



Rainforest

RAILWAY NEWS

No. 36 – March 2016

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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Glenreagh Mountain Railway was held on Saturday 28 November 2015 at the GMR Cottage at Glenreagh West. The following committee members were duly elected for 2016:

President	Chris Hanson	Vice President	Vacant	Secretary	Bill Harrison
Treasurer	Colin Sambrook	Director	Ray Gamble	Director	John Munson
Director	Ross Neil				

Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting was held on 28 November 2015, just prior to the AGM and GMR's revised constitution was approved. The changes were minor and can be summarised as:

- Removal of the temporary member classification
- Reduction of the committee (formerly known as the board) to 7 members from 9 to reflect our current smaller membership base
- The number of committee meetings reduced from monthly to bi-monthly
- The quorum for general meetings reduced from 15 to 5 members
- Proxy votes not permitted
- Voting for SGMs will be by Postal Vote.
- Although GMR has a common seal, there is no longer a requirement to include its provision in our constitution
- As a result of changes to the Associations Incorporations Act and Regulations, the Public Officer is now responsible for the safe keeping of all records.

Business Plan

No meeting was ever successfully arranged with Coffs Harbour City Council and Clarence Valley Council and no further progress has been made with the two councils. Recently however we received an unsolicited proposal from a local Coffs Harbour businessman who is enthusiastically promoting his vision to revitalise our railway line and the Lowanna community. His plan involves providing a the development of a major tourist attraction involving the use of parts of GMR's corridor together with a donation of some of his own land and the use of our line and rolling stock to transfer passengers between the various locations. The GMR committee has had a preliminary

meeting with him and is currently assessing its potential involvement and the likely benefits. It's a long term project but the committee believes it will be good for GMR and the local community.

Rail Safety Regulator Audit

Grant Windsham and Kylie Harris from the NSW Independent Transport Safety Regulator conducted an audit of GMR's compliance with the National Rail Safety Act and Regulations on the morning of 21 January. They had previously advised us of the topics from the Act that they would be reviewing for compliance. Unfortunately we were found wanting in a number of areas and they were generous with their time in explaining what we needed to do. They provided a list of items they required us to submit before they could submit their report. This material has been provided.

New Members

At the February Committee meeting, new members Alex Little and Ian Treddie together with the renewal of Warwick Mead's membership were approved. All have much to offer as we gradually increase our activities.

Lowanna

Steve Martin continues with maintaining the Lowanna station yard and vegetation control along the track to Moleton. If you can view our facebook page you will find photos and a short video showing the great work they have accomplished to date. We hope to provide more photos and reports via Facebook on the work Steve is doing.



Track Work

Very recently Steve Martin together with Ross Neil completed a 1 in 5 sleeper inspection of the track from the stop block adjacent to Tip Road to the stop blocks adjacent to the Tallawudjah Creek Road crossing near the mill. Over 250 sleepers were checked for condition, tightness of fixings and gauge. The overall condition of the track was found to be extremely good with only 11 sleepers needing replacement, which will be undertaken by the middle of this year. The line crosses one large concrete culvert which was also found to be in excellent condition with a free flowing creek running through it.



Glenreagh West Shed

Work is progressing on fitting out the demountable next to the workshop as our new office where our working files will be kept. Power has now been re-connected and plans are in hand to relocate the computer from the cottage. Work has also begun to move most of the heavy machinery in the workshop to the far end to make the area more presentable during open days and also to provide a crib room for volunteers on work days. Discussions have begun on a proposal from the mill that the heavy machinery, which is not



connected to a power supply and is unlikely to ever be used by GMR, would be moved to the mill at no cost in return for the mill agreeing to provide any machining GMR may require in the future.

