

PORT BAY EXPRESS

Official Newsletter of the Portarlington Bayside Miniature Railway Inc.

Volume No.9 – Issue No.1.

January, 2024.



On Sunday 17th December, 2023, we had a visit from Santa (aka Lyndon Coon) to the miniature railway much to the delight of the many kids and their parents. Pictured above at the Point Richards Station, Santa being ably assisted by Rochelle Holstein. The day turned out bright and sunny and a great time was had by all present.

(Picture: Brian Coleman)

OUR PRESIDENT REPORTS :

- It is still obvious that we need more volunteers. All members are strongly encouraged to try and recruit a new member into our ranks to ease the burden on all of us.....
Please consider !!.
- **The month of December** turned out to be fairly reasonable for the mini railway, with our 1st and 3rd Sunday running (3rd & 17th) running plus two party bookings (13th & 30th) resulted in a slight increase in passengers carried being noted and duly recorded.....
- May I take this opportunity to thank all our members and volunteers for their sterling help and assistance over the last twelve months. Without your help we just would not have our miniature railway. Keep up the great work all.....
- **Finally, may I wish all a very happy and prosperous New Year for 2024 !!.**

Keith Stasinowsky – President.



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:

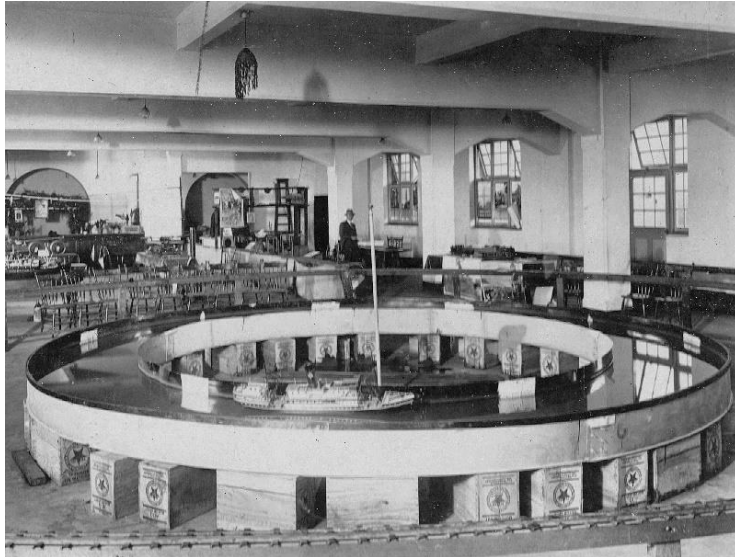
- There are vacancies for Party Bookings. The miniature railway makes for that ideal facility for your family. Contact our Party Bookings Person, Harm on 0476-124-598.
- It is a legal requirement for all members to notify the Department of Government Services (formerly Department of Justice and Community Safety) of their personal involvement with this miniature railway. This can be done “On line” via their website: workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au
- Our busy New Year season is fast approaching when we operate every Sunday and Wednesday in January. It is really important to do that little bit extra. Members are encouraged to go that “extra mile” to keep our “show on the road”. **Contact Harm !!.**
- **It is really important** when you arrive and depart from the miniature railway to sign on and off in the Attendance Book in the Station Office. If you fail to do this you are not covered by our Insurance scheme. **Kindly ensure that you do this, please....**

Brian Coleman – Secretary.



