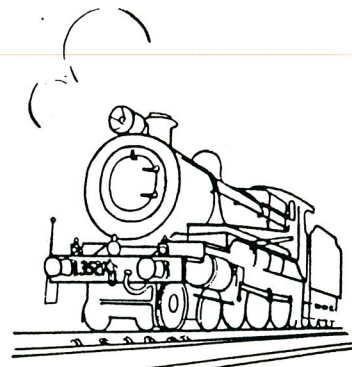


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President's Report 1994.

I believe that the last twelve months been a positive time for us at West Ryde, with some important projects completed and others commenced or on -going.

There have been five new full members admitted to the Society and two provisional members namely, provisional, Jim Mulholland, Wayne Fletcher ; full membership, Carol Leggett, James Grey, Max Gay, John Noller and Paul Taffa. We hope that these members enjoy a long and fruitful association with the Society.

Amongst our achievements this year, a new colourbond sign has been erected over the main entrance along with new fencing wire, this has provided a most professional entry to our ground.

Last June it was reported that new gum trees were planted, at the request of Council, to replace those lost. Surrounding these, a quite respectable garden has developed with numerous native shrubs and two trees where once was a deep rubbish tip.

Towards the latter part of last year, the 5" Roundhouse paving was completed. This was followed by the installation of 240 / 12 volt power and earth protection. It might have been a long time coming, but the end result is a credit to the members.

A new coal bin was designed and built for the elevated station and seems to be proving its worth. Also, the ballast pit fencing and gate were re-wired and painted.

Track fencing on the ground level is still incomplete. A trial section of the agreed to design is showing up some problems and improvements will have to be made or else we re-think the design. The problem is of course one of an acceptable looking fence, which does not hide the railway, but at the same time provides effective crowd control.

The most exciting project at the moment is the replacement footbridge over the station and running lines. The design has been approved and the steel bought. Fabrication has commenced as well as work on the new footings. One member in particular, Peter Shiels, is to be congratulated on forging ahead with this project.

Maintenance days or garden days appear to be working acceptably under the new roster. But, as always, we would like to see more members attend these rostered days where ever possible or , at least, arrange a substitute. By and large, the grounds look neat and attractive and are a credit to us all. We must be careful not to spoil our track with the inevitable clutter of junk which collects on a railway, usually in our case, around the tool shed.

Our running days continue to be well patronised by the public and feedback is encouraging. It is not unusual to carry over 2800 rides in an afternoon. The bulk of this work is done by a remarkably small group of locomotives and volunteers, our cry is still, louder and louder, MORE HELP please. The more members there to chip in on these running days the more fun it is for us all. Don't leave all the work to those who are willing to act without being asked. One cannot leave the subject of locomotives without mentioning Ray Lee, whose VR "S" has achieved great notoriety in recent months through the AME and which will also be on display at the ME exhibition in Melbourne later this year. Ray is also working up a design for a South Australian Railways 500 class to be published in the AME.

Other members are busy on new locomotives, or repairing existing ones and it is good to see new members bringing along their work for all of us to see. It is also pleasing to see some of our younger members getting into construction, ie; a "34" and a saturated "P" both in 5" gauge. Don't be afraid to ask any of the older hands for advise or help.

Our Signal Engineer, R.W.Allison has produced a small book on our signals and has even managed to sell some on public running days to offset printing costs. Warwick has also written our Operating Code which is brief and to the point, and is a must for all members to read.

Brian Kilgour has asked anyone who has old photographs, negatives etc., or other Club memorabilia to lend them to him to copy, the intention is to set up a record of the Club's activities over the years.

Our Club has been active in visiting other Societies such as Canberra, Wagga, South Coast for the Convention, Edgeworth's birthday, Galston, Mudgee and Bathurst. Last December it was agreed by the membership that the Society re-affiliate with the AALS and to send delegates to the various meetings. A cordial relationship now exists with this body and our Society is kept up to date with developments.

As well as our usual Charity Day was organised for Ryde Hospital in conjunction with our friends over in the Bowling Club. We had a busy day and a cheque for over \$2000 was presented to the hospital. Also we made a donation of \$500 to the NSW Bush Fire Appeal. We also agreed to make a donation to the Parramatta Park Steam Tram Museum following their disastrous fire, however, we await word on their future.

