

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 17th April 2009

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No personal letters will be printed without committee approval

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Photographer: Photo supplied by Ken Belcher

President's Report

I'm sure a lot of you will have seen the July–August AME and the excellent photos of our convention back at Easter, but what took my attention was the Comment article, *Give them a go! (We've been here before)* by the editor David Proctor. He talks about a few things regarding younger members and their participation and one thing in particular is the way in which we do not allow 16 and 17 year olds to drive our trains on run days. This is odd to me, especially when 17 year olds, who are old enough to drive a car or motor bike to the track, but then are deemed not to be responsible enough to drive our trains. As David says it is in our code of practice that they must be 18, but as he also says, this is what was asked for when the code was drawn up. David also says, and I agree with him, if we change our code to allow 16 and 17 year olds to drive, our insurance provider would probably go along with it. The problem I believe we have always had is if you can't give 16 year olds responsibility, along with some fun and enjoyment, then you will loose them to some other form of hobby or entertainment. We can't expect to sit on our bums in a loco having fun and then ask the youngsters to be navvies for us worn out oldies.

Also in the July-August AME was an article *An Incredible Modeler*. Now I know this was small models but the craftsmanship and volume is amazing and if you would like to see what this man has made go to <http://modelengines.info>.

CMR applied for, and has been granted, the 2013 ALLS Convention which is also our Club's 50th year. There has also been a survey sent out to all clubs requesting their views on any changes to the format and running of conventions. If members are interested and would like some input into this survey, please contact the secretary or any committee member.

The toilet block has had the false roof bar work installed and Mike Crean, along with help from Eno and Rod, will be installing better security. If any more members would like to get involved with this I'm sure, as always, you will be made most welcome. Some members have made comment that we no longer seem to have work days on Saturday mornings with only the Saturday of the first run being mentioned in the calendar. I would like to say this is most certainly not the case with the second Saturday being our track work day. I along with other members who work during the week are there most Saturday Mornings. If you have the time to help, but want to make sure there will be others there, just give me a call on 0407381527.

As members will be aware the last two Niana run days were very busy for at least the first 2 hours and we trialed having someone to punch the tickets as passengers came down the slope before boarding the trains. This seemed to work well and speed things up. The problem we still have is the congestion at the ticket box and passengers queuing for trains. To help improve this situation we intend to build a race which leads passengers with tickets away from the ticket box, and also provide a better signposted and designated queue for people to buy their tickets.

Another problem which we had last run day was when 3 steam locos, all at the same time, went out of traffic for various reasons. As well as holding things up while they left the station area, part of the delay, which was pointed out by John Smith who was punching the tickets all day, was that we did not have a standby loco ready to go. In fact we could have had a complete train ready to go. John also said that lack of information conveyed to the waiting public did not help. To this end we intend to improve the PA system with some extra speakers pointing in the direction of the waiting public. I would also ask Drivers, if they do have problems and have to come out of traffic, that they inform the Station Master as soon as possible so that we can keep the public better informed.

The editor, who as you know was also the July AME Cover Girl, will once again be absent for August, so this month's Cinders and Soot will combine both July and August. This will spare you my monthly diatribe in August, so I would like to mention now that the club's birthday celebration is on the first weekend in October along with our Run day. This will be along the lines of last year's weekend and I hope once again members and also visitors will take part in the celebration. As well as Trish being away she is once again taking Richard on holiday with her, well they are married☺. Also from the end of the month our very hard working Secretary is being taken to the UK by Sue, and they will I think be away for 6 weeks. I'm sure Craig knows exactly how long they'll be away ☺. I'm sure we all wish them a safe and wonderful time.

Roger Matthews
President, Castledare Miniature Railway



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Following are some of the items that have been discussed at Committee meetings and they are listed here in an endeavour to keep members informed of the current goings on. If any members have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact a Committee member. Contact details for all members of the committee are published elsewhere in the magazine.

From the Committee meetings held:

- ⇒ Private party bookings have started to come in already for 2009 – some bookings confirmed and quite a few general enquiries are being made
- ⇒ Request has been sent to AALS for CMR to host the 2013 convention
 - (Notification has been received advising that this request has been approved)
- ⇒ New 9000L water tank to be purchased and installed.
 - (By the time you read this it will be installed and filled)
- ⇒ Cloth patches for sale in the canteen
 - (On sale now \$5.00ea)
- ⇒ Station Staff to wear orange safety vests on run days. Duty officer to wear the yellow vest
 - (This, along with punching tickets before boarding kept the trains moving better)
- ⇒ As the result of a break in, it was agreed to further enclose and endeavour to secure the canteen storage area. This job was contracted out and should be completed by the time you read this
- ⇒ Vandalism is an ongoing problem – all members need to be vigilant when at the grounds to ensure they check all doors, etc. are closed securely prior to locking up
- ⇒ Member's Christmas party to be held at the club on Sunday 12/12/09 - more later - keep this date clear
- ⇒ Plans are being drawn up to increase the width of the carriage shed
- ⇒ More "T" rail to be built to replace existing track along the river
- ⇒ Saturday 3rd October CMR Birthday run with a BBQ tea followed by a late run if members wish and the weather is favorable