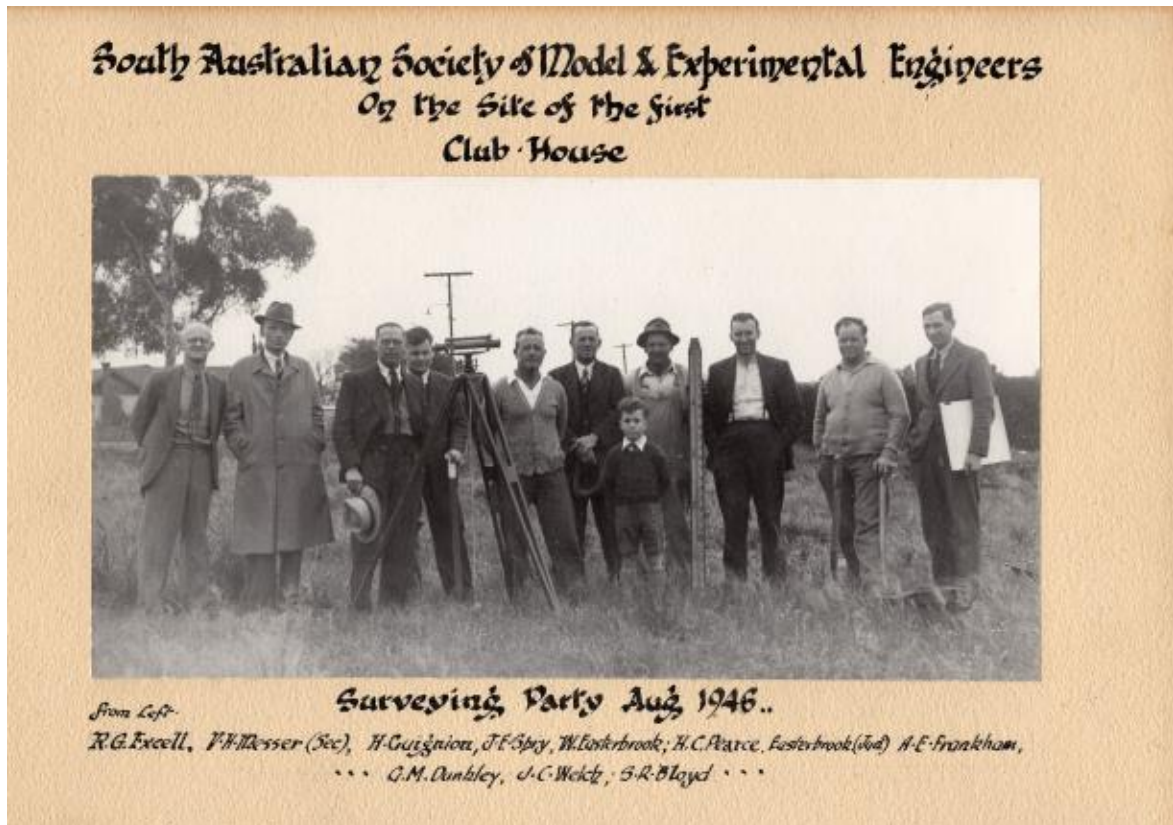
A Brief History of SASMEE

The South Australian Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc is one of the oldest such organisations in Australia. Formed in 1927, the early years comprised of meetings held in members' homes, and also in the University of Adelaide. The principal interests of the early days appear to have been steam locomotives, steam powered ships, and internal combustion racing cars. Several exhibitions were held in those years, although records are sketchy.



When the four yearly Adelaide Exhibitions were held, SASMEE contributed exhibits, which in some cases resulted in meritorious acclaim. In 1946, the Society Minutes show a desire to be able to secure a property on which to set up a miniature rail track, a model racing car track (sadly dismantled many years ago), and eventually a 100ft diameter pond on which to sail model vessels.

Figure 1: An early exhibition complete with donut shaped "boat lake"



The current site was secured by lease from the South Australian Railways Commissioner, and work commenced on the site around 1948. Small ex-army timber buildings were acquired and mated together on site to form a clubroom. It still serves that purpose, albeit with some additions. The available land was approximately half the present size at that stage.

