



## *Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society Inc.*

*PO Box 2736, Port Lincoln SA 5606*

# **NEWSLETTER**

*August 2021*

### **850 SHED: HISTORY TRUST GRANT COMPLETES FUNDING**

We were delighted to hear that we have been given a \$20,000 grant by the History Trust of SA for the new shed to house 850 and the HAN grain hopper wagon. We had actually applied for \$17,000 to cover the shortfall in our funding, but the History Trust added an extra \$3,000 to ensure that we could prepare interpretive signage at the same time.

This grant adds to the \$22,000 previously awarded by Port Lincoln Community Bank, and our own fundraising.

Having met our target, we then went back to the supplier to confirm arrangements. The "Covid construction boom" and a couple of compliance changes impacted on costings and timeframes, but fortunately the additional

cost involved was not as severe as it could have been and we are confident that we can cover it from our contingency reserve. Our thanks go to Lincoln Steel and Impact Sheds for their support in minimising the increase.

We have now received final Council development and building approval, and have ordered the shed. It has been two years since 850 and HAN3 were donated to the Museum, and we are excited that the project is now finally moving towards full implementation.

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*Below: An artist's impression of how the new shed fits into the Museum precinct. 850 is currently under the tarp to the left, but it and the hopper will be craned across to the position of the new shed.*



## RALPH HOLDEN MODELS COLLECTION

Our September newsletter reported the passing of Fr Ralph Holden, a long-time member. Ralph had begun building 1:32 scale models of Port Lincoln Division locomotives and rolling stock while Priest-in-Charge at Cummins in the 1960s. He continued building these until just a few years ago, and ran them on a large railway which ran mostly in his garden in Adelaide.

Earlier this year his family decided that the best way to celebrate his creations was to donate the locomotives, railcars, rolling stock and some lineside items for permanent display in the Port Lincoln Railway Museum. These models now form a unique addition to the Museum's displays, and illustrate many of the typical features of the Port Lincoln Division.

They have been set up in a protected display, with LED lighting strips in the glass-fronted cabinets

which the Museum obtained using a History Trust grant several years ago.

Models such as these are ideal for illustrating the story of how rail served Eyre Peninsula for over a century. The Museum is very grateful to the Holden family for entrusting these superb models to our care.



*Below: Ralph Holden's models on display in the reading Room at the Museum.*

*Above: This diorama includes the Yeelanna station building, Train Order signal and water column as well as a bogie flat wagon.*



## FAGEOL RAILCAR ANNIVERSARY

17 August 2021 was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last run of the last Fageol railcar, when railcar 109 made its way back to Port Lincoln to bring an era to a close.

Four redundant Fageol road buses were converted for rail use and sent to Port Lincoln, with 107 arriving on 22 July 1931. 108-110 followed in 1933.

Brills supplemented the Fageols from 1936, and as a result 107 was sent to Naracoorte for Kingston line services. 108 followed it in 1951, joining 107 to carry workers on the SE gauge widening project for a few years.

110 was sent to Islington Workshops in 1960, leaving 109 as the last one running.



*Above: Fageol 110 is ready to leave Port Lincoln on a Minnipa service.*

Photo: SLSA B58892/493

*Below: Derelict Fageol 109 stored at Port Lincoln in January 1963.*

Photo: Graeme Westwood



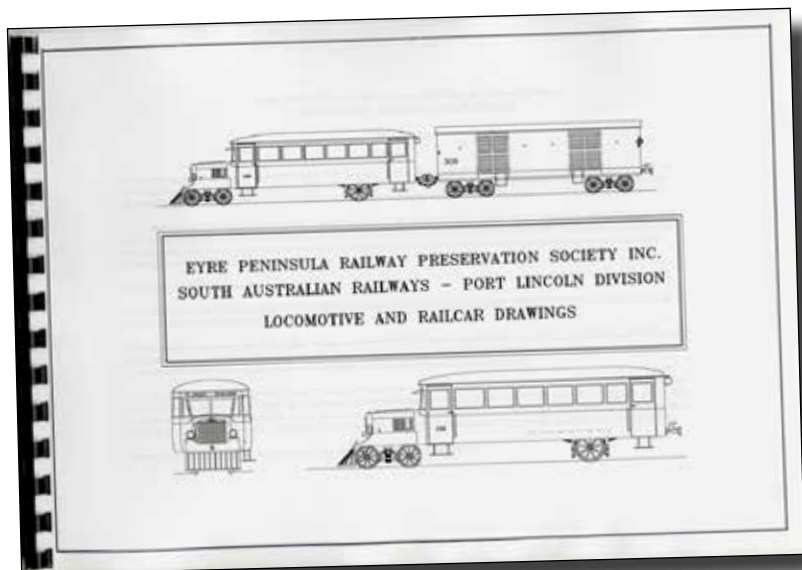
**NEW PLANS FOLDER ON THE WAY**

Adelaide-based EPRPS member Henry Pattenden has been working for a number of years to draw up A3 size plans of Eyre Peninsula locomotives and railcars. These are meticulously drawn, with quite a bit of explanatory information also given.

