

**CASTLEDARE
MINIATURE RAILWAYS**

W.A. (INC)
www.castledare.com.au

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Castledare Miniature Railway
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All information on this page ratified by Management Committee on 12th March 2010

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Cover page: CMR Christmas party at the Riverton Hotel

Photographer: P. Stuart

President's Report

I never find it easy to write for each month's magazine but this time was harder than usual. It's not because of all the Xmas festivities and New Year because as most of you know I do my very best to either ignore or avoid what is now mostly commercial hype and nonsense. I guess just being on holiday for 10 days kills my brain cells ☺

I was however one of the thirty members and family who attended our Xmas function at the Riverton Hotel. This was a night where those that went enjoyed each other's company, but I for one and I think others would agree, did not enjoy the meal. Well maybe the word meal is an oxymoron as I can say with complete honesty that it was by far the worst meal I have ever paid money for in my life. This was a shame because Tania had gone to a lot of effort to find a suitable venue and organise the night, but she was totally let down by both the meal and also I think the basic indifference from the hotel management.

As we all know with a railway that has been around nearly fifty years its infrastructure is in need of continual repair and maintenance. As you know a lot of time, effort and money have been spent on the track over the past ten years and it gives very little trouble, if any, on our run days. There is of course the section damaged by fire last year that is still to be replaced at Fern Road, but the rest of it with ongoing care is no longer the headache it once was. What we do have to look at is our bridges. These were mostly built from second hand girders or Bailey bridge and other materials and are at the present time completely sound. The one that involves the most work is the footbridge, with the handrails and decking needing to be maintained, especially on the day before our first run day. As you know we have obtained the old Westrail footbridge, but this will need a lot of work to be able to use it and also a large amount of money spent on new handrails and decking. There will also be a need for some commercial work such as welding and footings to be poured and also crantage. The proposal is to build the new bridge next to the existing one and including ramps it will cost a considerable amount of money and it is proposed that this project be carried out in two stages.

The first stage will be the new bridge span with ramp from the oval and then steps into the picnic ground where the existing ramp is. The second stage will be to install a new ramp into the picnic ground. This may seem extra work but we do have steps that can be used at minimal cost and it will also allow us to spread out the cost. We can do without a ramp in the short term as we have alternative wheel chair and pram excess already. It will also be useful to have the steps when the project is finished.

There is also the proposed extension to the carriage shed, although this is not such a high priority, but some of the groundwork will be done at the same time to make use of equipment and commercial labour when the bridge work is done. Another thing that has to be dealt with is the power from under the existing bridge to the canteen and toilet block. This may well be put underground, but this project is still in the planning stages. Along with the new bridge there will also need to be a complete upgrade of the picnic grounds. Fill will have to be brought in to both replace non-fertile sand and also to cover tree roots and bring it up to a more level site after the earth works of the bridge are in place. If this all seems like an enormous amount of work then the answer is, yes it is. But back in 1963 when the first straight 100 meters of track was laid for the first public run, who would have thought that what we have today could ever have been achieved. The reality is that members will need to both support this task with both time and effort and it will be no good just hoping that the same members will do it all for you. The first work day of 2011 was Saturday 8th and only ten members turned up, 5 of who were committee members. The work done on this day was to lift out the points before the station and dig out the formation and then lay and compact new ballast and reinstall the points. Now I know there are members who are no longer able to do heavy work and also there are members who work and have other commitments, but there are many jobs that can and also need to be done, such as gardening, grass whipper snipping, loco and wagon cleaning and minor repairs. I've said all this before like all the presidents before me, but at the end of the day it really is a little unfair to expect the same people month after month to do all the work. More members need to get more involved more regularly and if you are unable to attend the Saturday workdays there is always the third Friday night in the workshop with a meal provided. I should remind all members that the AGM is in March and there needs to be a greater effort shown before then.

As I write this we are all aware of the terrible floods in Queensland and its devastating effects that will slowly unfold. We not only are thinking of Queenslanders in general, but also special thoughts go to those kindred members who we hope have not suffered personal loss, but may have suffered loss and damage to both their homes, hobby and facilities. Australia really is a land of drought and flooding rains, and will always be so.

