

Thursday Report 26th February, 2009

We had a pretty good turnout today, including one new working member, Bruce Smith, who was immediately dragooned into the cleanup crew without being given a chance to draw breath. Bruce brought along, and donated to GMR, a two-volume publication called "A Complete and Fully Illustrated List of Railway Locomotives built by Beyer, Peacock from 1855 to 1966". Of course, it includes our 1919, as well as innumerable other locomotives exported to Australia. The books will go into our library, and may also form part of the display in the Museum that will be set up in the Glenreagh West station building when it is opened.

Speaking of the station building, Ron sent me the following report:

If you wanted to see a well oiled machine in action you didn't have to go far as the Moorland crew made some very impressive progress today.

The platform pour went off without a hitch and the end result looked quite spectacular. Today we fitted the picket fence and exit stairs to the Western end of the platform.

Last Thursday I was too ill to attend for the full day and in the early afternoon I made my way to Glenreagh to take measurements for the picket fence and stairs etc.

I managed to build two sections and the gates in preparation for today's activity.

There are three smaller pieces to be built and I will have them ready for next Thursday. The day began with Dennis and the Kabota helping us remove the stairs from the little platform and transport them to the worksite at the station.

We dyna-bolted them to the platform and the preformed footing pad.

The fence sections were then attached and handrails cut and fitted. The top rails are new 32nb pipe and the lower rail is recycled pipe from the original stair case.

All the pickets were screwed onto the fence frames and the gates and a final touch up of painting.

The crew today were Richard Glasgow, Perter Rheinberger, Christopher Frost, Lindsay Thompson, David ?? and a cameo appearance of Rex Goodenough and myself Ron Wells as project leader.

Overall we had a pleasant and progressive day.

Ron Paul assisted in the red rattler cause by transporting 8 more transoms to location in preparation of its move in the coming weeks.

The building looks better each time you look at it. I will post the photos Ron sent me on the web site over the next couple of days. Well done, team, and keep up the good work.

The rest of the gang worked on general cleaning up of the whole area. Lots of things got moved and restacked, including sleepers, bridge transoms and cladding iron. As an area was cleaned up, Kevin swung into action with the brushcutter and got some semblance of neatness into the grass, which has been growing rampant in the area.

During the morning we had a visit from several members of Sawtell Probus, who came here for morning tea. Because of the showers, they set themselves up in the main shed, and had a conducted tour of the site, including the end-platform cars and the sleeping car, and all went away apparently impressed with our progress. Also during the morning, a small group of disabled people, with their carers, arrived for a

look around, and were again given conducted tours around those parts of the area that were safe and accessible for them.

Claire put on a sausage sizzle at lunchtime, expecting relations, Norm and Norma Slater. Norm is an old railwayman from years back, and has worked on 19 classes, including 1919, and knows his way around boilers. He had a good look around the engine while he was here.

Late in the day, we held a meeting of the rail safety committee, as we now have most of the documentation that we need to compose our application for accreditation. We divvied up some of the tasks between the various members of the committee, and we are all starting to do lots of reading to determine exactly what we already have, and what the requirements are for additional information. We will be having progress meetings on a regular basis from now on. The biggest worry that I have now is the responsiveness of ITSRR – they have been weeks responding to a simple query regarding moving the tram, and we still haven't received a reply! Still, fingers crossed.

Andrew