



Wattrain

The World Alliance of
Tourist Trams & Trains

February 2018 Newsletter

Contents:

Page 1. Tim Fischer and Restored Papal Carriage.

Page 2-3 Indian Railways..Heritage Preservation

Page 4 US: Wasatch Railroad Contractors,Zig Zag Railway,Australia. UK: Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

Page 5 Stars of Sandstone News, Australia:Restored 1939 rail engine.Hythe Pier Railway,UK

Page 6 Ffestiniog Railway, W-Class Trams,Australia

Page 7 Kingston Flyer, Russian Railway Museum.

Tim Fischer - one of our Patrons who was not only a former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia who pushed through the completion of the Ghan, the Railway from Darwin to Adelaide, but also served as the country's first ambassador to the Holy See at the Vatican from 2009 to 2012- pictured with newly restored Papal carriage.



"Wattrain goals: help, foresee, react, invent, define and be a factor of balance on a worldwide scale"

Indian Railways to take measures to promote heritage preservation

In order to promote heritage preservation, the Ministry of Railways have identified several reformative measures. The Railway Board has decided to launch a special drive to identify various heritage items/artefacts that are currently lying unnoticed at different locations. Upkeep of Hill railways and bringing them to World Standard etc. will also be high on the agenda.

On lines of reviving Fairy Queen Steam Locomotive and setting up of Rewari Steam Centre, the Board plans to ensure proper preservation and display of heritage items, said the Ministry of Railways statement.

“Since the Railways has a heritage steam loco centre at Rewari, the development of a rail theme park on the adjoining land can convert the place into a tourist hotspot,” a senior Railway Ministry official told IANS.

Rewari, being easily accessible from the capital and Gurgaon, can become a major crowd-puller — in the process developing its local economy and promoting tourism, he added

According to the statement, the Board would open a logbook of all major events, both at Zonal Railways as well as at National Rail Museum to record the timelines of Railways history. The heritage preservation efforts would also include facilitating revival of Steam Locomotives and run regular time-tabled trains on Steam Traction.

A.K. Kathpal, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, told The Hindu that wide-ranging measures, including additional oil-fired locomotives and newly designed coaches are to be introduced, probably by the end of this year. These could lead to an increase in the frequency of the trains and also fewer mechanical faults along the NMR line.

Chairman, Railway Board, Ashwani Lohani presided over the meeting, which was attended by about 40 senior level officers from Zonal Railways and Production Units including several retired Board Members and rail enthusiasts attended the event.

The objective of the session was to create more awareness about the technology and preservation processes of different domains of Heritage of Indian Railways namely Museum Management, Conservation of Built Heritage of buildings, Stations, Bridges etc, the statement added.

<http://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-railways-to-take-measures-to-promote-heritage-preservation-36832>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/plan-to-make-mountain-railway-hassle-free/article22466129.ece>

<https://www.thestatesman.com/cities/railway-heritage-theme-park-anvil-rewari-1502567864.html>

India: BMC To Restore Two Heritage Milestones In Sion And Chunabhatti (Rajendra B Aklekar)

Two historic British-era milestones, thought to be lost, are quietly being restored and will return to their original locations next month. The centuries-old basalt-cut milestones that were damaged are being repaired with the expertise of conservation architect Tapan Mittal-Deshpande.

Deshpande, who is heading the project for the BMC and works for heritage tour company, Khakhi tours, said these historic landmarks should be restored to their original glory so that they can hold together for at least another 200 years. Incidentally, the BMC decided to tie up with Khaki and Deshpande to

give a facelift to the milestones after some officials attended one of their walks.

More at: <https://www.mid-day.com/articles/bmc-to-restore-2-heritage-milestones-in-sion-and-chunabhatti/18945197>

India: Delhi: India's oldest monorail comes back to life, to chug every Thursday.



Visitors to National Rail Museum in Chanakypuri can now experience a ride on India's oldest monorail, which was once owned and used by the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhupinder Singh.

Indian Railways, in an effort to preserve its heritage, has restored the 108-year-old locomotive, which runs within the compound of the rail museum every Thursday and is

open for general public. The 10-seater monorail makes four trips in a day. The cost of a single journey — a 400 metre long trip — is Rs 500 per person.

