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CASTLEDARE  
MINIATURE RAILWAYS

W.A. (INC)  
[www.castledare.com.au](http://www.castledare.com.au)

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NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2009

**Castledare Miniature Railway**  
**P.O Box 337**  
**Bentley, WA 6982**

**Patron:** Dr. M. Lekias

**Contact listing for CMR Management Committee members.**

All information on this page ratified by Management Committee on 17th April 2009

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Diesel Locomotives - Roger Matthews, Craig Belcher  
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No personal letters will be printed without committee approval

**First Aid Officers:** Fran Jones, Keith Watson, Tania Watson, John Ahern

**The Castledare Miniature Railway is sponsored by:**

Coal Supplies: The steam locomotives at the Castledare Miniature Railway operate with coal supplied by Premier Coal.

**Cover page:** Forrest Park Tram at Bunbury Sandgroper's Weekend.

**Photographer:** P Stuart

## President's Report

Once again with summer approaching there seems to be something happening every weekend until Christmas. A close look at the calendar will show just what exactly is on and when. If any member is able to give just a little bit more time, especially on the special run days, it would be very much appreciated. One of the reasons, apart from giving people enjoyment, for hiring out the railway for special functions is the extra income that the club benefits from. As you know there are only two ways we can maintain the railway and its infrastructure, and that is by doing the jobs ourselves or paying someone else to do it for us. The former only requires our own free labor and we pay for materials from club funds. The latter means we have to pay for both labor and whatever materials are needed to carry out the project, which as I'm sure you would be aware can be a very costly exercise.

Recently our resident engineer, Richard Stuart, completed the annual rolling stock and infrastructure inspections. Fortunately, firstly regarding the rolling stock, there were just some minor problems that were quickly fixed before the October Niana run day. Our bridges, although structurally sound, do have some possible safety issues. Firstly, the checker plate decking on the dual Bridge has some corrosion that could have allowed a foot to fall through. This has now been temporarily fixed. The bridge is itself structurally sound, but is in need of some work, mainly on the decking between the two railway tracks. It is proposed to remove any unnecessary corroded metal that was used to retain ballast, replace the corroded track locating angle iron and the corroded checker plate with an open mesh of some kind, which will still allow foot traffic. Also, de-scale rust and repaint, and raise the side rail top supports to give a safe passage under them. At this stage the urgent work has been done and we are waiting costing for the other work.

The other urgent work is to replace the handrails of the footbridge. This, as most of you will know, has been on a care and maintenance regime for some time as it is the intention to replace the whole structure with the ex Phillimore Street Westrail bridge, once we have it on site and design and approvals have been obtained. This will still be at least twelve months off, so in the meantime, John Watson and the Wednesday crew will replace the handrails with new timber and where needed, new supports. As members will see this is a fair amount of work which needs to be done on top of the normal ongoing work around the railway, so once again if any member can lend a hand, even if it's just an extra half day a month, it would be greatly appreciated. I should point out that it is always best to contact a committee member first so you know what is happening and where. It can be rather frustrating to just show up and find out no one is actually there that day.

Another problem is that the tanks on the fire train need replacing as one tank has a hole in it, so it is hoped that the tanks can be replaced with three tanks, hopefully donated by Rheem Australia. Of course it is not just a question of obtaining new tanks, but there is the job of fitting them and plumbing them up. The fire train is one of our most important pieces of railway equipment, which has been used many times over the years in the prevention of a major burn.

Betsy, unfortunately, let herself down on the October Wilson run when the fan pulley fell apart, but after 45 years one should not complain. It has since been replaced and apart from a battery cable problem, ran very well last Sunday.

Talking of last Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> was our monthly Wilson run and also this year, due to circumstances beyond the club's control, it was also once again the Conductive Education Run from Niana. Of course even with good organisation and rostering this was always going to be a very busy day due to the fact we can never be sure how many passengers there will be.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on how you look at it, the Conductive run was well advertised in some local papers, but not all the details were there, so I'm told, or people misread them. This led to some confusion as to just what was happening and where. We had the usual three long trains running from Wilson with, at one stage, a fourth train put into service, and I'm told it was the busiest day ever at Wilson. We had two trains running from Niana, but with at least double the number of people expected, everyone was really under the pump. As is generally the case we overcame any problems on the day and once the Wilson trains had finished they were put into service at Niana. I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who made just that extra effort on the day. It was very long and tiring, but the rewards were the pleasure that we gave to the children who live with disabilities on a daily basis

Since the November Niana run, the yellow set have been generously repainted by the Thornlie TAFE apprentices and we have Ken Belcher to thank for organising this, and I must say they look very good. We, as members, do need to at times take more care with the rolling stock when using it. A clean and smart railway promotes a safe railway.