Financially, our position is sound and while our Treasurer is looking into our current status viz a viz changes to the co-operative societies regulations, no major changes are forecast in the immediate future. Some Societies have been concerned with tax exempt status, however this does not affect us at present.

Some difficulties were encountered with the running of ground level and elevated trains where tipping of the trucks, caused by passengers over-balancing, resulted in injury. Two inspections by the DIR resulted, both times the reports by the Inspectors were in our favour. However suggestions were made to increase safety and reporting procedures and members have been asked to concern themselves with the problems associated with carrying uncoordinated bodies on our small trains, in particular, vigilance at the station, on the train and in reporting any accidents. It cannot be over-emphasized how important this is if we are to continue to open our grounds to the public in this ever increasingly litigious society.

Looking ahead for the next twelve months we have a bridge to build, new track to lay, garden improvements, fencing and possible detail improvements to the members rolling stock I cannot imagine anyone being bored at West Ryde. To prove that its not all work and no play, we do enjoy a few members running days during the year, such as our timetable run and breakfast early in June which was a great success. I personally would like to encourage these days, not the least because I believe that they help to remind us of why we belong to West Ryde, and also to carry on the traditions and camaraderie enjoyed by our Club's Founders over forty years ago.

Bernard Courtenay, President. SLSLS

Convention Report ???

To quote from the Convention '94 report in the AME for July -August 1994 issue, " From small beginnings in Victoria in the 1960s, the Convention has grown to be the social event of the live steamers calendar. "

Warwick Allison suggested that a reprint of our article in the Newsletter of February 1978 by Alan Mackellar might be in order.

The Founding of Live Steam Conventions in Australia.

When the SLSLS was founded in 1948 one of the objects was to organise annual meets with kindred Societies through out Australia. This information is contained in a document drafted by the late C.S.Mackellar, one of the co-founders of our Society. (The said document is in the possession of the writer.) It was not till late 1955 that the Society felt that it was in a position to hold such an event. At this point it was decided to hold a

Convention over the Easter Week end of 1956. The format was to follow along the line of the live steam meets organised in the USA which were inaugurated by a Mr.C.A.Puriton at his home track in 1933, this had been the outcome of a suggestion by the late L.B.S.C. in the Model Engineer of April 21st 1932.

Having made the decision to hold the Convention invitations were sent to kindred Societies through out Australia. The following enthusiasts attended, Bert Kirby, Melbourne Society of Model Engineers, no locomotive, Surrey Hills Live Steamers, Bill Newman, , 3 1/2" Atlantic, Dave Hempill, 3 1/2" " Mathew Flinders", Kel Sherry 3 1/2" Bantam Cock, Bill Johnson, 3 1/2" Bantam Cock and Fred Pascoe, no locomotive, in all six visitors and four locomotives.

There was no Convention organised for 1957. In 1958 the Victorian Societies organised the second Convention, the venue being a Captain James' private track at Beaumaris . Visits were made to other private tracks at the weekend. At this time Moorabbin was still a dream for the future. In 1958 the SLS of Victoria still had its headquarters at the late Stan Milligan's private track at Surrey Hills The Society was known as the Surrey Hills Steam Locomotive Society.

In 1959 SASMEE conducted the third Convention. Quite a large contingent from the SLSLS attended, they were: Cec. Gunning, 3 1/2" Coronation, C.S.Mackellar, 3 1/2" C 34 class, John Hurst, 3 1/2" King, John Austin, 3 1/2" C 38, John Mann, 2 1/2" "Annie Boddie"4-4-0, Alan Mackellar 2 1/2" Duchess and Ross Style.

The forth Convention, in 1960, was again hosted by the SLSLS at West Ryde.

General News.

After about fifteen years of ticket selling Hugh Ryan and his wife, Phil, have called it a day. Hugh and Phil have not missed many running days in that time and are to be congratulated on the sterling effort they have put in. Phil has also taken great interest in watching the children of the Society grow up and has been happy to hear of their achievements.

Ticket Selling.