Henry's father worked for the SAR as a draughtsman at Port Lincoln around 1939-40.

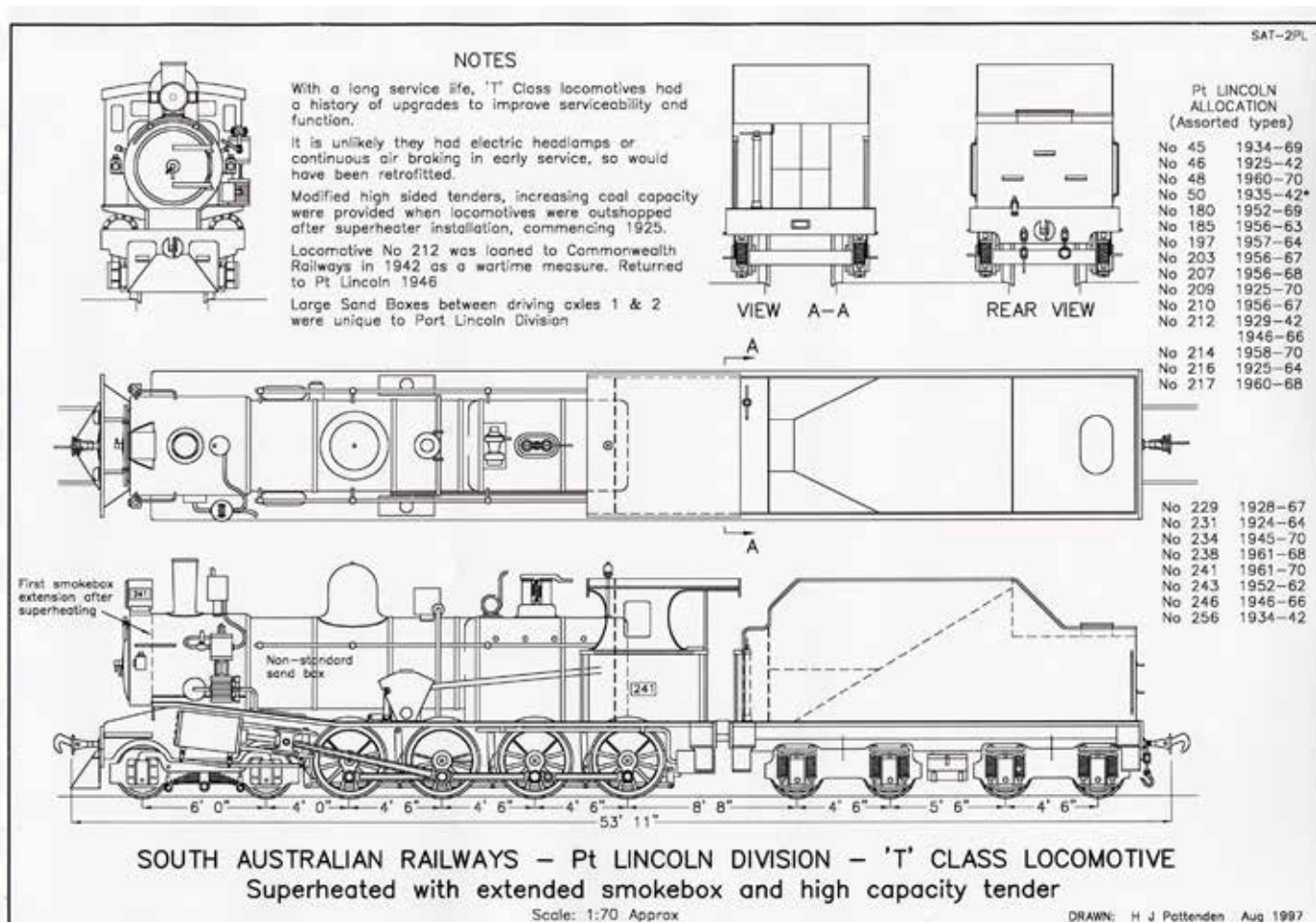
Henry has very kindly offered the plans to the EPRPS for us to sell in A3 booklet format, with the proceeds to go to Museum funds. We are very grateful for this very generous offer, which will add a topical and unique item to the books and souvenirs on sale at the Museum.

There are thirteen plans in the folder, and they range from the tiny W and V Class locos through to the T and 830 Classes which were



the main locomotive power on EP for many years. Plans of the Brill and Fageol railcars are also included.

We look forward to making these available when Henry has completed making some final adjustments.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES: THEVENARD EARLY 1920s



This lovely image by Olive Marion Talbot came to light recently in the State Library's online collection [SLSA: PRG 1555/8/21]. It shows the early Thevenard station and yard very nicely. Detailed portions below.