Glenreagh West Cottage

In August last year with the help of Heidi Naylor, GMR submitted two applications for grants to the NSW Community Building Partnership program and have been lucky enough to be successful with one of them. We expect to receive \$12,500 shortly for the enclosure of the rear verandah on the cottage and will hopefully be able to provide other improvements at the same time. Some time ago, Phil Buckley secured a donation of paint from Dulux to repaint the exterior of the cottage and it is hoped that we can progress this work also in the coming months. The paint scheme selected is the same as Lowanna station reflecting the Railways colour scheme of the 1920s.



Glenreagh Station Yard

Working in the yard continues to be hampered by ARTC's requirement to have a qualified protection officer in attendance whenever we work there. GMR has at least one suitably qualified person. After completely clearing the yard of vegetation last year right down to and including the turntable area we need to find ways to retain the cleared condition.

Active Volunteers

Our biggest drawback at the moment is the lack of volunteers who turn up on work days and in particular on our scheduled work weekends. We are aware that many of our members are reaching an age where they can't do physical work but we really need older members who can provide advice on how to fix things, in particular the trikes. We have members who are willing to help but we need the expertise to help them. If you can no longer drive and would like to come out, give us a call so that we can pick you up and bring you out. We are currently working on our rail motor and steam loco but would like to start work on restoring our 2 end platform cars now they are under cover to bring them back to operational status. If you would like to help, let us know so that we can work in with you.



Rolling Stock Report

CPH 11

Peter Rheinberger, Chris Frost and John Munson have continued working on Tuesdays and are making steady progress. The roof exterior timber and the guttering have been completed and waterproofing has begun. The high quality waterproofing products we are using have been supplied by Duram Industries in Sydney to a process they have recommended. Duram industries very generously provided us with a substantial discount on the regular price and the total cost to GMR was only \$500. Peter has sealed all the timber joints and he and John applied the two part primer last Tuesday. They will be applying 2 sealer coats on Monday and Tuesday next week and will



apply a light grey top coat on the following week. Work is also underway on providing inserts for the roof interior lining.

1919

Greg Shipton, our boiler inspector on previous inspections, inspected the boiler on Saturday 16 January and found it to be in good condition apart from some minor repairs to a few of the rivets around the foundation ring. That work has now been completed and Ray Gamble has been busy preparing the boiler and its associated pressure parts for a preliminary hydrostatic test to check for any leaks before formal hydrostatic and steam tests are performed for the boiler inspector.



Track Machines

Our Wickham trike at Lowanna and both the Wisconsin powered Track Inspection Car and Volkswagen at Glenreagh West are now certified for use and the Volkswagen, with the weed spraying unit, has proved very useful for weed spraying. Peter Brown has continued work on the Gemco sleeper inserter and has commissioned the machine on the short section of track outside the old tram shed. The Deutz diesel is running very well and Peter has had all the hydraulic controls operating satisfactorily. Painting of the machine is almost complete and Peter is now inspecting all electrical cabling and replacing where necessary. This machine will be a valuable aid to sleeper replacement when that work starts. Ross Neil is busy preparing track machine training and certification documentation for review by the committee and to satisfy the requirements of the Rail Safety Regulator.



Internet and Social Media

Our Facebook page continues to generate increased public interest and we are trying to update our progress as much as we can, including photos and videos. Video of the sleeper inserter in operation drew many comments including from previous operators who know the machine and we are hopeful they will provide us with more information on its history.

Phil Buckley continues to upgrade our newly introduced webpage and we hope the general public will note the renewed look and information which should stimulate more interest in GMR. Our facebook page recently passed the 1,500 mark of followers. In approx. 2years we have now gained 1,000 extra followers due to increased media presence helping to spread the efforts of what we do.



Visit GMR online at www.gmr.org.au facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/glenreagh.railway>

Glenreagh Mountain Railway Incorporated. ABN 88 246 630 101 - A non-profit community based Association run entirely by volunteers with the goal of restoring the line and rollingstock and operating a heritage steam tourist railway on the GMR owned section of the Glenreagh-Dorrigo line. Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc (GMR) has an Authority to fundraise under the NSW charitable Fundraising Act 1991 Donations of \$2 or more to Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc. are tax deductible.