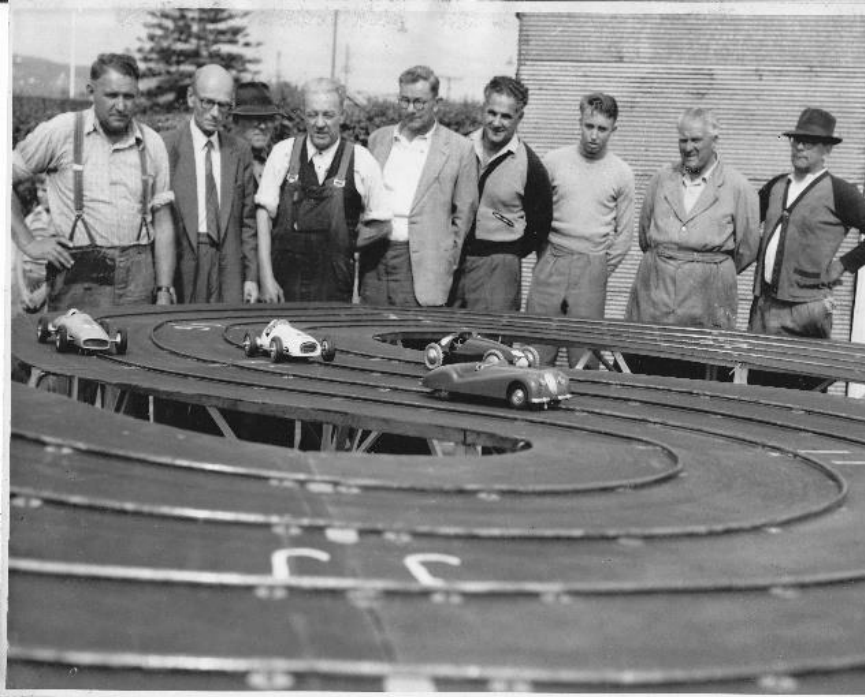


Figure3: The popular handmade racing cars



Figure 4: Train rides on raised track in the 1960s

On March 10 1959, the Society became an Incorporated body under the Associations Incorporation Act 1956-1957 Reg No A2021. Current membership stands at 148. The club is managed via an annually elected Committee, comprising ten financial members of the Society.

Initially, the rail track was fairly small, being an egg shape around the boat pond. In April 1965, the 5-inch track was extended into the double loop of today, with the exception that the track was “elevated” as in figure 4.

