



## MIDLAND RAIL HERITAGE TRUST

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### **UPDATE TO ALL MEMBERS:**

Another 5 months have passed since our well attended Annual General Meeting at Springfield where the main topic was the lease and money owing to Hamish Faulkner. I am pleased to say my company has purchased the land at Springfield and as part of this settled the money owing to Hamish. A forty-year lease has been entered with the Trust, so the way is now clear to begin site development again.

Allan Campbell our engineer is back on board and a work and site agreement is currently being drafted for signing. Along with this a work program is being put in place with the consent and erection of our kit set shed being the top of the list.

As land owner I am negotiating with Kiwi Rail for a land swap of the area they use by the entrance gate for the piece of land they own over the old loco pits. This will save the Trust \$1,100 in rent per annum.

I think most know that Sam Mackwell is now a Trustee, but possibly don't know Sam is building a brand-new steam locomotive of his own design. The boiler is half built. Sam is looking for investors in his company if this would interest you phone me on 0274-485-442. Sam will base his locomotive at Springfield and has leased some workshop equipment from the trust. In his workshop at West Melton will do some work for us. This is a great project for us as Sam's invention could revolutionize steam as a source of power again.

We are looking at having site work days next year on two Saturdays or Sundays a month. The more members who can help with this the better. As part of this we would like every member to try and sign up one new member.

If this is enough interest, we would like to restart our annual Springfield BBQ about the middle of February.

If you are in Springfield and could support Heather at the Railway Station Café would be great to return some of the support, she has given us with meeting venues and keeping an eye on the site which recently was some vandalism caused by some louts who broke some windows on our Diesel Shunters.

Also thanks to Bill Townsend for dropping the mail off to my place.

Lastly of course thanks to the members who have stuck with us over a difficult period of little site activity to you all and your families have a great Christmas and New Year.

Regards,



Alan Roberts

P.S. If you get this by mail and have an email address please let us know as it saves a lot of time and cost.