



Donation of 843 and 846 Locomotives from One Rail Australia to the Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society

The 830-class is finally returning to Quorn, bringing the dream alive for many who thought that locomotives would not ever be seen again running the mainline.

The locomotives were regularly used on the Quorn – Peterborough Line, with the first coming to Quorn in August 1963 with the last one running in 1980. Between August 1963 and until the end of regular steam in 1970, the 830-class worked Quorn line trains when available, and then worked all trains from 1970 up until 1980 when they were displaced by surplus NSU class locomotives returning from the Central Australia Railway.

Although the 830-class locomotives did not actually travel through the Pichi Richi Pass, PRR members have longed for an 830-class locomotive to be part of the PRR collection, with one preferably in working order. It is felt that they are just as much a part of the history of railways and trains to Quorn, as are the other heritage locomotives owned by PRR.

Through the very generous donation by One Rail Australia, locomotives 843 and 846 will be relocated from Dry Creek and Port Lincoln respectively to the Quorn locomotive depot. Two locomotives have been accepted, since 843 sits on broad gauge bogies and it is necessary to place this unit onto the narrow-gauge bogies of 846 so that one operational unit can be formed. Additionally, a set of narrow gauge power bogies from the Thevenard Yard are being supplied to replace the bogies beneath 843 which are being sent elsewhere.

The logistics effort is also substantial and would not be possible without support from Max Cranes at Port Augusta who are experts in moving and lifting large objects.

This project has also been made possible through the very generous donations made, predominantly by PRRPS members who have managed to raise in excess of \$60,000. This is a fantastic effort and in addition to covering the logistical costs, it will cover the cost of a new set of starting batteries, plus enable the locomotive to be fully restored - including rust cut out and painted back to its former glory in what was known as the 'Mustard Pot' livery.

One Rail Australia's CEO Luke Anderson said: "We are very pleased to donate these two locomotives so their heritage can live on with the Pichi Rich Railway Preservation Society. One Rail has a long history of operating in South Australia, so it is great that we can support the preservation of South Australian rail in Quorn for many years to come."

PRRPS President Dion Chandler said: "As a kid growing up in Quorn, I'd ride my bike up to the railway station and watch these 830-class locomotives go about their shunting. Sometimes we'd ride our bikes following the train as it departed Quorn towards Peterborough as far as the first bridge near the Quorn golf course. After an absence of 40 plus years, it will be good to have an 830-class locomotive at PRR, where I'll get the opportunity to drive it."

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