



## CASTLEDARE MINIATURE RAILWAY (INC)

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September 2017



A cool Father's Day morning – Photo by: Sarah Prindiville

**ISSUE NO: 367**

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**No personal letters will be printed without committee approval**

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<b>Signals</b>	Mike Crean	Ric Edwards		

## From the Editors Desk

I haven't been around much this month as I have spent more time in hospital than I have at home. It does get pretty boring in hospital watching movies and doing nothing all day but I am thankful to my Dr's who are doing a great job of looking after me. I am still not sure how long I am out of action for, so you may not see me in October.

It's great seeing the junior members of the club contributing with articles and photo's each month. It would be great seeing more members of the club providing articles, photo's, feedback or anything relevant to C&S.

Ladies, I haven't forgotten about us. This month I have introduced our very own "Ladies of the Railway" section. It is only small this month as I have not had a chance to head down to the club, but next month, it will be bigger and better.....I promise ☺

C&S will now come out on the last day of every month, so I can include the "whole" month in the issue and everyone and anyone will know when to expect their C&S to hit their inbox.

Finally, I must give Luke Prindiville a mention and a massive big thank you in helping me put this month's Cinders & Soot together.

Till next month,  
Heidi Prindiville



Carmel – Photo by Sarah Prindiville

## The President's – PRATTLE

It has been very quiet around the railway since the last post. Perhaps the return of winter weather has had some bearing on the drop of interest by some of our members and others that are away on holiday escaping the cold around Perth.

The member's car park at the rear of the loco shed and club rooms is there for members convenience and the club takes NO responsibility for any damages losses or other incidents to members cars or property. It is not advisable to park in the unloading area at any time as members are moving parts, components and equipment through the area and others can be loading or unloading railway equipment at the load out ramp. This makes the probability of damage to cars in this area much higher than in other areas of the car park. It should be noted that valuables should not be left around the club areas as a number of incidents of them walking off without the owner's knowledge have been noted. Fuel and any flammable material must now be stored in the large yellow secure locker just inside the Steam shed door. This does not include LPG gas bottles or no liquid fuels.

Wilson park signals and points have served us very well over the past 9 years or so. They are now showing their age and are not as reliable as one would like. I have been working through each signal and have updated the software for each, as well as a new touch screen on station control unit along with a new computer system in the ticket box. Unfortunately WP1 and WP6 have not responded well to a software upgrade. They are now being fitted out with the latest electronics to bring them back to reliable service. As other WP signals become unreliable they will be fitted out with the latest electronics to bring them up to date and reliable the same as WP1 and WP6.

As always we must encourage and congratulate our junior members on their great enthusiasm and their dedication to the club and its members. Thanks boys and girls, keep up the great work.

Until next time please visit your club and its facilities. They are there for all of us to enjoy.

Mike Crean



## From the Treasurer

At the September run day I drove Betsy pulling the Blue consist as Sumo was not running .The loco ran faultlessly until late in the day the drive chain half link broke on leaving Niana resulting in drive to only one set of wheels. I was able to park the train in the Short loop and the passengers walked the short distance back to the station to get on another train. I always enjoy driving Betsy and when one considers the late Jack Stanbridge built it back in 1964 in just six weeks, that it's still going strong is testament to Jacks abilities.

City of Canning also had a minor problem in it would not start in the station. The cause was a wire had dropped down and pulled off from the ignition switch when the brake lever had been applied. This has now been rectified .It also has had four new spark plugs fitted as one was found defective.

During the August Wilson run Dependable developed a problem with its air compressor. The belt was loose due to one of the compressor bolts falling out and the belt losing its tension. A new bolt has been fitted as well as lock nuts on all bolts. The Belt is a link belt and as there is no tensioner one link was removed and all is back as it should be.

The A team have been busy replacing the sleepers in Niana station during the wet Wednesdays over the last couple of months .They were also able to finally remove the old wire fencing between fisherman bend and Honiton cutting. New member Jayde Hall who works up north maintaining track for one of the mining companies has proved his worth when he is back in Perth. It's good when new members especially those with skills are willing to help maintain the railway.

I mentioned before that Dion has been flying around on the new mower but I must commend him on when seeing fallen branches he organised the trailer and chain saw, .cut them up and carted them off to our green waste pile. His mate Shaun who is also a new member got out the whipper snipper to sort out the edges after Dion had mown the grass. It's so good to see member's especially junior members showing such initiative.

