



A deserted yard on what would have been our April run day (what a difference a month makes)- *photo by Robin*

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## CASTLEDARE MINIATURE RAILWAYS (INC)

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## **From the Editors Desk – by Trish and Robin**

Welcome to the April Issue of Cinders and Soot.

Last month we published the first of our 'Feature Articles' with Ethan's story being told. This month the spotlight is on Curtis. We would like to hear from other members about their *journey along the tracks* and how they became involved with CMR. So please send in your stories for everyone to enjoy.

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The calendar has not been updated to reflect the suspension of our public run days or other restrictions on club activities.*

### **Members Celebrating their Birthday this Month are:**

Hall	Aubrey
Hamann	Julie
Knyn	Mitchell
Prindiville	Luke
Triggs	James

## **REPORTS**

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

With nothing much happening at the railway due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there is very little to report on. However there are a few things that need saying.

Firstly to Roger and Mike, thank you for the hard work and dedication you have put in over the years as Treasurer and President. There have been many a difficult time, but both of you have persevered through it all. Thank you again.

On to other matters, Wilson approach points are under maintenance and upgrade which will allow for manual control should there be a need. When a return to normality is achieved, please take extreme caution through these points as they will be loose facing points until work is completed.

And in regards to our current circumstances re COVID-19. If you are planning on attending the railway, please be aware that we are currently in a 'care & maintain mode'. We can only allow access to the site for maintenance and care of the railway grounds. Anything related to locomotive or track work will need to be postponed until such time as the state and Federal governments relax their restrictions on travel and gathering sizes.

We also ask that anyone who attends the railway be accompanied by another person; no one is to be on site alone, as this will constitute a safety risk.

Thank you all for your continued patience during this difficult time, hopefully we should see a return to normality soon. Until then, stay safe and healthy.

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

After a very good start to the year (better than our record year 2018!) COVID-19 has hit us for a six. When we will be able to get operating again is anybody's guess but we must act within government decrees and with "due care and diligence". The Associations Act has a \$10,000 fine for not doing so. This impost has probably never been applied to a volunteer club like ours, but these are serious times.

A yellow or mustard coloured old Land Rover has been spotted (with the driver fishing) parked down at the old homestead wharf and to get in there and out had to drive over our tracks several times. The driver was seen trying to gain entry again more recently. We would like his plate number in case we sustain track damage.

The W.A. Planning Commission has released for public comment the Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1365/57, which involves dividing us off from land owned by the Catholic Church above our operating area. The Church has a long-term plan to undertake residential development on their area. We are left in "bushland-for-ever" and will eventually be on land managed by the City of Canning. The old Swan River Trust, now Rivers Planning, will still have a say in what we do on our operating area. You will have noticed from our Notice Board that our current "work permit" is only valid to October this year. Some serious paperwork for a new permit now has to be undertaken.

Although we will not be doing any locomotive / rolling stock work for some time we can announce that Terry Skinner will take over from Roger Matthews in regard to Club locomotives. The Mike Crean owned mobile loco / wagon frame has been modified for the ease of transfer of **wagons only** from the workshop's traverser via a drop-down ramp to reduce the possibility of back injuries.

The Department of Bio-diversity has notified us again that although the Alexandrium Algal Bloom appears to be subsiding in the Swan and Canning Rivers they still are warning against fishing as the bloom is toxic and can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning which is not negated by cooking.

WE hope that you are not suffering too hard from CMR withdrawal symptoms and if you think it's bad now - In 20 years our country will be run by people home-schooled by day drinkers...

## **TOUGH TIMES - by the "new" Scrooge & Dr. Smith**

It is not a bad idea to reflect on our costs to understand a very basic fact.

We run some 33 days of the year taking into account that we lose a couple due to heat and rain etc.

We have some fixed and almost fixed costs that include picnic ground cleanup, insurance, electricity, water, telephone and rubbish removal. At the present time, these total around \$11,000 and so by dividing by 33 run-days means that we have to have over \$330 of ticket

sales or approximately 90 passengers per run day before we break even. We could add a few variable costs (fuel, maintenance of the permanent way and buildings including stations, club locos and carriages etc) and our Auditor would throw in depreciation. This can amount to as much as an additional several thousand dollars a month. The hard and cold fact is that if we do not take the required amount to cover these expenses, it has to be added to our next run-day.

