



ABN 64 002 951 671

3801 LIMITED NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1—PUBLISHED SPRING 2008



Photo © by M. Kemp

STEAM RETURNS TO 3801 LIMITED

Sunday 5 October 2008 steam returned to 3801 Limited courtesy of the Power House Museum locomotive 3830!

This was the culmination of lots of hard work by many people to make the necessary arrangements on short notice following a request from the Robertson Heritage organisation to provide a steam locomotive on the train to help celebrate their Robertson Railway Fair.

Having not had the opportunity to operate steam for some time we had to do some very fast footwork indeed to organise coal and water for the locomotive as well as a slightly altered time table to cater for a track closure in the Wollongong area and the extra time required at Moss Vale to service the locomotive.

The help we received from so many people including the Power House Museum, Lachlan Valley Railway at Cowra, RailCorp and ARTC as well as within the 3801 Limited organisation was absolutely outstanding and culminated in a very successful and enjoyable day.

Because of very heavy bookings (215 passengers) it was decided to attach two extra cars which necessitated 4918 assisting in the rear over the heavy grades on the Illawarra escarpment.

The train left Sydney on time at 08:33

on an amended time table, arriving Waterfall at about 09:30 where it was necessary to detach 3830 to enable it to proceed to the water column. It had been planned to run the whole train via the water column road, however, it was necessary for RailCorp to stow a ballast train in part of this road which prevented us running straight through. Prior to leaving Sydney RailCorp briefed our crew on the working to be adopted at Waterfall and this was greatly appreciated.

“...all in all, we had a wonderful day out...”

After traversing the single line working section between Thirroul and Corrimal the train was running about 25” – 30” late, however this time was regained by not having any crossing time between Unanderra and Robertson (where we arrived on time) thanks to the magnificent efforts of our train crew.

All on board the train really appreciated the sound of 3830 as it hauled the train up the mountain range from Unanderra to Summit Tank and it brought many fond memories of travel in days gone by.

On arrival at Robertson we were greeted by a large group of visitors, 100 of whom joined the train to ride to Moss Vale and return. Proceeds of

ticket sales from this point were donated to the Robertson Heritage Station committee to help them in their efforts of maintaining the heritage station premises.

During the course of the journey we had many people waiting with cameras for the train to pass and even had some following on trail bikes in some of the remote areas.

Some difficulty was experienced at Moss Vale due to a change of shifts and attitude with the controller at Junee, however, these were overcome and the train made the return journey on time.

It was very interesting to notice all of the passengers gathering round the locomotive after we arrived back at Sydney Terminal station and the reluctance of many to leave!

Many comments were heard about the standard of service provided by our many volunteers on the train and it was nice to note that passengers really appreciated the service provided by them.

Special thanks must also go to those working in the buffet car and souvenir counter who were really hard pressed to keep up with the demand and provided a sterling service.

All in all, we had a wonderful day out and we hope to be able to do similar runs in the future. Watch our website!

New Web Page and On Line Booking Facility.

The 3801 Limited web page has been redesigned to provide 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.

Visit our website at
www.3801limited.com.au

Our Office.

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

A car park is located off Henderson Road at the Mitchell Street intersection. A fee is charged.

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

An answering service is in use outside business hours.

Around the Shed.

See www.3801limited.com.au ; Links to Volunteers' Websites, Eveleigh Work Days for detailed descriptions and photographs of restoration work being undertaken on diesel locomotives 4464 & 4501 in our fleet, mail van HKB 836, former Bicentennial Train Crew Van, L 516 and the restoration of the cab of ARHS ACT Division Garratt locomotive.

RECENT EVENTS

(Extract by courtesy of ARHS NSW Members Newsletter.)

“ARHS 75th Anniversary Tour - Bathurst 21 September 2008”

On Sunday 21 September, two gleaming ex-NSWR heritage diesel-electrics stood at the head of six cars at Sydney Central's No.1 Platform waiting for the departure time of 7.37am - the result of much planning to celebrate in style the 75th year of the Australian Railway Historical Society. The presentation of the whole train was a credit to the operator - 3801 Limited. Adorning the short hood of the lead locomotive was a commemorative 75th headboard, courtesy of Stephen Preston and donated in memory of his late father Ron.