Roger Matthews

President, Castledare Miniature Railway



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Notes from the last Committee Meeting – these are only a brief summary of some of the items discussed.

- Rule book revision – ongoing project
- Ongoing planning re increase carriage shed size – drawings now submitted to SRT and to the City of Canning for preliminary approvals – waiting on engineering approvals
- Ballast bin to undergo much-needed refurbishment to ensure continued use. Ballast not to be left stored in it but rather use the ballast bin to simply fill ballast wagons as required.
- Discussion re replacement and / or refurbishment of wooden footbridge and also extension of the picnic grounds – financial support for the project to be sourced
- Track from the top of the drain at Fern Rd down to the dual bridge has been removed after FESA drove over it during a recent major fire in the area. The track damage is quite considerable and will necessitate a major project to reinstate it to operational condition.
- 2011 calendars are now available in the club room – please feel free to take some for distribution around your local area
- Dependable has been taken off the roster for a complete service
- 3 gondolas which are currently stored in workshop are to be rebuilt
- Expression of interest form received from AMRA for the 2011 Model Train Show. If you have an interest in public relations and would like to take on the responsibility of organizing a display for Castledare during this show – please contact Ken so that appropriate arrangements can be made
- Work continuing on upgrade to maroon set
- Contact to be made with SRT re concerns with the river embankment

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Public Run Days

Sunday	6 th February – Niana Station
Sunday	20 th February – Wilson Station
Sunday	6 th March – Niana Station
Sunday	20 th March – Wilson Station

Workdays / nights – all members welcome to participate

Wednesday	19 th January – workday
Wednesday	2 nd February – workday
Wednesday	9 th February – workday
Saturday	12 th February - track workday
Wednesday	16 th February – workday
Friday	18 th February – work night
Wednesday	23 rd February – workday
Wednesday	2 nd March – workday

Times for the workdays are as follows:	Wednesday	9am – 3pm - byo lunch
	Saturday	9am – 3pm – byo lunch
	Friday	4pm – 9pm – evening meal provided

Times for workdays are generally flexible – feel free to come when you can and go when you must

General Dates for inclusion in your Diary –

Saturday 5th February – Preparation of the railway + General Meeting at 11.30am
Friday 11th February – Committee meeting at 5.30pm
Sunday 13th February – Members day – BYO lunch and enjoy the company of fellow members
Saturday 5th March – Preparation of the railway + General Meeting at 11.30am
Friday 11th March – Committee meeting at 5.30pm
Sunday 13th March – Members day – BYO lunch and enjoy the company of fellow members

EXPRESSION OF THANKS:

As usual, November & December were quite busy months – not only for the railway operations but also for our members and their families. I would like to take this opportunity to say ‘Thank you’ to all those members who took time from their busy lives to support the railway by turning up and offering assistance with all the private bookings held over the past couple of months. With your valuable support we are able to keep our railway in the public eye and increase public awareness of the facilities we have to offer.

Thank you,
Ken

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

As you are all aware, membership renewals are now due. To continue your membership with Castledare Miniature Railway, your fees should be paid on or before 31st January 2011. If there is some difficulty in meeting this deadline, please speak to Ken, Tania or Roger to make alternative arrangements. To those who have already paid, thank you for your promptness.

This year will see the introduction of a new and, hopefully, improved qualification card for members whereby there will be one card issued to cover all qualification details. To enable the transition from the old cards to the new, I will be available at the railway on Sunday 6th February from about 10am to issue the new cards. Members who currently have qualification cards need to bring these in and from those cards, a new one will be issued. If you have paid your current fees, you will also be given your 2011 membership card, receipt for monies paid, along with a plastic wallet to keep the cards safe from any damage. Members will be able to retain their existing cards, however the new card will supersede the old cards.

You may need to leave the cards with me for an hour or so while I work my way through them so I ask that you be patient.



Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation,

Sue Belcher

Saturday afternoon at Castledare



A reminder of the work ahead at Fern Road!