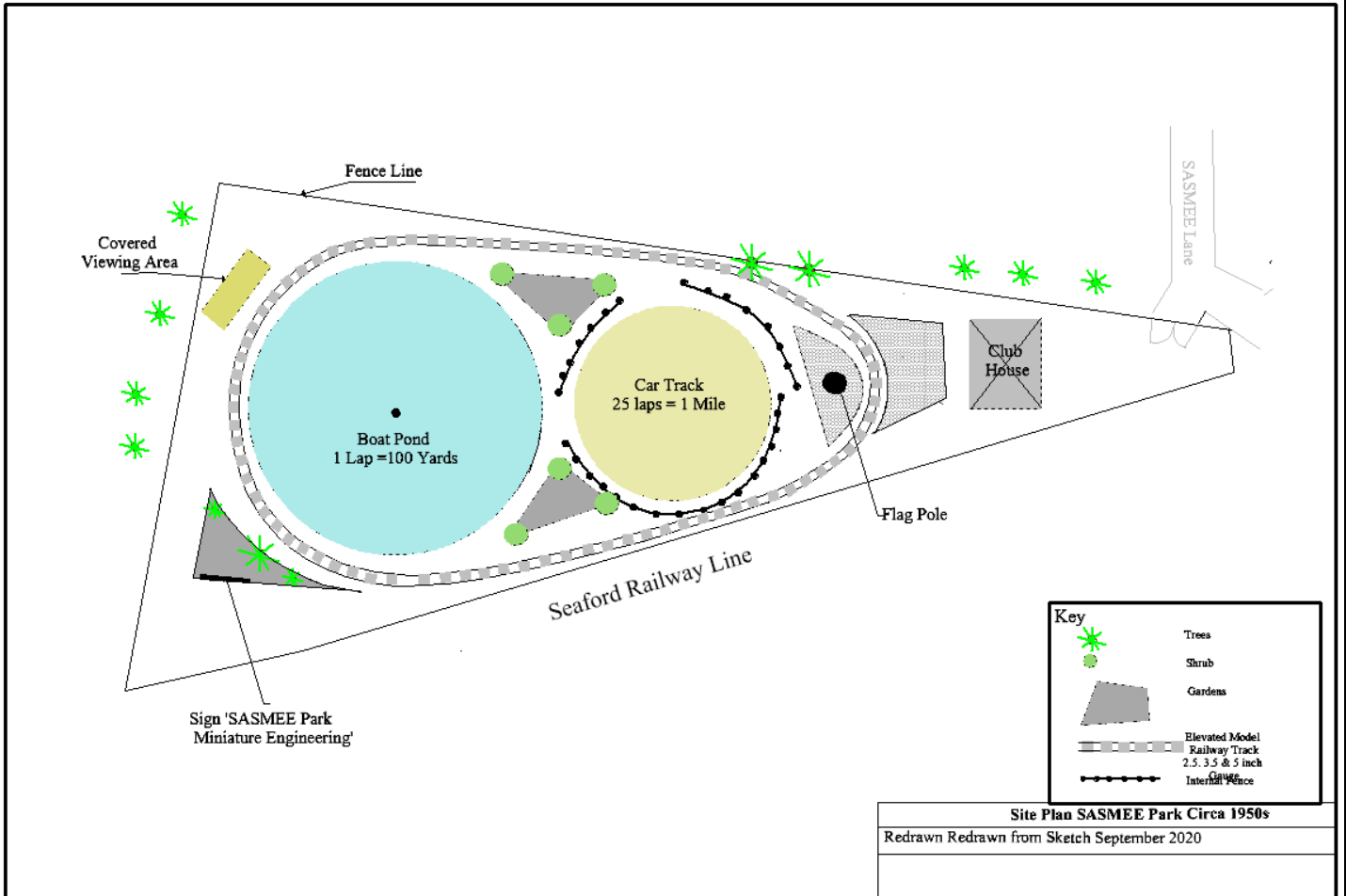


Figure 5: SASMEE Park Circa 1950s



Figure 6: The Boat Pond

In 2002 the State Transport Authority vested ownership of the land with the Unley City Council. The Society now leases approximately 0.9 Ha of land from that Council.

Much of the development work that is seen in 2022 is due to several generations of volunteer members, utilising a wide variety of skills and plain sleeves up hard toil.

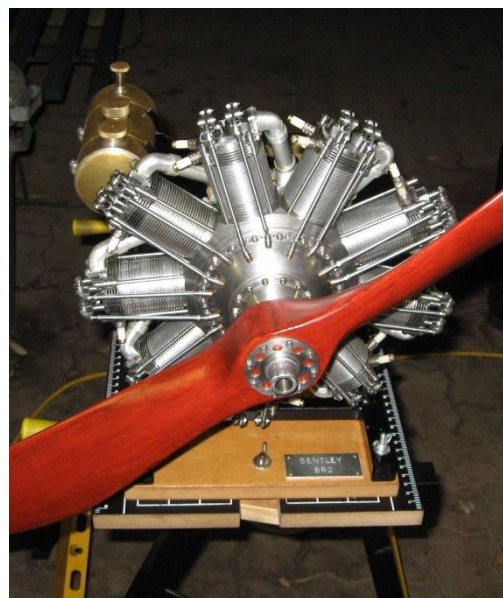
The greening of what once was just a desolate pile of refuse left over from the construction of the Goodwood Road rail underpass has, by those same efforts, produced a site that now is an eagerly sought-after venue for families to have a great day out, or celebrate their children's' birthdays.

In the 1970's, the small "Steam House" which operated a selection of historic miniature steam engines was expanded to include a larger boiler, and a selection of industrial steam engines rescued from the demise of the SA Gas Company gas works that occurred with the arrival of natural gas.



Figure 7: Taking care of the miniature steam engines

As technology has changed, so too has the general interests of model engineers. While the attraction of steam is still present, modellers have engaged themselves in the use of electronics, and more sophisticated means of working metal, such as CNC machining. Complex models, such as aircraft engines, and other internal combustion engines demonstrate considerable skill and dedication by the builders.



Figures 8 & 9: – Various member's models.

Each year SASMEE holds a “Show and Tell” day at which members bring their models. The emphasis is on work in progress. For many years SASMEE has held an exhibition at the Royal Adelaide Show and sponsors the awarding of best non steam locomotive at the AALS Convention.