On board were two special guests- the Hon. Milton Morris AO and Prof. John Glastonbury AM. Another 200 passengers were to travel on the special train almost half of whom were guests invited for their contribution to the success of ARHS. We were also honoured to have the President of the Victorian Division, Malcolm Davidson together with that division's secretary Wayne Brown. The ACT Division's Graham Stanley also travelled with us. Apologies but wishes of good luck were received from the Hon. Tim Fischer whose busy schedule precluded him from joining us on the day.

'Western' diesel-electric locomotives were chosen to haul the train to Bathurst - Goodwin ALCo 4501 and Clyde GM 4918, by co-incidence the first and last of their respective classes. The carriage composition behind the locomotives was CPJ924, FRN2186, XFS2015, SBN2195, MBR2078 and SFN2182.

Right on time with a single blast on 4501's dual air horn we swiftly departed. Stops were made to pick-up guests and passengers at Strathfield, Parramatta, Blacktown, Penrith and Woodford. The train then ran non-stop to Medlow Bath where we arrived 10 minutes early. We were to cross over to the Up track due to rail renewal and overhead wiring maintenance on the Down.

Two Up coal trains were rostered through before us and we were duly cleared to cross over to the Up main some 10 minutes later then scheduled.

Our running on the Up was of necessity slow due to presence of track machines on the Down main and we were 20 minutes in arrears by the time we crossed back to resume normal Down running at Mount Victoria. From this point on the train quickly gathered speed and the descent through the ten tunnels to Zig Zag was swift but safe.

The Zig Zag Railway was slumbering as we sped past - perhaps resting from the big day on Saturday when up to seven steam locomotives were in the area at once! (Three mainline: 3526, 3642 and 3830 and four of Zig Zag's including the first public runs of AC16 218A.)

A non-stop run through Lithgow and through the verdant rolling countryside to Bathurst allowed our passengers to settle back and relax. We arrived at our destination on-time at 12.30pm and we proceeded by bus and foot to the Panthers Club.

Here we were treated to a hot roast buffet lunch followed by desert, coffee and tea. Spencer Ross, our tours director, was the MC for the occasion and after welcoming everyone he asked ARHS NSW President Graham Harper, John Glastonbury and then Milton Morris to speak in turn about the 75 year history of the ARHS

Despite allowing three hours for the lunchtime celebration, the time quickly passed and it was with some haste we ventured back to Bathurst Station for our 3.30pm departure. Clyde/GM 4918, complete with headboard, now led the train for its homeward journey.

The Western Division has delightful scenery and a train journey through it on a fine spring time afternoon is up there with the best that NSW has to offer - but not often seen these days from comfortable heritage rolling stock. The journey home was enjoyable, with good company and on-time running, with arrival back at Central a few minutes early.

Thanks go to everyone who joined us for this commemorative tour especially our own volunteers to whom the Society owes a huge debt of gratitude. We specially thank the locomotive crews and passenger attendants of 3801 Limited for a

memorable and marvellous trip. To the volunteers who cleaned and prepared (and maintained) the train at Eveleigh, well done for the train was a pleasure to see and ride.

And many thanks to Spencer Ross, for organising this tour; from the initial planning and liaison through to ticketing, and for performing the role of MC at the luncheon.”

This is the last Newsletter that we will be sending by post. Future editions will be electronic only. You can receive these by registering your email address online at our website, or by calling our Office on 1300 65 3801.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN of 3801 LIMITED

I am very pleased to be able to introduce this issue of our reinvigorated Newsletter as it has been a long time since we were last in a position to be able to put one out. This year has seen many changes for the better and the following sections summarize them.

Extracts from the 3801 Limited Annual Report.

(The Annual General Meeting of 3801 Limited will be held on Tuesday 28th October next.)

