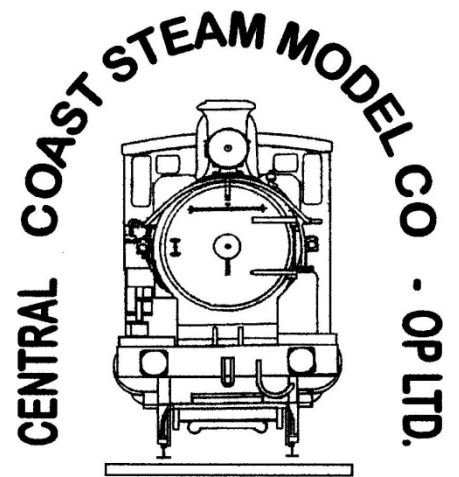


SHORT NORTH



Journal of the Central Coast Steam, Model Co-Op

November 2010 Edition



In This Edition

- Calendar Of Events
- Reports from the 2010 Annual General Meeting
- Treasurers Report
- Expressions of Interest Called for Board Appointed Positions
- Around The Grounds
- September & October Run Day Reports
- Members Survey on Additional Functions.

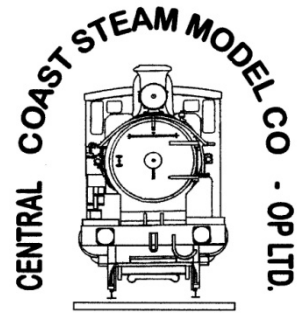
Central Coast Steam, Model Co-Op Ltd.

PO Box 692, Gosford NSW 2250.

73a Showground Road, Narara.

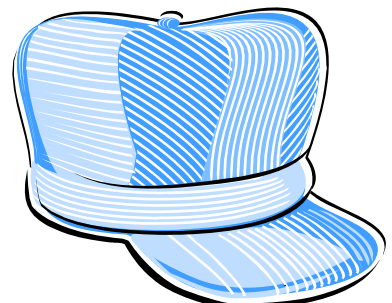
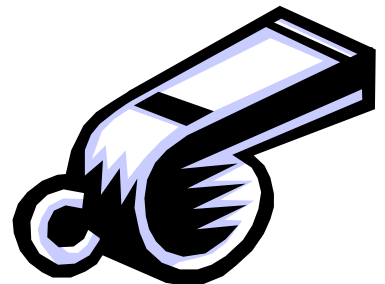
ABN: 35 240 710 279

secretary@narara.cjb.net



President:	Greg Rowland	0400 190755
Vice-President:	John Crowhurst	0407 109614
Secretary:	Robyn Nutter	02 43283412
Treasurer:	Norm Browne	02 43963564
Director:	Ken Howells	0402 051971

AALS Appointed Competent Persons:	Greg Rowland Ken Howells	
Locomotive & Carriage Register:	Ken Howells	
Boiler Inspectors:	Lindsay Brack Leal Brack Leon Brack	0418 213094 0439 986962 02 43247590
Mechanical Inspections:	Ken Howells Greg Rowland	
Driver Licensing Register:	Mick Farrell	
Function Coordinator:	Edith Bearman	0432 499220
Newsletter Publication:	Sam Hawkins	0428 323 148 newsletter@narara.cjb.net
Child Protection:	Sam Hawkins	
Signalling: Project Managers:	Area A: Ivan Burns Area B: Leal Brack	
Training Facilitators:	Noel Richards Lindsay Brack Keith Lewis	
Club Locomotive Custodian:		
7¼" Steamer	Greg Rowland	
7¼" Diesel	Ken Howells	
Club Carriages:	Fred Pryde	
Club Clothing:	Sam Hawkins	



Public Running Day:	1 st Saturday of each month.
Members Play Day:	2 nd Saturday of each month.
Members Meeting:	Last Thursday of Every Month (except December) 7:30pm
Grounds	Last Thursday and Saturday
Maintenance Days:	of Each Month and as required.

Front Cover: Sam Hawkins giving fair warning of the capabilities of his locomotive, "The Tormentor".

Calendar of Events

Here is the calendar of events for the remainder of 2010. Items change and are added to periodically. An up-to-date calendar is displayed on the club noticeboard in the Club Meeting Room. Please check this periodically for dates that you may wish to attend or assist with.



