

# Rail Heritage Update

Winter 2010



Artist's impression

## New buildings on track

**For decades, Thirlmere on Sydney's south-western outskirts has been home to the largest collection of the State's heritage trains.**

They are cared for by committed volunteers from the NSW Rail Transport Museum.

The Rail Heritage Centre at Thirlmere is being transformed as part of the State Government's heritage strategy, with work on track for an official opening early in 2011.

The Centre is open seven days a week while the work is under way and provides a range of experiences, including heritage train rides.

The new buildings and facilities will enhance those experiences and create an exciting destination for all the family.

There will be plenty of parking, as well as public transport links.

See inside for news – and come to Thirlmere to see for yourself!

## Stop Press

Two historic steam locomotives were being prepared to be lifted into the Main Exhibition Building as this newsletter went to print.

They are "Cardiff" tank engine 1021 and the self-propelled steam crane "1034", both restored by the NSW Rail Transport Museum.

## A big hand for ...

... the enthusiastic and dedicated staff and volunteers onsite. Their patience and collaboration continues to be vital to the success of the upgrade.

... and to Wollondilly Council and the Power House Museum for their partnership and collaboration.

## The story so far

**In partnership with the NSW Rail Transport Museum (RTM), RailCorp's Office of Rail Heritage (ORH) is overseeing a major upgrade of facilities at Thirlmere.**

The work is being managed by Robson Civil Projects Pty Ltd and Stephen Edwards Constructions Pty Ltd, with safety for all as a priority.

It has involved more than 370 employees and over 50 contractors and sub-contractors, 20 from the local area. Some 14 apprentices have been on the job so far.

Major work completed includes:

- A new roundhouse/workshop
- Relocation of the turntable – the roundhouse centrepiece
- A major facelift for the display hall
- Upgraded volunteer facilities
- Multipurpose exhibition and link buildings are taking shape

In addition, experienced consultants Positive Solutions are working with ORH and RTM to develop a business plan to ensure the facility is managed in the best possible way.

## Sustainable design

**The Centre's upgrade presents the opportunity to create a flagship destination for rail heritage in NSW.**

Jackson Teece Architects prepared construction documents for the Exhibition Building, Display Hall facelift and landscaping.

All building materials and construction systems were selected for ease of use and future flexibility, a key aspect of environmentally sustainable design.

The project involves new and reused buildings and careful integration with track works.

Stormwater will be saved in two 150,000 litre tanks and used for garden irrigation, locomotive wash-downs and toilet flushing.

When complete, the Centre will house more than 100 items of heritage rolling stock, both operational and static display.

## Rural Fire Service agrees to new home

**To allow the development of a new public entry and gateway to Thirlmere village, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Thirlmere Brigade has agreed to relocate its 30-year-old station shed.**

Funding has been allocated to build a new, contemporary facility, and Wollondilly Shire Council has found a new site that meets all requirements.

The RFS volunteers have also agreed to move to temporary accommodation for a short while to enable work on the public entry to be completed if their new home isn't ready.

This is a good result for everyone involved, and a great example of community support for the project.



The late 19th century heritage Station Master's House exterior has been restored to its former glory.



The Amphitheatre (former turntable site) is taking shape.



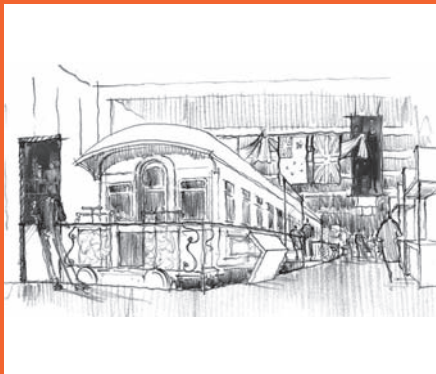
Construction of the new multi-purpose Exhibition Building - providing visitor amenities, retail space, theatre and offices is under way. The foundations alone involved over 50 truckloads of concrete.



The Display Hall face lift is complete. New skylights and better paths allow visitors to see the amazing range of the State's heritage trains - in a bright new light!



Australia's newest Roundhouse opened in November 2009. Visitors can watch maintenance and conservation work on heritage trains and the drama of the working turntable.



## Opening hours

The Centre is open seven days a week.  
It is closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day  
and Good Friday.

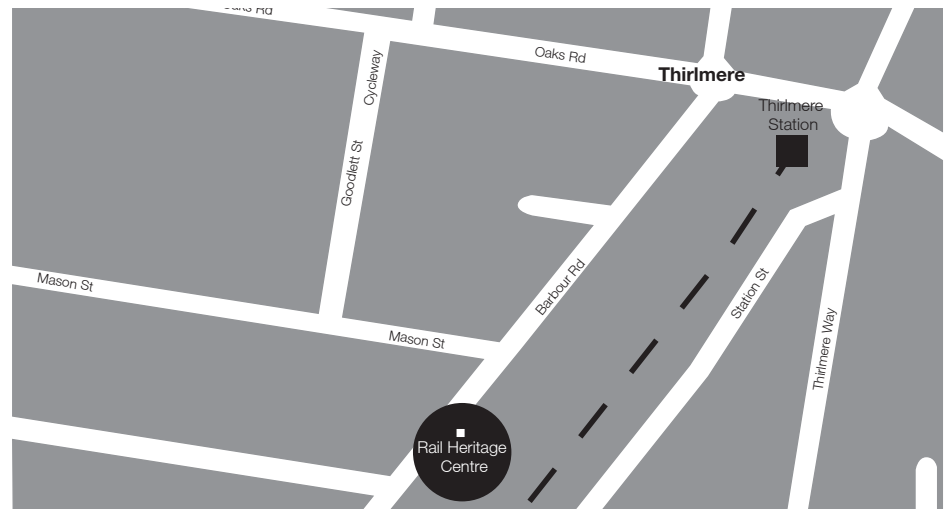
## Admission

<b>Adult</b>	\$10.00
<b>Seniors and concessions</b>	\$7.00
<b>School student</b>	\$5.00
<b>Child under 5</b>	Free
<b>Family</b>	\$25.00

Additional fares are charged for travel on heritage trains.  
Visit [www.nswrtm.org.au](http://www.nswrtm.org.au) for details.

## Getting there

The Rail Heritage Centre is located on Barbour Road, Thirlmere.



## Contact us

For more information, call  
the Rail Heritage Centre on  
**(02) 4681 8001**  
[www.railheritagecentre.com.au](http://www.railheritagecentre.com.au)

## Keeping you informed

The Office of Rail Heritage and  
NSW Rail Transport Museum will  
issue regular updates on the upgrade.

## Car

Thirlmere is just over an hour south-west of Sydney by car.  
Take the M5 South West Motorway and take the Picton turn-off.  
Thirlmere is seven kilometres beyond Picton – just follow the signs.

## Public transport

Take a CityRail Southern Highlands Line train to Picton and catch a  
Picton Buslines service from the station to Thirlmere. To plan your trip,  
visit [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au)

You can also call Picton & Tahmoor District Taxis on **(02) 4683 1616**  
and catch a cab from Picton or Tahmoor stations.



RailCorp

*Office of Rail Heritage*