Bringing the past forward
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October 2009
SETTING THE SCENE – THE PLAYERS

- Office of Rail Heritage (RailCorp)
- NSW Rail Transport Museum
- Powerhouse Museum
- Local Government and Community
SETTING THE SCENE – THE SITE
SETTING THE SCENE – THE PROPS (ROUNDHOUSE)
SETTING THE SCENE – THE PROPS
(FINAL STAGE DESIGN)
BEHIND THE SCENES

- Working together
- Funding & sustainability
- Engaging all
THE SHOW
THE GREAT RAIL SHOW

The purpose of this show is to generate an excitement about the great achievement which is the building and running the NSW railways. The GSWRS should also assist visitors in understanding how the development of rail has contributed to their personal wellbeing today.

The GSWRS is proposed as a key attraction to the centre and its role includes establishing a visit highlight. The GSWRS must utilise film and photographic images. It must also integrate objects (including the "Cardiff" shunter) as components of a truly multi media event. The GSWRS will be historically accurate and provide a cohesive story. Above all ... it must be a great entertainment.

Before railways, people's lives were limited by the distance they could walk, ride, or sail. Only the adventurous lived out their lives more than a short distance from their place of birth.

Steam power meant that people and their produce could be transported long distances – quickly!
3 RAIL FOR THE PEOPLE

As rail spread through NSW, the station life became a new hub of community activity. Signals and signs added a new look to towns and the hustle of porters wheeling luggage and goods around the station. Precinct announced new jobs and new opportunities for travel and trade. Whilst Royal trains were suitably grand, a "Picnic special" became an important date of trade union calendar.

The exhibit focused on "Railway for the People" will showcase the railway from the people's point of view. It will look at the experiences of those who patronised the railway either frequently or infrequently and will build on their understandings - or misconceptions - and provide a platform to engage them with emotional resonances in their day-to-day lives.

The main exhibit section is an accumulation of objects and multimedia representing an everyday passenger's experience with the railways from the platform signs to tickets and itineraries.

43 Location Plan
42 Board on Platform 3/4/5/6/7/8 Icon
41 Elevation of exhibit showing the standing display and the musical exhibit on the icon display
44 Selection of objects used in the icon display

CONVERGENCE DESIGN
THE ROYAL CARRIAGE

When the first governor general of Australia was appointed in 1901, the NSWGR built him a special car, featuring sleeping, dining and office accommodation, all finished to a high standard. The car was also used for Royal visits, including most famously Queen Elizabeth in 1954.

Royal trains were an important part of the NSWGR’s operations for a century, beginning with the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh in 1867. The most celebrated was part of the first visit by a reigning monarch when Queen Elizabeth II travelled extensively in New South Wales by rail in 1954. 4001 was one of twenty diesels built inCanada in 1951. In 1954 two were painted blue to work the Royal Train.

Governor Generals Carriage

For a highly rated platform visitors will be able to look into the string floors of the carriage. The open door into the adjacent Buff Room will provide a glimpse into the sleeping accommodation. The exhibit will include a selection of memorabilia and other material from the carriage as well as a guided tour through different parts of the carriage.

Classified GG, it was in some ways a pioneering design. The car’s fittings are distinctively Australian and restrained in design. Its most famous passengers have been royalty, including the Duke and Duchess of York who travelled to celebrate the foundation of the Commonwealth in 1901; the future Edward VIII in 1920; and the Duke of York, later George VI, who used it to inaugurate Canberra in 1927. In 1954, it hosted Queen Elizabeth II on the first visit of a reigning monarch to Australia.

