



3801 LIMITED NEWSLETTER

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Photo © by M. Kemp

MORE STEAM RETURNS TO 3801 LIMITED *Triple Header To Maitland*

Following on from the great success of the October 2008 trip with 3830 to the Robertson Railway Fair and the 4 trips of Lachlan Valley Railway locomotive 5917 on the Cockatoo Run in November and December 2008, 3801 Limited is pleased to announce that it will operate a triple headed steam train to the Maitland Steamfest on Sunday 19th April 2009.

The train will be hauled in both directions by the following locomotives:-

3830 by courtesy of Powerhouse Museum; 5917 and 3237 courtesy of Lachlan Valley Railway.



The Cockatoo Run hauled by 3830 in October 2008

The train is scheduled to leave Sydney Terminal at 7.35am picking

up at Strathfield, Hornsby and Gosford. Arrival at Maitland is 11.26am. On the return, the train leaves Maitland at 6.00pm arriving at Sydney Terminal at 9.38pm with stops at Gosford, Hornsby & Strathfield.

Full details together with fares and an on line booking form can be found on our website:- www.3801limited.com.au or call the Office on 1300 65 3801.

On arrival of the 3801 Limited train at Maitland, it will be divided into two with 3830 operating the Tiger Moth Race Train for Steamfest and the LVR locomotives operating one Branxton Shuttle for Steamfest.

Please note that shuttles are being managed by Maitland Steamfest and that bookings must be made through Steamfest. 3801 Limited cannot handle bookings for these Steamfest trains. See www.steamfest.com for further details or telephone (02) 4931 2877.

New Web Page and On Line Booking Facility Proving Popular

The 3801 Limited web page was redesigned last year and provides a range of new services.

These include:-

- An easy to use Home Page
- Cockatoo Run details with operating dates and fares.
- Illawarra Tree Top Flyer details with operating dates and fares.
- On line booking system
- Our 3801 Limited fleet
- 3801 Limited news
- Be a volunteer
- Links and contacts
- Subscribe to email version of the Newsletter

Registered Office: 3801 Limited, Australian Technology Park, Locomotive Workshop, Suite 2, 2 Locomotive Street, Eveleigh, 2015

The Cockatoo Run with 5917

Thanks to the generous support of the Lachlan Valley Railway Society, their locomotive was brought down to Sydney for an extended visit in November and December 2008. It hauled the Cockatoo Run to Robertson and Moss Vale on Sundays 30th November, 7th and 14th December and Thursday 11th December.

All these trips generated great interest in the Illawarra and the Southern Highlands and were a great advertisement for the Cockatoo Run.

The final run on Sunday 14th December was spectacular. Being so close to Christmas it coincided with many volunteer organisations using the occasion as an "End of Year Thank You". Volunteer groups from ARHS NSW, ARHS ACT, Goodwin Alco and 3801 Limited together with other booked passengers resulted in over 400 passengers travelling to Robertson.

An even greater surprise awaited us at Robertson.

There were over 200 passengers waiting to join our train (after most of our passengers left for Robertson eateries) for the trip to Moss Vale and return and experience the excitement of a steam hauled trip.

Robertson Heritage Railway Station Inc has a long standing arrangement with 3801 Limited whereby they can sell tickets for the local return trip to Moss Vale. RHRS retains this revenue to assist in the maintenance of the station facilities.

The President of RHRS, Steve Carey wrote to LVR as follows:- "We at Robertson Heritage Railway Station Inc (RHRS) wish to express our thanks for the collaboration between your organization and 3801 Limited, which has resulted in steam-hauled tourist trains coming to our village. I refer of course to the visits by LVR steam loco 5917 during November/December 2008, which were so well received by many rail heritage enthusiasts, our organization, and the people of Robertson, as well as other passengers and spectators.

These visits were a highlight of our year and made a fitting climax for 2008.

Like so many other rail heritage groups, we at RHRS are a group of committed volunteers, with a little support from government by way of occasional grants. Accordingly, we have to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of our National Trust listed facility through our own efforts.

We can affirm with confidence that the use of steam locos on the regular *Cockatoo Run / Illawarra Treetop Flyer* service generates considerable public interest and patronage. This benefits our station and the village, as well as enthusing our hardy bunch of volunteers.

