



## *Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society Inc.*

*PO Box 2736, Port Lincoln SA 5606*

# **NEWSLETTER**

*March 2021*

### **850 SHED: BENDIGO COMMUNITY BANK GRANT**

The Museum's *Going Loco* fundraising appeal received a major boost in November, when the Port Lincoln Bendigo Community Bank awarded us a \$22,000 grant. The grant is a 'challenge grant', meaning it is conditional on us raising the balance of the needed funding within a year.

We are delighted to have been chosen by the Bank for such a significant grant. Phil Channon, the Bank's Business Manager, said that the Bank saw the project as an important one as the EPRPS, and the Port Lincoln Railway Museum, played an important part in tourism and preserving local history. "Railways in their role in supporting agriculture across the entire Eyre Peninsula played a very important part," he said. "We see it as a very important part of our history."

Since the announcement of the Bank's grant we have received donations of a further \$1,140, leaving us \$17,000 short of our target.

We are continuing to pursue other grant opportunities, but also need to keep going with our own efforts.

For those who have already donated to ensure that 850 and the HAN are protected into the future, we thank you, and please be patient while we continue our efforts! We're getting there.

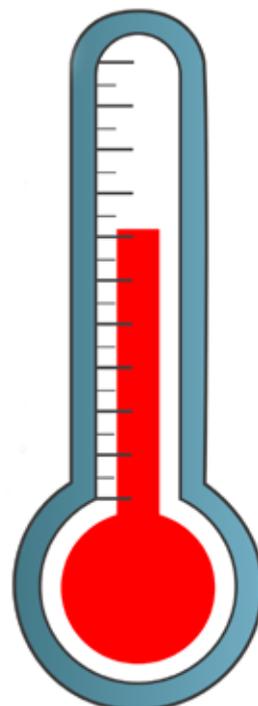
For everyone else: all help appreciated! For donations, there is a donation form on page 7. Alternatively, see <http://eprps.org.au/going-loco.html> or phone the Treasurer.

## **Funds to go full steam**



NEARLY THERE: Peter Knife (Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society) and Phil Channon (Port Lincoln Bendigo Community Bank) in front of Locomotive 850 show how close the society are to their target of a new display shed.

*Headline from the Port Lincoln Times, 19 Nov 2020.*



*Our fundraising now sits at 62%.*



## ALICE (KITTY) DOMAGALSKI

We were saddened to hear that Alice Domagalski, known to all on EP as Kitty, passed away on 21 February. She was 89.

Kitty was Inaugural Secretary of the EPRPS, and for seven years played a vital role in establishing the Museum and supporting the operation of the Society. She was a willing and faithful correspondent in promoting the Museum and Eyre Peninsula's railway history far and wide.

She grew up in Laura and Wudinna, and in 1952 married Stanislaw (Stan) Domagalski. They lived at Edillilie, and remained devoted to each other until his death in 2008. Kitty moved to Adelaide soon after to be near her family.

Stan was a Polish immigrant who came to Australia as a Displaced Person after WWII. His first assignment was in a gang building the new branch railway from Kowulka to the gypsum field at Lake Macdonnell. After that he remained with the SAR for most of his working life. Kitty documented the struggles and achievements of Stan and his fellow DPs, publishing their story in her book *Whatever Will Be, Will Be* in 1995.

Kitty's creative writing found other outlets as well. In 1990 her local history reference book *Reflections of Edillilie* was published, and in 2001 she put together *Rail*

*on Eyre*, a collection of stories, anecdotes and photographs of the railways on Eyre Peninsula (this one is still available from the Museum). She contributed numerous articles on the SAR and the Museum to the *Port Lincoln Times* over the years.

In 2007 Kitty put together a large display panel at the Museum as a tribute to the *Women of Eyre Peninsula*. This is still on display at the Museum today.

Kitty moved into a retirement home five years ago, enjoying life there whilst maintaining her independence. She died peacefully, soon after losing her mobility.



*Above: Peter Goers watches Kitty addressing the crowd at the 2007 Railway Centenary. Kitty was a regular caller on Peter's evening ABC radio show.*



*Left: Kitty and Stan sitting by their beloved "block" at Edillilie in 2003. It flooded periodically, but the water brought abundant bird life and a peaceful, relaxing environment.*

*Kitty's memorial service will be live streamed at 10 am on 22 March, at [www.180creations.com.au/live](http://www.180creations.com.au/live).*

## HISTORY FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES 2021

The History Festival is coming up again in May, and this year there are two themes which we are following. Our “Open Doors” event will be a one-day special occasion, and a display on the “Change” theme will run on all our open days for the month.

### Open Doors

This is a special program to explore the stories behind heritage buildings. We will be conducting tours of the whole Port Lincoln station building, describing the activities in each area and how those related to the operation of the railway. There are some historical gems hidden away in there!

