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*Loco "Tracey-Anne" at CMR circa 1990, now in the USA – photo by Neil Blinco (supplied by Craig)*

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## CASTLEDARE MINIATURE RAILWAY (INC)

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## From the Editors Desk – by Trish and Robin

Welcome to the December “bumper” issue of Cinders and Soot. Robin and Trish wish all CMR members and friends a happy and healthy festive season. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2021 – stay safe!

Just a reminder that the date for C&S submissions is in the calendar and photos would be greatly appreciated. All submissions will be vetted for formatting, spelling and appropriateness of content, before being included!

Over the next few months C&S will include a feature article on a member of your committee – this month the article is about Robin Greeney.

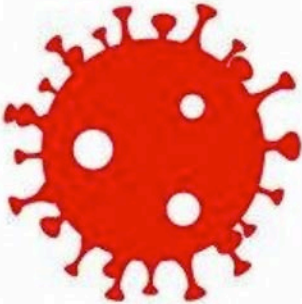
**PLEASE NOTE:** We have a new look calendar for 2021. Dates for January have been updated to reflect our Covid-safe run days. February/March will be updated next month if necessary.

### Members Celebrating their Birthday this Month are:

Edwards	Will
Lawrence	Curtis
Millman	Xavier
Skinner	Terence

The COVID-19 notice below has been placed in various locations around CMR. Look out for it when you next visit! **Please adhere to these requirements.**

### COVID-19 Hygiene Important Notice



**Please help keep us all safe by following these simple protocols:**

- Wash your hands & sanitise before & after signing in (use your own pen if possible)
- Use your own cup/glass for drinks
- Sanitise ALL surfaces, including handles, tables, kitchen utensils, toilet and workshop surfaces/equipment, before and after use
- Magazines should be read **ONLY** if wearing gloves

**NOTE:** Hand sanitiser, gloves and paper towels are provided to assist you to comply. Please feel free to bring your own if preferred.

Thank you, from the CMR Committee

### **President's Report – by Julian Cross**

Hey everyone and welcome to the final issue of Cinders and Soot for this year.

Really short one from me this time around.

2020 is quickly coming to a close and what an eventful year it's been.

Even though we were closed for a few months this year, we all pulled through and bounced back as strong as ever.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work, perseverance and patience over the past year while we have been working around the pandemic and getting us back up and running.

I hope to see everyone again in the New Year when we make a return on the 3rd of January for our first Sunday run.

Please remember that coming up to the run, we do ask that you confirm your attendance with the secretary via their email, which is listed at the beginning of Cinders & Soot.

We also ask that if you do confirm your availability that you do so several days before the run day. Please don't leave it till one or two days before the run.

And in other news, please be aware that there will be a Fire Safety and Fire Train usage refresher course happening around the start of February. There will be another reminder and details sent out in the next issue of Cinders & Soot. We do ask that as many people as possible attend this course.

Anyway, everyone have a very Merry Christmas and we'll see you all in the New Year.

### **Secretary's Report – by Les Smith**

We can announce that we finished Year 2020 with a ridership of just over 12,000, which was pretty creditable when looking back at the circumstances prevailing. At the time of cessation of running back in March we were possibly going to attain nearly 36,000 and so you can gauge the loss of revenue that CMR has suffered. Moving forward with the possibility of introducing TRYBOOKING next February, there may be a trial resumption of NIANA operations, however Niana will require a much more regimented effort. Members may not comprehend the amount of time and effort that has gone into our recent Wilson running despite piggybacking off what SASMEE had done.

Our Competent Person and his trusty assistant have commenced a review / inspection of the Club's locomotive fleet as required for insurance and AALS. Unfortunately, Comet Vale has a few problems and is not fit for public service and has been tagged accordingly. She may be given dispensation for "fire train" duties should Betsy be unavailable. Some testing is to be carried out with Carabao.

The Yellow Mk2 Set has progressed to the first spray coating of golden yellow by Terry Skinner and looks good. The rear bogie still requires some attention due to some built-in faults...it was a pretty rough build!

A request has been made to the Dept of Rivers Planning for our two-year work permit renewal. This requires a submission and no doubt will be returned with a few more impositions. The Department was informed that when our members tell fishing persons of the PRESENT algal bloom that they have no idea of such.

SAFETY. Please remain vigilant for fires and a reminder that riding on the fire tank wagons is not permitted. It is now considered necessary to have a “refresher” course re the deployment of this small, but important, wagon fleet. Xander Prindiville is to be complemented for his quick thinking and efforts to dampen down a recent small fire.

