



CINDERS & SOOT



CASTLEDARE
MINIATURE RAILWAYS
W.A. (INC)

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Castledare Miniature Railway
P.O Box 337
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Patron: His Worship The Mayor City of Canning: Dr. M. Lekias

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All information on this page ratified by Management Committee 1st April 2006

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No personal letters will be printed without committee approval

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The big news this month is the rapid progress of the Wilson Park Station project. The platform canopy and the ticket office have both been constructed, and the lavish size of the new station is becoming apparent. One of our members compared it to the Taj Mahal, and while there may be some element of exaggeration here, Wilson Park Station is truly monumental compared to the cramped facilities at Niana. Once the structure and platforms have been completed by Swan TAFE and Canning City Council, it will be up to us to get in there and install the extra platform road in time for a planned official opening in May. The new station will be a welcome improvement for the operating team who have worked hard to establish the Wilson Park service over the last two or three years. The rapid pace of construction is a tribute to the management skills of Canning City Council, and the hard work of Swan TAFE and its apprentices.

One of our long standing members, Rob Cairns, has recently come through a significant operation, and we wish him a speedy recovery. Rob's accomplishments include loud vocal renditions of "Oh what a beautiful morning" in the loco yard, and leading a pipe band through Niana station. On this basis, we confidently expect to hear about it when he returns hale and hearty to the club.

The public run on April 1st was another relaxed, enjoyable and drama-free day. It wasn't quite as busy as last month, but two large birthday parties kept the picnic ground full of activity. There was a welcome return to service for "Phoenix", the green 4-4-0 built by our late and highly respected member, John Millman, and driven by Roger Matthews and John's grandson Les Millman.

Work on the club steam locomotive, Denis P Moore, is proceeding well. The new circulator tube system for the boiler has been fabricated, and is now with the welder for completion. The boiler should be ready for delivery to Geoff Thompson later this month, to be re-united with the refurbished chassis.

The loco water supply for the yard has been replaced, following life expiry of the old tank, and worked well. The modified water columns in Niana Station need a bit more work on the hose system, but should be fixed up by the end of the month. Work continues on the Ferntree Bridge refurbishment, with new steel corner posts fitted in place of the cracked brick originals. Meanwhile, work is continuing to rebuild the access ramp to Gerry's Workshop. A new group has taken on the job of refurbishing the 5-inch gauge track, and it will be a major triumph to get some 5-inch gauge action up and running again after many years of virtual disuse.

Nominations for election to the Management Committee closed last Sunday, and it is good to see two new candidates putting their names forward to serve the club. Our railway is a significant sized enterprise, and we always need public-spirited members to join in and help with the hard work of managing the organisation.

Finally, quite a number of Castledare members are heading over to Adelaide for the AALS Convention, to see how they do things over the other side of the Nullarbor.

And one last thing: congratulations to the French SNCF on setting a new world rail speed record of 574.8 km/hr with one of their new TGV trains.

Richard Stuart

President, Castledare Miniature Railway

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

The work tasks that get done in the average month are too many to mention. However, the following gives some of the progress highlights, as well as giving a look-ahead to the work coming up. If anybody else would like to join in, you will be welcome.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS	ONGOING WORK
Loco yard water system rebuilt.	Continuing clean-up of grounds.
Tree Branches cleaned up In Canning area.	Repair and upgrade boundary posts to exclude vehicles from the site.
New steel corner posts fitted to Ferntree	

Bridge handrails. Further remediation of boundary posts on site perimeter. Chain saw re-sharpened.	
	Installation of Dual Bridge automatic signalling system. Development of remote wireless automatic signalling systems.
	Complete Ferntree Bridge deck replacement.
	Development of CMR operating procedures and safety manual
Refurbishment of "Denis P Moore" chassis proceeding. New circulator tube system for "Denis P Moore" boiler fabricated and delivered to welder.	Continue refurbishment work on "Denis P Moore". Install stiffening gussets on green passenger car set articulation pivots. Overhaul "Comet Vale" diesel outline loco.
Sleepers fitted to track panels for new Wilson Park Station road.	Continue track maintenance.