Day	Date	Occasion	Times
Saturday	06/11/2010	Public Running Day	11:00 – 16:00
Saturday	13/11/2010	Members Play Day	10:00 – 18:00
Thursday	25/11/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 – 16:00
Thursday	25/11/2010	Board Meeting	10:00 – 12:00
Thursday	25/11/2010	Club Meeting	19:30
Saturday	27/11/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 – 16:00
Thursday	02/12/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 – 16:00
Thursday	02/12/2010	Niagara Park Children's Centre Christmas Party – *TWILIGHT RUN*	17:30 – 19:30
Saturday	04/12/2010	Public Running Day	11:00 – 16:00
Wednesday	08/12/2010	Gosford Playgroups Run Day	11:00 – 14:00
Saturday	11/12/2010	Members Play Day	10:00 – 18:00
Thursday	23/12/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 – 16:00
Thursday	30/12/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 – 16:00
Saturday	08/01/2011	Public Running Day	11:00 – 16:00

ATTENTION →

ATTENTION AALS AFFILIATED CLUB MEMBERS

Visitors from other clubs must, immediately upon arrival, attend our club meeting room and sign in on the Visitors Register.

An induction infopack will be provided to all visitors.

ALL VISITORS MUST PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF INSURANCE COVER AND QUALIFICATIONS IF DRIVING A LOCOMOTIVE.

Once the registration process is completed we welcome all visitors to fully participate in the activities of the Run Day.

Any visitor bringing a locomotive or other rolling stock to our club grounds must have that equipment inspected by our Club Mechanical Inspectors and Boiler Inspectors (if applicable) prior to entering the running lines.

From the Presidents Desk

Greg Rowland



The new board is in place and has held its first meetings. There is a continuation of the previous projects already commenced and new projects in the planning.

Each of the Directors have been given a portfolio to oversee around the club.

Grounds & Garden Maintenance: John Crowhurst

Club Meeting Room & Amenities, General Purchasing: Norm Browne

Track & Infrastructure, Machinery: Greg Rowland

Lions Club Liaison & Canteen Bay: Robyn Nutter

Carriages & Rolling Stock: Ken Howells.

Please direct and queries or suggestions to the Director who is responsible for what you require, or please put your request or enquiry in writing to the Secretary who will bring it to the attention of the Board and have it actioned.

The Board has also decided to call for Expressions of Interest from all members wishing to be appointed to duty positions within the club. See Page 13 of this newsletter for more information on applying. In order to dispel any rumours before they start, the Board is not doing this to target any one individual currently occupying a position. It is part of what should have been an annual occurrence en ensure that the club was getting the best possible person for each position. Once EOI's close, the Board will assess all applications on their merit and announce the appointments at the November Members Meeting.



OUR FACEBOOK FAN BASE

CONTINUES TO *GROW...*

Social media on the internet continues to grow in popularity as a way of keeping in touch with friends and loved ones alike. It also provides the opportunity for businesses to keep in touch with people interested in their product or service. By creating a Facebook page for our club, and inviting our visitors and club members to become "fans" of our page, it provides us with the opportunity to send out information to those fans in real-time. Updates such as wet weather cancellations or running, party tables availability for last minute bookings and even just self-promotion by posting pictures of our visitors to the page (with their consent of course) are instantly possible at no cost to our club.

At the time of this issue being printed, we have 171 "fans" on our Facebook page.

I encourage you to have a look at what happens. www.facebook.com "Central Coast Model Steam Trains"

If you're interested and don't have internet access, please see Sam Hawkins.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

At the AGM, a motion was put forward from the floor by Greg Rowland to raise the Annual Subscription Fees to \$40 and \$20 Concession.

There was a discussion with speakers for and against the proposal.

Speakers against the proposal argued that the club is financially sound and therefore raising the subscription was not necessary, while those in favour of the rise argued that the costs of insurance had risen over the past several years and it seems to have less of an impact if fees are raised in smaller but more frequent increments then the impact on members is lessened.

The motion was put to a vote and was passed 21 to 6 in favour.

What this means is that from 1st July 2011 the annual subscription fee for members will be \$40 or \$20 for concessions.

