

Thursday Report 18th December, 2008

Well, as this is the first Thursday Report for some time, there is a lot to catch up with. so to avoid overwhelming everyone, I will describe some of the more general things that have happened recently..

As most of you will know by now, the AGM saw the election of a new board, with some new faces, and others departing the scene. Already, there has been a board meeting, and the minutes will be posted on the three notice boards at Glenreagh West, Lowanna and the Chook Shed. In addition, it is my intention to post them on the web site, so look out for a new section just as soon as I get round to it. I intend to post the minutes of all significant meetings on the web site, so those interested can keep up with the goings on.

Probably the most significant outcome from these meetings has been the appointment of a new accreditation team, now named the Rail Safety Committee, which will progress the accreditation as expeditiously as possible. As Rail Safety Officer, I have made contact with ITSRR and informed them of the change of contact, and had a brief chat with our new contact, the previous one having left ITSRR. Once he has had time to get up to speed with our case, we will be bombarding him with questions, updated documents and so on to try and get our accreditation back up and running as soon as possible.

Also on the accreditation front, David Page has had some extensive contacts with a training company on Coffs Harbour called MAP Training. Basically, they want to set up a rail training school, and will work with us to use our facilities at GMR to do the practical side of this. As part of this we hope to get some official training on a formal basis, leading to nationally recognised qualifications, and to have some work performed on out track. As one of the qualifications they will be training in is in track inspection, they will start by carrying out an inspection on our track, as far as possible given the overgrown nature of some of it. Not only will this association be of direct benefit to GMR and MAP Training, it should help with our accreditation in that we will be able to show that we take volunteer training and competency assessments very seriously.

On the down side, a recent wind storm caused some damage to the roof of the Lowanna station building. As this is a heritage building, and an asbestos roof, there are, as you can imagine, some issues with the repair, but it is being performed, and soon the station building will be looking as smart as ever, as well as waterproof again.

Finally, although there is lots more to report, an appeal. The next issue of Rainforest Railway News is due out in only a few weeks time, so if anyone has any interesting stories, anecdotes or anything they would like to see included, please send it to our secretary, Peter Dicskon-Smith.

Heres hoping that you all have a wonderful Christmas, and that both you and GMR have a safe and prosperous new year

Andrew Lee

