

The Village Clarion



LOXTON COMMUNITY HERITAGE GROUP

NEWSLETTER No. 11

March, 2026

BLESSINGS TO ALL AT EASTER

How quickly the time passes. Easter is almost here and it seems like only yesterday that we were sending Christmas Greetings!

It has been so very busy at the Historical Village in the past few months and the major operation has been the refurbishment of the Rx55 Locomotive.



THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE Rx55

Just as the Village was preparing for the Christmas Holidays, we received news of a Grant application that had been successful—thanks to the History Trust of SA.

This exercise was huge with sandblasting of the paintwork and the re-painting of the locomotive taking a few weeks to be completed—this work was done professionally by Lake Bonney Blaster’s Rohan Symens who did an excellent job as shown in the photo below.

Because of the long period of hot weather, the work was not started until early March but completed (with just a few extra additions to be done) in time for the Easter break.

Prior to the sandblasting, parts of the locomotive were removed to be cleaned and the Men’s Shed members helped prepare the headlight (which will shine brightly on evenings when we have twilight openings.)

The cabin floor is being replaced by Village Volunteers and when all items have been replaced, steps will be returned so that Visitors to the Village can enjoy the experience of the train-driver’s cabin with guages, etc. in place.

All this work was very expensive and we are thankful to have

received a donation from the Bushtracker Owners Group (as mentioned in the Christmas Newsletter), a huge grant from the History Trust of SA and money raised from fund raising by Volunteers in the Village.

The photos below show various stages of the exercise and Rohan who completed the work.



➡ This is the Rx55 before any work began (June 2025)



➡ The Locomotive in its original state when it first arrived in Loxton

Painting completed but still needs the headlight and floor ➡ ➡



OTHER VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Our busy Coordinator Barb has been posting information of bus groups, school groups and various visitor's comments on Facebook to show just how busy the Village has become in the past few months. Despite the times when heat waves have kept the visitors from coming, there are still a few stalwarts who appreciate the work that Volunteers have put into keeping the Village in its clean, tidy and presentable state.

The Visitor's Book is filled with encouraging comments and there have been lots of photos posted as Barb cheerfully greets large groups who enjoy the morning teas or delicious luncheons provided.



TWILIGHT EVENT

A different event held recently was a well-advertised twilight opening when we had a large number of locals who came to visit the Village in the cool of the evening and enjoyed the atmosphere—not to mention the sausage sizzle!

This was such a success that another evening opening will be planned for later in the year.

It was a night of fun when the Village Merry-go-Round had been restored and became a very

popular item of interest that night.



visitors a great deal of pleasure on the novelty display.



The restoration was achieved by our Volunteer Jim West who was the official supervisor on the night—giving



ALIVE DAY REMINDER

Alive Day will not be held at Easter this year as we give our wonderful Volunteers a well-earned break. Although there will be a few 'old faithfuls' seen over the long weekend and a few events have been planned for visitors.

However, there will be an Alive Day held on Saturday, 6th June with all the usual fun things. Keep checking Facebook for details as the time draws near.



LAUGH A MINUTE



Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was just going through a stage.



I thought it was the washing machine shrinking my clothes... Turns out it is the refrigerator.

I was in a cafe the other day. Two waitresses were having an argument about how long to leave the tea bag in.. It ended up being a big brawl, I asked the manager how did that happen?

He said 'I don't know but it's been brewing for ages!'

Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.