A Safety sub-committee is reviewing all of the recent member submissions in regard to our draft Safety Plan. Some of the points raised will be “shunted” into our Operational Hand Book that requires some considerable modification. The move to a cloud- based storage system is being made to capture all of our randomly stored documentation and history. This will make it easier for member access.

END of 2020. One takes this opportunity to thank all members who have contributed this year to working for the Club. We have actually achieved quite a lot. So.... best wishes for 2021 and hope that members can get together with their interstate relatives soon. BEST WISHES and STAY SAFE.

### **January School Holiday Runs - by Robin Greeney**

Firstly, my thanks to all those who have supported the Club on recent run days at which I was the Duty Officer. Under Covid operations considerably more station staff are required than there was pre Covid and this reduces the opportunity for members to undertake driving and or guarding duties.

With our school holiday runs fast approaching (6,13,20,27 of January) the extra numbers needed on the station could be difficult for the membership to fill. This period was extremely popular last year carrying around 7,000 patrons in January. Sadly, at some run days we had as few as 4 people on the station (at one run I was D.O, Station Master and Gatekeeper....) Totally possible pre Covid but now we need far more members to man the station. We will also need to run several trains to service the anticipated number of patrons (requiring two additional members per train).

Now for the issues... Some members will still be on holidays, many will be working on Wednesdays or have other commitments – all of which will limit our numbers....

So...

If you can attend any or all of these School Holidays runs you will know the drill by now....

Please advise the secretary ([secretary@castledare.com.au](mailto:secretary@castledare.com.au)) if you will be attending as soon as possible. We will need roughly the same number on each Wednesday as we have had for past Sunday runs.

Also don't forget the normal Sunday runs (3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of January) where we will also need sufficient volunteers. Both runs will be from Wilson.

Les Smith will be Duty Officer for all runs in January. January will be a very busy month for us all, and Les will no doubt appreciate your support.

### **AHA Covid-19 Courses (Reminder) – from Robin Greeney**

As you would be aware, the Committee has decided that all members should undertake the AHA Hospitality & Tourism COVID-19 Hygiene Course as soon as possible. This is to ensure all members are trained in Covid safety and hygiene procedures in line with our Safety plan. Members will not be able to participate at a public run day without passing the course and whilst WA Government Covid restrictions remain in place.

The course takes approximately 45 minutes and each section is followed by a multi choice questionnaire. At the time of registering (which is free) you will be emailed a booklet, which I'd recommend you print out and use during the course. Although the course is online, some of the questions relate to material presented in the next section of the online course! On satisfactory completion you will be emailed a certificate - a copy of which should be forwarded to [secretary@castledare.com.au](mailto:secretary@castledare.com.au) for our records. You may have to ring the number given on the AHA email if you do not receive your certificate within a week of completion.

The online training can be accessed

at <https://hospitalityhygiene.com/onlinetraining/register.php#collapse139>

In addition those who will be undertaking DO duties are asked to complete the Hygiene Officer Course which is also available on the same website.

Several of us have completed the above courses already and it isn't difficult to obtain the qualifications (the Officer course uses mainly the same questions as the base course by the way)! Thank you to the members who have thus far completed the course.

If you have any queries or comments please either email them

to [memberships@castledare.com.au](mailto:memberships@castledare.com.au) or phone Robin on [0403 071 461](tel:0403071461)

### **REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021 – by Robin**

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE ON THE 1st of JANUARY EACH YEAR

As per rule 9.4 – A member whose subscription is not paid by the 1st Sunday run in February, i.e. 7th February 2021 as per rule 9.2 ceases at 5PM of that date to be a member.

For Direct Bank Deposits:

If you wish to deposit your membership fees direct into the club bank account, please use details below ensuring you use your surname as a reference to enable the Treasurer and Secretary to cross-reference.

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB 633 000

Account 115204166

You must complete a membership renewal form (available on request from

[memberships@castledare.com.au](mailto:memberships@castledare.com.au) or in a pigeon hole at the Club) and forward the

completed form to the Club Treasurer for club records. Even if you have paid your fees – your membership is not confirmed until this form is returned and accepted by the Management Committee. This also applies to Life members.

## Build L, T & O (Locomotive, Track & Operate) – by Les



These photographs were taken by Bob Steinhouse, a friend of Keith Watson back in 1963. Bob lived in Boulder and visited Perth for shooting being a keen rifleman. We are thankful to Eric Chamberlain (son-in-law) from Northam for sending these to us.



Upper Left - Keith Watson had to build Nellie now owned by Phil Smith. **This was the first steam locomotive to operate at CMR.**

The little “tipper” is at Cohunu Park Railway, along with 3 other four-wheel wagons built by Keith.