The rail carriage, known as Patiala State Monorail Trainways (PSMT), is a unique rail-guided, partially road-borne railway system, running on a single track and has a large wheel attached to it on one side to balance the train

The Patiala State Monorail Trainways was brought to the rail museum some 30 years ago and the administration started its restoration after a visit by railway board chairman Ashwani Lohani to the museum last year.

Soon after taking charge in August last year, Lohani had termed the **preservation of rail heritage as one of his priorities**. Lohani said:

"We are committed to preserving the heritage of the railways. Restoring the unique Patiala state monorail train is an appreciable initiative. That we had a monorail train almost 100 years ago is an important learning from the past.

Source:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com>. (14th January 2018)

US: Wasatch Railroad Contractors

16th January 2018

We are forever humbled for the opportunity to assist the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture with the installation and restoration of a segregation era Pullman Palace passenger rail car. This piece of American history now serves as a reminder of how far we've come as a nation.

Here we see the car suspended in air over Washington, District of Columbia as it is lowered into the basement of the Smithsonian.



Australia: ZigZag Railway (on Facebook) 16th January 2018

Can't believe we are already halfway through January! Restoration work continues at Zig Zag Railway every weekend, this weekend we had simultaneous maintenance teams working on our steam loco 218A, diesel loco 1004, carriages, our ballast regulator, a freight wagon, workshop electrics and preparing the bottom points signal box for painting. Volunteers are the lifeblood, without them we cannot and will not get back to carry passengers. If you are interested in helping or would like more information please PM us. We are particularly keen to hear from people who can help with an upcoming working bee at Clarence to help clear felled trees so we can move some machinery.



ZigZag Railway Images....Tree removal, Simon checking 218A brakes & 218A's fireman's side cylinder

UK: Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

THIS IS the year in which we can reflect on all that has been achieved in 50 years of operation.

It was at 2.35pm on June 29, 1968 when the first train left Keighley bound for Oxenhope and started the railway on a journey that has lasted 50 glorious years.

To mark the occasion, this year we are celebrating all that our volunteers have accomplished in half a century of operation.

See more at: www.kwvr.co.uk



Please [click here](#) to read Newsletter No 2.

Australia: Restored 1939 rail engine opens to public on Australia Day.
(www.thechronicle.com.au)



Gatsby Flyer project manager Andrew Caldwell is excited to be nearly finished the restoration at DownsSteam Tourist Railway and Museum, Tuesday, January 23, 2018. Kevin Farmer.

GUTTED after a fire-bombing in Tasmania, the Gatsby Flyer arrived at the DownsSteam Tourist Railway and Museum three and a half years ago looking a little worse for wear.

But after a mammoth restoration effort, the 1939 rail motor will be looking new for the DownsSteam Australia Day open day on Friday. The engine will be open for inspection by the public at 16 Cambooya St, Drayton, from 10am until 2pm.

"It's great to see it living and breathing finally. It's been a long time coming," project manager Andrew Caldwell said.

While the Gatsby Flyer will be the main attraction on Australia Day at DownsSteam, the event will also feature the Toowoomba Municipal Band, meals, tours of the site, face-painting for the kids, and flag-raising at 11.30am. For more information contact DownsSteam on 4630 2358.

Hythe Pier Railway, UK

The world's oldest operational public pier railway has shuttled seagoing commuters from ship to shore since 1909.

The longest-operating public pier railway on the globe chugs along a thin wooden strip on the English coast. It shuffles tourists and locals alike across an estuary, adding a nostalgic 20th-century twist to their modern-day commutes.

Once driven by hand, the rickety carriages of this 2,100-foot-long pier railroad are currently pulled by two miniature electric locomotives, which began their relentless rattlings along the wooden boardwalk in 1922.

Though endearing, these dinky narrow-gauge trains have a dark side to their history. They were built for a World War I mustard gas factory in 1917, then moved

to the Hythe Pier when the war ended.

The pier, the country's seventh longest, was built in 1881. Unlike many pleasure piers beloved of the British seaside scene, it still has a very practical purpose as the embarkation point for a short ferry service to Southampton. It protrudes over the muddy estuary shallows into deeper waters, allowing the boat to berth in all tidal conditions.