It was very good to see and read Mike's report on his visit to the Toodyay Miniature Railway. Such reports make for an interesting magazine and I'm sure a change from my random words ☺

As I said at the start, this is a busy time, but I hope members will find time to get together for the club's Xmas party at the railway on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Full details I'm sure are elsewhere in the magazine.

As this magazine is a combined November-December issue, I would like to thank members for their efforts and hard work over the past twelve months.

I would also like to wish members, families and friends, wherever and whoever you are, a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Roger Matthews  
President, Castledare Miniature Railway

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**Photos from the Bunbury Sandgroper's Weekend**  
*(Photographer: P. Stuart)*

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**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 recent Committee meeting held:

- 2010 calendars are in the canteen. Please collect yours when next at the railway
- Private donation of coal received on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November
- The yellow set of passenger wagons has been repainted with the ongoing offer to continue in 2010 with refurbishment of the rest of the wagons – the club sincerely thanks Swan TAFE pre apprentice program for this assistance
- A new bench grinder has been set up on the work bench in the caged area and is to be used for sharpening tools only
- New water tanks are being obtained as a replacement for the fire train
- Bricks have been sourced for the carriage shed extension
- Hand rails on the footbridge are to be replaced and made safe



**DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

**Public Run Days**

- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Niana Station
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Wilson Station
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January — Niana Station
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January - Wilson Station

**Work days / nights – all members welcome to participate**

- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November – workday
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - workday
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December – workday
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – workday
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December – track workday
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – workday
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December—work night

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

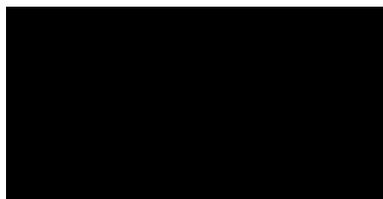
**General Dates for inclusion in your Diary**

Saturday - 5<sup>th</sup> December - General meeting at 10.00am followed by a general cleanup around the station  
Saturday - 2<sup>nd</sup> January - General meeting at 10.00am followed by a general cleanup around the station

**Additional Dates to be remembered**

Assistance required for the dates below:

- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Bunning’s Social Club – approx 100 people – 10am – 1pm Niana Station
- 29<sup>th</sup> November – Willetton Playgroup – approx. 100 people – 1pm – 4pm Wilson Station  
as at 12 October
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Caribbean Club – approx 100 people – 2 – 6pm – Niana Station
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December – CMR Member’s Christmas Function – separate notice in the mail soon
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Panoramic Resources – approx 100 people – 12 – 4pm – Niana Station **Canteen service required**



Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November was an extremely busy day for Castledare Miniature Railway with two runs being operated simultaneously. To all those members who turned up to help in any way, may I sincerely thank you. It was busy as a result of it being our normal monthly run day from Wilson and also the booking for Conductive Education, who hold their annual fund raising event at the railway and this year over 600 people attended this run day. With 6 trains operating through, or out of, Niana the operational staff at both stations were, to say the least, kept on their toes. Well done to all involved.

Ken

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**Congratulations**

During 2009, the following people have passed Safe Working / Guard examinations:

**Safe Working**

- Adrian Pope
- Rod Bradley
- Glenn Bell
- John Wilson
- John Ahern

**Guard**

- Geoff Fairclough
- Rod Bradley
- John Wilson

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## **Wilson & Conductive Education Run**

As the DO for the Wilson run day on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, I would like to echo Roger and Ken's thanks to everyone who worked so hard that day. Wilson and Niana Controls (Mike and Craig) did a fantastic job under challenging circumstances. It was also good to see two of our juniors, Alex and Jamie, lending a hand.

Trish Stuart

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## **Notice Board**

### **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.

### **Wanted:**

Don't forget to share your stories with your fellow club members. We are looking for articles 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 on occasions.

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS**

As this edition covers November and December, Fran and Trish would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas.

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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send your contributions to Trish Stuart at the email address on the page 2.

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