Any members joining our club prior to that date will be required to pay \$33 or \$16.50 for concessions.



Secretary's Info Page

Robyn Nutter

secretary@narara.cjb.net



My first article is simply a short note to introduce myself to those that don't know me. As I find my feet in the role, I see lists of names and need to put faces to those names. Please make yourself known to me as we go along and please bring to my attention things I need to know.

A new Secretary's Inbox will be installed in the Club Meeting Room shortly, please use it to deposit any correspondence for myself or other Board members. We can only act on the wishes of the members if we are aware of them. I am interested in everyone's ideas and visions for the club's future and also welcome any complaints and suggestions.

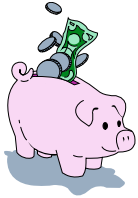
Please remember to keep your diaries updated with all the extra run days as silly season approaches. See Page 3 for the full calendar.

Happy Training to all



On Saturday 16th October there was a Party function for Umina Pre-School held at the grounds. Unfortunately only 10 members were present to put the day on for a paying client. There were 101 guests present on the day. We need to know why only 10 members turned up.

Please take the time to complete the survey that has been inserted into this edition of Short North. The results will be published in an upcoming edition along with comments from the Directors. We need information on why there was such a poor turn-out of members on the date and if more or less functions need to be arranged.



Treasurers Reports Digest

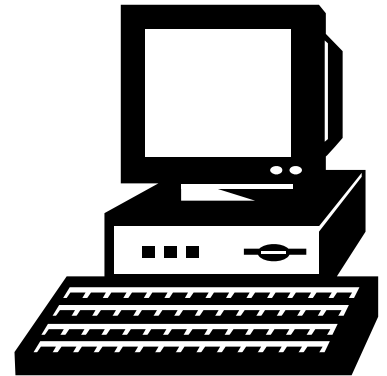


This section deliberately left blank for External Edition.

From the Editors Desk:

In the September Edition of Short North a picture was featured from a club in the UK, submitted by John Mills. I have had the pleasure of receiving several emails from Paul Harrison who is the person featured in the picture. Paul informs me that his 5" Loco is an LBSC design which he assembled a couple of years ago having bought it in a lot of bits without the original boiler. The photo was taken at their Christmas Steam-up in 2009.

Paul also tells me that he found himself in his circumstances in 1957 following a chemical mishap. He has spent the last 16 years before retirement repairing CD / DVD players and other electronic equipment. "I just get on and do whatever I want."



Above: Paul as pictured in the previous edition.
Right: Paul's locomotive "Speedy" under construction.
(EDITOR: Got to love the name of that locomotive!)

RUN DAY REPORTS

SEPTEMBER 2010 PUBLIC RUN DAY

The cloudy weather didn't dampen the spirits of our Volunteers or Visitors. We had a couple of enquiries via our Facebook page about if we were running in the miserable weather. Facebook is showing itself to be a valuable medium to convey information to our members and the public in real-time. The best part is that it's free. We now have over 170 "fans" which means that every message sent via Facebook instantly reaches 170 people, both members and members of the public – all for nothing.

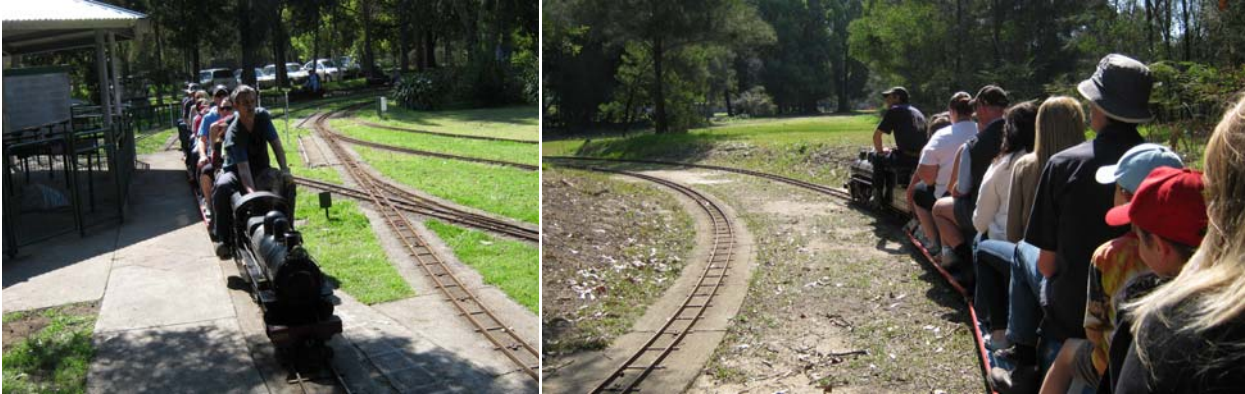
Statistics From The Day:

