

Thursday Report 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2009

At Glenreagh West, Ron Paul and a small band of helpers assembled three trikes, including the yellow push pull one, and a Villiers, previously restored in the Chook Shed, on a short length of dummy track for display. They are situated in the main shed, adjacent to the CPH, and will add to the atmosphere on those days when we have visitors, particularly market days.

As far as the station building itself, Ron Wells reported:-

*Today GMR suffered a positive action. They don't happen too often lately, so I am glad to pass on the GOOD news that I received today.*

*Both Peter and I have been trying to get funds for a wheel chair ramp for the station. We currently have a grant application in place for just this item. A decision is expected soon and we have only a slim chance of getting the money particularly not being an operational steam railway at the moment.*

*However I do have some funds in reserve that can assist in the construction of a less substantial ramp. Peter and I explored the option of using materials at hand at Glenreagh West and by further consulting with a friendly engineer who called on us today at Glenreagh West and sighted these materials, we have a tentative go ahead using the materials we have on hand.*

*The engineer is going to test the numbers and redraw the plans as discussed today so we will be able to construct an engineered ramp that my meager budget can support. The original ramp came in at around \$16000. By using 60 pound rail and the 4 roof trusses we will be able to construct the superstructure of the ramp. The joist and decking from the Grafton School "Red Rattler" landing will make up the deck and I will fund the railings and safety gear from Grant funds. We will need to hand mix the footings so GMR has in credit some bags of cement that was donated and there is some sand gravel mix left over from the donation from the Golden Dog. All told I think we can construct an engineered ramp that will be approved and amended in our DA for about \$1200 give or take.*

*When the final analysis is complete and we have the new drawings I will ask that GMR as a whole acknowledge the engineer who has already donated his considerable talents and drawings to GMR over the whole Station Project.*

David Page report from Lowanna that the mixing and pouring of the disabled path started on Thursday with more done today until we got slowed down when the gravel truck failed to turn up. The rest will be done next Thursday. Many thanks to Col, Steve, Chris, Scott, Tessa and Misty (dog).

As well as this, we had a productive meeting of the Rail Safety Committee, and the documentation that we need for our application is now starting to fall into place.

Andrew