

THIRLMERE RAIL HERITAGE CENTRE

August 2007



Upgrading the Thirlmere Rail Heritage Centre

It's been nearly a year in the making, with considerable input from RTM's members. Now complete, the Concept Design promises to transform the Thirlmere Rail Heritage Centre into an interactive attraction for rail enthusiasts, families and the broader community.

"Over the past eight months, RTM has been working with the Office of Rail Heritage and consultants, Group GSA, to develop a concept which takes into account as much of the feedback given by members, staff and volunteers as possible," said RTM President, Peter Berriman.

"Thank you to everyone who provided input into the project. While we are subject to budgetary constraints, I am confident that this design will provide the key features for an improved operating base and a greatly enhanced visitor experience. We are now about to move on to the next phase of the project, the detail design process. Again, we want your feedback, so I invite all members to attend a forum to be held on-site on Saturday 25 August."

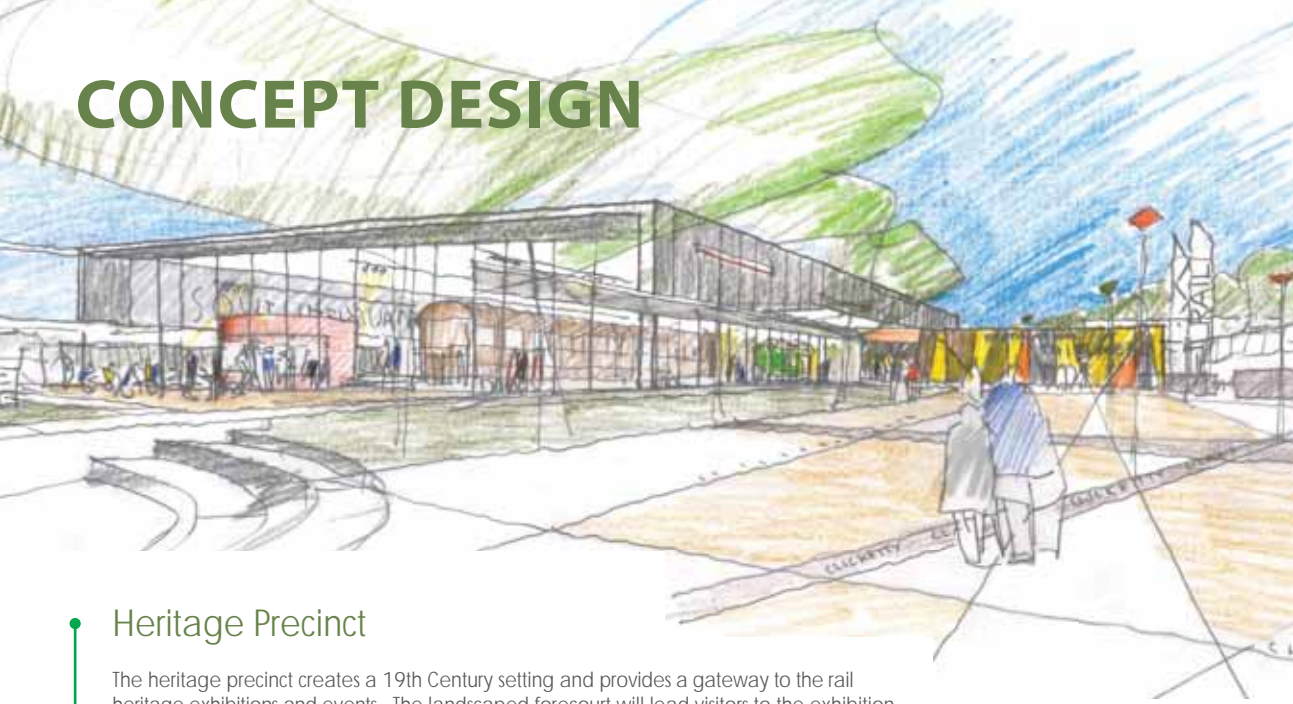
When completed in 2009, the new Centre will provide visitor experiences including: "behind the scenes" views of the operating workshop, steam train and other rides, changing exhibitions and special themed events. It will also provide a unique venue for corporate and community functions.

The Centre's upgrade is a key component of the NSW Government endorsed Sustainable Rail Heritage Asset Management Strategy announced in August 2006. The Strategy is aimed at ensuring rail heritage assets are conserved by dedicated volunteers and shared with the public.

The next stage in the Centre's upgrade is developing a detailed design for construction. Input from RTM members, volunteers and staff will be integral to this process.

The new Centre will be developed in partnership with, and operated by, RTM.

