



## CASTLEDARE MINIATURE RAILWAY (INC)

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A different perspective – Photo by Ethan Giddens

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

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<b>Diesel Locomotives</b>	Craig Belcher	John Watson	Vic Jones	Eno Gruszecki
	Roger Matthews			
<b>Guards &amp; Safe working</b>	Trish Stuart	John Watson	Vic Jones	Eno Gruszecki
<b>Signals</b>	Mike Crean	Ric Edwards		

## **From the Editors Desk – By Heidi Prindiville**

Welcome to the August Issue of Cinders and Soot.

Just a reminder to all that the date for submissions is in the calendar below and without your input we end up with a very thin magazine.

## **The President's Prattle – By Mike Crean**

Ken will be calling for volunteers for our special private bookings. If you are available, please let him know by email so he can organise numbers for the days.

The last Wilson run day was very busy and equalled or surpassed our previous best day for patronage. There were over 1700 passengers for the day. Many thanks to all our members who took up the call for help on the day. There has been a very steady increase in patrons at Wilson Park over the past three years or so. Wilson now equals or surpasses numbers we would normally expect to have at our Niana running days. Please be mindful and if you are available please come along and join our dedicated team at Wilson and Niana. Another Wilson running day that has now surpassed all expectations is our Wednesday school holiday runs. Again, if you can help out please come along and all help is greatly appreciated.

It is great to see so many new locomotives join our fleet over the past few months. This has seen a full locomotive round house. To this end your committee have appointed Ken as project manager to investigate the possibility and implementation of round house storage expansion. Some member proposals have been submitted.

### **PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL THE DOORS ARE SHUT AND SECURE.**

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.



Balbarrup and Sheree first time double heading – Photo by Rod Bradley

## **Vice President's Report – By Luke Prindiville**

Thanks as always to all our active members that are able to get down to the club and help with the maintenance and especially on our Run Days, without the effort that you have been putting in we would not be reaching the numbers that our Secretary is going to tell you all about in his bit. Please remember that every little bit helps, on work days or run days even if you can only commit to a few hours, man the gate, punch tickets or a few laps in the guard's seat this all helps out.

Reminder Birthday run this year is on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October and will also include our normal night run more info will follow soon.

**Security** – As all key holders would be aware we have now changed over to individual codes this allows us to monitor the person that locked up and the end of the day and assist in making sure that the club and all our equipment stays secure.

Lately I have been very busy at my day job so the club project with the juniors has had to take a bit of a break but with employment of some new blood I am hopeful to get back to it with them on Saturday afternoons at the same time as our workshop afternoons. I congratulate our junior members on the fact that they are keeping active throughout the run days and on Saturdays, their enthusiasm and dedication to the club and its members shows that the club will continue to have a bright future as we all get older. Thanks boys and girls and keep up the great work you are doing.



Heidi getting her steam hours up on Sheree – Photo by Ethan Giddens

## Private Booking



The Military Vehicle group have booked the railway for a private run to conclude their rally from Blackboy Hill to Perth. The run is on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12 – 3pm. The request is for a couple of steam locos which would enhance the experience of this journey which originally took place during WW1. If you are able to assist on the day, please let me know so I am able to confirm sufficient members on hand to run the day.

There is also another Private Booking on the 30th of September from 12 noon til 3pm.

Thanks,  
Ken Belcher



Dependable and Tink out at Canning – Photo by Rob Bradley

## Secretaries Scribblings – By Les Smith

Members are reminded that they should read the next issues of AUSTRALIAN MODEL ENGINEERING that will be published before next Easter. They will contain work done by the AALS Safety Committee pertaining to braking, driving ages and electric drive locomotives. It is important to have your comments as such will be put to the vote at the next AALS Convention in 2019.

Two “red” heritage wagons are now in traffic with dual braking as a pair. Members operating trains should familiarise themselves as to how to “bleed” the brake system of condensate after steam use. It would be a good idea to also blow out the whole train brake pipe at the rear fitting on the last wagon should these wagons be operated in a larger consist as traces of condensate will still take time to clear the brake cylinders which are on a lower plane than the through brake pipe. This can be done by use of a brake pipe coupling hose. It is planned to have three pairs of dual braked wagons that can be used in the Heritage consist or behind a small locomotive. The following photograph illustrates the NEW seating fitted.



The Committee has authorised seating repairs / replacement as and where necessary. It is planned to do four more “heritage” wagons as they are over-hauled and braking installed. The GREEN SET will also have new seats as they are very heavy, quite wide (difficult to get feet into the wells) and home-grown upholstery. The Green Set is our road-runner and one can-not deny a little extra up-grading after its repaint. The long seats will all be of a standard length.

Patronage on run-days is still going strong with the blessing of good weather. The last 3rd Sunday run from WILSON was busy with 1702 “riders”. The September 2nd run-day is from NIANA and is expected to be busy and this station and train running requires a large number of members to attend. It is planned to operate the Maroon Set with the bogie wagon leading and to always arrive into Niana on track No1. As this consist will be short enough to fit in behind any other diesel hauled set and be “clear-in”, it can be unloaded and then quickly advanced to the loading area when cleared by a previous occupying train. Our signalling system caters for a “close-up” or “call-on”. Steamers will be “banned” from track No1 as a trial. We have to improved our through-put!

