



CINDERS & SOOT



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

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

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The club had a very busy time over the Foundation Day Holiday weekend. For some members, it started on the Friday night, with the set-up of the Castledare stand at the Australian Model Railway Association (AMRA) exhibition. Saturday saw work at the railway to prepare for the weekend's running, and the last minute installation of a point lever at the approach to Wilson Park Station. On Sunday, we reaped the reward of the publicity work put in by our team at AMRA, and entertained a large turnout of passengers at Niana Station. All trains were running full until almost closing time, and we kept services moving efficiently all day. There was no let-up on the Monday, when the new Wilson Park Station faced its first real test and handled nearly a thousand passengers on another enjoyable and busy day. Mike Crean was already trialling new signals and an electric point motor, while Rose Lyons laid on a sausage sizzle to keep the operating crew fed. The Aussie and Castledare flags flew from the twin flagpoles at Wilson, to announce that we were in business. All told, it was a very satisfactory weekend. The mid month run from Wilson Park was also very well patronised, so the early signs are that the new station is earning its keep.

The new Wilson Park Station is a real asset, with plenty of space to handle passengers and trains, and a large undercover area to protect from rain in winter and sun in summer. There is now water for steam locos, which avoids the need for water stops at Niana. It is a tribute to the many members who contributed, that the new station was made ready for passenger operations in such a short time, after completion of construction by Swan TAFE and Canning City Council. Canning City Council has also done a superb job with landscaping and planting vegetation. There is more work to do, including final track refurbishment in the station area and completion of the signalling. Some fine-tuning has also been done, such as modifying the counter in the ticket box and installing additional facilities for the ticket sellers. However, the work done to date has made a huge difference to the railway and the Wilson Park area. The park itself is receiving a major makeover from the City of Canning, with work well advanced on new riverbank facilities below the weir, and construction of the new eco-centre in progress. Finally, don't forget the official club opening of Wilson Park Station on 15th July, commencing at 1000hrs.

In addition to our forthcoming club opening, the Canning City Council held an unveiling ceremony on the 28th June, attended by the politicians and public officials who had supported the project, and the various organisations who had taken part, including Swan TAFE and the commercial sponsors who had provided support and assistance. The commercial sponsors are commemorated on a rake of our gondola wagons, which have been expertly repainted by TAFE, with the sponsors' and project participants' logos on the sides as a long-term reminder of the assistance they provided.

With the new station open, it is worth reflecting on the progress we have made, and what we can aim for next. The line through the Wilson wetlands is one of the most attractive settings for a miniature railway that can be found anywhere in the world, and the new station establishes Wilson Park alongside Niana as a key base for our activities. Yet if we look back just 5 years, the wetlands line was derelict, to all intents and purposes written off as "too much work". In reality, the only difference between "too much work" and the opening of brand new facilities is an attitude of mind. We were fortunate to have a nucleus of people who were prepared to look for opportunities instead of looking for problems, and in Wilson Park the results are now there for all to see. This does not mean, of course, that the problems are not there to be overcome, and running a facility as extensive as ours is never going to be easy. However, it is entirely up to us to take the initiative and set ourselves the next challenges to overcome.

The obvious major challenge on the horizon is the 2009 AALS Convention. This is most definitely drawing us out of our comfort zone, and few of us even appreciate yet how much work this is going to involve. Over the next year and a half, most of us will have our moments of wishing we had never taken it on, no doubt complaining of how much easier life would have been if we had let someone else take the hard work and responsibility. However, the pressure of work will inevitably give opportunities for new "stars" to rise in our ranks, and long-postponed improvements will have to be done to meet the Convention deadline. The Convention work will be exhausting, but it will leave us with improved infrastructure, a deeper reserve of experience, and hopefully the momentum to take on further improvements to our railway.

With regard to the Convention, the 5-inch gauge refurbishment team has started site work, including a survey of the Convention Loop. They have also started preparing hardware for the 5-inch track upgrade. This team deserves our support, and will no doubt welcome extra volunteers to help with the programme.