Stork having just celebrated his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday and now that spring is with us is painting the cladding of the canteen. We all know that he sorts out the bins at the end of run days and also in the clubrooms but he got a bit cranky with the Crows and Maggies that were ripping his plastic bags that he puts in the two bins beside the river for the fisherman . To fix the problem he made up sheet metal guards that fit over the bag on the edge of the bins but allow the lids to close and there are now some very peeved Maggies and Crows!

Members would be aware that the dual bridge is in need of blast cleaning and painting. The committee have decided that this job should be done by a contractor as due to the environmental issue the bridge will need to be fully encapsulated. This will happen the week after the Niana run in February 2018. It will take about 6 days and will necessitate the closing of the bridge. There is also some work that needs to be done on the Furn road end of the bridge to prevent sand and ballast collecting around the bridge I beams. John Watson along with members of the A team will carry out this work prior to the painting.

This is a costly undertaking but a very necessary one as the bridge has to be maintained in a safe condition for both the railways use and also the general public who use it as access to the Canning Regional park wetlands. It is hopeful that 50% funding in the form of a Stronger Communities grant through the office of the federal member for Swan, Steve Irons MP will be successful.

Comet Vale is now very close to being back in service. Rod Bradley has been of great help making and fitting a new fire wall as well as fuel spillage tray over the muffler along with other bits an bobs It is now back on its bogies with the brakes that Les designed working very well.

Talking of Les I would like to thank him on the wonderful job he did taking on the editorship of Cinders and Soot eighteen months ago. He continued the high standard of the clubs magazine along with his unique style. Not only did he do that but as everyone knows he has carried out the busy and at times demanding roll of Secretary. Not to be content with that he continued the fantastic job of designing and fitting brakes to each wagon of our six car consists along with help from others. Les background in the real world of railways especially in the field of freight wagon design has improved both the reliability and safety of our rolling stock. There is an old saying. If you need a job done, give it to a busy person.



September 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Roger with Betsy entering Niana Station – Photo by Sarah Prindiville



September 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Betsy crossing Stanbridge – Photo by Sarah Prindiville

## From the Secretary

It has been decided to replace the now out-dated and somewhat unreliable security system that is piling up costs to fix. A contract has been let that will involve more security cameras and an expandable system.

Following in the footsteps of Sue B who painted the interior of the Niana ticket box, Eddie S has now fully cleaned the Wilson facility that included a full floor scrub. Stork is well into the painting required for our canteen in between the rain showers. How-ever, it is desired to point out that **all** members have a responsibility to help maintain our facilities and grounds presentable to the public. Those who just want to play and drive trains should take their turn to clean-out the Breezeway (our gum leaf trap) and pull out weeds when passing or make an effort to spend 15minutes doing so on a regular basis.

Two of the rebodied open wagons (coupled as a “pair”) have been moved from the Workshop into the carriage shed in readiness for painting. This now allows the moving of an over-hauled and slightly modified COMET VALE out for trial running in the near future. Rod B just has to make-up some better foot-rests come guards. Adrian P has started, under instruction, work on the end cars of the Mk2 Yellow Set. Terry S has virtually completed the brake train line for the Green Set. The fitting of brakes to the bogies is following along this articulated set. Vic J ran the Yellow Mk1 set leading the Green Set as a single consist on the 17th Sept and reported good stopping performance.

Our last five run-days have been quite strong in numbers riding to the point of being just marginally behind last year’s tally. It was hoped that the “special” run for the Vintage Army Vehicles planned for Sept 24th but cancelled due to the weather would have placed us ahead of last year. How-ever, there is still RETINA on the 19th of November that should swell our rider-ship to a new level.

Please keep track of the progress reports placed on the Notice Board for the AALS Convention to be held in Bunbury next Easter.

Les Smith.



