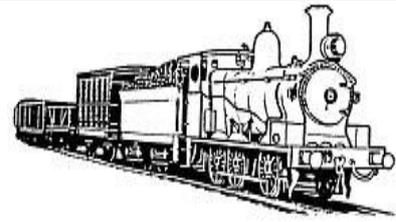


Rainforest

RAILWAY NEWS



No. 30 – Sept 2013

As members may be aware, we were audited by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) earlier in the year and we were assessed to have failed in 2 areas. Principally that we had not carried out a review of our Safety Management System (SMS) and that we had not demonstrated compliance with our change management processes. GMR retrospectively rectified its change management processes and submitted the evidence to ONRSR on June 30 and has recently completed its review of its SMS. Stephen Joyce and Bill Harrison have arranged a face to face meeting with representatives of ONRSR on 19 September to present these latest document changes and to press them to close all our audit actions.

Before this latest audit, GMR had submitted three applications to vary our accreditation, which have been placed on hold by ONRSR pending resolution of the compliance audit. These variations were to:

- Operate track maintenance vehicles on our line;
- Move our end platform cars (and any other rolling stock) under covered storage at Glenreagh West; and
- To re-commence restoration of 1919 and the railmotor.

At this meeting GMR intends to highlight that the limited number of activities we are able to carry out due to our very small band of active volunteers and the remoteness of the line present a very low level of risk and that we deserve to have these variations approved in the shortest possible time given how long ago they were submitted. GMR will emphasise that the ONRSR personnel involved in our accreditation validation and compliance have never actually visited our railway.

In July this year GMR awarded a contract to APR Consultants Ltd in New Zealand for the development of a Business Plan. This was jointly funded by GMR, Coffs Harbour City Council and Clarence Valley Council and is due for completion in late September 2013. APR is an award winning New Zealand based consultancy business that has over 30 years' experience in business planning and development.

The Business Plan represents an opportunity to place future operations on a more sustainable basis. The project will involve a number of key phases including:

- Consultation with key stakeholders;
- A stocktake of current assets;
- An analysis of future income generation opportunities including: tourism, training, freight and manufacturing;
- Analysis of any regulatory requirements around the project proposals;
- The identification of partnerships with other organisations to generate revenue;
- Assessment of the economic contribution arising from the business opportunities identified;
- An analysis of the potential risks around the project;
- Potential funding sources;
- All consultation will be undertaken in an independent and balanced manner; and
- Opportunities will be looked at for integrated tourism development as well as non-tourism opportunities such as engineering.

Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of Glenreagh Mountain Railway has been set down for 1.30pm Saturday 23 November 2013. A sausage sizzle for members will commence at 12.30pm with tea and Coffee provided as well. A nomination form for members wishing to nominate for a Board position (or nominate another member) is attached and must be received by the Returning Officer before 5pm 10 October 2013. Only Financial members can nominate and participate in the AGM. It is anticipated that a précis of the Business Plan will be available for members to peruse. The report itself will be in excess of 100 pages.

Infrastructure Report

Despite our lack of manpower the jobs that need to be done are being completed. The septic problem at the Glenreagh Cottage has been resolved with a new trench thanks to Burnett Plumbing. The next big project is the gutter and repainting of the cottage. We are in urgent need of \$3,000 of funding to do this work and I am calling on members to dig deep. I have arranged some donated materials but without these funds the work will not happen. Please assist us in maintaining this important fettler's cottage for the future use of all members.

We now have 600 timber sleepers at Lowanna ready to be installed as soon as the accreditation for the track machines is approved by the regulator. This donation from ARTC with transport from Coffs Harbour Hardwoods is greatly appreciated. This is a huge step forward.

To comply with our security plan the last section of fencing to separate the track from the rest of the Lowanna Station area is completed. This includes 3 new gates to enable access to the track by hi-rail excavators and sleeper inserter. Another task has been completed.

