On its first mainline excursion for 2018, R 707 leads H 5 and T 413 with 11 vehicles on the STEAM over the SKYRAIL tour to SALE on the 23rd of June 2018.

The Presidents Pen– John Green

Included with this newsletter is a membership renewal form for the 2018/2019 financial year. We strongly urge all members to renew your membership promptly. Your membership contribution assists us to restore and maintain the rolling stock and locomotives that we operate today. Members receive this mail-out quarterly, which details tour operations before they are made public, along with generous discounts on our future mainline excursion fares. We value your commitment to 707 Operations and hope that you remain a member now, and into the future.

As work progresses with the restoration of BS215, and Sleeping Carriage No. 4 (Buchan) we’re pleased to announce that one of our group members has purchased former Southern Aurora roomette Sleeping Carriage LAN2354, and it will be based under the 707 Operations banner at Newport. LAN is a welcome addition to both our sleeping carriage consist and our future first class train concept. We can expect to see some work to improve the passenger experience on this sleeping carriage completed soon. Just prior to our Steam over the Skylrail to Sale excursion, the carriage was cleaned externally and it now looks much cleaner and is perfect alongside the NAM sleeping carriage.

Some track work has been completed at Newport on our tracks in 7 & 8 roads, with thanks to the leaseholder of the site organizing the required work. All point timbers on the ladder roads have been replaced, and work to repair and recondition 7 & 8 Roads has been completed.
Hudson News

Trips and Tours – Darren Wood

FUTURE TOURS

REDWOOD RATTLER – 5th of August 2018

Harness Racing Victoria has once again chartered our diesel hauled sitting train for the 2018 Redwood All Trotting Carnival in Maryborough. This event is one of the most unique, popular and successful harness racing events on Victoria’s provincial calendar.

In 2018, the Redwood is well and truly entrenched as Australia’s most prestigious two-year-old event for trotters.

Although there are richer juvenile races, the Redwood has developed a mystique, which has captured the imagination of breeders, owners, trainers and drivers throughout Australia and New Zealand. A Redwood presentation is one of the most emotional, and inspirational you will witness on a Victorian racetrack.

Jump on board ‘the rattler’ and be sure to be a part of this outstanding day of trotting. The train departs 8.25am from Southern Cross Station, stopping at Melton at 9.02am, Bacchus Marsh at 9.16am and Ballarat at 10.15am. The train will return leaving Maryborough at 6pm.

Your ticket includes:
• Return train ticket
• Bus from Maryborough Station to Carisbrook Raceway
• Admission
• Race book
• Souvenir cap
• 2 course lunch
• Beer, wine or soft drink on arrival
• $20 TAB voucher
• $20 Punters Club ticket

For all bookings please go to
PREVIOUS TOURS

18\textsuperscript{th} to 20\textsuperscript{th} of May 2018: **SEA LAKE with the sleeping carriages – the final Broad Gauge journey!**

We ran our sleeping and sitting carriages once again from Melbourne to Sea Lake and return on the weekend of the 18\textsuperscript{th} to the 20\textsuperscript{th} of May 2018, and the tour was an amazing success. 60 passengers in our sleeping carriages enjoyed the whole weekend journey while over 140 local residents from Wycheproof joined us in the sitting carriages for the day return journey from Wycheproof to Sea Lake and return. This was to be the very last Broad Gauge train over the Murray Basin tracks before they close for gauge conversion works, however the project has since been altered and there is now no set date for closure and conversion – Will we return to Sea Lake or Manangatang?

T 413 and H 5 continue on our overnight trains without any faults, and this train included 10 carriages.

23\textsuperscript{rd} of June 2018: **STEAM over the SKYRAIL to SALE.**

Our first steam-hauled excursion for the 2018 season was ran on the 23\textsuperscript{rd} of June 2018, when R 707 teamed up with H 5 and T 413 for a day-return trip from Newport and Melbourne to Sale. With over 400 customers on board our 11 carriage train, we certainly made quite a site making history to become the first ever Steam Hauled train to transverse the fully completed sections of the new elevated Skyrail tracks between Caulfield and Dandenong. Significant media attention was given to the operation of our train, which raises awareness to the 707 Operations brand and name. On this excursion, we ran two classes of service for our guests and 58 people took up the first class option, and everyone left leaving excellent reviews of the service and hosts on board.