The State Library's online photographic collection is a wonderful resource, and you can waste many hours browsing the images and discovering some historic gems like this one.



**Above:** The station building and toilet block were built in 1915. The original goods shed is opposite the station – this was relocated to Wudinna in 1926 when Port Lincoln's original goods shed was moved to Thevenard. The train includes a string of 1880s-era C wagons stacked with bagged grain.

**Below:** Prior to the coming of the railcars in the 1930s, passengers rode in carriages at the back of regular goods trains. This train has two such carriages and a 4-wheel passenger brakevan. The 4-wheel vans were converted to employee sleeping vans or accident train vehicles in the 1930s.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Annual Report was presented at the AGM on 19 July. Here are some extracts from the President's and Treasurer's reports (other portions dealt with activities already covered in the Newsletter). The full report is available at [www.eprps.org.au/governance.html](http://www.eprps.org.au/governance.html), or contact the Secretary for a copy.

### **President's Report**

The year has been dominated by the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thankfully Port Lincoln has been spared the worst effects, however the disruption to tourism nationally has significantly altered our clientele. No cruise ships berthed in town over the summer season, and interstate visitors have been largely absent. But on the positive side, intrastate tourism has taken off and overall our attendance numbers have been far better than we expected in the circumstances.

After a long-drawn-out process the EPRPS finalised a 3+3 year lease with One Rail Australia covering the station building, freight shed, yardmaster's hut and the site for the 850-HAN shed. We are delighted that we now have security of tenure, although it obviously comes at a financial cost which now gives us the ongoing challenge of covering that cost each year. As part of the handover One Rail are funding some outstanding building repairs, and have also restored the water service to the freight shed.

As always, my heartfelt appreciation goes to those volunteers who work to ensure that our doors can remain open, in particular Bob Prout, Trevor & Di Hoskin, Neil & Julie Lihou and my wife Maggie. Thanks also to Margaret Watt, Margaret Tilsner, John McGeever, Des Wiseman, Faye Davis and Peter Treloar MP for their 'behind the scenes' contributions. In 2010 Maggie and I were the 'new blood' on the Committee. I believe it is time for a

younger generation of volunteers to take the Museum into the future, but for now, no such 'new blood' is in the wings. My hope is that this will change in the coming year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Society has finished the financial year in an excellent financial position with a surplus for the year of \$11,690 and cash balances of just under \$79,500. Of course, \$46,200 of the money in the bank is made up of grants from Port Lincoln Community Bank (\$24,200 incl GST) and History Trust SA (\$22,000 incl GST) for the 850 shed which, hopefully, will be completed by this time next year.

The Attendance figure was slightly down on last year but given that we had 10 cruise ships in the 2020 year and none in the 2021 year, our attendance figures are extremely good. In fact the number of visitors was double that of last year's non-cruise ship number. Sales of new books were higher and other souvenir sales were on a par with the previous year. Donations received are well up on last year, mainly due to the \$9,000 received from one very generous donor and, of course the \$3,200 received in donations to the "Going Loco" project.

On the expenses side, there was a large increase due to rent being paid for the first time. The Other expenses item was also higher than last year. This includes alarm monitoring, security code changes and a new lock for the upstairs entry door. The \$18,329 for the Trove project was all covered by the donations received for that project and EPRPS also received a small share of those donations for handling the receipting and payment of invoices.

All in all, it's been a very successful year financially and the Society should be able to meet its ongoing financial obligations as and when they fall due.

## LAST OPERATIONAL LOCO LEAVES TOWN

The last operational locomotive at Port Lincoln, 1203, hitched a ride on a low loader bound for Thevenard on 13 April 2021. 1204 had gone on 16 March. Both are now in the loco pool running the gypsum trains between

Thevenard and the mine at Kevin.

The only locos in Port Lincoln now are our own 850, Pichi Richi's 846 (awaiting collection by them) and withdrawn locos 902 and 905. None are operational.



## RENEWALS DUE

It's that time again! Membership renewals are now due. At \$15 a year it's a bargain: you receive our *Newsletter*, get free admission to

the Museum and you help us to continue our preservation efforts. Thank you to those who have already renewed early.



### Application for Membership

Name

Postal Address   
 Postcode

Phone

Email

I would like to  Become a member  
 Renew my membership

I wish to receive newsletters by:  
 Email  Post

Date

Payment:  is attached  
 (\$15 per member)  has been credited to the Society's bank account (BSB:633 000 Account:136921376)  
 please charge to my Visa/Mastercard number   
 expiry  CVV

A donation of  is also included

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please post this form to:**

The Treasurer  
 Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society  
 PO Box 2736  
 PORT LINCOLN SA 5606 **or email to:** treasurer@eprps.org.au

Office use only  
 Receipt No

Date

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