQ** stands as follows:

- 16 Full Members
- 2 Associate Members
- 2 Affiliate Members

cont.....2

Contents

Chat from the Chair
Page 1

140th Anniversary QR
Page 3

Valdora's Day (ASCR)
Page 4

Public Lecture
Page 5

Meeting Reminder
Page 6

Web Watch
Page 6

Upcoming Events

Public Lecture
September 24
ATRQ Meeting
September 24 & 25

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Articles can be emailed
as word/rtf attachments

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We also have an application from Railco under consideration for the next Management Committee Meeting in early September. We look forward to Railco's involvement with ATRQ.

ATHRA (Association of Tourist & Heritage Rail Australia) continues to grow. Meetings are held twice a year over two actioned packed weekends. The ATHRA AGM will be held in September or October each year and it is anticipated that one of the days will be devoted to informative workshops or lectures. A separate article for ATHRA is included in this edition of the newsletter.

By now, all ATRQ groups that have applied for **insurance** should have received their policy or are at least waiting until their current policy expires. The common renewal date will be 19th November of each year. Since Queenslanders were one of the first on board, they will continue to be given the best rate along with all the other groups that joined up at the same time. All other forms of insurance such as Volunteers Insurance, Property Insurance, Rollingstock Insurance and Directors Liability Insurance are also available.

Barrie Norris from Willis assures us that by sticking together once again some significant savings can be made. Some groups have already started contacting Barrie and have already started to save quite a considerable amount. It is anticipated that as the insurance pool grows, our premiums will continue to reduce. We are hoping for a further reduction this year if all goes to plan but as long as we aren't paying the exorbitant premiums of the past then we have won.

On the 30th July, Queensland celebrated **140 years of Rail in Queensland** with a several train trips and a re-enactment at Grandchester. ATRQ organised a display as part of the celebrations. The organisation of the ATRQ display was coordinated by Terry Olsson. Several ATRQ members supplied Terry with some photos and brochures so that the display could be put together. ATRQ also organised a generic ATRQ brochure which listed all the contact details of its members. This seemed quite popular with the public and was deemed to be a success. A huge thanks goes to Terry for his efforts. Terry was also strongly supported by Graham Wilson and Graham Watkins of which ATRQ is very appreciative. Several members also attended the day to man the stand. It is efforts like these that further promote our individual railways and our cause.

Work in the area of providing a list of accredited practitioners for **Health Assessments** has been very slow. It seems that QR hasn't accredited their own doctors and this is making it very difficult for us to provide members with a list of these trained doctors. What we need from members is a list of doctors that they have used and that way we can formulate a list that others can use. If someone is willing to chase this up for ATRQ then we would be most grateful. Just a reminder that all **Category 1** roles will need to have been assessed by **31st December 2005** and **Category 2 & 3** by **30th June 2006**.

Initially we had a good response to the **Queensland Rollingstock Register** but it has hit a brick wall and no work has been carried out on it since April. If we are truly going to list all items of rollingstock that have been preserved then more work needs to be done. This register should not only cover ex-QR rollingstock but also narrow gauge and tramway rollingstock and even section cars. If anyone has some time to continue this project then we would be most grateful to hear from you.

Don't forget to visit the **ATRQ and ATHRA website** for important information and updates as well as accessing important resource information. The ATRQ site also has a member's on-line forum which you can leave comments on. The sites are www.atrq.net and www.athra.asn.au. Take some time out to contribute to these.

The **next ATRQ meeting and AGM** will be held on the weekend of 24th & 25th September 2005 at the Workshops Rail Museum at Ipswich. The Saturday will be split into two sessions. The first being the ATRQ general meeting and the afternoon a series of very interesting guest speakers from overseas and interstate. Sunday will be the ATRQ AGM and the remainder of the general meeting. Saturday night will be a function and ride on Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway from Swanbank to Bundamba Racecourse which will be an opportunity not to miss.

Report by
Paul Rollason
President

QUEENSLAND RAIL 140TH ANNIVERSARY GRANDCHESTER JULY 2005



Many thanks to Terry Olsson (President ANGRMS), who coordinated the display for the 140th Anniversary of Queensland Rail. The brochure with information about every member of ATRQ was well received by those who attended. Comments like "Great to have a list of them together" and "Gee I didn't realise there were so many" were common. Thanks also to Leanne Bartlett, Ross and Wendy Driver and Graham Wilson who assisted Terry on the day with the setting up and manning the stand.