The railway was added to the precarious Victorian structure in 1909 as a convenient way to transport passengers and luggage to the ferry without the need to trudge along the long, exposed, and windswept pier.

Today, the Hythe Pier Railway delights tourists with a ride above the gently lapping waves of the estuary while continuing to serve the numerous villagers who routinely use this quaint railway and ferry service as part of their daily commute to the city.

Know Before You Go

Trains leave the shore-side station every half an hour to coincide with the ferry. Train-only tickets are available for those wishing to enjoy the train ride without taking the ferry. From Southampton, the Hythe Ferry Terminal is adjacent to the Red Funnel Isle-of-Wight Ferry terminal, which is signposted throughout the city.

(Atlas Obscura)

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/hythe-pier-railway> 26th January 2018

Ffestiniog Railway pulls out all the stops to push North Wales' tourism industry.

Two small but deceptively powerful steam locomotives rolled into one of London's busiest stations this month (February 10-18, 2018) to promote North Wales as a tourism location.

The two Quarry Hunslet locomotives – Hugh Napier and Velinheli - date from the Victorian era and were used to transport slate around the quarries of Bethesda and Llanberis respectively. Both are now based on the Ffestiniog Railway and are regular participants at special events organised by railway staff and volunteers.

For the duration of the visit Ffestiniog Railway staff and volunteers were on hand to talk to the public and answer questions. Chris Parry, Ffestiniog Railway spokesman said: "Our locomotives and carriages have visited London's major railway stations on previous occasions and Kings Cross station will host the two locos for a week." The idea being to encourage people to think about a break in Wales.

Read more at:

<https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/ffestiniog-railway-pulls-out-stops-14216016>



**W-Class trams
The Victorian Government has committed \$8 million to developing a comprehensive strategy for the future of W-Class trams.**

A W-Class Stakeholder Reference Group is being established to advise government on how best to re-purpose the iconic trams.

The reference group will consist of representatives from Public Transport Victoria (PTV), VicTrack, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), and Yarra Trams.

The Bendigo Trust is playing an important role in the ongoing maintenance of the W-Class tram fleet

The first three W-Class trams that have been restored are currently taking passengers on the City Circle tram route.

WATTRAIN newsletter made contact with Jacinta Allan, MP, Minister for Public Transport and Major Projects, and received this reply..

"Dear Peter,
Thank you for interest and suggestions regarding the retired trams in storage. As you can appreciate, there is significant community interest in the future use of these assets.

A stakeholder reference group is currently determining potential future uses, including the prospect of some of them being re-purposed for a variety of uses and how they might be then made available to relevant community members.

This group will provide a report with recommendations for the process of re-purposing the trams, by April 2018.

Kind regards
Colin Campbell, Senior Project Manager, Special Projects"

Kingston Flyer to fire up for open day

The Kingston Flyer is set to steam again, with an open day planned for the first time since 2013.

Fans of the flyer will be able to see the AB795 locomotive in steam on February 18. The second Kingston locomotive, AB778, and historic carriages would be on static display.

Recommissioning team leader Neville Simpson was hoping to get approval from the NZ Transport Agency to run AB795 under its own steam up and down the yard.

"I'm reasonably confident we'll get that, there's a few documents I have to get through to them yet for that approval, but they've been very helpful on that."

Read More at: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/news/101224530/kingston-flyer-to-fire-up-for-open-day>

Russian Railway Museum – 5 football fields of trains.

By: Olga Samoilova

Read the article at the following link:

Source: <http://www.spottedbylocals.com/saintpetersburg/russian-railway-museum/>

Editor's Notes:

Please enjoy this overview of tourist trams and trains worldwide!

Pride of place goes to Tim Fischer and the restored Papal carriage....a suitable coupling!

And it is interesting to note the Indian Government taking steps to enhance the tourist attractions under their jurisdiction, and endeavouring to put in place programmes to enhance these.

WATTRAIN newsletter depends , to a large extent, on your individual contributions! Being closer to the local action, so to speak, you have "inside knowledge" of key events etc affecting the railway tourism industry. Please feel free to e-mail me appropriate links, and space allowing, I will do my best to include them.

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