Figure 10: Various members models



Figure 11: A pleasant park like atmosphere

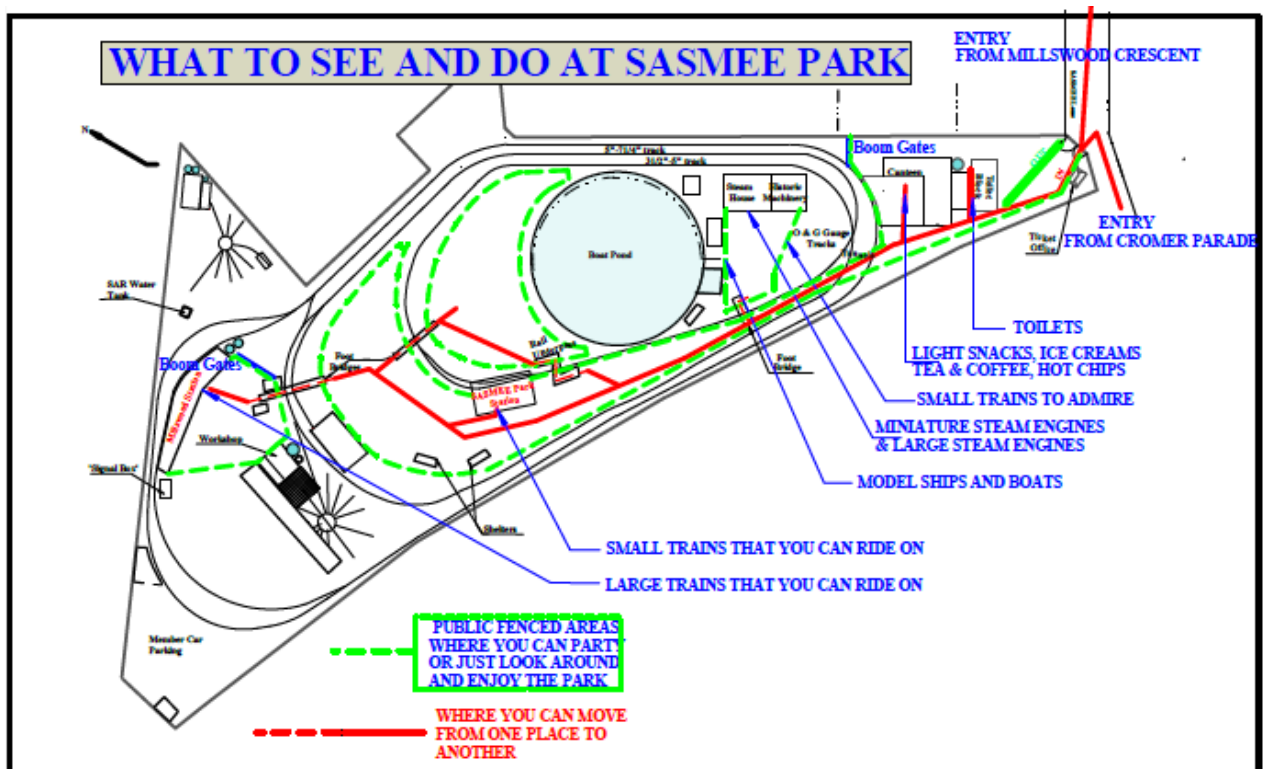


Figure 12: Current layout of SASMEE Park:

In the 2020's, SASMEE Park, as we now call the land, has seen increasing favour as a place for the public to have an enjoyable day out. The park is open to the public on the first Sunday and third Saturday of each month. The pleasant grounds, and the attraction of miniature trains to ride on, have been of great value in assisting people emerge from the pandemic crises. The entrance fee provides the means for paying the essential bills such as water, electricity, and general maintenance.

The entire Park and Club is operated and maintained by volunteer members. They come from many walks of life. The Club is active in assisting members unfortunate to have some disabilities. There are also an enthusiastic group of young members aged between ten and fourteen for whom special events and activities are organised.

Since 1962, SASMEE has published a quarterly Bulletin. Copies of these can be found on the SASMEE website at <https://sasmee.org.au/the-bulletin/>

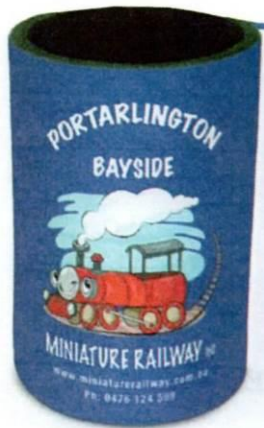


Figure 13: SASMEE operates “0” and “1” gauge garden railways, as well as 3 ½”, 5” & 7 1/4” Miniature Railways.