“While events of recent years resulted in the Company's viability being gravely threatened, the outlook has improved greatly and it is a case of getting back to ‘business as normal’.

The past year has been one of rebuilding the business base of the Company, its staff (volunteer and paid), operations, equipment, systems and relationships with government and the rail industry. The crucial first action was the sale of our locomotive 4908 in July 2007. This provided the funds to facilitate the rebuilding program. Until the end of 2007, the operations centred on monthly trips of the Cockatoo Run to Robertson on the second Sunday of each month with

Kiama being the destination on the third Sunday. In each case, these trips coincided with local market days. The only weekend trip in this period was one to Canberra in August. In the second half of this reporting period, a four day trip to Parkes for the Elvis Festival in January together with a second trip to Canberra, a weekend trip to Cowra and Maitland Steamfest were the other tours that ran.

Cockatoo Run/ Illawarra Tree Top Flyer.

During this period, the Company



engaged in extensive business negotiations with the Illawarra Fly Tree Top Walk and Robertson Heritage Railway Station Inc. in order to be able to capitalise on a new opportunity when opened as a new major tourism attraction at Robertson. When the Fly opened for business on 16th March 2008, operations commenced offering a combined ticket (train to Robertson, coach transfer to the Fly and Fly entry) as well as the standard Cockatoo Run ticket for train travel only. Thursday 17th April saw the running of a special train for the Official Opening of the Fly. The Cockatoo Run/Illawarra Tree Top Flyer has run most Sundays and selected Thursdays. Up to 30th June, 1,456 passengers travelled on the Cockatoo Run to either Robertson or Kiama while 352 Tree Top Fly passengers were carried.

To enhance the quality of service to passengers, retention toilets

were fitted to the Company owned car SBN 2186 at a cost of \$16,800. Mark Kenny (ably assisted by Geoff Hunter) was appointed as Buffet Services Manager and he has enhanced greatly the contribution that the buffet makes to the experience of passengers.

The Large Erecting Shop, Eveleigh.

In 1986, 3801 Limited was granted use of the Large Erecting Shop at Eveleigh as its operating base. This arrangement is based on a "Licence to Occupy" with State Rail. With the formation of the Redfern Waterloo Authority (RWA) in 2005, Government property in the area (including surplus State Rail assets) was slated for transfer to RWA. Hence on 14th April 2006, 3801 Limited

lodged a formal submission with RWA requesting ongoing tenure making a case for this Company being able to add value to the long term RWA plans for the area. As part of this submission, 3801 Limited commissioned at its expense an independent assessment of the adequacy of the heritage listed Large Erecting Shop building. This indicated that despite age, it remains structurally sound in most aspects and is estimated to need some \$2.8million over 5 years for remediation despite claims to the contrary. 3801 Limited awaits a formal response from RWA.

Discussions have commenced regarding the future interests of 3801 Limited, the Office of Rail Heritage and the Redfern Waterloo Authority in the Large Erecting Shop.

Office of Rail Heritage.

For over 12 months, discussions have been taking place with the Office of Rail Heritage regarding a proposed Heritage Asset Custody & Management Agreement with 3801 Limited for the future management of "core" RailCorp heritage assets. The early draft Agreement documents contained legal provisions unacceptable to 3801 Limited but later discussions have resolved these objections.

In May 2008, the Office of Rail Heritage called for Expressions of Interest in RailCorp heritage assets that were offered for disposal. 3801 Limited responded to this "tender style" request seeking retention of those assets currently in our possession. At the time of writing, we await the results of this EOI

Financial Position of 3801 Limited.

During the review year, a surplus of \$64,268 was experienced compared with a surplus of \$22,415 in the previous year.

Key Performance Statistics, July 2007 to June 2008

Operations

Passengers

Mainline Tours	1,246
Cockatoo Run & Illawarra Tree Top Flyer	1,808
Charters	110
Total	3,054

Staff & Volunteers

Permanent & part time

Management and office	4
Maintenance	4
Total	8

Casual

Accredited drivers, firemen and guards	35
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Inducted Volunteers	75
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Community Contributions.