Now in the COVID-19 period we can (and have) suspended the rubbish removal and picnic ground payments, water and electricity will fall - except that these latter two have quite high fixed charges, fuel, maintenance of track, locos and rolling stock will be eliminated but may require additional expenditure after lockdown due to deterioration caused by that lack of maintenance.

Once permissible group size is increased and travel restrictions eased, we will be able to get back to work at the Club (the A team, in the workshop etc) and this will necessitate expenditure but with zero income!

After lockdown is reduced and we are able to again haul passengers, numbers of these will no doubt slowly ramp up but our expenditure will jump back up to normal – possibly even peak as we play “catch up” with the maintenance we put on hold.

It has been indicated to us that in the future we will have to pay for our green waste material removal.

Depending on the club’s financial circumstances, we may need to review our capacity to make our usual charitable donations this year.

So, COVID-19 is going to hurt us!

## Feature Article – Journey Along the Tracks

*This month featuring Curtis Lawrence*

By about the age of 3, I had already shown an avid interest in trains, Thomas the Tank had become a favourite on the television and I had a large number of train toys, which I played with enthusiastically. On a family outing, my dad introduced me to Castledare when I was about 4 to 5 years of age. He had visited it a number of times as a small child himself, the visit fuelled my enthusiasm even more. Subsequently a trip to Hotham valley with my Mum and cousin Meg travelling from Armadale to Pinjarra on the diesel and then the trip through the forest on the steam train furthered my obsession.

After a number of visits to Castledare, at the age of 10 my Gran asked a member if I could join the group. I was eagerly welcomed but with the provision that an adult accompanied me. I would like to thank my Mum and Gran for the endless hours they spent as I volunteered every second weekend at Castledare learning about the requirements of a member.

I have been at Castledare for the last 8 years and in that time many members have helped in my knowledge of all things train and I would like to thank them for their endless patience, caring and instruction. I have learnt many new skills from diesel and steam train engines, welding, signals, brick laying, communicating with the public and many other varied and interesting things. Whilst at Castledare I have achieved my guard, diesel and



steam driver's qualifications and recently had my first experience as the Duty Officer on a Niana run day.

I have also been at Hotham valley for the past 6 years and again have learnt many varied things. I have achieved my "shunting", driver's assistant, train manager and crossing attendant qualifications. I regularly work on the diner train on Saturday evenings as a waiter. I would like to thank all the members at Hotham Valley for their patience, caring and instruction.

My voluntary work over the past years has helped me enormously when applying for casual work during my school years and then when I entered the work force in 2019. I cannot emphasise how much I have enjoyed the interactions I have had with my fellow volunteers at both railways.

My focus is to have a career as a locomotive driver in the train industry and with the assistance from Castledare and Hotham Valley members, hope to achieve this goal.

