

## A couple of Alco's go to Kandos and back

## Trip Report 20th February 2010



**Photo:** 4833 & 4501 pose for the cameras at Brogans Creek in the Capertee Valley

- Sohtaki Kikuchi

Arrival into Kandos was a little short behind schedule but at this point everyone onboard was thinking on a mutual level – PUB!

With two Alco's fully fuelled, a train filled with excited passengers and a clear and sunny day ahead of us for an outdoor adventure, before the whistle was even blown at central station that morning before departure everyone knew they were up for a good day out west. Departure was punctual at 7.35am and locomotives 4833 and 4501 lifted our train out of the Sydney area very promptly at good speed.

Stops were made along the way between Sydney and Penrith before climbing the Blue Mountains and over the Great Dividing Range. At this time all on board were settled and relaxed enjoying the passing views as our motive power up front made the easy cruise over the mountains.

A crew change at Katoomba ahead of time ensured the timetable would catch up with the train, thankfully not the other way around. Another stop at Lithgow was made before escaping out of the wires and then reaching Wallerawang Junction where our heritage train branched onto the Mudgee Line, now skirting the western side of the Great Dividing Range towards the Capertee Valley. Being a small single line branch, more traditional safe working procedures of staff and ticket required us to stop at every township along the way in order for us to proceed to the next.

Our planned photo stop at Brogans Creek inside the Capertee Valley was enjoyable for all onboard, offering a chance to step off (onto ladders) from the train and onto the ballast, to admire what this spectacular valley has to offer. As soon as everyone was lined up ahead of the train, the crew powered up the locos forward offering great photos to all the punters with cameras.

Lunch at the local establishment was enjoyed by those who had booked seats on this train early in the process and were given a lunch voucher redeemable at the Kandos Hotel for a home made traditional roast lunch of either chicken or pork and with roasted vegetables. Comments made about the Kandos Services Club menu also received high comments. Those of who were interested in learning more about the local area joined a bus tour put on by the local tourist board of the area and were more than happy to talk and show off a bit of their small industrial town.

Departure out of Kandos was now at 3.25pm and everyone made sure to be on back on the train by then, as this may as well would have been one of the few passenger trains to visit the area for a long while and would be and even longer wait for the next.

The return run down the branch line, over the mountains and back into the metropolitan area was uneventful as at this point all on board were just enjoying themselves and watching the phenomenal views pass in the afternoon sunlight or better yet finishing off the last of their beer, wine and crackers. Clearly at this point everyone on board had a great time for going somewhere different for a change by rail. Even the on board train staff were in good spirit.

Our arrival into Sydney Terminal was after dark, but at this point everyone was glad they had a pleasant day out of the smog and concrete. Who knows when we will be back to this part of the world, but we will most certainly be returning back sometime in the future.

**Fred Sawyer. 01/04/10**

### Regarding Volunteers & Staff - SHED INDUCTIONS:

Assistant Maintenance Manger Bob Morris will be conducting Maintenance & General Inductions at the Large Erecting Shop on the **first Tuesday of every month**. If you or anyone you know of has not been inducted through 3801 Limited Maintenance and General Induction (concerning work around the Large Erecting Shop) please inform our office verbally or by calling us on our number during office hours (details on next page).

Registered Office: 3801 Limited  
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# In the News: Heritage Rail Experiences this Autumn



## Steam in April!

Two of our regular Cockatoo Run tours to the Southern Highlands will be hauled by this vintage steam engine on Sunday April 18th and Monday April 26th (Anzac Day Public holiday weekend).

Join us for a relaxing day out on the Cockatoo Run which commences its journey in Sydney and travels along the spectacular Illawarra coastal route to Wollongong.

From there the vintage train tackles the steep grade of the Illawarra escarpment past waterfalls and splendid coastal views, as well as passing through the magnificent rainforest, to the Southern Highlands towns of Robertson or Moss Vale.

Alight at Robertson to spend time exploring this popular country town and enjoy lunch at one of the local restaurants or cafes. Ask for our **Illawarra Tree Top Fly** package when you book, a see it to believe it breathtaking attraction in the Southern Highlands.

## Up Coming Tours this Autumn Season:

### April:

Sunday April 18th - Steam Hauled Cockatoo Run  
Monday April 26th - Steam Hauled Cockatoo Run (Anzac Day Public Holiday)

### May:

Sunday May 2nd - Bankstown Steam Shuttles  
Sunday May 16th - Lovedale Long Lunch Trip  
Sunday May 16th - Diesel Cockatoo Run  
Thursday 27th - Diesel Cockatoo Run  
Sunday May 30th - Diesel Cockatoo Run

### June:

Sunday June 13th - Diesel Cockatoo Run  
Thursday 17th - Diesel Cockatoo Run  
Sunday June 27th - Diesel Cockatoo Run



## Steam Train Rides around Suburban Sydney Sunday May 2nd 2010

# Ride The **BankstownSports** Express

The Bankstown Sports Club is pleased to sponsor steam shuttles through the Inner West suburbs around the Bankstown line hauled by Veteran steam locomotive 3237 (pictured right - courtesy of Lachlan Valley Railway) on **Sunday 2nd May**.

Tickets can be booked on any one of three shuttles that will be departing Central Station (Country Platforms) at either **9.55 am, 12.30pm or 4.00pm**.

With travel time being around approximately an hour to do a full loop of the Bankstown Line, the train will travel through the Inner West via Strathfield then returning to Central Station via Canterbury and Sydenham. You can choose to ride any one of these three shuttles that depart Central Station and add the experience to your typical Sunday outing for the whole family.

Children under 5, provided they do not take up a seat reservation travel free! We encourage you book early to ensure seats. All three Trains will depart off Platform 1 at Central Station (Sydney Terminal) located on Eddy Avenue & Pitt Street ('Country End' of Central Station).

A great Sunday family excursion for the kids. For more details call our office and/or or visit our website.

## Lovedale Long Lunch - 16th May

On **Sunday 16th May** we will be taking one of our restored heritage diesel hauled trains to the Heart of the Hunter for the **Lovedale Long Lunch**.



Enjoy a heritage train trip and try an exquisite range of wines along with gourmet food, fabulous music and art at three of the Hunter's best vineyards.

You can join our train from **Sydney Terminal (Central), Strathfield or Hornsby** and travel in style to Morisset where you will be transferred by coach to the Lovedale Region and three of the Hunter's best wineries.

You may prefer to lunch at one or spread the experience over two of the wineries if you desire. No need to worry about the drive home, at the end of the day just board the coach once again to **Maitland Station** and connect with our train for the trip back to Sydney.

Our package includes your train ticket, coach transfer, main course and desert or cheese meal tickets, and commemorative Lovedale Long Lunch tasting glass.



**Photo:** P Class Veteran Steam Locomotive 3237 to be conducting trips around the Bankstown Line in May. **Sohtaki Kikuchi**



For more information and reservations please contact our office at **1300 65 3801** or check out our website at [www.3801limited.com.au](http://www.3801limited.com.au) for more tour dates or if you wish to make an online booking.