3801 Limited as a not for profit company has an obligation to serve the general community through the retention and presentation of the heritage locomotives and rolling stock in its care and custody. All surplus funds from the Company's operations are used for the ongoing maintenance of our heritage equipment. Additionally, 3801 Limited has supported financially the following important community services:

Camp Quality, The Cancer Council of NSW and Westhaven Dubbo.

Provision of gift vouchers to schools, sporting clubs and charities as prizes for fundraising raffles and auctions. Assisting Robertson Heritage Railway Station Inc maintain the station and environs."

John Glastonbury,
Chairman



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3801 Limited has been invited back to
“PARKES ELVIS FESTIVAL”

Friday 9th to Monday 12th January, 2009

Following the success of the visit by 3801 Limited and our Heritage Train last year, you are invited to join us as we return to this amazingly popular festival. Travel in our restored carriages hauled by our vintage diesel locomotives.

Bring a group of friends and make it a fun time together!

Sit back and relax in style as you travel through country centres such as Parkes, Peak Hill, Narromine, Forbes, Dubbo, Mendooran and Binnaway, on this exciting Far-Western Tour.

FARES: \$1,595 per person twin share

(A single supplement of \$50 per night applies)

Book now with \$500 deposit and then two easy instalments

Fare includes all train travel (except optional Forbes excursion) breakfast on Friday, lunch on Friday, Sunday and Monday, Bed and Breakfast for three nights and Dinner for two nights.. (Dinner on Sunday evening is not included.)



ITINERARY

With an early departure from Sydney, we will travel via Manildra and Parkes to your Motels at Narromine—your base for the weekend.

On Saturday travel via Peak Hill to the “Parkes Elvis Festival” in time for the big street parade. Optional trip to the historic Forbes Railway Station after lunch.

On Sunday join the train at Dubbo for a journey along the branch line via Mendooran for lunch at Binnaway.

Join the train at Dubbo on Monday morning for the relaxing journey back to Sydney via Wellington. This is a “Full Round Far-Western Tour”

Telephone: 1300 65 3801
www.3801limited.com.au

“PARKES ELVIS FESTIVAL”

Friday 9th to Monday 12th January, 2009

Intinerary

FRIDAY

Departing from Central a light breakfast will be provided. Bathurst CWA will provide lunch and you will enjoy this meal as you travel via Manildra and Parkes to your destination of Narromine. Dinner will be at The Stockman Motor Inn.

SATURDAY

Departure from Narromine for the short journey to Parkes allowing plenty of time for the Parade through town. Many Elvis impersonators will be entertaining in Cooke Park, various Pubs, at the RSL Club, and in the streets of Parkes.

The train will depart from Parkes at 5.30 pm for the return journey to Narromine, arriving in time for dinner at 8.30 pm at The Stockman Motor Inn.

SUNDAY

A Coach will take you to Dubbo Station where you will join the train for a relaxing journey via Elong Elong and Mendooran to Binnaway for lunch. You will have ample time to wander through the village of Binnaway. The train will depart, after having been turned on the triangle, and travel back to Dubbo where the Coach will return you to Narromine. Dinner tonight is not included.

MONDAY

This morning the Coach will take you to Dubbo Station where you will rejoin the train for the journey to Sydney, travelling this time via Wellington. Lunch will be served at Wellington Station while we wait for the Dubbo XPT to pass.

Fares: \$1,595 per person twin share

(Limited accommodation means that a Single Supplement of \$50 per night applies)

This tour includes all train fares (except optional Forbes excursion), Light Breakfast on Friday after departure, Lunch on Friday, Sunday and Monday, Bed and Breakfast for three nights, and Dinner for two nights. Dinner on Sunday evening is not included. However you could attend a BBQ at the Motel or dine at the Golf Club at your own expense.

Confirm your booking now with a \$500 deposit

Call 1300 65 3801

www.380limited.com.au