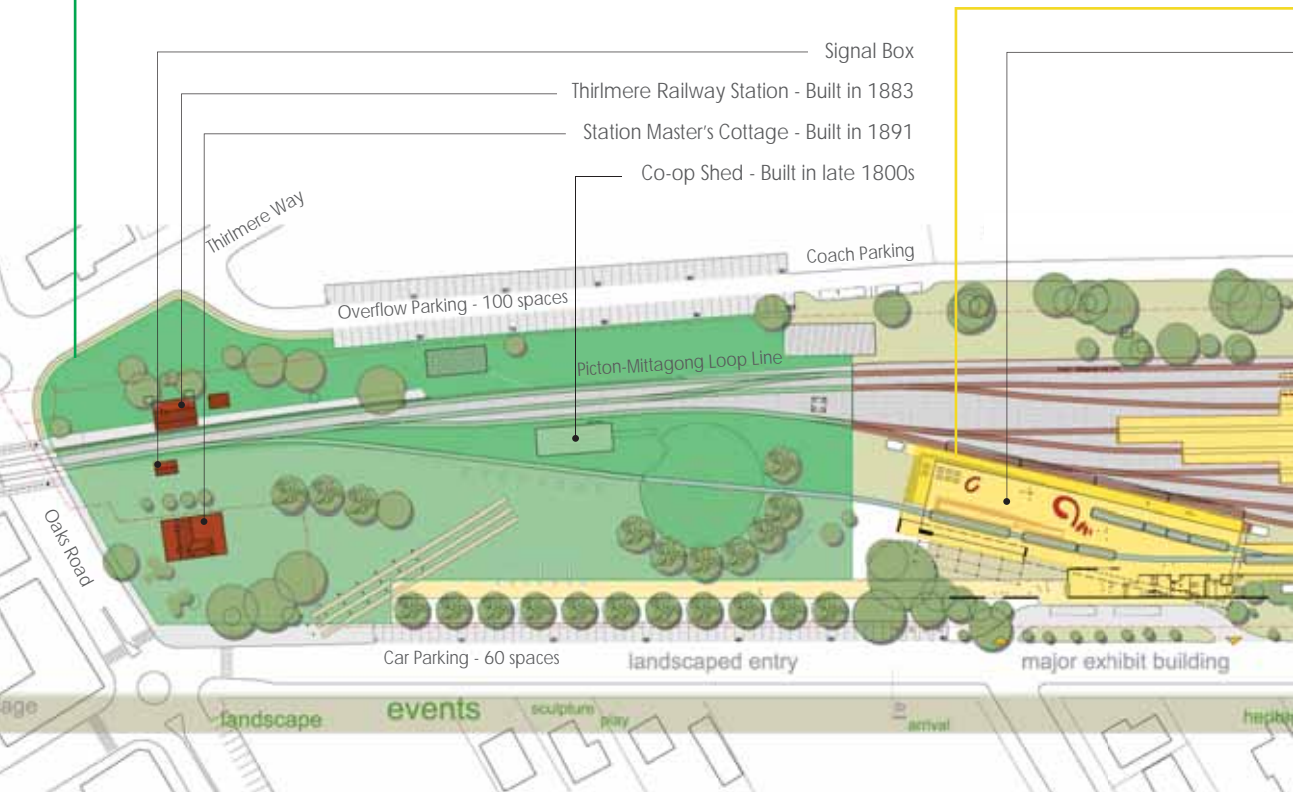
CONCEPT DESIGN



Heritage Precinct

The heritage precinct creates a 19th Century setting and provides a gateway to the rail heritage exhibitions and events. The landscaped forecourt will lead visitors to the exhibition precinct and connect the Centre with the township of Thirlmere.

The former turntable site can be adapted into an amphitheatre for themed events and the historical Co-op shed provides the opportunity for a versatile space for RTM and community use in the future.



Exhibition Precinct

The new exhibition building will showcase some of the finest examples of the rail heritage collection in NSW (including the Premier's Carriage), provide a multi-purpose event space, front of house and administration facilities and a visitors' shop.

The new building is based on the design of a grand platform - providing views of the exhibits and the operational yard and activities. It will allow visitors to alight from a train directly into the building for special events.

The open landscape and multi-functional indoor spaces create unique venues for corporate and community functions and events.