VALDORA'S DAY

September 3 saw the Australian Sugar Cane Railway re-commission Valdora – the EM Baldwin diesel hydraulic locomotive that was built in Castle Hill Sydney in 1965 and worked all its life at Moreton Sugar Mill. With the mill closure in 2003, Valdora was purchased from Bundaberg Sugar by the Australian Sugar Cane Railway in November 2004. Restoration commenced immediately – sandblasting, rust removal and repainting was done. The Society restored the loco to as it was when it finished service at Nambour with the distinctive red and white stripes in pyramid design. (Nearly all other sugar cane locomotives have the pyramid inverted) Mesh doors were fitted to the engine bay and these were painted matt black to give the effect that the doors are not there. A guard was also fitted to the exhaust. Grant McLean, Chief Executive of Bundaberg Sugar, 'christened' the loco in true style with some Bundy product (1990 Black label to be exact!!!) Morning tea followed with guests receiving a souvenir mug to celebrate the occasion. *Valdora* will be used to shunt the Society's steam locomotives and as a back up locomotive. Society members are currently being accredited as Internal Combustion Locomotive Drivers which is in keeping with cane railway's code of practice.



Valdora waiting at the station prior to the official ceremony on September 3.

Photo Ross Driver



Grant McLean, Chief Executive Bundaberg Sugar, at the re-commissioning of *Valdora* on September 3

Photo Bronwyn Williams



A campus of the Queensland Museum 

PUBLIC LECTURE

Date Saturday 24 September, 1:30pm – 4:15pm
Venue The Workshops Rail Museum
Cost FREE!
RSVP (07) 3432 5100 or info@theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au

- 1:40pm **Operating Heritage Rail in a Changing Regulatory Environment**
Graeme Breydon
Convenor, ATHRA Railway Safety Committee; Chairman, Emerald Tourist Railway Board (Operator of the Puffing Billy)
With the vertical disaggregation and privatisation of Australia's main railways in the 1990s new regulatory regimes were established by governments. In the rush to do so the diversity of the industry was often overlooked. This lecture focuses on how regulators are struggling to accommodate the heritage sector, especially with the new emphasis on risk assessment.
- 2:10pm **Railway Heritage to Heritage Railways**
David Mewes
Assistant Curator, The Workshops Rail Museum
This lecture explores how Australia's rich railway heritage is valued, which extends back for 150 years. Examples of the approach to preserve our rail heritage by local community groups, railway enthusiast groups and Museums are explored.
- 2:40pm Afternoon Tea
- 3:00pm **A Coordinated National Strategy to Collecting**
Andrew Moritz
Director, The Workshops Rail Museum
With numerous groups throughout Australia involved in the collection, preservation and presentation of our rail heritage, do we need a co-ordinated national strategy to ensure a sustainable outcome into the future? This lecture considers how we might go about developing such a strategy.
- 3:30pm **Locomotion: A National Museum as an Aid to Economic Regeneration in England**
Colin Divall
Professor of Rail Studies, University of York; Head of the Institute of Railway Studies & Transport
Locomotion is the new branch of the National Railway Museum located in Shildon, England. It combines the historic buildings and workshops of the Timothy Hackworth Museum with a new 557 sq metre (6,000 sq ft) building housing 60 vehicles from the National Collection, classrooms, conservation, workshops, cafe and shop on a one kilometre (1091 yards) long site which also includes public art, picnic facilities and play area. This lecture explores this new development.

ATRQ
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
GENERAL MEETING
PUBLIC LECTURE

Saturday September 24 2005
Sunday September 25 2005

RSVP to

Paul Rollason @ serpar@bigpond.com

if your organisation is able to send representatives to the meeting.

All members are welcome to attend the public lecture on Saturday afternoon.



Night ride on Saturday September 24
courtesy of
Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway.

Perry locomotive at QPSR after the
February 2005 ATRQ meeting

Photo Ross Driver

WebWatch

The ATRQ web site may be found at www.atrq.net. Information, rules of the association, links to members web sites, and a members only area which includes a discussion forum, may be found. All members can participate in the forum. If you are a member of an organisation that is a member of ATRQ and do not have access, email our webmaster at ozbob@ozbob.net to request access.