CLUB ISSUES

2007 AMRA EXHIBITION

The 2007 Australian Model Railway Association (AMRA) exhibition will be held from 2nd to 4th June 2007. It is a long time ahead, but we are looking for volunteers from the club to run a Castledare exhibit. This weekend is always very busy for us, as we have two run days. The AMRA exhibition is very good publicity for us, but it stretches our resources very thin, hence the early request for volunteers.



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:

- ⇒ Upgrade of toilet block to deep sewerage connection. No further action at this stage – still waiting on response / quotes from plumbers etc. to advise details of costings
- ⇒ "Kindred Societies Day" held over to a later date – more information as it comes to hand
- ⇒ Extended run March 4th – Considered by all who participated a successful event although not as busy later in the day as some may have expected – is to become an annual event on this weekend
- ⇒ 2007 magnetic calendars – see Beth
- ⇒ Bi-Directional running is being planned.
- ⇒ Revision of the rule book almost completed
- ⇒ Convention sub committee still working towards 2009 AALS Convention at CMR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Under the Association Incorporations Act, the Club is required to hold the AGM on or before the 30th April. In accordance with this, the **AGM has been set down for Saturday 21st April at 11am.**

Nominations for all positions must be in the hands of the Secretary by 4pm Sunday 1st April. If more nominations than positions available are received, a ballot, including postal votes, will be conducted.

Nominations have now closed and as a result a ballot is required for the position of Vice President and also the General Committee. Members will receive further information and a ballot paper shortly. If you intend to use the postal vote system, please ensure you follow the instructions carefully for your vote to count. Members attending the AGM will be provided with a ballot paper on the day.

Continuing Committee Members for a further 1 year period:

President	Richard Stuart
Treasurer	David Lyons
Minute Secretary	John Watson
Committee	Trish Stuart
Committee	Eano Gruszecki

TRACKWORK:

The past couple of years has seen a vast upgrade of the 7.25" # track at Castledare with resleepering, new sections of track etc. While this area of trackwork is the main source of income for the club and will always be in need of ongoing maintenance and improvements, it is now time to seriously look at the 5" # so that members with a specific interest in that gauge can be accommodated. Commencing on Sunday 11th March, a small band of members have taken on the task of inspecting, assessing and upgrading the 5" ground level track. The plan is to have regular work days [2nd Sunday of each month] and work towards complete upgrade in time for the 2009 convention. Any member is welcome to join 'the gang' – primary qualification "ENTHUSIASM & WILLINGNESS TO WORK". For further information, contact Craig Belcher



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon 6th – 9th April – Easter – A A L S Convention, Penfield, SA
Wednesday 18th April – Private Booking - 11.00am to 2.00pm **NOW CONFIRMED** This will be preceded by the normal Wednesday work
Saturday 14th April- Special work day on Ferntree bridge
Sunday 15th April – Public run day from Wilson
Saturday 21st April – Annual General Meeting followed by **BYO BBQ lunch**
Monday 23rd April – Private Booking – 11.30am – 1pm –**CONFIRMED**
Wednesday 24th April- Work day (morning)
Wednesday 2nd May - Work morning
Saturday 5th May – Preparation of railway, general meeting
Sunday 6th May – Public run day
Wednesday 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th May- Work mornings
Saturday 2nd June- Preparation of railway, general meeting
Sunday 3rd June-Public run day
Monday 4th June Foundation Day run from Wilson Park station.
Saturday, Sunday & Monday Railway Exhibition at the Claremont Showgrounds (contact Craig Belcher for more info.)

Private bookings shown as "TO BE CONFIRMED" will be written up on the blackboard in the clubrooms as soon as confirmation is received -- please check when you attend the club and, if available and willing, offer your services

Castledare Miniature Railway is once again going to put on a display and Craig Belcher is seeking help in transport, setting up, manning, and pulling down at the end of the weekend. Please contact him if you can help in any way.