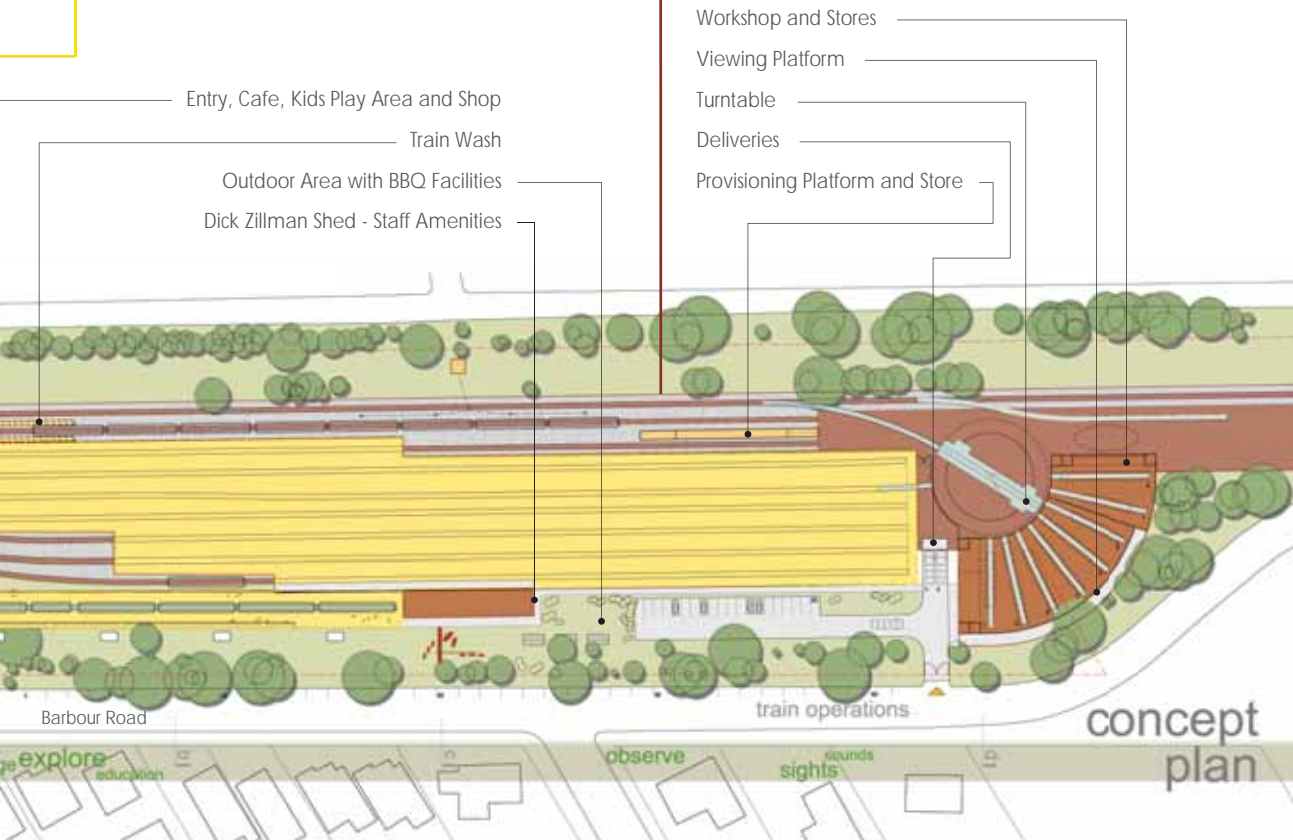
A link building will provide the connection between the new and old both physically and through the exhibition design. Improvements to the existing display building have been designed and sponsorship is actively being sought to implement them.

Operations Precinct

The new workshop and maintenance facilities will provide safer and more efficient working conditions for staff and volunteers. Importantly, the Concept Design allows for further development in the future, while the detail design process will identify specific features and needs.

The new design includes: two restoration bays, three major overhaul bays, three running maintenance bays, a provisioning platform and carriage washing facilities.

The yards and workshops can be used to provide a behind the scenes view of maintenance operations, with controlled public access allowing a live display and active interpretation.



DATES FOR YOUR 2007 DIARY

Heritage Express Tours

- The Thirlmere Flyer
Sunday 19 August &
Sunday 21 October
- 3801 at the Thirlmere Rail
Heritage Centre
Sunday 2 September &
Sunday 7 October
- A 1500 kilometre safari through the
heart of New South Wales with 3801
Thursday 6 September to
Monday 10 September
- Express to Newcastle with 3801
Saturday 15 September
- Blue Mountains Steam Express
Saturday 29 September
- Coast & Highlands Scenic Circuit
Sunday 30 September
- School holiday steam adventures to
the surf with 3801
Thursday 11 October &
Friday 12 October
- Steam and sail – on 3801 Flyer and
Ocean Dreaming
Saturday 13 October
- Central West Aurora and
Central West Express
Saturday 27 October

NSW Rail Transport Museum

PO Box K37
Haymarket NSW 1240
(02) 9379 1110
www.nswrtm.com.au

Heritage Express

(02) 9379 1110
www.heritageexpress.com.au

Office Of Rail Heritage

Sarah Jane Brazil
Thirlmere Upgrade Manager
(02) 9379 3882

• Members' Forum

A forum will be held at Thirlmere for RTM staff, members, volunteers and members of the local community wanting to know more about the plans to date for upgrading the Thirlmere Rail Heritage Centre.

RTM President, Peter Berriman, will address the forum along with a range of speakers, including a representative from Group GSA and Office of Rail Heritage Director, Marianne Hammerton.

Saturday 25 August 2007
Thirlmere Rail Heritage Centre
20 Barbour Road, Thirlmere

1:00pm to 3:00pm with afternoon tea to follow. For catering purposes please RSVP: (02) 4681 8001 or email: thirlmere@nswrtm.com.au

If you are unable to attend the forum you can provide ideas or comments to:

- Train Operations and Services: Andrew Killingsworth or Jim Martin
email: operations@heritageexpress.com.au
- Exhibits, site and merchandising: Allan Leaver
email: arleaver@hotmail.net.au

