



RESEARCH

Please send contributions to fieldreports@lrrsa.org.au or to P.O. Box 21, Surrey Hills, Vic 3127. Thank you to everyone who has contributed – either directly, or via the Yahoo group. *Scott Gould*

Chaplin Locomotive at Moonta Mines

One of my friends here in the UK is trying to build a definitive list of Chaplin locos (and railway cranes). Perhaps you can help regarding the 5ft 3in gauge loco at Moonta Mines, Chaplin 2288/1883.

The Chaplin records show that it was ordered by A L Elder, which is no surprise as Alexander Elder was brother of Sir Thomas Elder, who had considerable interests in the Wallaroo and Moonta mines. It is shown as to 'Wallaroo Copper Works, Adelaide'. If I'm not mistaken, this was the copper works on the quite small site on the north side of St Vincent Street, immediately east of Jervis Bridge. The work's west side was bounded by the wharf on the river and was rail connected to the SAR.

I sincerely doubt that the loco was used here and I would guess that it was shipped to the works for onward local despatch to Moonta. Apart from the reference in the Chaplin records and the Moonta photo (which indisputably shows a Chaplin loco) I know of no other documentary evidence relating to this loco. Can anyone assist with information?

It is interesting that the other two 5ft 3in gauge Moonta Mining Co locos (J Fowler 6026/1889 0-4-2SToc and Dubs 1196/1878 2-4-0Toc) were both rebuilt by the W&MMSCo to 3ft 6in gauge, but apparently not the Chaplin. This may have been because it was too difficult, or it was considered old-fashioned, so perhaps it was used somewhere around the mines as a stationary engine. Any comments welcome.

A further point re 5ft 3in gauge Moonta Mines locos: it has been written that the motor portion [Kitson T.5/1879] 0-4-0VBToc from the G&SCTy Rowan car was sold to the Moonta Mining Co., but I've seen no evidence to substantiate this, although it does not sound unreasonable. The South Australian Register of 18/5/1883 reported that a Mr Stuckey had offered to sell to the SA Marine Board 'a tramway locomotive for use at Port Germein', which offer was declined. Mr Robert Stuckey was a director of the Moonta Mining Co. board, so I wonder if he was acting on behalf of the Moonta Mining Co? If so, the only 'tramway loco', the Company could have had would be this Kitson, so this might be considered as confirmation that it was there. I do of course realize that the Port Germein jetty was 3ft 6in not 5ft 3in. The only other two tramway engines in South Australia at that time were the Port Adelaide Merryweather, already sold to the Glenelg Rly. Co. in April 1883 and the Adelaide, Unley & Mitcham Baldwin, which was sold to Parramatta in October that year. I've no idea if Mr Stuckey was also a director of the Mitcham Co., but I've looked at the half-yearly meetings of the Company in the relevant period on Trove and found no mention of him. Once again, comments welcome.

Richard Horne

Online Mapping Resources

State government online maps are available for some states, the best I'm aware of are in Victoria, with those for NSW coming second (both are free). Nothing in the other states is as good, especially what can be had for free.

The list of web sites below lists those currently known, if any others are available, please let us know.

NSW: Currently has at: <http://lite.maps.nsw.gov.au/> raster-format copies of the state-wide topographic maps (but not always current!) although this will be merged with the <http://six.maps.nsw.gov.au/> during the year so it will be interesting to see if these topographic maps last.

Queensland: Nothing in the way of online/interactive maps like Vic and NSW. There is a 'Queensland Globe' KML file downloadable from: <http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/mapping/queensland-globe.html> which works in Google Earth.

South Australia: Apparently nothing online equivalent to NSW/Vic sites.

Tasmania: <http://www.thelist.tas.gov.au/listmap/listmapstart.jsp>

Victoria: Forest Explorer website at: <http://nreemap-sc.nre.vic.gov.au/MapShare.v2/imf.jsp?site=forestexplorer> With this site (and similar sites at: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/about-dse/interactive-maps>) you can zoom in/out and turn layers on/off as desired; and then produce PDF's of your maps.

State Library of Victoria:

http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?dscnt=0&fromLogin=true&tab=maps&dstmp=1367631721159&vid=MAIN&mode=Basic&fromLogin=true&fromLogin=true

National Library of Australia:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/map?q=>

Online maps can be downloaded from both of the above sites, although it should be noted that with the NLA site, the format is TIF (not JPG) and therefore the files are much larger.

The SLV and NLA sites are better for older (imperial-scale) topographic maps, where they have been scanned in and placed online.

There will of course be equivalent sites for other (non-Vic) state libraries but I'm not familiar with these.

It's simply a matter of searching through these sites for maps of interest (eg. try "31680" or "63360" for imperial-scale topographic maps).

Western Australia: As per SA; although there is a 'pay-to-use' setup at: <http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au/corporate.nsf/web/Create+A+Map>

Federal: Map connect at: http://mapconnect.ga.gov.au/MapConnect/?site=250K&accept_agreement=on (you can download all the 1:250,000 topographic maps as PDF files [which I have done] or in other formats)

In addition, if you have the OziExplorer software (http://www.ozixplorer3.com/eng/downloads/395/ozixp_setup.exe (7MB) for a demo/trial version), you can then download Victorian & NSW topographic maps to open with OziExplorer.

Victorian from: <http://maps.festy.org/downloads/ozivic/maps/>

and NSW from: <http://maps.festy.org/downloads/ozinsw/25k/> and <http://maps.festy.org/downloads/ozinsw/100k/NSW100k.zip> (but beware - the 100k file is nearly 800MB in size)



Moonta Mines Chaplin 2288 of 1883 pictured at Moonta. Ordered by A.L Elder & Co of Adelaide SA, little else is known of the locomotives history. Photo: Richard Horne collection

Indexes are at: http://maps.festy.org/images/vic_index.gif (Vic) and http://www.cartodraft.com.au/topographic_maps_australia.shtml (NSW).

