



The Noojee & District Historical Society

Annual General Meeting – 18 October 2014

Report on the society's activities for the financial year ending 30 June 2014

This last year has been one of real achievement, for which the society's members can be truly proud. We finally realised all the efforts of the last 8 years when, in March, the impressive Noojee Heritage Centre was opened to the public. Our state government member, Gary Blackwood MP, cut the ribbon at a very well attended and widely reported opening day. Having already relocated the J class locomotive to the heritage centre site the previous year, our focus was on ensuring the replica of the original Noojee railway station was constructed within the budget and timeframe of our funding agreement with the Victorian Government.

We were fortunate to be able to call on society members, organisations and trades with the necessary skills to ensure that the station was constructed to a very high standard. The project was completed within its timeframe, despite an extremely wet period that made the site difficult for those working on the construction. Wally Redl was our on-site supervisor and our thanks go to him for a job well done. All those members and supporters who donated so much in-kind and financially to this successful project are to be congratulated for their contributions. The Heritage Centre now houses a range of historical memorabilia and displays, including the model of the trestle bridge, which is on-loan to the society and provides a centrepiece exhibit.

The society now has an enthusiastic number of junior members, some of whom have been assisting with presentations about the society's activities to clubs and organisations in Baw Baw Shire. We will be looking to build on the foundations of this junior membership in the coming year. In 2014, we started to update our website and create a new Facebook page. These were both important elements in our strategy to publicise the work of the society to a wider audience and assist with bringing new members and supporters on-board.

The society's various fund-raising activities throughout the year were very successful. Our on-going 'Adopt a Sleeper' campaign was well supported by individuals and companies. We were most fortunate to have core funding assistance from the Victorian Government, as the principal funder, the Bendigo Bank and Protegic Pty Ltd. Many other companies and organisations around Baw Baw Shire donated in-kind and financial support to the society and these have been recognised on our website, with our grateful thanks.

We had great support from Noojee's businesses, including A G Brown Saw Mill, The Alpine Trout Farm, The Outpost Retreat and The Noojee Hotel, all of whom made their facilities available for our fund-raising or heritage centre construction activities. During the year, the organisers of Neerim's 'Function at the Junction' donated the proceeds from the event to the society, and our thanks also go to them for their generosity.

As a society, we should all be extremely proud of what has been achieved for the small community of Noojee and make sure that we continue our efforts to deliver the next stage of the project as professionally and successfully as we have for stage one.

William Langoor
President