Over the years, we have developed an excellent working relationship with the management of 3801 Limited, and they have been great supporters of our efforts to revitalize the once-derelict railway precinct at Robertson."

3801 LIMITED OFFICE STAFF AWOL!!!!

On a rather overcast Thursday back in December (11th), the staff from the 3801 Limited office abandoned their appointed place of employment and took up a vantage point outside of the fence next to the railway line at the western end of Redfern station – they knew something was about to happen!

Not much later the long mournful sound of a steam engine's whistle could be heard in the distance, coming from the Central Station direction followed shortly after by the unmistakable sound of a steam locomotive powering up.

As they patiently waited, numerous suburban trains whizzed past on each of the many lines, which obstructed any view of the main lines – they were convinced that they were going to get plenty of



noise - and not much more. But much to their delight, just as black smoke and steam could be seen billowing out from under the bridge at Redfern station the sudden influx of suburban trains stopped and then came CL21, the Cockatoo Run, hauled by steam loco 5917 courtesy of Lachlan Valley Railway. The sight and sound of steam made their day!

Eveleigh

Eveleigh Workshops was named after Eveleigh House owned by Lieutenant John Rose Holden (1810 -1860). Eveleigh was his mother's maiden name. Born in England, he settled at Retreat Farm near Liverpool and in May 1840 was elected to the committee that initiated the first metropolitan racecourse at Homebush in Sydney. Eveleigh Locomotive Depot was opened in 1885 and closed on 29th April 1966. In its heyday, it housed 126 steam locomotives.

Our Office Carriage

Our Office is located in the Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh. From Redfern Station, walk down Platform 10 to the Erskineville end and follow the railway line to our Office.

Our Office carriage is a former "Sputnik" type single deck electric carriage from the Sydney System. Car number C 3704 was one of 40 built by Commonwealth Engineering Co in 1958. After it was withdrawn from service, it lay idle until it was

purchased by the first General Manager of the Technology Park and used as the initial ATP Office while the site was being restored. When ATP was fully commissioned, 3704 was deeded to 3801 Limited and has served as a very appropriate office for the Company.

Recently 3704 was fully repainted and returned to its original Indian red livery.

Our Office is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm on Mondays to Fridays. Phone 1300 65 3801.

Newsletter Distribution

This Newsletter will be sent out primarily by email to those who have registered their email address with us. This enables us to circulate information to you quickly without the delay of printing and enveloping and at a fraction of the cost. Those recipients that cannot access emails and need to receive a hard copy of Newsletters, please forward a note to us at Box 333, Alexandria, 1435.

Photo Finish—The Story of a Lost Camera

On 14th June last year we received a phone call from a passenger who travelled on the Cockatoo Run/Treetop Flyer on Sunday 12th. June advising that she had dropped her camera from the doorway of the train between Robertson and Summit Tank on the return journey. Our on train staff and train crews were advised of the loss but no sign of the camera was found.

As an accredited operator 3801 Limited is required by the Transport Regulator (ITSRR) to conduct regular monthly Operation Safety Audits. On Sunday 6th November one of the company directors was conducting an audit on the Cockatoo Run / Illawarra Treetop Flyer service.

Approximately 4km before Robertson while standing in the doorway of the Buffet Car

he observed something unusual lying at the edge of the ballast and took note of the location.

At Robertson the driver was advised that the camera had possibly been located and requested to briefly stop at the location on the return journey. To everyone's surprise it was a camera that was retrieved and forwarded to the office.

The camera was in a very dirty condition covered in dirt and mud with some scratches to the body after lying in the ballast for five months.

Our staff removed the memory card which still worked and contained clear photos of the Cockatoo Run train and other snaps of a family birthday party. Encouraged by this

our office staff spent some time cleaning the camera with fine brushes and a solution used on electronic components. Our staff were delighted when, with new batteries fitted, the camera worked perfectly.

The passenger was advised that the camera had been found and that it was being returned to her still in working order. The office received a letter of thanks from the lady who was very appreciative of 3801 Limited's efforts in locating, cleaning and returning the camera particularly as it contained irreplaceable photos of her mother's 80th Birthday party.

For those who are interested the camera was a Kodak 3MP Digital point and shoot Camera which is certainly not designed for that sort of treatment. Good on you Kodak!



These three great locomotives will haul the 3801 Limited train to Hunter Valley Steamfest on Sunday 19th April, 2009.