

MEDIA RELEASE

Paterson set to benefit from Exciting New Rail Heritage Project

Tuesday 16 February, 2010

Volunteers have been busily working away at the Rail Motor Society in Paterson since the beginning of February as part of the Rail Reserve project for the Office of Rail Heritage.

The Rail Motor Society has a large collection of books, magazines, workshop manuals and the like which need to be catalogued and stored. The volunteers, two from Newcastle and one from Paterson, have started on the sorting but now require the handy work of someone with carpentry skills.

“Our greatest need now is to find someone who can help build shelves. Having the articles displayed properly would complete this project nicely because our hard work will be able to be admired by visitors to the museum,” said Maree Hicks.

The project is funded by RailCorp's Office of Rail Heritage as part of the NSW State government's sustainable rail heritage strategy, facilitated by Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). The program provides opportunities for both local and international volunteers to assist on a number of rail heritage conservation projects across NSW.

Regional Manager for CVA in Newcastle, Leonie Winner, is excited about the partnership with the Office of Rail Heritage and the opportunities that will be available to volunteers over the coming months.

“The preservation of Australian heritage is very important to every Australian citizen, and CVA is proud to be associated with the Office of Rail Heritage in helping to restore and maintain historic items for future generations,” Leonie said.

“CVA would love to hear from anyone interested in lending a hand at Paterson, particularly those with handyman skills. It is a fantastic opportunity to learn about Australia's rail history and to contribute to the preservation of our rail heritage.” Leonie said.

CVA is Australia's leading organisation for practical conservation, completing more than 2000 conservation projects across Australia every year.

Ends

To find out more about volunteering on an upcoming conservation project please call the Newcastle office of Conservation Volunteers Australia on (02) 4926 2103, email newcastle@conservationvolunteers.com.au, visit www.conservationvolunteers.com.au or Freecall 1800 032 501

For more information regarding the Office of Rail Heritage - Conservation Volunteers – Rail Heritage Program or to organise footage, photos or interviews, contact Leonie Winner, Regional Manager on (02) 4926 2103 or 0419 514 108.

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Conservation Volunteers Australia Fact Sheet

- Conservation Volunteers Australia is Australia's largest practical conservation organisation.
- Founded in 1982 in Ballarat, Victoria as the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers the organisation has grown into Australia's largest practical conservation organisation with offices in every capital city and regional centres across Australia.
- Conservation Volunteers Australia completes more than 2,000 conservation projects across Australia each year, resulting in positive environmental outcomes, increased community participation, conservation skills and awareness.
- Conservation Volunteers Australia involves the community in conservation projects in urban, regional and remote Australia ranging from tree planting; seed collection; endangered species protection; weed control; flora and fauna surveys; walking trail construction; fencing and environmental monitoring.
- Conservation Volunteers Australia community participation resulted in more than 1 million trees planted last year and more than 10 million trees planted over the past decade.
- Last year community involvement totalled 100,000 project days contributing more than \$16 million of practical assistance to the preservation of the Australian environment.
- Conservation Volunteers Australia has a highly successful volunteer recruitment strategy that includes international travel agents, schools, youth and environmental networks and volunteer centres.
- The Conservation Volunteers Australia website is a major volunteer recruitment tool and is currently the second most popular community website in Australia.
- On World Environment Day 2000, Conservation Volunteers Australia received the United Nations' highest environmental award - the Global 500 Honour Roll for Environmental Achievement.

For more information visit

www.conservationvolunteers.com.au or

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