



ON DISPLAY

President's Post

by Rodney Clancy

Wonderful season, the holiday break isn't it. I have been able to receive a large amount of interest from the most unusual and even perhaps from some expected sources of people wishing to help CMR. Perhaps it has been the fact of 'holiday mode', or perhaps it is a new year with a new outlook, but one way or another CMR is in a better position with these offers now. It has been everything from offers of corporate sponsorship to help with the refresh of the model layout.

CMR has been approached by the Cooma Shire Mayor with Council backing to ask what they can do to get CMR operating again as some of the tourist committees and businesses in town have seen the downturn in our tourism dollar since our suspension of operation. This is a

positive opportunity as the Shire have already offered help but never instigated by them and with such a huge driving force to ensure the end result is positive.

Links and contacts have been offered for some corporate sponsorship for CMR and with an encouragement to partnerships with product alignment. The inclusion of corporate sponsorship in CMR's budget would be a welcome entity.

The subcommittee looking after the model layout is due to meet on the 24th January and will offer their thoughts at this time to the Executive Committee. It is a very positive time for the refreshment and restoration of the wonderful attraction at CMR. The fact that when many people see the model, it has been "not operating" we have set to change its power source so that the model can be operating more times than not.

On a side note, we have noted the presence of termites in the station building. They have been located under the carpet in the ticket office

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and they appear to have been there for some considerable time going unnoticed. They are still there beavering away so we are getting the areas investigated and treated again.

I wish you all the best of health and happiness for 2015 and may your time with family and friends bring you great joy and rest. Please also know that the willingness of all to help with CMR's ongoing maintenance is still in need even if we are not running the railmotors, work does not stop just because they are not moving. Get in, ask what is needed, turn up and let's go. Please make sure that before you do any work outside of the office at CMR, that you ask what the conditions are for that work, even mowing the lawns now has requirements that you must undertake. Please offer every day or hour that you can. CMR needs you.

Rodney Clancy

President

Cooma Monaro Railway Inc.

620/720 Sets

Very exciting times ahead for Cooma Monaro Railway Inc.

As the approvals and discussions at the AGM last year were positive, the CMR Inc. have successfully obtained the ownership of 2 units of 620-720 sets. The tender process has seen CMR complete the sale and we await the transport of the 4 units and related items to Cooma in the coming weeks. CMR decided to commit to this acquisition for the future business development in our site at Cooma Station. It will add to our existing static display while we are non-operational and will be the mainstay potentially of our future running requirements.

The 625 and 725 are a near complete set (one of the motors was removed for use elsewhere but never ended up being put back in) and the other set is the most recently retired inspection cars used mainline up until the end of last year – making this set clean, painted, empty of inspection equipment but fresh and ready to insert the seats back into. Both sets are ready to run (once the second engine is re-inserted into 625.)

Why spend money on this? We have a huge need to raise money – we are not operating and will not be until some serious money is injected in one form or another into CMR and the infrastructure. This is roughly guessed as being in the vicinity of \$400,000 - \$500,000. The small amounts that we had in the bank and not having any real reserves of this magnitude for the infrastructure from past savings, have meant we have had to spend money to make money. You cannot get apples unless you plant apple seeds.

For a rough idea – with only approx. \$55,000 in the bank and an approx. \$90,000 required for the CPHs to come from the engine shed to the platform, there is not even enough to get us that far, we would still not be running, which gives us no way (or little) of making money and also no money in the bank. This is the reason we had to action this purchase!

This investment can be stabled close to the station until we are operational so that the locals, members, families and travellers can view the units close up and form a major part of our static museum at CMR. We can then grow our marketing potential with bus groups that will enhance what we already have been offering with the static museum. After this, it will be all about grants, sponsorship, investment and growth, which with that money spent, we have a far greater chance of obtaining the level of support that this reactivation plan will require us to achieve.

The Committee of Management wishes for this to be a positive and supported step for CMR and its current position and situation. If you wish to support this idea, offer us what you can to support. Time in presentation, sponsorship of a carriage, seats, windows, driver's compartments, sleepers, signals, etc. will soon be available publically and if you get in first, you can choose the best of the best.

OK, so where to from here, well, if you can offer \$50 or so for a sponsorship and have your name placed in support of CMR, then that can be done, if you have \$1,000, same can be done and it can be a special support of your choice, and so that pattern continues. Gather your friends, previous travellers on the Cooma line, neighbours, cousins,



ML070 Former 631/731

government acquaintances, and the ideas continue.

We will continue to send out media releases as has been done already this week. Each stage of the arrival will be done with media contact. After the units arrive, this will attract tourists to our facility.

Further links to the Cooma Shire Council has seen the weed spraying and mowing on the corridor being looked after by their service arrangements. Many more positive thoughts have made another step further forward with the increase of visitors to our site even without trains operating. As well as the local media, the Canberra Times have started again to offer editorials and news items for us.

We are all excited about this next chapter in CMR's history. We wish you to be a big part of this with us.

Here we go folks with the fresh approach to rail travel in NSW as prescribed by the government review.



625/725



General Induction Day & Working Bee



In response to CMRs need to adhere to Safety Legislation the Committee of Management now requires all members/volunteers who wish to assist CMR in carrying out the activities at the Railway to complete a general induction session. This general induction does not exclude members/volunteers having to undertake further training/induction for specialised jobs (ie train crew, food handling, etc.)

The induction session will take approximately 90 minutes to complete.

Initial induction sessions and working bee dates will be as follows:

Saturday, 31 January 2015

Saturday, 14 February 2105

Start time for induction sessions (with working bee to commence after): 0900 hrs

If you have completed the induction before, you will only have to redo it when notified.

Induction will take place at Cooma Railway Station in the Barracks.

If you would like to attend one or both of these sessions, or would like any further information, please email manager@cmrailway.org.au with your date/s of preference, or call 0456 126 341 during business hours.