Members Attending: **29** Members Trains Attending: **N/A**

Tickets Sold: **388** Party bookings: **2 Train Parties, 0 Tables of 10** available.

YARRAN SERVICES RUN DAY – Saturday 29th September

The Yarran Support Services group attended our grounds again on Saturday 18th September for their annual run day. The day is fully funded by the organisation and put on at no cost to the families as the organisers believe that the families of children with special needs are under enough financial strain already. 196 people attended the function and an enjoyable time was had by all. This function raised \$980 towards our club facilities.



OCTOBER 2010 PUBLIC RUN DAY

What a difference a day makes. Beautiful sunny skies greeted members and visitors alike for an enjoyable and very busy public run day.

Statistics from the Day:

Members Trains Attending: **N/A**

Members Attending: **31**

Tickets Sold: **670**

Party Bookings: **2 Train Party's, 5 tables.**



Report on Club AGM

The Club Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 30th September in the Club Meeting Room. An excellent turn-out of 32 members were present, and there were 30 “Active” members present eligible to vote. Much work has gone into the The annual reports from the President, Treasurer, and Board Of Directors were read and presented to the meeting by the respective office bearers. Copies of these reports have been reproduced in this edition of Short North.

Thanks needs to be given to the nominees for the positions on the Board of Directors as it is democracy that keeps our society civilised.

Nominations received as follows:

Position	Candidate	Nominator
President	Greg Rowland	Sam Hawkins
	Fred Pryde	Ivan Burns
Vice-President	John Crowhurst	Norm Browne
		Trevor Crowhurst
		Ronald Cowell
		Edith Bearman
Secretary	Robyn Nutter	Greg Rowland
		Norm Browne
		Edith Bearman
Treasurer	Norm Browne	Edith Bearman
Director	Ken Howells	Norm Browne
		Edith Bearman

There was the need for one election for the position of President. As per the rules, more than 5 members present requested a secret ballot, so a ballot was held. Returning Officers Peter Holt and Tom Fink conducted the ballot with the result being Greg Rowland 18 Votes, Fred Pryde 12 Votes. Greg Rowland was declared the winner of the ballot and returned as President.



CORNY CORNER

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. “But Why?” they asked, as they moved off. “Because,” he said, “I can’t stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer.”

Annual Reports from the Board of Directors.

The following reports were presented by the Board of Directors to the Annual General Meeting and have been reproduced here for the information of members that were not present.

2009/10 Directors Report

The 2009/10 AGM year has seen a new Secretary take on the challenging role of managing the various personalities within our club with a number of goals:

To be Inclusive as opposed to being “exclusive”;

To be open and transparent with decision making; and To prove that our club is bigger than any individual member and will continue to fulfill its Objectives as individual members come and go.

I, along with the Board, am of the opinion that this has been achieved.

I believe we need to regularly refresh our memories of the Co-operatives Objectives:

- a) To foster the gathering together of such persons as are interested in miniature engineering and the building, operation of miniature model engineering machinery.
- b) To provide a venue or venues and facilities for the enjoyment of the co-operative members and their associates in the running and operation of miniature engineering machinery.
- c) To promote in any way possible the interests in miniature model engineering machinery.
- d) To provide a recreational and instructive reminder of engineering machinery and motive power of both the past and present for the community at large.
- e) To promote or carry out to assist with any charitable undertaking as desired by the members.
- f) To operate, maintain and carry on a club.