**The Supervisor** (possibly Keith – has the right sort of build).... This was the second development of CMR, when we grew from that initial straight track (now known as Niana platform 1) to a complete oval of track, which took a right turn immediately out of the station around to Ferntree Bridge, and then around the back of the current clubroom area. All except the station departure trackage is still in much the same alignment as it was back then.



The genuine upper portion of a WAGR tumble arm signal was moved to WILSON PARK but after the post rotted away, it was not replaced. (It was a fair hunk of timber to purchase) The WAGR timber mill at Banksiadale cut timber to sizes to suit the railway and thus were not always commercial dimensions.







For the 20<sup>th</sup> “run” there was a cup of tea. Looking back you can just see “THE TUNNEL”! For reference the tunnel was located at the front corner of the current carriage shed. Removed post 1993 AALS Easter convention.



Around we go! On the left you can just imagine how much “fill” was added to level up the picnic area.

Below:

Betsy joins in with Crawford now on display at Corrigin.

**These photographs feature many of the boys from the Castledare Home that worked on the track build for which we are ever thankful.**



My life so far... by Robin Greeney

Unlike many members of our Club, I've had little time at train related tasks... having gone down a different path.

My parents were struggling to even put food on the table having come through two world wars and the great depression.... And I was determined that would never happen to me. Study and a career path were my ticket out of that situation.

So....

When I matriculated from Marion High (in SA) I began a "radio" apprenticeship at Weapons Research Establishment. That was a great course not only learning about electronics but also spending three months of training in each of electrical work, fitting and turning, sheet metal work and welding (both oxy and arc) plus engineering drawing. I did look longingly at the SASMEE locos (visiting many times) but realised I had neither the time nor the finances to get involved.

I still felt I needed better qualifications so undertook an electronic technician's certificate.... And even that wasn't enough for the professional student I had become.... So undertook a Bachelor of Technology degree at Adelaide University... that together with a "full time" job meant no time for anything else. I was involved in many interesting projects at WRE including missile telemetry at Woomera and working on the (then secret) over horizon radar project (now project Jindalee).

After WRE I started working in the Physics Department of Adelaide University assisting PhD students with their thesis. That was a study into cosmic rays. From there I gained a position with Foreign Affairs to "Ensure the operational security of embassies overseas" (description from the Commonwealth Gazette). During my time there I visited over 40 countries spending around 6 months a year overseas visiting Australian, British, Canadian and New Zealand embassies. I rose quickly through my chosen career path and soon was the Deputy Director of Project management - planning all projects in Australia and Overseas.

At last I had some "spare" time but Canberra had few opportunities to engage in any worthwhile pursuits. I did volunteer as an instructor for the Wireless Institute of Australia teaching radio theory. There was no model engineering club or historic railways or anything else worthwhile (Canberra was a very boring place in those days... but that is where the Public Service money was).

A posting to London became available – to liaise with the UK intelligence services and to be responsible for security in most of Europe. I scored the position and off to London for me! In London I had far more spare time... time I could use to follow some of my hobby pursuits. I assembled a beautifully engineered German model helicopter, which I intended to learn how to fly. I visited the local Club (I lived close to Biggin Hill). I was advised to get LOTS of spares, as I would crash it many, many times whilst learning to fly. My next question, "does anyone here want to buy an assembled helicopter?"

My other interest was railways and UK was a great place for both model engineering and heritage railways (especially in Wales). I did manage to spend a lot of time on that pursuit – but sadly only as a spectator.

The two highlights of my career also occurred in London. I was appointed as the officer responsible for some aspects of Bob Hawke's Prime Ministerial visit to London. I still remember standing outside Bob's room in the Savoy hotel having a cigarette with Hazel – she needed to “bum” a cigarette!

The most outstanding experience was being driven through the gates of Buckingham Palace to attend a Royal garden party. All accredited Diplomats get an invitation whilst on posting.... But that didn't make it any less impressive (and no, the corgis didn't relieve themselves on my leg!)

On return from London I soon occupied the position of Director Technical Services (Engineer class 5) so I'd at last achieved my career ambition. I was then involved in planning the upgrade to the DFA global network and, after implementation, I was “head hunted” by the ATO to assist with their modernisation project. We were using cutting edge technology and it was decided that we should do a tour of all Australian Universities to deliver a seminar on OSI (Open Systems Interconnect).... And as my boss was afraid of public speaking....