**Sunday 23 May** is the day, and tours will leave the Railway Museum doorway every half hour from 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Numbers will be limited, and tours will need to be pre-booked. Cost will be \$5 per person, or \$10 for a family. The Museum will also be open that day from 1 pm to 4 pm. Further details will be on our website and Facebook pages and in the local media closer to the time.

### “Change”

Change is a major thread which runs through the histories we share. For the railways on Eyre Peninsula, a core function was transporting of grain to the ports at Port Lincoln and Thevenard. Over the years that task has varied from bags, through several



*Above: Many doors open off the upstairs corridor, to who knows what? Find out on a tour!*

mixed bagged and bulk arrangements to full bulk handling.

A photographic display will be available in the Museum showing the multiple grain transport arrangements used on Eyre Peninsula over a century. This display will be on show for the whole month of May, when the Museum is open.



*Left: The way it was: this photo from the Eric O'Connor Collection shows bagged grain in small open C wagons in Port Lincoln yard, in the 1923-26 period. Note also the large bagged grain stacks on the right.*

## COVID-19 UPDATE

The Museum reopened in June 2020, but with ongoing government restrictions and requirements we still need more volunteers on duty when we are open than in the past. As a consequence, we have settled on opening on Wednesdays every week and also on most Sundays during school holidays.

This has worked well for us thus far, with good attendances from September to the end of January. Numbers have dropped off significantly since then. The last cruise ship visited Port Lincoln in March 2020, and we are hopeful that such visits will resume towards the end of this year.



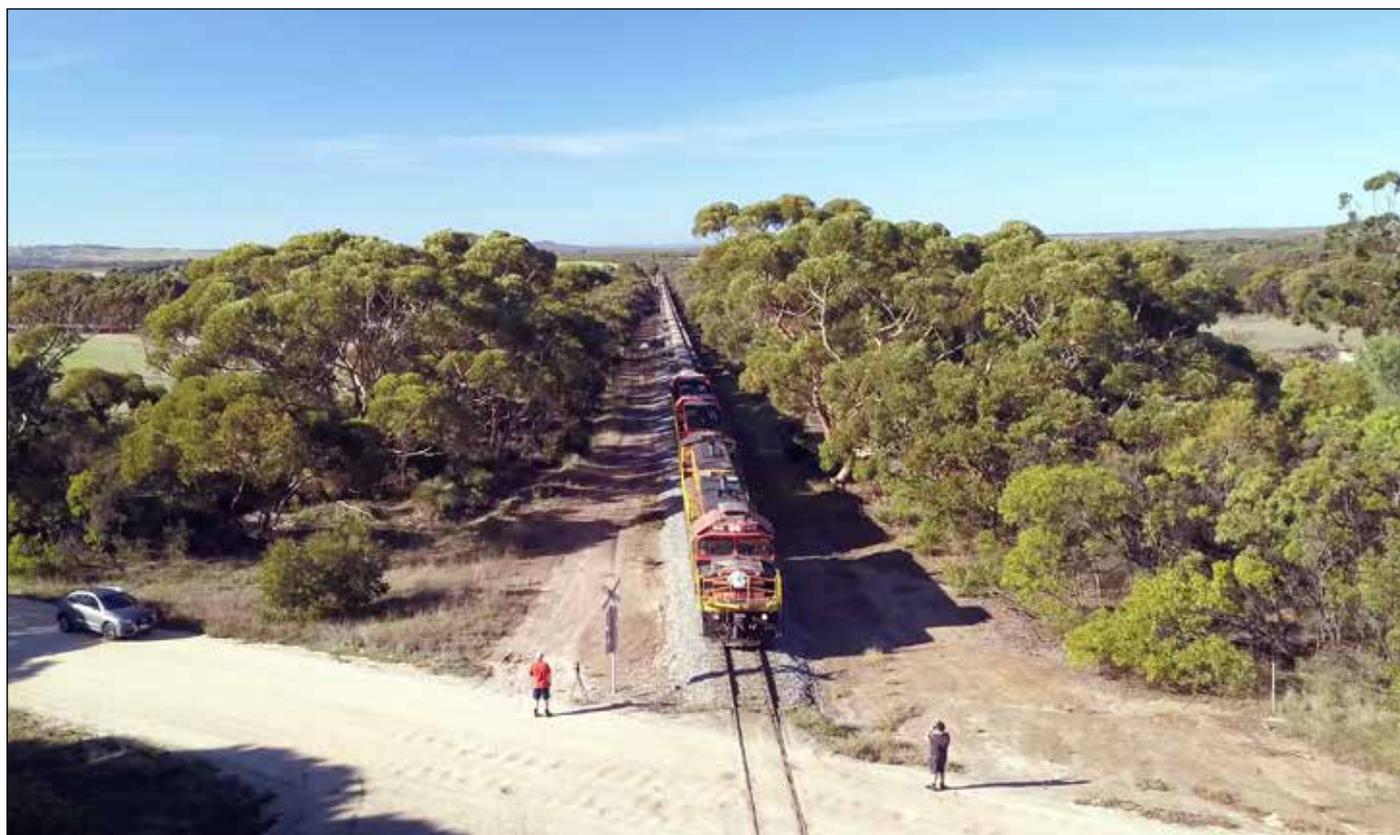
*Above: COVID-19 room limits at the time meant that one EPRPS meeting was held in the breezeway. Trevor Hoskin, Neil Lihou, Margaret Watt, Bob Prout and Maggie Knife braved the elements.*  
 Photo: Peter Knife

## TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED...

It has been almost two years since the last grain train rolled into Port Lincoln on 31 May 2019. Since then, a short run to Cummins to retrieve the shunters float (24 June) and the final transfer of locos to Thevenard (26 June

2019) have been the only times that the main line has carried a train.

*Below: In better times, 905-850-1204-1203 were captured passing Coomunga with #5CG1 on 16 May 2019.*  
 Photo: Ben Wyschnja



## FROM THE ARCHIVES: SUPERINTENDENT'S SAFE

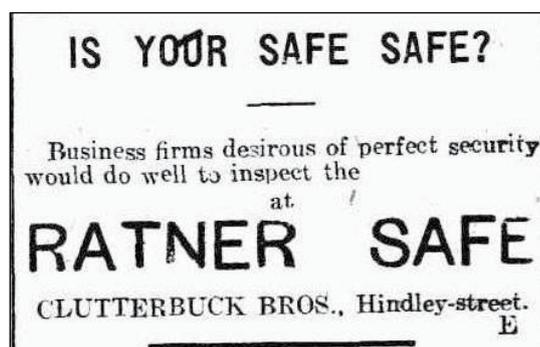
The strong room on the top floor of the Port Lincoln station building still contains the Superintendent's safe. In superb condition, it is still in working order.

A search of our archives has revealed that it was purchased new by the SAR in December 1913, and was installed in the previous station building (opposite Liverpool Street) in October 1914. It was supplied by Clutterbuck Bros, an Adelaide firm who were at the time agents for the Ratner Safe Company. The total cost of purchase and installation was £48/2/2. It would have been moved to its present location in the then-new stone administrative building in early 1927.

For many decades the wages of railway employees were made up in cash, and would have been secured in this safe before being distributed across Eyre Peninsula.

*Right: The Ratner safe as it is today.*

*Below: Ratner nameplate on the front of the safe.*



*Above: This advertisement appeared in the "Express and Telegraph" newspaper (Adelaide) on 3 April 1914. Clutterbuck Bros supplied a wide range of equipment and machinery, particularly agricultural, and had multiple dealings with the SAR.*

**From the Archives: Superintendent's Safe**

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6-4-14

DEBIT ORDER - No. L3909

*Re: Purchase & erection of one Patent safe for use of Superintendent*  
 For details of Final Measurements vide Measurement Book No. GA 167/13 and Abstract Sheet No. 107 Estimated Cost £ 50.0.0  
 Actual Cost...£ 48.2.2

Date of Service.	Particulars.	Month Account Passed.	Materials.	Labor.	Credits
1913					
1914					
Decr 22	Clutton Bros	14 3	43 6 0		
Oct 27	Wage Detail			13 6	
Nov 7	Wage Detail	29	25 5 5	12 6	
Oct 31	Wage Detail		1 10		
Dec 5	Wage			3 16 6	
Dec 31	Wage		1 11		
Completed & Returned 31/12/14 <i>30th June 1913.</i>			43 12 2	4 10 0	

*Taken from the Port Lincoln Railway Museum's archives, this is Debit Order L3909 showing the cost of purchase and installation of the safe in 1913 and 1914.*



**Donation Form**

Donation amount \$

Cheque/money order (please make cheque payable to Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society Inc)

Please complete if you would like a receipt to be issued:

Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  Other

Direct Deposit: BSB 633-000  
A/c No: 136921376  
A/c Name: EPRPS Inc

Surname:  Given Name:

Credit Card (Mastercard or Visa only)

Postal Address:

Card number

State/Territory:  Postcode:

Expiry  Name on card

Email:

CVV (three digits on back of card)

Phone:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form (and cheque if applicable) to:

The Treasurer, Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society Inc, PO Box 2736, PORT LINCOLN SA 5606  
 or email to [treasurer@eprps.org.au](mailto:treasurer@eprps.org.au)  
 or phone the treasurer on 0417 401 364 with your credit card details

## EPRPS Office Bearers 2020-21

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<b>Treasurer</b>	Maggie Knife	(08) 8684-3647	0417-401-364	treasurer@eprps.org.au

Website: <http://www.eprps.org.au>  
Facebook: Port Lincoln Railway Museum

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