Mullewa Lescen in the Bunker Garden Flower – Photo by Les Smith

**OCTOBER CALENDAR 2017**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					30	1
					General Work Day	NIANA Run Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		School Holiday Run		Committee Meeting		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		General Work Day		Nite W'shop 5.00pm	CMR Birthday	WILSON Run Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		General Work Day				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		General Work Day				
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5
		General Work Day			General Work Day	NIANA Run Day

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday DO Report

A cool Day with the threat of bad weather kept what is usually a very busy day for the railway down to an average but keen crowd. A slightly early start around ten to eleven saw Carmel, Denis P Moore, City of Canning, Betsy Dependable and G535 handle the traffic on offer. Unfortunately a few issues experienced throughout the day, with failures of both Betsy and City of Canning (both since dealt with thanks Roger) as well as some issues with power supply to Niana North for Signals, resulting in some delays with train movements.

Tania Watson spent the day doing Sigs Training in Canning Cabin under the eye of David, and barring one little indiscretion I'm led to believe did quite well, and hopefully can be passed out for the box after another couple of sessions.

A shade over 1100 passengers were handled for the 4 hours running.

Many thanks to those who were able to help out on the day, as always the co-operation and assistance of all present on the day does make the life of a Duty Officer a lot less stressful.

Craig Belcher



**Junior Junction** – this month by Ethan Giddens

So now we are back again on the next issue of Cinders and Soot bring you another update on the rebuild of a new club locomotive. But first this article is not just going to be about other projects that the juniors have been doing while at home (will be done after this.) So let's begin, on the 16<sup>th</sup> this month a few juniors plus Luke Prindiville gathered for more process on Phil in Gerry's Workshop at Castledare. The new 'junior' member Sean Elliott came along and joined us on the day. So far the body frame is apart and in the scrap bin. We found out that the Fan still works by using a 9 volt battery which we were surprised (Beside Luke Prindiville, he just had that feeling it did work.) After the rivets were drilled out Shaun had to leave. So it was just myself (Ethan Giddens), Xander Prindiville as well as Luke Prindiville working on the frame work to through away because we weren't going to use it anymore as we are going to bend metal for a new frame work design.

Xander Prindiville taking the frame apart for scrap  
Photographer: Ethan GIDDENS



Luke and Xander Prindiville taking the frame apart using a socket set and a Grinder



Shaun Elliott drilling the rivets out using a 3mm drill bit so we can use the frames doors again  
Photographer: Ethan GIDDENS

## **Juniors at Home**

Hello, my name is Ethan Giddens and I have three projects I have of my own at home, at this point in time I only have photos of one of my projects. The thing is that when my projects are finished they will not be running at Castledare Miniature Railway due to the way it is built.

I am rebuilding a 5" Push n' pull which unfortunately can only run at Northern Districts or Forest Park on their elevated tracks. The 5" Push n' pull will get a new colour beside the rusted metal strip and metal grey, I'm thinking of painting it red, green or blue (Ideas are welcome).



The second project I am doing is going to be for the convention next year at Bunbury Hosted by NDMES. I am creating from scratch two 5" flat bed wagons to be entered in the AME under 25 Encouragement award. I have all the material I need and now is starting to be put together during the School Holidays.

I am also Finishing/Rebuilding a 3 ½ Juliet that I was given to my dad by Steven Reeves. The process is going not to well, only figuring out that the chassis is not based on the Juliet No. 1 locomotive and that I'm going to need to make a new boiler that'll fit the chassis. The name has not be decided but I have a few ideas, the name of the Juliet will be 'Little Lady.'

Just recently I have safe working Exam and the Guard Exam which my Examiner, P. Stuart has given me a pass on both of those Exams which means there is a Guard on Training. On the first of October on the Niana run day I'll be doing my first trip as a trainee so if someone would like me to do some training on their train find me before the run day starts and I'll do it.

## **Sandgropers 2017**

This year's Sandgropers is being held at NDMES on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, there is now a website up and running for registrations, [www.sandgropers-ndmes.org.au](http://www.sandgropers-ndmes.org.au)

## Ladies of the Railway

The Ladies of the Railway are as important as coal in a steam engine. The ladies are involved in all aspects of the Railway, from volunteering in the Canteen, Ticket box, Station work to driving the trains. Most of the ladies have become involved in the club through family. This section will be to discuss events that we have planned to get the ladies interacting outside the run days as well to get to know the how the ladies became members of our club. So ladies, please feel free to send in a few paragraphs to our editor so that each issue we can feature you all one at a time.

Heidi and I are looking to have some "Ladies of the Railway" events. The first proposed event is a high tea to be held later in the year. We are after any suggestions that you may have, please send them through to our editor.

Damelsa Belcher



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