



McLEOD NEWS

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OVERVIEW

MESSAGE FROM THE OPERATIONS MANAGER

It's hard to believe January is almost over - and that it's ten years since we all recovered from celebrating the millennium!

Rail has certainly been all over the front page of the papers – quite the “Barbeque stopper” to quote a former PM. I was interested to read recently that the Victorian Opposition Transport spokesman Terry Mulder said *“It goes back to the basics, to the drains and ballast and sleepers and rails, and the points and crossings and signals, and trains and air conditioners and overhead wires to make sure that you have got the infrastructure that brings some semblance of reliability to public transport”*.

You may well say – that is just stating the bleeding obvious. But he does have a point!

Since returning on 4 January things have been pretty busy, quoting and completing a range of smaller works.

We were also interested to receive and review the Craigieburn Train Maintenance Facility tender documents, a \$65m project due to commence April 2010. The South Morang Alliance project is also kicking off shortly.

We held our first Management Team get together on 22 January, and spent a lot of time discussing staff development. We hear that MainCo is considering starting up a lengthman's course in 2010 – if so, we strongly support formal training and development of our younger rail personnel, through clear career pathways and training.



In December we farewelled Jan Dworecki, who retired in December after 11 years with McLeod Rail, and a long career in our industry.

Jan has indicated he may consider returning for part time depot-based projects – provided he does not have to walk on the ballast in the field any more!

We thank Jan for many years of loyal service, and wish him well.

Ian O'Brien

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New Points Cleaning Unit

Stive our Points Inspector was pleased to take delivery of a Mazda Points Cleaning Unit, in December, the latest addition to the McLeod Rail fleet. The Mazda vehicle provides secure tool storage, onboard compressor and even has such luxuries as a handwashing basin, perfect for cleaning up after a hard day on the brushes and graphite!

Stive tells us that there is plenty of storage space for his copious amounts of paperwork which now includes our new inspection templates, based on our recently developed inspection standards.

What is the EMD?

EMD stands for Environmental Management Division, which is being established to provide our clients with access to rail accredited personnel for performing a range of works in a rail environment.

We propose providing the following services:

- Weed control
- Landscaping
- Rubbish collection
- Fencing
- General contracting works.

Let us know if you have a requirement for the EMD or a service not on the above list that you would like us to deliver.

Landscaping Materials

We currently hold stocks of old sleepers (\$10 each plus GST) and bluestone pitchers (\$5 each plus GST), ideal for landscaping. If you require access to these materials contact Geoff Gwin, Plant & Procurement Manager on 0416 000 362 or by email on Geoff.Gwin@mcleodrail.com.au.

Under Pressure

Following purchase of a Spitwater Steam Cleaner, we are able to provide clients with a pressure cleaning service for machinery and infrastructure located in your rail environment. Contact Geoff Gwin, Plant & Procurement Manager on 0416 000 362 or by email on Geoff.Gwin@mcleodrail.com.au to discuss your requirements.

Engineers are “GO”

We have been very pleased to welcome Aaron Chan and Vincent Ngo, two third year University of Melbourne engineering students who are completing vacation work with us as summer interns.

Aaron and Vincent have recently completed the **Inspection Reporting and Standards Project**, involving documenting standards, revising checklists and report templates, and preparing inventories of all scheduled inspections. The project scope included points, turntables, crossing and sidings. We hope that clients will benefit from this project by receiving more timely, accurate and meaningful reports, with all inspections completed according to the planned schedule.

We are delighted that Aaron and Vincent have accepted our offer of ongoing part time work to assist in management of the inspections process, and other business projects with an engineering aspect, including estimating, quoting and tendering.



CRAIG ROSSER
Supervisor

Craig is an integral member of the McLeod Rail team, and one of our longest standing employees, joining the company in its early years, after 15 years with PTC. Craig oversees all of our maintenance and construction works.

Craig is respected by both his peers and clients for his extensive rail knowledge and experience. His ability to operate a backhoe in a challenging rail environment is legendary!

Craig commutes from Geelong each day with son John. When he is not attending to our client's rail maintenance and construction requirements Craig enjoys wetting a line, and spending time with wife Gail and his family, which now includes one grandson.

PS Craig (also known as “Mutley” to close acquaintances) tells us Lake Burrumbeet is Victoria's best kept secret and a great place to wet a line!

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