01 London plan
02 Label for the 1904 Royal Train and 4001
03 Sketch of Governor Generals carriage
04 Photo of 4001 dining the Royal Train
05 Crew from the layout for the Royal Train
06 Woman inspecting the Royal Train on 8 November 1953
07 Queen Elizabeth on the Royal Train in 1954
**11 CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA**

Children’s Play Area
This area has been designed around rail role play. The area has three miniature themed environments – Central Station, Signal Box and a Guards Van. The area will include tickets in the Central Station Masters office, making your own special Thirlmere ticket, parcel sorting, making sure the trains leave on time and talking to the signal box and guards van. There will also be dress up opportunities. In the Signal Box children can operate lights and signals, work out where the trains are and the indicators show where the trains are. The guards van has a flag to get the train off on time. Children here will also sort mail, punch their tickets, stamp the mail and see if they are on time.
THE AURORA AND THE INDIAN

Between 1962 the Southern Aurora ran between the cities of Melbourne and Sydney. It was the flagship service of both NSWGR and the Victorian Railways.

The journey across the Nullarbor Plain is the world’s longest straight stretch of rail track. Since 1970 the Indian Pacific has transported passengers in style over the 4350 kilometres from Sydney to Perth. The Indian Pacific marked the completion of the standard gauge track between Sydney and Perth.

The Aurora and the Indian. Using some of the models originally constructed by the NSW Railways display department for the Royal Gardens and similar events to tell the story of the Indian Pacific and the Southern Aurora. A video will show together both the Indian Pacific, Southern Aurora and tourist stories.

Special Trains and Tours
Located on the other side of the exhibit, Special Trains brings together original exhibits from "epic trains" such as the Cessnock Flyer and some of the content from found in the museum to make journeys more enjoyable such as foot warmers and bedstools. Brochures and tourist brochures such as postcards and photographs.

The Southern Aurora, Indian Pacific, and mixed goods trains were run to market the full-size railway as a viable form of land transport in Australia's increasingly competitive land transport market.
WORKSHOPS BRANCH LINE

The Workshops Branch line leads visitors through the displays and to the workshops. The workshops will provide visitors with a "behind the scenes" glimpse of the restoration and operational work that is carried out at the Rail Heritage Centre. Along the journey there are several highlights.

Period Goods Train
Visitors can get into the cabin of the locomotive pulling a typical period goods train. While the driver and fireman will tell them of their journey, what the job was and how the people in rural areas depended on the line for supplies as well as getting their goods to market.

Brick Yard
Cut back seven years to find the story behind the bricks that were used to construct the trackbed. See how the workers faced the challenges of making bricks by hand.

Boiler Damage
Visitors can climb into the cab of this post-war damage test rig. See how the engineer and the steam locomotive are used to repair and maintain the tracks.

Turntable
The Turntable provides a unique view of the operational turntable inside the workshops. The driver will explain how the turntable works, giving you an excellent view of the technical operation of the turntable.

Workshop Talks
Visitors can join the discussion behind the scenes. Here, the workers will explain their job and be able to answer any questions as well as telling stories from general interest.

Thirnere's turntable was rescued by the RTM when the Enfield Workshops closed.
GREAT SOUTHERN BRANCH LINE

The Great Southern Branch line leads visitors through from the Main Exhibition Building down through the site to the Heritage rail parts of the Rail Heritage Centre. Along the journey there are several highlights.

Old Turntable Look Out
Located on the side of the relocated turntable visitors can look out across the site to the rail line. An informative signboard will show from the turntable era reinterpreted.

Ampitheatre
The amphitheatre will be the site for special programs such as Thomas the Tank Engine or markets etc.

Co Op Shed
The Exciting Victorian Railway Co Op shed is interpreted through the use of a sculptural installation of their logging tools. In transport cages and on the boilers. Barns and graphics on the building will tell the story of the shed.

Thirlmere History
Located on the pathway close to the grand exit track leading to the Co Op Shed this interpretative signboard will tell of the early history and development of Thirlmere with images and words from the construction of the Great Southern Railway. Coal and visits to the locks.

Goods Shed
Signage will tell from the goods shed's local history.

Thirlmere Station
The entire room of the station will be dressed to show the evolution of the station up to 1902. An audio will give intricate and guided talks of history and rail stories. This audio will be available if the platform is not staffed via a push button link. Visitors can also see historical photographs of the Thirlmere station on display.

Station Drywell Box
The rules and operations of the Signal box will be explained to visitors via an audio and graphics associated with the signal box.

CONVERGENCE DESIGN
END OF ACT ONE