

Thursday Report 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2009

The following report was received from David Page at Lowanna:

*It has been a busy month at Lowanna section. The GMR Board has approved the opening and setting up of a railway museum in the Lowanna Station. Coff's Harbour City Council staff has been busy arranging contractors for the Conservation Management Plan and assisting us to meet the legal requirements to have the site open to the public. As part of the CMP Council placed a protective cover over the roof until grant funds allow for repairs.*

*Council has donated the old Ulong Creek Bridge which is being replaced with a concrete structure. The timbers from the old bridge are still sound with most of it being Tallowwood. There is now enough timbers to repair the Little Nymboida River Bridge and number of cattle stops as well as few other urgently needed projects.*

*After another break in at Lowanna the Board has installed a caretaker on site. Police gave GMR two options either security cameras or live in caretaker. Nothing was taken it appeared to be kids but with the station and workshop containing large amounts of expensive tools and equipment something had to be done. The new caretaker is a GMR member call Col who is the mountain's local handy man/builder.*

*David Page*

Thursday was another day with pretty good attendance. The major effort, once again was on general cleaning and tidying up around the site. If you come here after a break, you will notice a considerable difference in the general appearance of the place.

Ron and his crew were again working on the station building. The fencing is now just about complete, and the focus for the next few sessions will be the access ramp. Ron and Peter will be holding a meeting next week to finalise the engineering aspects of this – as in all things these days, reports, approvals and sign-offs are necessary to do almost anything.

Dick was back after a short break, and was busy again working on the trike currently being rebuild. The frame is now painted (red, of course) and it looks like it is going to be a credit to him and his team of workers when completed.

We held a meeting of the Rail Safety Committee in the morning, the prime purpose of which was to identify and allocate all of the tasks that are required for our application. We have done this, and all of the members of the committee now have something to do. We will be holding regular meetings, on a weekly basis, from now on to review and revise these documents, so we all feel that some real progress is now being made. As this is a matter that is very important to almost all members, we will keep you informed of the progress

Andrew