2010 has seen “inclusion” rather than “exclusion” as the desired outcome for all members to have input into club activities as well as having voting rights at tonight’s Annual General Meeting. The Board implemented



changes to the way attendances are tallied to enable more members participate and fulfill their requirements under the rules at times that suit their individual circumstances. The new sign on sheets facilitated this. Members could attend the grounds to conduct maintenance on any day and simply sign the register for it to count towards the tally. Members who appeared to not be meeting the minimum requirements for membership were contacted during June and reminded of their obligations and offered the opportunity to raise any issues, in confidence, they may have been experiencing that could be taken into account by the board.

Special mention needs to be made of the efforts of Keith Lewis for being the inspiration and driving force behind changes to the Active Membership Rule that was a hot topic of discussion for much of the year. Most members would be aware that the Board of Directors has since passed a motion that this rule change not be pursued at this stage after the realisation that changes to the rules were not actually required, just thinking laterally and working within the existing rules was all that was necessary. The decision by the Board of Directors to allow Sam Hawkins to trial 2 Supplementary Club Meetings on a Saturday morning led to the 5 members that Keith Lewis was trying to assist by having the rules changed, returning to “active” membership status and allowing them to retain their membership in the cooperative. This trial has been declared a success and 3

supplementary meetings will now be held annually on the Play Days in June, July and August to enable members who are unable to attend evening meetings fulfill their membership requirements. As for the point that was made about lifting the number of Run Days and Work Days, the following statistics show that it was not necessary to raise the levels of attendance required at the other activities as the vast majority of members were already meeting that benchmark.

The records used to determine active membership in the cooperative also reveal the following statistical information:

Run Days: There were a total of 24 Run Days counted during the tally period. Our members totaled 595 attendances to these Run Days, an average of 11.32 attendances per member. Think about your own attendance levels in comparison to this average. Special mention needs to go to Ivan Burns, Sam Hawkins, Ken Howells, Fred Pryde and Greg Rowland who all attended 20 Run Days or more. We ask all members to bear in mind that it is our Public Run Days that fund our hobby, our infrastructure and, our facilities. The financial contribution made by each member in the form of Annual Subscription was \$980. Our income from Party Hire and Ticket Sales was well over \$29000. The statistics show that an average of 24.79 members attended each run day. This may seem like plenty of people to make everything work. Unfortunately all you have to do is ask someone who has taken on the role of Run Day Coordinator to find out that it isn't. It has been observed and several complaints have been received by the Board of members not contributing in the classic sense of "a cooperative" on the Public Run Days. We ask again that all members attending the Public Run Days contribute to the smooth running of the day by making themselves available to the Run Day Coordinator for assignment. Gathering in the steam-up bay and doing non-urgent maintenance should be done on other days. There have been several occasions when the members who are manning posts have not been able to take a break all day because others are not making a fair contribution. Please also be mindful of the length of breaks taken and return as soon as possible. It is only when everyone

contributes to the "cooperative" that the majority of the work is not left to the minority to do.

Thanks also need to be given to the members who bring their own locomotives to haul passengers on the Public Run Days. While our club locomotives provide bulk passenger hauling, it is the locomotives and trains of our members that provide the variety of different trains for our visitors to ride. It is also the members' trains that usually form the Party trains in the afternoons.

Before the Grounds and Trains are ready for the Public Run Days, we need to have our Working Days. There were a total of 120 Working Day occasions counted towards the tally period. The methodology used to count was the column in the Sign On Register – Hence the change of format for the form. This made it possible for members to attend the grounds and contribute towards the cooperative at a time that suited. Our members made a total of 986 counted attendances to the grounds for maintenance and work. This averaged 18.96 attendances per member. Once again, please think about your own attendance level for this activity. We only averaged 8 members per occasion. Again, special mention needs to be made of those members who have dedicated their own time and efforts above and beyond what is required of them in the black & white of the rules. Members who have attended more than 40 occurrences are: Greg Rowland (96), Ivan Burns (68), Ken Howells (61), Natalie Fraser (56), Norm Browne (51), John Crowhurst (49), John Mills (42), and Fred Pryde (42). Along with the efforts of all members to maintain the club facilities, it is the extra time and efforts of these individuals that make this club survive and be what it is for the community and all other members.

We have hosted a number of groups for Private Functions, including schools, charities and support groups and provided their guests with entertainment as well as a small insight into the workings of a railway, albeit at a model scale. We have been able to accomplish this for a modest cost to the organisations, in line with our Objective to promote charitable works.

