

Need signals monster move



TRACEY FINDLAY

THE relocation of an historic railway building thrust Hornsby into the national spotlight on Monday.

Specialist technology was used to move a 1920s' Hornsby signal box in a complex operation hailed as an Australian first.

The two-storey brick and fibreglass structure, and its contents, weighing the equivalent of two jumbo jets, were moved to make way for the Hornsby station expansion.

While the movement of pre-fabricated and wooden buildings is routine, the technology required to relocate solid masonry buildings had not been used previously in Australia.

Mammoth Movers, the company given the task, spent several months preparing for the job.

Using special hydraulic jacks, trolleys and excavation equipment, workers lifted the building and moved it 150m to its new site.

The signal box is on State Rail's heritage and conservation register. Local historian Hedley Somerville said old photos showed it was once on a station platform.

In 1928 it was moved to its former site, until Monday's relocation.

In the 1950s, then cadet engineer Noel Reed did maintenance work on the old signal box. He hoped it would now be turned into a museum of railway signalling.

"All the signalling equipment inside it is still there and there's a lot of other things that could be displayed," he said.



An Australian first . . . the relocation of the historic Hornsby signal box.

Pictures: JOHN APPELYARD



Glittering night

THE anxious wait is almost over for this year's 2007 truelocal Business Awards finalists. The winners will be announced at a glittering presentation evening on Tuesday, September 25 at Asquith Leagues Club. Don't miss this night of nights. Tickets can be booked by visiting www.truelocalbusinessawards.com.au

Victory is sweet

HORNSBY Ku-ring-gai Community College cake decorating tutor Judi Wade placed first and second at the NSW Cake Decorators Guild's sugar moulding competition recently. Former College students Sandra Bryson and Glenda Borg were awarded first and second prize respectively in the novice section.

Open gardens

SIX beautiful local gardens will be opened to the public this Saturday and Sunday as part of ABC Radio's Australia's Open Garden Scheme. Elouera, at 38 Elouera Rd Westleigh, Chorizanna at 47 Eucalyptus, Dr Westleigh, Howes Garden at 41 Gum Blossom Drive Westleigh, Amber's Patch at 9/10 Playfair Rd, Mt Colah, Kristy's Garden at 26 Kur-ring-gai Chase Rd Mt Colah and Weeamera at 30 Wattle St, Killara will be open both days from 10am to 4.30pm. There is a small entry fee.

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NRMA HORNSBY
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