My visit to Perth cemented my desire to move here at some stage. After implementation it was decided local management cells would be established... and Perth was one of the chosen locations (managing Adelaide as well). I was in my early 40s and totally burnt out. My now late wife was Perth born and bred and wanted to return home when possible... so I accepted a voluntary demotion and Perth here we come!

I had great plans to get more involved in my hobbies – especially model engineering – but my spare time was involved with my Children – Emma did ballet, public speaking and debating and Nick Tball, electric car racing and archery etc. I took them to Whistle Stop and Castledare but only as a passenger.

It wasn't until I retired that I had the time to at last follow my hobby pursuits. I joined Castledare at around 2000 but after a couple of years left and decided to get my pilot's license. Just after qualifying I had a heart attack requiring the implant of a pacemaker/defibrillator.... Oops no longer eligible to hold a license and because ignition could trigger the defibrillator.... No flying in an Ultralight – even as a passenger. I remained there for some years (I was Secretary) and eventually stood down at an AGM.

Then back to Castledare... and here I am!!

So as you can see, very little experience with trains but I can provide some useful advice especially to our Junior members.

- Getting the best qualifications you can is essential
- Try to get a job you enjoy and one that has a career path

But....

- Ensure you allocate lots of “me” time (ensure a good work/life balance)
- Remember you “work to live” and not “live to work” as I did
- If you keep putting off your hobby pursuits all you will be left with is dreams of what could have been. As those of my generation say “your mind will still write the cheques but the body can no longer cash them”

And if you feel I'm always relaxed some of my other “career highlights” explain that - for example

- Staying in a hotel with bombs exploding all around outside and next morning looking at the curtains blowing out of the windows which once held glass
- Sitting in the departure lounge at Bagdad international after the British ambassador told me their intelligence says the airport will be bombed tonight
- Being held in an interrogation room at gunpoint after refusing to allow customs to open my Diplomatic bag (not all counties are signatories to the Vienna convention).

After these sorts of incidents everything else is a “walk in the park”.

And if you are still reading... congratulations you have reached the end! (Well Trish did want us to write an article about ourselves.)

## THERE'S A NEWBIE ON THE TRACK!



Richard Stuart's new diesel chassis paid a brief visit to CMR for track testing. It appeared to behave itself when driven by Richard and Julian, so it is back home for construction of the body.

# CMR Calendar January to March 2021

January		February		March	
1	Fr New Year's Day	1	Mo	1	Mo Labour Day
2	Sa Run Day Prep Work	2	Tu	2	Tu
3	Su Wilson Run Day	3	We Work Day	3	We Work Day
4	Mo	4	Th	4	Th
5	Tu	5	Fr	5	Fr
6	We Work / School Hols Run Day	6	Sa Run Day Prep Work	6	Sa Run Day Prep Work
7	Th	7	Su Niana Run Day	7	Su Niana Run Day
8	Fr	8	Mo	8	Mo
9	Sa Track Work Day	9	Tu	9	Tu
10	Su Members Day	10	We Work Day	10	We Work Day
11	Mo	11	Th	11	Th
12	Tu	12	Fr	12	Fr
13	We Work / School Hols Run Day	13	Sa Track Work Day	13	Sa Track Work Day
14	Th	14	Su Members Day	14	Su Members Day
15	Fr Workshop Night	15	Mo	15	Mo
16	Sa Committee Mtg / Work	16	Tu	16	Tu
17	Su Wilson Run Day	17	We Work Day	17	We Work Day
18	Mo C&S Submissions close	18	Th	18	Th
19	Tu	19	Fr Workshop Night	19	Fr Workshop Night / AGM
20	We Work / School Hols Run Day	20	Sa Committee Mtg / Work	20	Sa Committee Mtg / Work
21	Th	21	Su Wilson Run Day	21	Su Wilson Run Day
22	Fr	22	Mo C&S Submissions close	22	Mo C&S Submissions close
23	Sa	23	Tu	23	Tu
24	Su	24	We Work Day	24	We Work Day
25	Mo	25	Th	25	Th
26	Tu Australia Day	26	Fr	26	Fr
27	We Work / School Hols Run Day	27	Sa	27	Sa
28	Th	28	Su	28	Su
29	Fr			29	Mo
30	Sa		30	Tu	
31	Su		31	We Work Day	

## CMR Events Calendar 2020

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Dec</b>	6 Wilson Run Day	7	8	9 Work Day	10	11	12 Xmas Party
	13 Members Day	14	15	16 Work Day	17	18 Workshop Night	19 Com Mtg / Work
	20 Wilson Run Day	21 C&S Subs close	22	23 Work/School RD	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
	27	28 Boxing Day Hol	29	30 Work/School RD	31	1 New Year's Day	2

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