You have all received a copy of the consolidated Balance Sheet and Income and Expense report. The Grant from Lodge

Saratoga made up for the shortfall in our Ticket Sales and Party hire decline, which can be attributed to several wet weather days on our public run days. Our expenses and assets all track on a constant trajectory, consistent with stable, conservative management.

I would like to draw the attention of all members to the results of tonight's election of Directors to the Board. The strength of an organisation is in its democracy. Our democratic process allows for all active members to stand for office and to vote for the candidate they feel is best suited to the position. Unfortunately our organisation is lacking in members willing to fill the Board positions, perhaps because of the criticism that seems to emanate from a vocal minority of members who themselves have not shown the willingness to be considered for the role. I was personally extremely disappointed in a small number of members who took it upon themselves to undermine my project of a trial Meal Break on the Public Running Days. The Board of Directors, elected by the majority of members, passed a motion to trial the proposal put before them. Unfortunately certain individuals took it upon themselves to deliberately undermine the trial before it even got started. That's all it was going to be – a trial, which would have been evaluated and the decision given to the members to make in a democratic fashion. I challenge those individuals to take on the role of Run Day Coordinator and see how difficult it is to fill all necessary positions in the middle and end of the day because members have disappeared and not returned.

I ask all members to abide by the democratic process that we westerners all hold so dearly, and that our armed forces are fighting to give to the citizens of countries like Iraq and Afghanistan. After tonight, your elected representatives will be charged with the smooth running of our club. It is not for individuals to criticize or undermine our elected representatives. It is up to all members to question them and hold them to account. This questioning should be done in the correct forum and in the correct manner. If you are unsure of either, ask someone in private who knows the answer. All questions, queries, or otherwise should be directed to the

Directors in the first instance. You can expect to receive a satisfactory response from the Directors as a group. There should be no need to go to ANY other external body. Let's face it; we're here to play trains. The wonderful part of our democratic process is that if you don't like the way things are being done, every September you are afforded the opportunity to nominate for a position on the Board and have things done the way you believe they should.

This year, the elected Board of Directors functioned as a cohesive group, even though the members were made up of a diverse range of ages, professional backgrounds and motivations for service, and made all decisions by consensus. There were many routine matters, such as the day to day expenses, the purchase of tools, and steel for infrastructure, to some newer ways of doing things like the purchase of a laser printer for the secretary to publish the newsletter and all of the correspondence sent to members, to the installation of a chilled drinking water bubbler, and tea & coffee dispenser. 2 major projects have been commissioned during the course of the year; the Signal Box B building and the Bottom Steam-Up Bay, for which a water tank and roof structure are both planned. Both are expected to be completed in the coming months. Major track works are planned for the Party Loop 7 ¼" track as well as replacement and repair of several other sections of track. There were also the contentious decisions that had to be made such as the vote to abandon the Meal Break Trial and the cancellation of 2 memberships that had been inactive for 2 years as the rules dictate. These decisions were not taken lightly but were taken in the spirit that the rules were intended.

Our new club 5" Locomotive has been commissioned and we are hoping to take delivery of it by the end of 2010. It is a \$7000 investment in our club's future to compliment the existing 2 locomotives and provide those members without their own locomotive another opportunity to drive the train that the child in us all enjoys so much.

Sam Hawkins
Secretary 2009/10
On Behalf Of the Board Of Directors.

2010 PRESIDENTS REPORT

By Greg Rowland

Over the past 12 months we have achieved many things including the replacement of the McDonalds Bridge and upgrades to track infrastructure.

We have also recommenced work on the 7¼" steaming bay with the delivery of a new traverser.

Also we have on the way a new replacement 5" locomotive which should arrive around Christmas at a cost of \$7000.

We have added another 6 riding cars to our list of rolling stock.

Our birthday run was a great success with many visitors commending us on our grounds and facilities and the way we had set up displays on the day.

Support for our run days has been good with more and more attending each month.

Support for our work days has also picked up as more and more members are now taking on projects on their own.

The Board of directors has once again given its support and dedication by taking care of the day to day running of the club.

There are still many more projects to complete but with the support of the members, the road ahead looks good.

I would like to thank the membership for its support over

the past 12 months and would like to thank my fellow board members.