To fill the gap left by Hugh and Phil it has been suggested that a group be formed to look after this important task. Some members who might not feel up to guard or other duties on run days could be part of this group. Vern Condon has expressed interest, as has Brian Hurst, on a temporary basis. If you are interested in being part of this important group could you contact Bernie, Henry or Vernon.

New Member.

Jim Mulholland has become a full member following the August meeting. Congratulations Jim, we all hope you have a long, enjoyable association with the SLSLS.

Name Badges.

The first batch of name badges have been delivered by Warwick Allison. Some members who missed out first time round have expressed interest and so if you now want a name badge put your name on the list on the notice board in the club house or contact Warwick. (cost \$5.50.)

Station Foot Bridge.

Peter Shiels reports that this project is progressing well with about seven working days so far. The decking, an eight metre span, is almost complete and work has begun on the stairs. Timber has been obtained for the stair treads and the main footings have been prepared and the concrete poured. The secondary footings will not be done till the bridge is in place.

Inner Main Deviation.

By the time you have this Newsletter the deviation between the back of the club house and the bridge will be in use . This has taken out the two rather sharp curves as the trains descended the hill. The track specifications have been increased, larger timber sleepers, heavier steel sleepers and Metric fastenings.

Track Fencing.

At the August meeting Warwick Allison spoke on the matter of the track fencing and some of its problems. After some discussion Warwick's proposal to try a different style of fence was over ruled in favour of giving the original design a proper trial with posts and wire (not poly. rope) securely anchored and strained.

Last Train???

With the good crowds we have had during the winter months we have had the problem of people not going home early. This has resulted in patrons queuing for rides well towards sunset causing return to loco after dark. It was considered that ticket selling should cease at a particular time and a LAST TRAIN advised. The decision will be left up to the Track Super., in consultation with his drivers.

Train Day.

Early in June Mike's Marvellous Time Table run was just that. Some visitors from other clubs joined in with locomotives and rolling stock. The day got off to a good start with breakfast for the early birds and with the good weather the day was very enjoyable. All the locomotives stayed on the tracks but my HG van found that it was designed to run on the end of the train not haul the lot of it. Thanks for a good day Mike, enjoyed by all who attended.

Things to Do.

You are not going to be bored in the months ahead, there is plenty to look forward to. Here is the list:
Blue Mountains Birthday run on September 3rd and 4th September, if you plan to go ,names to Henry by 25th August.

On the same week end the Gosford Society are holding run and they also need to know how many to expect, the deadline to notify Henry is also the 25th August.

The Canberra Society are holding a run on the week end of the 24th and 25th of September, Henry needs to know who is going by the 29th August.

On the week end of the 5th and 6th of November the Wagga Wagga Society have issued an invitation, names to Henry by 24th October.

Charity Day.

It is expected that the Crowle Home Charity Day will be held on the third Saturday in November, our regular public running day. All members possible should try to roll up to make the day a success.

RIP.

On a sad note it was reported that Keith Gapes had died early in June after a long illness. Keith had built a number of locomotives in 5" and 7 1/4" gauges.

Assistance Needed.

George Farkas is back on deck again after a spell in hospital, he will, have to take things easy for some time. To this end George would like to engage the services of one of the members to help with some workshop matters. It involves sorting out a metal collection and setting up shelving for the same, also, help design and construct a device to help handle lathe chucks. Contact George for details, phone 416 1324.

For Sale.

Drawing Board and Machine. Board (on stand) 54" x 32" (1375 x 810)
Machine Swiss-Balla, pantograph type. Best Offer, Bill Richards 874 3427

Duty Roster.

Sept. '94. W.Richards, K.Baker, G.Farkas, R.Larkin, R.Lee, J.Leishman, J.Ranford, M.Tyson.

Oct. '94. R.W.Allison, R.Barlow, H.Brammer, T.Geraghty, B.Greenfield, L.Pascoe.

Nov. '94. H.Spencer, P.Brotchie, F.Collins, M.Gay, J.Noller, G.Robertson, H.Ryan, J.Stevens.

Dec. '94. A.Mackellar, A.Austin, J.Grey, P.Sharp, V.Sciicluna, P.Shiels, G.Esdaile.

Gate. September, J.Hyde. October,B.Kilgour. November,R.Larkin. December,R.Lee.