



SteamRanger's Heritage

- an insight into our past

BACKGROUND

Loco 520 was returned to ARHS tours service in May 1972 following the decision in March 1971 to retire loco 526.

\$20,000 was contributed by members and supporters to fund the necessary work which was completed in April 1972 and celebrated with a number of special trips over the weekend of 6th and 7th May. .

This file contains the full text of the article, but omits one photograph.
Brochure artwork by Rodney Barrington

"520 Fiesta"

Return of loco 520 as a Tours Loco, May 1972

ARHS Recorder May 1972 pages 1 to 4

There was much excitement at the Mile End Diesel Depot about noon on Saturday, 6th May 1972.

Engine 621, "Duke of Edinburgh" hauling 7 end-loading cars had just arrived from Outer Harbour, and after turning at the old loco depot, the train drew slowly ahead until green 621 was alongside the gleaming black 520 class leader.

Engine 520 was issued to service in October 1943, named after the Governor of the day "Sir Malcolm Barclay Harvey", and since that time has pounded over 527,000 miles of S.A.R. broad gauge metals. Sir Malcolm was a keen railway enthusiast and often rode the foot-plate of steam locomotives. He was also the author of a publication on Scottish Lines.



520 was stored in 1958, but to assist in a power shortage, the engine was subsequently overhauled, and on Friday 8th May 1964, steamed forth from Islington Works resplendent in a glistening new coat of black paint. The following Tuesday, it stretched its legs on the 4.30 p.m. Willunga goods. The only occasion engine 520 worked a train for the A.R.H.S., was on Saturday 20th June 1964, when, after negotiating with the department, it was agreed to provide steam power on the regular 9.00 a.m. Victor Harbor service in lieu of a railcar.

The locomotive underwent a further B.I.T. in September 1966, but after the following month, having only run 170 miles, engine 520 was not used again in regular traffic.

After representation by the Tours Manager, Dean Harvey, 520 was saved from scrapping as a source of parts for engine 526 "Duchess of Gloucester" and possible use later as a tours engine, however, the unexpected withdrawal of engine 526 in April 1971, together with the proposed cutting up of both engines, made it imperative for a massive last minute appeal to save 520. Thus, for the second time in two years, the generosity of railway enthusiasts all over Australia was responsible for saving a steam engine at the last moment.

Lady Muriel Barclay Harvey kindly donated \$20.76 towards the cost of restoration. "Sir Malcolm Barclay Harvey" has been returned to service at a cost of over \$20,000 to the Society and opportunity was taken on this day to photograph 520 and 621 standing side by side. On an adjacent track were Rx engines 207 and 224, thus all four locomotives retained at the expense of the A.R.H.S. were seen together for the first time.

SANDY CREEK

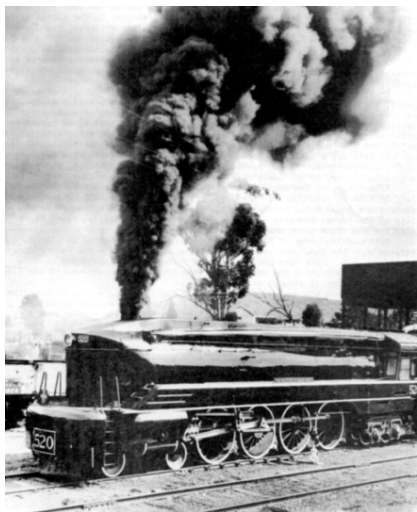
At 1.00 p.m. on Saturday, 6th May 1972, engine 520 hauling 12 centenary cars and a compo goods brake made an impressive scene as it drew the long train crammed with 700 passengers en route to Gawler and Sandy Creek, out of the Adelaide Station. Crowds of people lined the trackside to witness the spectacular sight. A fleet of buses were waiting at Sandy Creek and conveyed passengers to the Barossa Reservoir and various wineries in the area. Engine 520 worked the train tender first from Sandy Creek to Gawler, and then after turning and passing a wayward 300 class set at Salisbury, "Sir Malcolm Barclay Harvey" really showed his paces on the way home, with Engineman P. Brooks and Fireman B. Kain in the cab.

BRIDGEWATER

In the evening, Engine 520, compo goods brake and 5 centenary cars worked to Bridgewater and return. Even on a Saturday night, large crowds assembled at every vantage point to see the train thunder through. Unfortunately, a crack in the water tank on 520's tender caused some concern, as about 500 gallons of water an hour were leaking away and there was some doubt if the flow could be stemmed in time for the locomotive to work the 9.10 a.m. Robertstown special on the Sunday.

ROBERTSTOWN

However, on Sunday morning, passengers were delighted to see the black hulk of Engine 520 reversing through the maze of tracks in the Adelaide Yard and coupling onto 6 steel cars and a CGP brakevan. The Society was honoured to have Dr. Derek Scrafton, the State's new Director General of Transport, as a guest on the Robertstown tour, and once again at all the roadside stations, it seemed as though the entire population was out to greet us



Newly restored engine 520 prepares to leave Eudunda, Sat 7th May 72
Photo: Phil Butler