G.D. Rowland, President.

2009/10 Treasurers Report

Norm Browne.

This years operating income has been disappointing with a 12.5% drop on last year and having 3 extra run days. The inclement weather has taken its toll and the financial crisis may have had some bearing.

The 63.15% increase in operating profit is due to the donation from Lodge Saratoga and sale of the tractor.

Expenses are up 2.14% although mostly on par with last year. Depreciation is up due to the purchase of a tractor and expenditure of the Lodge Saratoga donation.

Individual items purchased that do not show up in the financial statement include; Carriage Wheels \$982, Track Steel \$1199, Stainless Steel Barbecue \$2103, Kubota Tractor \$8000, 7¼" Traverser \$438, Water Cooler \$394, Signals \$1607, 7¼" Trolleys \$2835. In total \$17558.

All in all we have been able to keep ourselves in a secure financial position, helped by a windfall donation and sales.

Norman S Browne, Treasurer.



2010/11 Board Appointed Positions

The Board is calling for Expressions of Interest from all members wishing to be appointed to the following positions for 2010/11:

- **Functions Coordinator / Party Bookings Contact**
- **Signals Project Managers**
 - Area A
 - Area B
- **Club Clothing Coordinator**
- **Newsletter Editor/Publisher**
- **Club Locomotive Maintenance Officer**
 - 4101 / New 5" Locomotive
 - Club Steamer (Nightmare)
- **Club Carriage Maintenance Officer**
- **Run Day Coordinator (Default)**
- **Training Facilitator (Multiple Positions)**

Expressions of Interest need to be in writing, no more than 2 pages, and received by the Board of Directors no later than Wednesday 24th November 2010. If applying for more than one position, a separate Expression of Interest should be used for each position.

Your expression of interest should contain all relevant information about why you are the best person for the position and should detail your qualifications (if relevant) and experience for the position.

All Expressions of Interest will be assessed by the Board on merit and the successful applicant notified as soon as possible after the October Board Meeting. The successful candidates will be appointed to the positions from Thursday 25th November 2010 to November 2011.

The reason for calling for Expressions of Interest in this manner is to ensure that the club has the best person for each position in the job, for the benefit of the club as a whole. It will also ensure that the process is open to all members.

AROUND THE GROUNDS



The bottom 7¼" steam-up bay upgrade is well under way. Mick Farrell has been busy painting the tracks and making sure everything is working, while Peter Holt has designed and installed an unloading traverser. Plans are well underway for the extension of 2 tracks from the bay to the traverser for unloading.



Above & Left: Peter Holt hard at work installing the new traverser for the 7¼" Steam Up Bay. Pictures taken by Mick Farrell (who wasn't helping Peter while he had the camera in his hands!).



With the summer months rapidly approaching, the lawns are starting to take off again. All members are asked to come to the grounds, even if not on a designated "work day" and assist where you have the time – even if it's only for half an hour, the time all adds up.



CCSM Classifieds Page

Scope exists for all Active Members of the Club to place Classified Advertisements free of charge in the Monthly Club Newsletter.

Other interested parties should send their Classified Advertisement material to newsletter@narara.cjb.net for inclusion. Rates to be negotiated to cover the costs of printing.

Cut-off for each publication is the 20th of the previous month.

Got a Newsletter Article or interesting story to share?

Please email your article to newsletter@narara.cjb.net or put your article into the Secretary's Inbox at the club meeting room, clearly addressed to The Editor, Short North.

Publishing Deadline for each edition is the 20th of the previous month.

We're intending on publishing Short North monthly so we'll need input from a variety of sources.

STOP PRESS:

Just prior to going to print, we received notification from Gosford Council that our application (extremely hastily cobbled together by yours truly) for a grant for a new concrete water tank for the bottom steam-up bay, was successful. Thanks must go to Gosford Council for their \$3000 contribution towards our facilities.

A GROANER....

Our teacher asked us what our favourite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, everyone else in the class laughed.

My parents told me to always be truthful and honest, and I am. Fried chicken is my favourite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do, too...especially chicken, pork and beef.

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favourite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, just like she'd asked the other children. So I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office again. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked us to tell her what famous person we admire most.

I told her, "Colonel Sanders".

Guess where I am now...