One of the less glamorous, but nevertheless essential, parts of our infrastructure is the toilet block. It had been hoped to connect this to the main sewerage system, and initial surveys were carried out with support from the site owners. Unfortunately, the lie of the land is not in our favour, and the toilet block is too low compared to the existing sewage

main. Making sewage flow uphill would require a pumping system costing a quoted \$30,000, so it looks as if we will have to continue maintaining the existing septic tanks and leach drains for the time being. This work provides an interesting and fragrant diversion from maintaining the railway, and we look forward to a stampede of eager volunteers every time the drains need unblocking. This month, the pleasant job of digging up the septic tank and unclogging the aromatic and glutinous substances accumulated therein, was performed by a team of Committee members, including the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Minute Secretary..... Following this, any suggestion that the club executive enjoys "privileges" will be greeted with uproarious laughter.

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
Major clean up of track surround in Penrhyn area.	Continuing clean up of grounds.
Blockage cleared in men's toilets.	Repair and upgrade boundary posts to exclude vehicles from the site.
Water tank cut-off switch in loco yard cleaned.	Clear blockage in women's toilets.
Preliminary color light signaling tested at Wilson Station.	Development of Wilson Station signaling.
	Installation of Dual Bridge automatic signaling system.
	Development of remote wireless automatic signaling systems.
2007 infrastructure inspections started.	Development of CMR operating procedures and safety manual
Denis P Moore boiler crown and blackhead removed, and internals inspected. New crown and blackhead to be installed by professional welder.	Continue refurbishment work on "Denis P Moore".
Rake of gondola cars repainted by Swan TAFE.	Install stiffening gussets on green passenger car set articulation pivots.
	Overhaul "Comet Vale" diesel outline loco.
Re-leveling and ballasting of existing platform road at Wilson Park Station (to match new extended platform).	Continue work on 5-inch gauge track refurbishment.
Re-leveling and ballasting of existing through road at Wilson Park Station.	Continue track maintenance.
Installation of passenger track crossings at Wilson Park Station (joint effort by CMR and City of Canning).	
5-inch gauge track refurbishment site work kicked off.	

CLUB ISSUES

Rolling Stock Inspections

Annual inspections of passenger carrying rolling stock will be commencing shortly. Most of the passenger stock is club owned. However, owners of any privately owned passenger-carrying vehicles should make arrangements for an inspection to be carried out. Inspection checklists can be obtained from the Secretary.
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.
- ⇒ "Kindred Societies Day" held over to a later date – more information as it comes to hand
- ⇒ Bi-Directional running is still in the pipeline however nothing definite at this stage.
- ⇒ Convention sub committee still working towards 2009 AALS Convention at CMR under the guidance of Tom Winterbourn
- ⇒ Approval for social function July 21st – more details elsewhere in the newsletter
- ⇒ July mid month run will be the Club's official opening of Wilson Station
- ⇒ 5th track refurbishment has commenced
- ⇒ Passenger survey to be carried out next run day
- ⇒ Wall on the #1 approach road at Nina station to be upgraded
- ⇒ New hand rails and exit ramp at Nina station to be upgraded

TV COVERAGE OF WILSON STATION OPENING:

On Thursday 28th June, the Official opening of Wilson Station was conducted by the City of Canning, as referred to in the President's report. Also attending this opening was Ross Dunkerton and a film crew from "Home in WA" and it is envisaged the footage taken will be shown on Channel 7 on Saturday 7th July so check your program guide

CLUB OPENING OF WILSON STATION:

The club will hold an "Opening" of the new Wilson Park Station at the mid month on July 15th. A sausage sizzle lunch will be provided for members. Keep the date in your diary and join your fellow members to celebrate yet another milestone for your club.



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- Saturday* 30th June – Preparation of railway, general meeting
- Sunday* 1st July – Public run day – final day for inclusion in social outing to Coronation Hotel – provided sufficient numbers respond
- Friday* 6th July – Committee meeting
- Saturday* 7th July – General workday
- Sunday* 8th July – workday – 5th gang
- Sunday* 15th July – Public run day and Club opening of Wilson Park Station
- Saturday* 4th August – Preparation of railway, general meeting
- Sunday* 5th August – Public run day

Editor: There was no C+S for the month of June 2007.

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