Coffs Harbour City Council has awarded Glenreagh Mountain Railway a \$7,000 grant for woody weed control along the rail corridor at Lowanna. This will enable us to tackle the heavily weed infested areas which without this funding would not be possible. We have applied

for a further \$10,000 for track materials to get the 3.2km of track ready as soon as possible. We are again very grateful to Council for their ongoing support of the project.

Glenreagh Mountain Railway has been training mainline companies through Southern Cross Rail Training with the first 20 trainees having been through the Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure course. This course is now the minimum requirement for track work on the ARTC network and Glenreagh Mountain Railway is well positioned to do this training.

Station to Station Rally 2014

The Coffs Harbour Veteran and Vintage Car Club and Glenreagh Mountain Railway in conjunction with Coffs Harbour City Council held its annual historic motoring event called the “Station to Station Run” on the 28th of July. It ran from Coffs Harbour Railway Station to the Lowanna Railway Station. The event linked the beautiful Coffs Harbour coastline with the equally spectacular rainforest-clad hinterland with the challenging run starting from the Coffs Harbour Jetty winding its way up the 500m elevation past scenic views to the restored historic Lowanna Railway Station. This year the event was joined by the Vintage Tractor Group who came up on the Saturday and camped overnight before joining in the activities at Lowanna Railway Station. It was highly successful and plans are being made for next year’s event.

Rail Safety Manager

I am hearing growing concern from the membership that “nothing is happening” and “GMR is going nowhere”. I would like to assure everyone that from the board’s perspective, nothing could be further from the truth.

Our biggest delay currently is getting our accreditation to run maintenance vehicles to be able to repair track. We already have accreditation to work on the track; however as much of it is located away from road access, the only real way to maintain it is by using vehicles such as high rails and trikes.

As has already been reported, GMR is also undergoing a business planning process. This report will be released in the next couple of months, and will show a way forward for GMR. Having a firm business plan will also allow greater access to grants and funding, and hence assist us to achieve our goals.

As always we need members to assist us with the huge number of tasks ahead. There have been a number of sections where track clearing has commenced (where it is accessible). We desperately need a hand to clean up around Glenreagh West as well as anyone with basic or advanced skills that can assist to repair the cottage used for our members. We would also openly welcome anyone that could act as a publicity officer and liaise with media outlets to get some good news stories out for GMR.

As reported in the last letter, our members travel from as far as Sydney, Walgett and Brisbane in order to lend a hand. We have a well set up cottage at Glenreagh that is a great home away from home for the weekend. I get down there at least once per month, and am always happy to show new members around and help them work out a few suitable jobs. If you would like to join us one weekend contact any of the other board members, or myself on 0409 473 643. As I run a health service I don’t always answer, so leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP.

Stephen Joyce



Signs built by John Munson



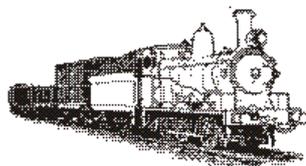
Bill Harrison and John Munson (Barristers extraordinaires)



John Munson's Donation Box



Tractors at the Station to Station Rally



Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc

NOMINATION FOR BOARD POSITION

(Separate form for each position)

I,
(please print full name) (signature)

being a voting member of Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc wish to nominate

..... as a candidate for election to the
(please print full name)

position of.....

(President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director)

I,
(please print full name) (signature)

being a voting member of Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc wish to second the

above nomination.

I,
(please print full name) (signature)

being a voting member of Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc, understand the duties, legal responsibilities and requirements of being part of this Board, including having access to the internet for emails, able to use and operate a computer, and a knowledge of the Rail Safety Act and WH & S, am willing to accept this nomination.

Please return this signed nomination along with copies of any qualifications or competencies with a brief resume and/or outline of yourself.

Please mail this form and accompanying documents to be received **by 5pm 10 October 2013** to:

Returning Officer

Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc

PO Box 5104, Glenreagh NSW