*Some pictures of Curtis in those early years.....*



# CMR Events Calendar 2020

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30	31	1 NY / School RD	2	3	4 Run Prep Work
Jan	5 Niana Run Day	6	7	8 Work/School RD	9	10	11 Track Work Day
	12 Members Day	13	14	15 Work/School RD	16	17 Workshop Night	18 Com Mtg / Work
	19 Wilson Run Day	20 C&S Subs close	21	22 Work/School RD	23	24	25 Gen Work Day
	26	27 Australia Day	28	29 Work/School RD	30	31	1 Run Prep Work
Feb	2 Niana Run Day	3	4	5 Work Day	6	7	8 Track Work Day
	9 Members Day	10	11	12 Work Day	13	14 Workshop Night	15 Com Mtg / Work
	16 Wilson Run Day	17 C&S Subs close	18	19 Work Day	20	21	22 Gen Work Day
	23	24	25	26 Work Day	27	28	29 Run Prep Work
Mar	1 Niana Run Day	2 Labour Day	3	4 Work Day	5	6	7 Track Work Day
	8 Members Day	9	10	11 Work Day	12	13 Workshop Night	14 Com Mtg / Work
	15 Wilson Run Day	16 C&S Subs close	17	18 Work Day	19	20 AGM	21 Gen Work Day
	22	23	24	25 Work Day	26	27	28 Gen Work Day
Apr	29	30	31	1 Work Day	2	3	4 Run Prep Work
	5 Niana Run Day	6	7	8 Work Day	9	10 Good Friday	11 Easter Sat / Track
	12 Members Day	13 Easter Monday	14	15 Work/School RD	16	17 Workshop Night	18 Com Mtg / Work
	19 Wilson Run Day	20 C&S Subs close	21	22 Work/School RD	23	24	25 ANZAC Day
May	26	27 ANZAC Holiday	28	29 Work Day	30	1	2 Run Prep Work
	3 Niana Run Day	4	5	6 Work Day	7	8	9 Track Work Day
	10 Members Day	11	12	13 Work Day	14	15 Workshop Night	16 Com Mtg / Work
	17 Wilson Run Day	18 C&S Subs close	19	20 Work Day	21	22	23 Gen Work Day
Jun	24	25	26	27 Work Day	28	29	30 Gen Work Day
	31	1 WA Day	2	3 Work Day	4	5	6 Run Prep Work
	7 Niana Run Day	8	9	10 Work Day	11	12	13 Track Work Day
	14 Members Day	15	16	17 Work Day	18	19 Workshop Night	20 Com Mtg / Work
Jul	21 Wilson Run Day	22 C&S Subs close	23	24 Work Day	25	26	27 Gen Work Day
	28	29	30	1 Work Day	2	3	4 Run Prep Work
	5 Niana Run Day	6	7	8 Work/School RD	9	10	11 Track Work Day
	12 Members Day	13	14	15 Work/School RD	16	17 Workshop Night	18 Com Mtg / Work
Aug	19 Wilson Run Day	20 C&S Subs close	21	22 Work Day	23	24	25 Gen Work Day
	26	27	28	29 Work Day	30	31	1 Run Prep Work
	2 Niana Run Day	3	4	5 Work Day	6	7	8 Track Work Day
	9 Members Day	10	11	12 Work Day	13	14 Workshop Night	15 Com Mtg / Work
Sep	16 Wilson Run Day	17 C&S Subs close	18	19 Work Day	20	21	22 Gen Work Day
	23	24	25	26 Work Day	27	28	29 Gen Work Day
	30	31	1	2 Work Day	3	4	5 Run Prep Work
	6 Niana Run Day	7	8	9 Work Day	10	11	12 Track Work Day
Oct	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 Day	24	25	26 Gen Work Day
	27	28 Queen's Birthd	29	30 Work/School RD	1	2	3 Run Prep Work
	4 Niana Run Day	5	6	7 Work/School RD	8	9	10 Track Work Day
Nov	11 Members Day	12	13	14 Work Day	15	16 Workshop Night	17 Com Mtg / Work
	18 Wilson Run Day	19 C&S Subs close	20	21 Work Day	22	23	24 Gen Work Day
	25	26	27	28 Work Day	29	30	31 Run Prep Work
	1 Niana Run Day	2	3	4 Work Day	5	6	7 Track Work Day
Dec	8 Members Day	9	10	11 Work Day	12	13 Workshop Night	14 Com Mtg / Work
	15 Wilson Run Day	16 C&S Subs close	17	18 Work Day	19	20	21 Gen Work Day
	22	23	24	25 Work Day	26	27	28 Gen Work Day
	29	30	1	2 Work Day	3	4	5 Run Prep Work
Dec	6 Niana Run Day	7	8	9 Work Day	10	11	12 Track Work Day
	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

NOTE: This calendar will be updated as and when notification of special events is received.

## Duty Roster

The Duty Roster is located on the notice board in the breezeway and will no longer be published in Cinders and Soot. Please remember to add your name to that list if you are able to assist with any of the positions.

### CMR Photo Gallery – The Early Years 1963 & 1971 (unknown photographer)



1963 First run day



1971 - Yes, that is D.P. Moore pulling a long train.





1971 - How things have changed!

**Disclaimer**

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