Out Sale excursion ran mostly to time on the journey to Sale, however owing to late regular V/Line services, our return working left Sale some 25 minutes late and this delay contributed to other delays on the return seeing us arrive back into Newport close to 120 minutes behind schedule. While there was some feedback about the delay, most guests who travelled enjoyed the excursion.

At Sale, we teamed up with the Wellington Regional Tourism Office to offer excursions around the Sale area and these excursions and bus transfers proved very popular. Overall it was a great trip enjoyed by all on board.
Electrical Work, Victrack – Alex Hanson

With the extensive rainfall that we have experienced so far this year, some leakage was discovered which affected the power supply to our workshop inside 7 & 8 Roads at the West Block. After consultation with the lease holder and Victrack, electrical contractors spent close to two weeks renewing all wiring inside our sheds. Our electrical switchboards were also upgraded at this time.


R 707: Work to fit the ICE radio and associated antenna wiring to R 707 was completed and commissioned by Victrack at Newport just prior to the Steam over the Skyrail to Sale excursion in June. The radio operated without fault on the mainline tour and we are looking forward to using the R class again on a few more excursions for the 2018 steam season.
New Rolling Stock – Nathan Watt.

To support our sleeping carriage operations, LAN 2354 is now based with 707 Operations. Although we have hired the carriage from its previous owner many times, outright ownership by one of our members means some much needed refurbishment work can now be carried out.

Our people, our work and our volunteers – John Green.

This month, we showcase some scenes from our recent STEAM over the SKYRAIL to SALE train. We thank all the volunteers on this train, some are pictured in the next few pages and some are not. Without the dedication of all these people, our trains could not run – THANK YOU!

Train Managers: John Green, Darren Wood and Michael Menzies.
First Class Hosts: Rob Wagdin and Katie Kinson.
Bar Staff: John Nativo and Natale Palmieri.
Café Hudson Staff: Vincent Nativo, Jessica Green and Lien Pickett.
Carriage attendants: Steve Smith, Jeff Urand, Alex Hanson, Will Bungo, Brett Boell-Heard, Peter Irving, Sam Barnes, Daniel Touriner.
Maintenance Staff: David Goodie, Michael Bray, Paul Kemp, Mark Bakes and Graham Cornish

We would also like to thank member David Lancey for his behind the scenes efforts in encouraging local support for our train while we were in Sale.
LEFT: 707 Operations President, John Green takes a small rest on the Steam over the Skyrail to Sale excursion to catch up with our youngest traveller and member, Sophie. Sophie is seen here giving John her reviews on our new First-Class travel experience! She just loved the hot Belgium waffles with fruits, jam, cream and ice-cream for breakfast.

BELOW: The first class lounge car on the Sale train was full all day, and the first class compartments all set up ready for breakfast service.
LEFT: David Goodie and Graham Cornish in the PCP Van on the way to Sale making sure the steam engine doesn’t miss a beat.

BELOW LEFT: Vincent Nativo is busy at work, making coffee’s for our thirsty guests.

BELOW MIDDLE: Paul Kemp, Mark Bakes and Rod Giri on the return to Melbourne in the PCP Van.

BELOW RIGHT: Mark Bakes and Mick Bray after attending to power van faults on the train in the PCP Van.

Have you ever wanted to join in the fun volunteering on one of our main-line trains in roles such as train manager, carriage attendant, bar and lounge staff or even sleeping carriage attendant? We need your help NOW!

To continue running our main line steam and diesel train excursions we need help and we need it fast. Training will be provided and you are guaranteed a great day out. Please talk to us about ways that you can become involved and contribute to 707 Operations.

We also require people with trade skills who can assist maintaining our aging rolling stock and locomotives. Do you have relatives or friends who can help?

Do you have any skills or spare time?

We really do need your help.

Please visit our website [www.707operations.com.au](http://www.707operations.com.au) and click on the 'contact-us’ link to reach out.

T 413 was recently hired by our friends at Steamrail Victoria, to assist on the Ballarat Shuttles over the weekend of the 12th and 13th of May 2018.

Have you seen our page on Instagram? @707Operationsinc

Hashtag your photos of our train! #707Operations #vintagerailtravel