



Zig Zag Railway Co-Op Ltd
PO Box 1
Lithgow NSW 2790

5 July 2016

PRESS RELEASE – LATEST NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Maintenance trains have returned to Zig Zag Railway, a section car operated between the railways Bottom Points and Top Points stations on 2nd July 2016. This is the first train to operate on Zig Zag Railway for many months and is significant in the return of Zig Zag Railway to being an operational Railway.

The return to the operation of maintenance trains has been the result of three months intensive work, supported heavily by Stephen Hickie. Stephen brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, having developed Safety Management Systems across Australia similar to that which is currently being reviewed at Zig Zag Railway.

Stephen has said, “Being born in Lithgow and a volunteer at Zig Zag Railway for over 30 years, the railway has always had a special place in my heart. We have made significant progress on a full review of the railway's Safety Management System, implementing a new risk management system and reviewing the railway's assets including the rolling stock and infrastructure in preparation for a return to passenger carrying operations. This is an exciting time for our railway”.

Lee Wiggins, a resident of Lithgow and Chairman of the Zig Zag Railway Board, was one of three new directors elected in March this year. Lee has said, “Local people on the management team of the Zig Zag is something that has been missing for many years; we are enthusiastic to involve the Lithgow community in restoring one of its greatest engineering masterpieces and to revitalise a valuable local tourism asset, assisting Lithgow to increase its tourism-based economy. Having been a volunteer since 1997, I feel very privileged to lead the team of hardworking and tireless volunteers. There is still more work to be done before a steam hauled passenger service can be run, however this is a significant milestone in the journey. The echo of steam locomotive whistles throughout the Lithgow Valley will soon be a reality again”.

Zig Zag Railway would like to encourage anyone interested in being involved in the return of Zig Zag Railway to full passenger carrying operations to become a member. Simply go to the Zig Zag Railway website, <http://www.zigzagrailway.com.au/involved.php> and fill out the membership form. There is much work to do on infrastructure including the changing of sleepers, repairing buildings and undertaking grounds and vegetation maintenance. No experience is necessary to join the team at Zig Zag Railway, though existing skills and qualifications in these areas would, of course, be welcome.

Lee Wiggins
Chairman