



**CASTLEDARE
MINIATURE RAILWAYS**
W.A. (INC)

OCTOBER 2007

ISSUE NO: 258

Castledare Miniature Railway

P.O Box 337

Bentley WA 6982

Patron: His Worship The Mayor City of Canning: Dr. M. Lekias

Contact listing for CMR Management Committee members.

All information on this page ratified by Management Committee 21st April 2007

President –

Richard Stuart – Ph: 9298 9553

E-mail: richard.stuart@bigpond.com

Vice President –

Victor Jones—PH: 9527 5875

E-mail: jonses12@optusnet.com.au

Secretary –

Ken Belcher - Ph: 9375.1223, Fax: 9375.2340

E-Mail: cmr1963@tpg.com.au

Minute Secretary – John Watson. –9458-9047

Treasurer – David Lyons –home –95930856, Mob –0410501851.

Membership + Licenses: Fran Jones

Committee –

Beth Kelly: Ph: 9495.4959

Craig Belcher: Ph: 9375-1223. E-mail: craig.belcher@tpg.com.au

Trish Stuart: Ph: 9298.9553 E-mail: richard.stuart@bigpond.com

Eno Gruszecki :Mob- 0408908028

Chris Doody :home-9332-7527.

Boiler inspectors,

Richard Stuart: Ph: 9298.9553,

Keith Watson: Ph: 9354.2549,

Phill Gibbons: Ph: 9390.4390

Qualification Examiners: Steam Locomotives – Keith Watson, Roger Matthews,

Diesel Locomotives - Roger Matthews, Craig Belcher

Guards & Safe working – Keith Watson, Janette Sherman, Trish Stuart

Signals – Mike Crean and Ric Edwards

Track master: Craig Belcher.

Editor Cinders and Soot: Fran Jones - Ph: 9527.5875 {8.00am/ 8.00pm} e-mail: jonses12@optusnet.com.au

No personal letters will be printed without committee approval

First Aid Officers: Fran Jones, Keith Watson

The Castledare Miniature Railway is sponsored by:

Coal Supplies: Bennett Brook Railway, Whiteman Park

Cover page: New pic's wanted

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a busy few weeks at Castledare, with plenty of good work getting done. The work weekend on 22/23 September was particularly well supported, to the extent that the club on the Saturday resembled an anthill with so much work going on. We were rewarded on Sunday 7th October with a very busy run day, with a good variety of trains running and the grounds buzzing with activity.

The October mid-month run was also successful. The new Wilson Park Station has proved popular with passengers, and has attracted consistently higher patronage since its opening. To date, patronage from Wilson since the new station opened in June 2007 is up approximately 23% compared to last year.

Last month, club members participated in a structured risk assessment, using the risk assessment format published by the Government of Western Australia Department of Sport & Recreation ("An Introduction to Risk Management for Community Organisations"). This turned out to be a very useful and instructive process. The specific purpose of the risk assessment was to examine the operation of driver-only trains. Under the AALS Code of Practice for the Operation of Miniature Railways, Road Vehicles and Plant, it is not compulsory to carry a guard on trains of less than 3 cars. However, there had been a recent debate within the club as to whether driver-only operation is appropriate for Castledare conditions. The risk assessment was performed to resolve the issue in a structured manner, taking account of input from the experience of club members. The outcome was satisfactory in that it concluded that driver-only operation (of up to two car trains) can be performed safely in accordance with our existing operating procedures. The main action arising is to incorporate extra checks to ensure that relevant procedures are being complied with. It should be noted that some of the extra checks will benefit all trains, and not just the driver-only operations.

Compliance checks have been implemented by updating the Duty Officer's check list to confirm the following:

- Check that a working radio is carried (by all trains).
- Check that a full set of flags is carried (by all trains).

For driver-only trains, the additional specific items have been added to the Duty Officer's check list:

- Check that driver is aware of the priority to protect the train in the event of a stoppage.
- Confirm security of couplings.
- Check that driver is aware that he may have no independent witnesses in the event of an incident, and should consider making notes at the scene to record the driver's view of the events.

It should be noted that the above additional checks do not in any way diminish the responsibility of all operating personnel to comply with existing operational rules and procedures.

On the issue of coupling security, the club's standard coupling design was agreed to be secure if complete and correctly fitted. However, the potential risk of non-visible defects was also recognised, and an action was taken to investigate the feasibility of providing safety chains to all rolling stock. This was followed by a very generous offer from a club member to donate a quantity of commercially available and "field-proven" safety cable systems, of the type developed by the large "Train Mountain" 7-1/2" gauge operation in the USA. On arrival, these will be fitted to all passenger cars operating in club service (not just for driver-only trains), and will provide an additional level of security for all our operations. It is a good example of how a constructive approach has resolved not only the immediate issue, but also led to a wider benefit thanks to the common sense and good will of others within the club.

