



Big upgrade: Richard Mulvaney in front of the workshop construction site.

Picture: Elliott Housego

# \$15m centre upgrade

By Michelle Fenech

A \$15 million upgrade of Thirlmere Rail Heritage Centre is well under way to provide better public access for visitors and tourists in Thirlmere.

A forum was held at the weekend to brief the community on the centre's progression and give a guided tour of the new workshop construction site.

Chief executive officer of the museum Richard Mulvaney said the centre was in the middle of town, so rather than have residents peek over the fence to see what's going on, they invited them in for a look.

"Construction on our roundhouse maintenance workshop has started and this will increase our

capacity to do maintenance work and important restorations," he said. "It will contain seven separate working bays which is a big improvement from what we've had for 30 years."

RailCorp has committed \$15 million to project and so far \$1.7 million has been spent locally on the workshop construction.

"It's anticipated that the full project will be completed late 2010 early 2011," Mr Mulvaney said.

"When it is complete the public will be able to see some of our working steam locomotives and steam vehicles for the first time. They will also be able to get close to the turn table which turns all our vehicles around and has been out of public gaze."

## Transport needs the focus of special forum

WOLLONDILLY Shire Council will hold a community transport forum on Thursday, June 11.

A spokeswoman for the council said the forum would follow the community feedback received on the Wollondilly transport discussion paper that was developed earlier this year.

"It is hoped that the forum will allow the community and the council to work together to identify a range of innovative and proactive solutions," she said.

Mayor Michael Banasik said it was important that all stakeholders including community members come together.

"We want to hear about ideas and projects that are happening here and in other areas which may be possible solutions," he said.

"The information gathered will be used to develop partnerships and inform future planning for services in the shire including the council's community social plan."

Interested residents, community organisations, resident groups, transport advocates and government representatives are welcome to attend the forum on June 11 at Picton Bowling Club, from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

A free light lunch will be provided and transport is available to the forum on request.

To register call 4677 1105 (bookings are essential as places are strictly limited).

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