John Cleverdon

Gold Coast / Neranwood, QLD

Peter Cokley continues his regular postings of his research into tramways of the Gold Coast region on the Yahoo group. Can any readers assist Peter with information on the following points?

- The extent and route of Nerang Central Sugar Mill's tramline on the south side of the Nerang River.
- The Rushton cane ferry location, and ferry disposal after the mills closure.
- The Harpers Wharf operational method for the unloading of road rock from barges which was sourced from the Molendinar quarry, and transfer to railway skips for the Main Beach Burleigh 1920s road construction tramway as outlined in Browning, John, "The Southport-Burleigh road construction tramway", in *Light Railways* 213, June 2010.
- The actual location of, and the tramway operations at the Molendinar road rock quarry.
- What happened to that Molendinar quarry and any Molendinar tramway system after the completion of the Main Beach Burleigh 1920s road construction tramway?

Peter Cokley

John Browning has offered the following to the discussion:

My personal belief is that there was an incline tramway to bring rock down to the river at the Molendinar quarry. I have a feeling that this is based on some documentary evidence as well as on observation of the topography but I would have to go back and check.

As for Terranora, I am very interested not only in where the relevant incline tramway(s) were situated but also who owned and operated them at various times. Were these farmers' lines or CSR?

I believe that there were also aerial tramways in the same area.

John Browning

Purcell Locomotive at an unidentified location - Can you help?

Jim Longworth has asked for assistance identifying the location of this Purcell locomotive. A few suggestions have come in; John Browning's thoughts are that it is Batesford quarry of the Australian Portland Cement Co, Fyansford, Vic. Phil Rickard comments: *It is known that they had a Purcell, though I've seen claims that it was both 2ft 6ins for the tunnel excavation and 3ft 6ins for quarry work. From the picture it appears to be hauling Western dump trucks of the type only used for gauges 3ft and upwards. (2ft 6ins and smaller were of different frame arrangement). Any positive info on the APC's Purcell would be appreciated. The only other photos that I have seen of it, all depict it out of use - this one (should it be there) being the first of it doing some work.*

Can any reader confirm or discount this location? Phil Rickard, John Browning

Here she comes – Zoo Miniature railways

Some interesting discussion occurred on the LRRSA Yahoo Group recently about the 'Here She Comes' locomotives built by HV McKay of Sunshine, Victoria, and delivered to Melbourne, Adelaide, and Sydney zoos in April 1923, February 1925, & October 1929 respectively (see 'Here She Comes: The McKay Sunshine Zoo Trains' in LR 183, June 2005).

It was suggested that the Sydney one had a short life, being replaced by a new locomotive in November 1934 for some unknown reason. However, the article in LR 183 indicates that the 'Here She Comes' locomotive co-existed for many years at Taronga Park Zoo with its replacement locomotive, *PRINCE HENRY*. *Trove* Newspapers shows that *PRINCE HENRY* was new in December 1934. It is believed that it was wrecked in an accident in 1971, after which John Dunlop

acquired and refurbished the McKay locomotive. The Melbourne one appears to have run until replaced by the well known 'Spirit of Zoo' (Spirit of Progress) loco, built by Days Engineering, in November 1941.

The Adelaide train appears to have operated until the 1950s or 1960s, when it was replaced by another loco.

One of these McKay locomotives still exists at the Coolangatta Historic Village Motel (near Berry, NSW). The train was planned to be auctioned in November 1984 (LRN 10/1985), and the track lifted in 1988 (LRN 10/1988). John Browning has observed that it is definitely the Taronga Park Zoo one as reference to photographs shows that the other two did not have the raised "firebox" cab roof set so high.

Peter Medlin, Bill Bolton, Chris Stratton, John Browning

Magnet Tram and other interesting light railway footage on YouTube

Following an appeal in the *Burnie Advocate* for information or photographs of the Magnet Mine on Tasmania's West Coast, John McCutchan was contacted by Mrs Grace Hayles, whose husband RC Hayles had taken 16mm film of the area in the 1930s. The Hayles family operated one of two stores at Magnet, and their son Kelvin was in possession of the film. John was able to copy it to video, and Kelvin provided commentary to go with the footage. Life in the small mining town is documented, including the silver mine and the 2' gauge Magnet tramway, which connected to the Emu Bay Railway near Waratah. At just over 23 minutes, the footage is well worth looking at. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADYFY6xisAY> Mark Kendrick via the LRRSA Yahoo Group

Also found on YouTube are some short films made by local television station TVT 6. Two gems from the 1960's are the last steam enthusiasts train to Zeehan hauled by ASG 16: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNe6p-xjV_A And Mt Lyell Mining & Railway Co. operations featuring railmotor DP 19 in service: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ggbv1eL09Q>

To participate in these or other interesting discussions, join the LRRSA Yahoo group at <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/LRRSA/>



Unidentified Purcell locomotive, possibly at the Australian Portland Cement Co. quarry, Fyansford Vic. Photo: Jim Longworth collection

Notice to all LRRSA Shop customers

The LRRSA shop has had a change of host due to Gate 13, Australia Post's current system shutting down, the new system is called 'My shop in a box'. The previous user details are being transferred across, but passwords will need to be reset by the account holder. Accessing the shop via the LRRSA web page should take you to the new system, but please be patient while our small team of volunteers sorts through the inevitable teething problems.