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Public Run Days

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Sunday | 2 nd August – Public run day - Niana Station |
| Sunday | 16 th August - Public run day - Wilson station |
| Sunday | 6 th September – Public run day - Niana Station – Father's Day – usually busy |
| Sunday | 20 th September – Public run day – Wilson Station |
| Sunday | 4 th October - Public run day – Niana Station |
| Sunday | 18 th October - Public run day – Wilson Station |

Work days / nights – all members welcome to participate

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Wednesday | 15 th July - work day |
| Friday | 17 th July - work night |
| Wednesday | 22 nd July - work day |
| Wednesday | 29 th July - work day |
| Saturday | 1 st August - work day |
| Wednesday | 5 th August - work day |
| Saturday | 8 th August - work day/track work |
| Wednesday | 12 August - work day |
| Wednesday | 19 th August - work day |
| Friday | 15 th August - work night |

Wednesday 26th August - work day
 Wednesday 2nd September - work day
 Saturday 5th September - work day
 Wednesday 9th September - work day
 Saturday 12th September – work day/track work
 Wednesday 16th September - work day
 Friday 18th September - work night
 Wednesday 23rd September - work day
 Wednesday 30th September - work day

General Dates for inclusion in your Diary

Saturday 1st August - Prepare railway for run day and General Meeting at 10am
 Sunday 9th August – Member’s fun day come and join in just sit, relax, catch up with fellow members for a chat, or play trains (no work) - **BYO picnic or barbecue lunch**

 Saturday 5th September – Prepare railway for run and General Meeting at 10am
 Sunday 13th September – Members fun day come and join in just sit, relax, catch up with fellow members for a chat, or play trains (no work) - **BYO picnic or barbecue lunch**

 Saturday 3rd October – Prepare railway for run day and General Meeting at 10am + CMR Birthday celebrations
 Sunday 11th October – Members fun day come and join in just sit, relax, catch up with fellow members for a chat, or play trains (no work) - **BYO picnic or barbecue lunch**

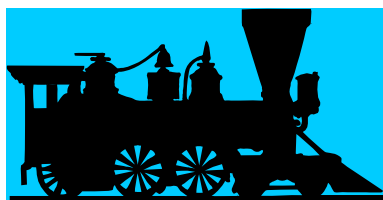
Additional Dates to be remembered

Assistance required for the dates below:

Sunday 26th July - private booking for approx 60 people 10am – 1 pm
 Sunday 15th November – Conductive Education – approx 300 people from 10am (as this is also the Wilson run day we will require all hands on deck!)
 Sunday 29th November – Bunning’s Social Club – approx 100 people
 Saturday 5th December – Caribbean Club – approx 100 people
 Sunday 13th December – Panoramic Resources – approx 100 people – Canteen service required

Obituary

It is with regret that we learned of the passing of Len Della on the 25th May. Len was a past president and a life member of Castledare.



Castledare Gallery



Intrepid passengers – A wet July Wilson run day
(*Photographer: P Stuart*)



Empty train returning from Wilson, via the green wetlands, at the end of the day
(*Photographer: P Stuart*)

Notice Board

For Sale - DVDs, Videos and books from a deceased estate

In my capacity as Secretary of CMR, I was contacted by a lady requesting assistance with the disposal of some of her late husband's railway items as she is returning to Scotland to live. These include DVD's, videos and hard cover books. All items are in fairly good condition. The proceeds of the sale of these items are to be forwarded to the Leukaemia Foundation in WA.

The list of items for sale has been placed on the notice board at the Club. Members interested in purchasing any of the items on the list should contact Ken.

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 has sold out. Another order has been placed and when received you will be able to purchase them from the Canteen at \$5 each.

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

Positions Vacant – Ladies or Gents

The Canteen requires volunteers to help out with the serving of refreshments on the first Sunday run days. No previous experience required, only a few hours a month, good vantage pint to watch the trains pass, great job satisfaction – no remuneration! If you are able to assist, please contact Fran Jones.

Wanted:

Are you building a loco?

Have you been on an interesting train trip?

Do you have any train stories to tell?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above questions, then please share your experiences with your fellow club members. We are looking for articles from our members to include in this magazine. Let's make it interesting to read, and if you can provide photos too, that will make it all the more fun. Please email all contributions to Trish at the address on the second page of this edition.

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 recently.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

This month's combined edition for July and August is only a temporary arrangement. Monthly issues will continue from September onwards.

Please do not forget to advise us if you change your email address. This will ensure that you always receive your Cinders and Soot notification. Thanks.

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.