Thanks are due to Geoff Thompson, who has acquired a used milling machine and loaned it to the club. This machine is currently residing inside Gerry's workshop, where it is being refurbished by Geoff with assistance from other members.

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
<p>Earthenware toilet sewer pipes replaced (in plastic).</p> <p>Leaking taps fixed.</p> <p>Trees around Snake Gulley pruned.</p> <p>Lagoon drain cleared.</p> <p>New traverser foundation trench prepared.</p>	<p>Continuing clean-up of grounds.</p> <p>Repair and upgrade boundary posts to exclude vehicles from the site.</p>
<p>Further extension of electronic signalling systems, including new system for Wilson Park Station.</p> <p>New website now running: www.castledare.com.au</p>	<p>Installation of Dual Bridge automatic signalling system.</p> <p>Continuing development of remote wireless automatic signalling systems.</p>
<p>2007 infrastructure inspections in progress.</p>	<p>Development of CMR operating procedures and safety manual</p>
<p>2007 rolling stock inspections completed.</p> <p>Stiffening gussets installed on green passenger car set articulation pivots.</p> <p>Replacement springs ordered for green passenger car set.</p> <p>City of Canning clutch springs replaced.</p> <p>Carabao cylinder head gasket replaced.</p>	<p>Continue refurbishment work on "Denis P Moore".</p> <p>Replace springs on green passenger car set.</p> <p>Overhaul "Comet Vale" diesel outline loco.</p>
<p>Track partial replacement, turn-out installation, re-ballasting and levelling in Niana station approach from Canning.</p> <p>Re-sleepering, re-ballasting and levelling on Fern Road line.</p>	<p>Continue work on 5-inch gauge track refurbishment.</p> <p>Continue track maintenance.</p>



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. Unable to proceed at this stage as a result of costing.
- ⇒ Convention sub committee still working towards 2009 AALS Convention at CMR under the guidance of Tom Winterbourn
- ⇒ New hand rails and exit ramp at Nina station to be upgraded - any volunteers?
- ⇒ Wall on the #1 approach road at Nina station to be upgraded - any volunteers?
- ⇒ Sink holes at the rear of workshop have been excavated by the Council and are now being filled in again – this will become a future management issue as there is not much we can do to resolve the problem.
- ⇒ John Watson given approval to install a battery charging system in the loco shed
- ⇒ Christmas party to be held on Sunday 16th December more info later.
- ⇒ 2008 membership renewals in the mail soon

PUBLIC DISPLAYS ABOUT OUR RAILWAY:

Sunday 14th November saw the annual Railfest at the Australian Railway Historical Society in Bassendean. Several members gave their time to publicize our railway, many brochures were handed out, lots of information given to the 'uninitiated' about Castledare. A lot of interest was shown and hopefully this will result in an increased awareness of our organization. The next display will be held at the Canning Show on Friday / Saturday 2nd and 3rd November – if you are able to offer some time, please contact Ken at home.

NAME BADGES:

If there are any CMR members who have misplaced their name badge or new members who have yet to receive one, please contact Ken with your details. You need to advise whether you want your Christian name only or both Christian & Surname on the badge. The order for badges will be placed with the supplier at the end of November 2007.



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Sunday 28th October private booking – Atwell Playgroup - 10am-2pm - help needed
Saturday / Sunday 10th & 11th November – Sandgroper Weekend at Bunbury
Sunday 11th November - private booking 11am after 2min silence – 4pm Conductive Education - help needed
Wednesday 14th November – private booking - City of Bayswater 11.30am – 2pm
Sunday 18th November – Wilson Run day
Saturday 24th November – private booking – 10am – 2pm from Wilson Station
Sunday 25th November – private booking – 11am – 3pm from Niana
Saturday 1st December – Preparation of railway and general meeting
Sunday 2nd December – Public run day
Sunday 9th December private booking – Brian Gardiner Holden - 11am – 4pm - help needed
Sunday 16th December – Members Christmas Function – further information as it comes to hand

Reprinted below is a 'thank you' letter received from a couple who recently held their son's birthday party at Castledare. It's really great that people can take the time to write in this manner.

8 October 2007

Castledare Co written
PO Box 857
BENTLEY WA 6982

Dear Members of Castledare Committee,

On Sunday 7 October 2007, we held my son's 7th birthday party at Wilson Kent Street War Park. Although the trains were running from Castledare Place that day, Ken had kindly agreed to send two trains around to Kent Street Station for our son and party guests to have a couple of rides.

We would like to offer our greatest appreciation for making our son's birthday party an extremely enjoyable one. All of the kids (and adults) truly had a fantastic time and absolutely loved the train rides.

We would especially like to thank Ken for accommodating our request as we appreciate it is not normally something Castledare offer. Thank you also to the train driver crew for making the rides possible and a very enjoyable experience.

Once again, thank you all!

Yours sincerely

Christine and Neil Maston