Roger has repaired the boiler of the 4-4-0 PHOENIX and tried his hand at painting. Initial steam trials produced some “priming” and a good soak with vinegar added and then a wash-out did the trick. Advertising also suggests that vinegar does good for our own internal workings. Most people would be unaware of the treatment used on the old Commonwealth Railway steamers due to poor water across the desert. Drivers carried castor oil and against orders would get this into the boiler to reduce “priming”. They would take a mouthful and “spit” this into the tender or use a hypodermic needle to inject the oil into the water hose from the tender. Finally, management issued drivers with a “billy can” that had a mixture of

tannin and colloidal castor oil that was mixed into a bucket of water and added to the tender or if in a hurry, sucked it out of the bucket via the injector overflow pipe. This “doping” could be gauged by the colour of the water in the level glass. This way had less risk of a driver swallowing his mouthful of castor oil and then having to stop out on the NULLABOR and find a tree, how-ever “doping” ended as the use of boiler water for a cup of tea made crews sick. Doping added surface tension to the water and is best described a like a skin on top of a milk pudding. Roger was probably raised on milk pudding.

Thanks to Roger (again!) and Rod Bradley, finishing touches to the new ticket box are basically complete and our Father’s Day run should see it being used and Eddy gets to appreciate “her” window that she demanded. Apart from the demolition of the “old” box there is now the surrounding work to complete. Any volunteers to help?????

Sadie the Cleaning Lady has struck again and the Wilson Ticket Box has been scrubbed clean, cupboards cleaned and re-arranged and the floor mat washed. All members that use this room are now requested to play their part to sweep the floor, get rid of rubbish and take due care to not spill coffee.....and clean the cups. Members are also to note that the four large boxes for storage have a specific purpose and the contents are not to be mixed. This facility belongs to the City of Canning, but more importantly, do not upset Sadie!

Whilst the Workshop has been busy on Wednesdays with Tom, Julian, Adrian, Terry, Stork, Vic, Ken, and sometimes Roger, we have completed some urgent repairs to our wagons (flanges, bearings and springing) and advanced towards completion of the brake project, there still remains weeding to be done. Bernie has been quite active in weeding, but, we require all members to contribute, so please come along, anytime and do a bit. This weeding is an important issue to placate the Swan River Trust.....you can play trains afterwards!



Curtis on C1703 – Photo by Ethan Giddens

## Duty Roster

Niana	Wilson	Duty Officer	Ticket Box	Signal Box [No. Required]		Canteen
Sunday, 2 September 2018		Les Smith	Eddie Smith	Damelsa [N] Craig/Tania [C]	[3]	Judy Bowyer & Sue Belcher
Sunday, 16 September 2018					[1]	N/A
Wednesday, 26 September 2018		Les Smith	Jeanette Lawrence		[1]	N/A
Wednesday, 3 October 2018		Les Smith	Eddie Smith		[1]	N/A
Sunday, 7 October 2018		Rod Bradley	Sue Belcher	Damelsa [N] Craig/Tania [C]	[3]	Judy Bowyer & Kathy Watson
Sunday, 21 October 2018		Trish Stuart	Tania Watson		[1]	N/A
Sunday, 4 November 2018		Craig Belcher	Sue Belcher	Damelsa [N]	[3]	Judy Bowyer & Kathy Watson
Sunday, 18 November 2018					[1]	N/A
Sunday, 2 December 2018			Sue Belcher	Damelsa [N] Craig/Tania [C]	[3]	Jeanette & Julie
Sunday, 16 December 2018			Tania Watson		[1]	N/A

**YOUR PHOTO HERE**

send to [editor@castledare.com.au](mailto:editor@castledare.com.au)

## **August Run Day – by Rod Bradley**

Thanks again to all members who made their time available for the August Niana run day and the Saturday track preparation day. A potentially wet day turned out to be an extra busy day with 1,303 visitors. For the first time in quite a while the passenger queue did not abate until 10 minutes prior to closing. Again, like July, we kicked off a little earlier than 11:00, then the queue started in earnest. It was very pleasing to see 4 x trains prepared and on the station by 10:30. It certainly gives us the best start to the day when trains and crews are ready to go.

The weather on Sunday was kind to us. Whilst cloudy all day the rain held off as the car park filled and the adjacent grass area became an impromptu car park. Passengers seemed to take the long queue in their stride.

A good mix of both steam and diesel locomotives meant there was plenty of variety running on the day. However, a few unexpected break-downs and derailments kept all members on their toes. Vic's diesels both suffered issues, Carmel encountered a few boiler pressure problems and a few derailments didn't help.

Club locos Dependable and Comet Vale ran well on the day. We had some steam double heading late in the day thanks to Luke and Craig and their new steam locomotives.

In spite of the challenges I felt the club members adapted quickly to minimise the delays and disruptions. The swapping of locomotives was quite efficient, and most derailments sorted out in minutes. The convention loop was closed on a couple of occasions to deal with locomotives. Ethan singlehandedly manned Canning box very well. He managed to switch trains at short notice to maintain running through the cutting whilst issues were dealt with.

The canteen and ticket box members did not have a lot of time to themselves. Busy all round as we made every effort to keep up with the number of visitors.

The August run day was potentially the last time that the old ticket box is used. Once the new box is painted, has power connected, flooring installed, and furnishings transferred we will be entering a new phase at the railway. If all goes to plan our new ticket box will be fully functional by the September run day.

Again, thanks to all members who made their time available for what was a busy, complex yet very rewarding run day. Financially the club has had a great day.

**SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER CALENDAR 2018**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
		Wednesday Work Day			Run Prep Work Day	NIANA Run Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Wednesday Work Day		Committee Meeting	General Work Day	Members Day
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Wednesday Work Day			Run Prep Work Day	WILSON Run Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Work Day Wednesday			General Work Day	Private Run 12-3pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Submissions For Cinders & Soot		Work Day Wednesday			General Work Day	Private Run 12-3pm
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Work Day Wednesday			Run Prep Work Day	NIANA Run Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Work Day Wednesday		Committee Meeting	General Work Day	Members Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Work Day Wednesday			Run Prep Work Day	WILSON Run Day

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