Castledare Gallery

CMR Christmas Party – Riverton Hotel - 11/12/2010
(Photographer – P. Stuart)





Wilson Stats 2005 to 2010

Wilson Run Day Stats - Pax												
2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		
15/01/05	65	15/01/06	214	21/01/07	136	20/01/08	333	18/01/09	412	17/01/10	145	
19/02/05	157	19/02/06	101	18/02/07	244	17/02/08	260	15/02/09	367	21/02/10	623	
19/03/05	169	19/03/06	130	18/03/07	287	16/03/08	290	15/03/09	664	21/03/10	546	
16/04/05	128	16/04/06	229	15/04/07	?	20/04/08	441	19/04/09	696	18/04/10	732	
21/05/05	69	21/05/06	217	20/05/07	157	18/05/08	420	17/05/09	614	16/05/10	446	
18/06/05	112	18/06/06	286	17/06/07	433	15/06/08	0	21/06/09	357	20/06/10	737	
16/07/05	?	16/07/06	454	15/07/07	547	20/07/08	523	19/07/09	285	E 18/07/10	623	
20/08/05	?	20/08/06	224	19/08/07	287	17/08/08	500	E 16/08/09	230	E 15/08/10	720	
17/09/05	12	17/09/06	420	16/09/07	402	21/09/08	212	20/09/09	342	19/09/10	833	
15/10/05	223	15/10/06	437	21/10/07	490	19/10/08	669	18/10/09	574	17/10/10	670	
19/11/05	107	19/11/06	92	18/11/07	397	16/11/08	602	15/11/09	703	21/11/10	385	
18/12/05	70	17/12/06	51	16/12/07	137	21/12/08	230	E 20/12/09	330	19/12/10	482	
Sub Total	1112	2855	3517	4480	5574	6942						
Special Wilson Run Days												
June	?	5/06/06	757	4/06/07	894	2/06/08	673	1/06/09	941	7/06/10	592	
11/12/05	44	9/12/06	131	24/11/07	?			29/11/09	265			
17/12/05	147	10/12/06	275									
		10/12/06	94									
TOTAL	1303	4112	4411	5153	6780	7534						
							Estimated	E				

Niana Stats 2010

Total Trains - 681
Total Passengers - 13202

Combined Wilson and Niana Grand Totals:

Trains - 1152
Passengers - 20736

Count towards the 2 million target:

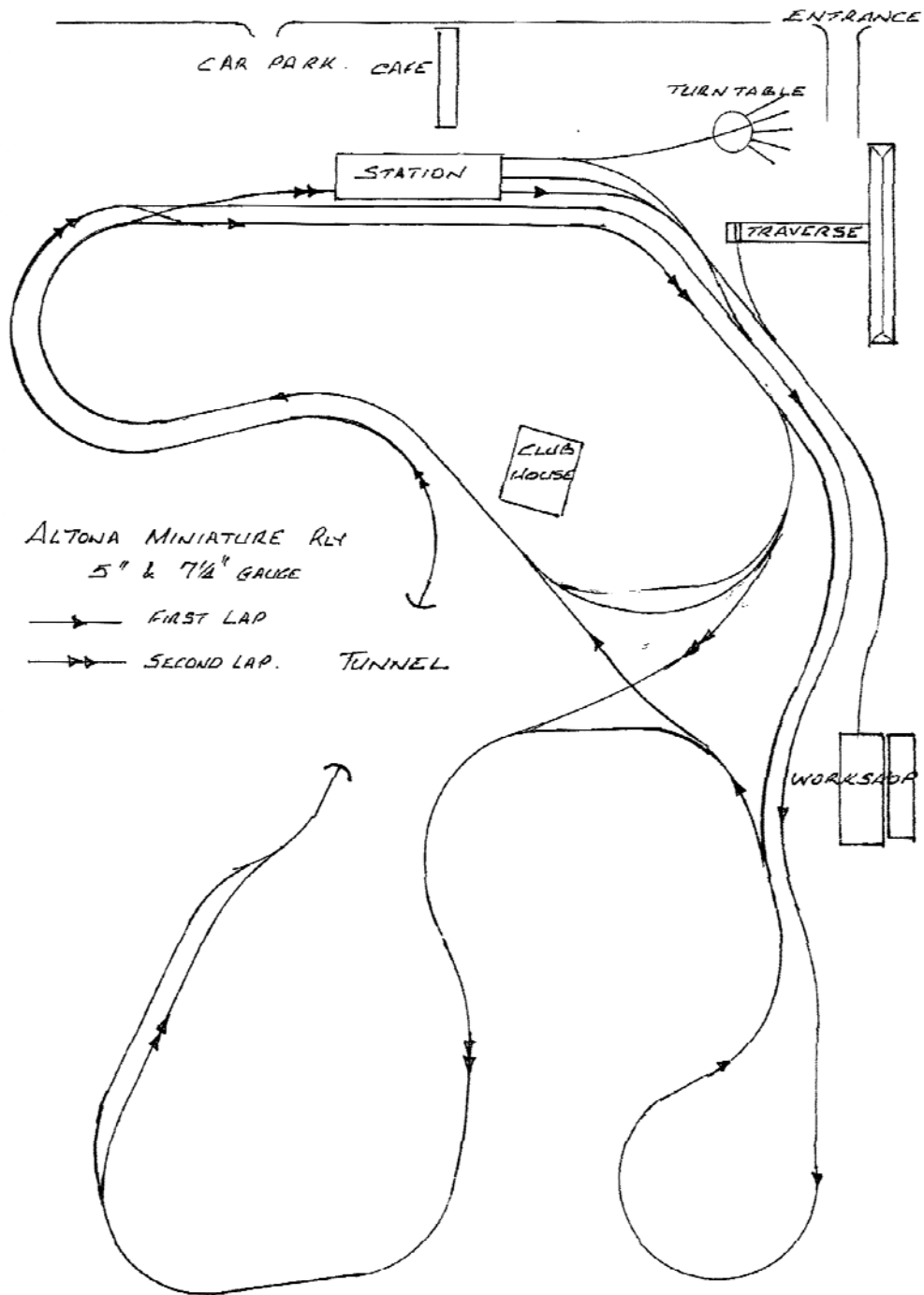
Passengers - 146,513

Altona Miniature Railway - Melbourne

On the 21st November 2010 I was able to visit the Altona Miniature Railway 15km South West of Melbourne.

They have a delightful railway catering for 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 5" gauge railway enthusiasts and operate on the third Sunday of each month.

The track layout is about 2km in length and the diagram shows the path as the train passes around the track. The railway is set along side the 5'-3" gauge main line and often trains are passing this neat railway.



The club has a great clubhouse used for meetings and special events. There is a big workshop where track and turnouts were under construction during my visit and work nights are a regular event. They also have a small café and the railway is well patronised by the local families.



"La Quinta", 7¼" 2-6-0, I helped build in Perth many years ago.



N.S.W. C38 class Pacific in a new bright colour.



Union Pacific BO-BO Diesel loco, very powerful & easy to control by joystick.



"Ella" Honda powered petrol loco, a great little workhorse.



GM 7 1/4" Co-Co Diesel built in the USA & shipped here.



Traverser in action makes for easy loading & unloading.

Pictures and text supplied by:
Keith Watson

Notice Board

For Sale

71/4 Black 5 chassis, complete and working on air. Tender almost complete. Copper boiler, silver soldered by Bob Brown and pressure tested certified.

Reason for sale, failing strength and health! Buyer collects.

Can be inspected at:

4, Glenelg Way, Mandurah.

Telephone: 9582 0334. Cliff Pole

Price: \$25,000.00

For Sale – CMR DVD and CMR logo sew-on patches

Don Bowyer was commissioned to put together a CMR DVD depicting our history as well as some current footage. He has done an extremely professional job and the first batch of DVDs sold out quickly. A second batch is now on sale and can be purchased from the Canteen at \$5 each.

CMR logo sew-on patches are also available from the Canteen at \$5 each.

Private Parties

Please note that Private parties, held on Public run days, MUST operate from the designated station of the day.

Security

Members are reminded not to leave valuables on display in parked cars. Vehicles parked on the top car park have been broken into.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Please do not forget to advise the editor if you change your email address, or home address. This will ensure that you always receive your Cinders and Soot notification, or 'snail mail' copy. Thank you.

If you wish to contribute an article to Cinders and Soot, please note that the closing date is the 15th of each month. Please send your contributions to Trish Stuart at the email address on the page 2.
