

# Fact Sheet

## RAIL HERITAGE CENTRE

Located at Thirlmere in the foothills of the beautiful Southern Highlands - in easy reach of Sydney - the Rail Heritage Centre is undergoing a major upgrade to provide new and improved experiences and facilities. The upgrade project is a joint partnership between RailCorp's Office of Rail Heritage and the NSW Rail Transport Museum, who have been on site at Thirlmere since 1975.

The extensive upgrade will enhance the already unique rail heritage experience. When fully transformed the Centre will be a showcase of rail history and a major NSW attraction. It will provide visitors with an exciting mix of heritage train rides, interactive exhibitions and displays, guided tours and hands on exhibits offering a memorable and enriching experience for people of all ages.

The upgraded Rail Heritage Centre will also provide a backdrop for a broader range of activities including venue spaces being made available to the public. From conferences and corporate dinners to community events, weddings and parties, the Rail Heritage Centre will be a venue catering for all.

The newly opened Roundhouse is the maintenance hub for the operating locomotives and carriages. It provides a unique environment for volunteers, staff and apprentices to work side by side sharing knowledge and skills in order to maintain and restore heritage rolling stock.

Pivotal to the Roundhouse's operations is the 105 foot (32 metre) wide turntable which was relocated in early August. It allows for eight locomotives or carriages to be worked on simultaneously. Viewing the behind the scenes activities at the Roundhouse will be a key part of any visit to the Centre.

The Centre's upgrade is part of the NSW Government's commitment to rail heritage. Through the Government's Sustainable Rail Heritage Asset Management Strategy there is an intergenerational plan to conserve and display a collection of the State's rich railway heritage into the future.

Integral to this strategy, the Rail Heritage Centre will ensure that the State's rail heritage is accessible to the public at a flagship destination in regional NSW, complementing other rail heritage precincts around NSW.

The upgrade of the Rail Heritage Centre represents a range of new opportunities for volunteers, employees and businesses to be part of a new era in rail heritage conservation and tourism. It provides a means for the conservation, display and celebration of the State's rail heritage assets now and into the future and is another emerging tourism destination for the region and the State.

The Rail Heritage Centre is open to the public right now with many more changes and enhancements taking place on site throughout 2010.

To learn more about the exciting goings on at the Centre please visit: [www.railheritagecentre.com.au](http://www.railheritagecentre.com.au)