SASMEE – THE DETAILS ARE:

LOCATION:	SASMEE Lane, Off Millswood Cres, Millswood. SA
OPERATING DAYS:	1 st & 3 rd Sundays of month 1.30 – 4.30 pm.
POSTAL ADDRESS:	P. O. Box 208, Goodwood, SA, 5034
EMAIL:	contact@sasmee.org.au
TELEPHONE No.	0493-065-175
WEBSITE:	https://sasmee.org.au
FACEBOOK:	https://www.facebook.com.SASMEEPark/

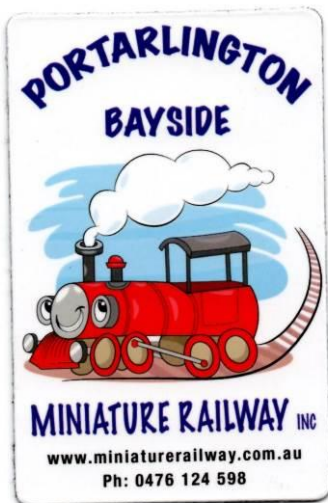
SOME OF OUR SOUVENIR RANGE :



CAN COOLERS \$7.00 ea.



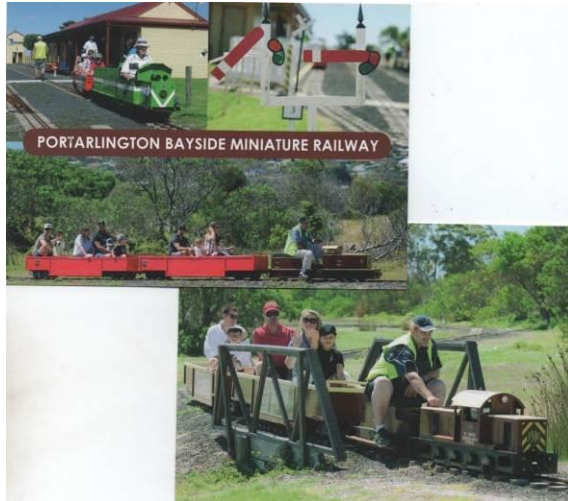
ENGINE DRIVER CAPS
\$20.00 ea.



FRIDGE MAGNETS \$3.00 ea.



KEY RINGS \$4.00 ea.



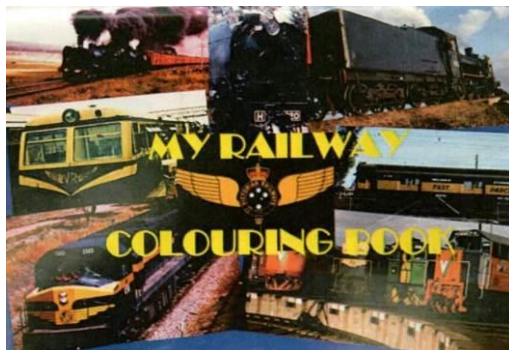
PORTARLINGTON BAYSIDE MINIATURE RAILWAY

POSTCARDS \$ 1.00 ea.



**WOODEN TOY TRAINS,
TRUCKS, PLANES & OTHER
LOVELY THINGS**

PRICES ON APPLICATION.



**MY RAILWAY COLOURING
BOOK - \$8.00 ea .**

JUST SOME OF OUR

SOUVENIRS.

IF YOU CANNOT SEE IT -

JUST ASK.....

SOME OF THE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT OUR STATION KIOSK



Reduce your risk of coronavirus

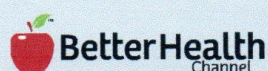
- **WASH** your hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. Dry with paper towel or hand dryer.
- **TRY** not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **COVER** your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- **STAY** at home if you feel sick. If you take medication make sure you have enough.
- **PHONE** your doctor or the hotline – **1800 675 398** – if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- **CONTINUE** healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep.
- **WEARING** a face mask is not necessary if you are well.
- **BUY** an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60% alcohol.



Find out more
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

If you are concerned, call the
Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)
Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

To receive this publication in an accessible format email COVID-19@dhhs.vic.gov.au
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Health and Human Services

Railway Information No. 33

Lamp Rooms

Written by Andrew Blair, a volunteer of the Yarra Valley Railway.

Lighting for stations, locomotives, signals, hand lanterns, level crossing gates, buffer stops, guards vans and carriages was originally all oil fueled lights. The oil was *lighting kerosene*. As technologies improved, the oil fuel in some pressurised lamps using Shelllite, a refined form of petrol. Lighting in passenger carriages evolved with the use of gas – Pintsch Gas, prior to the use of electric lighting.

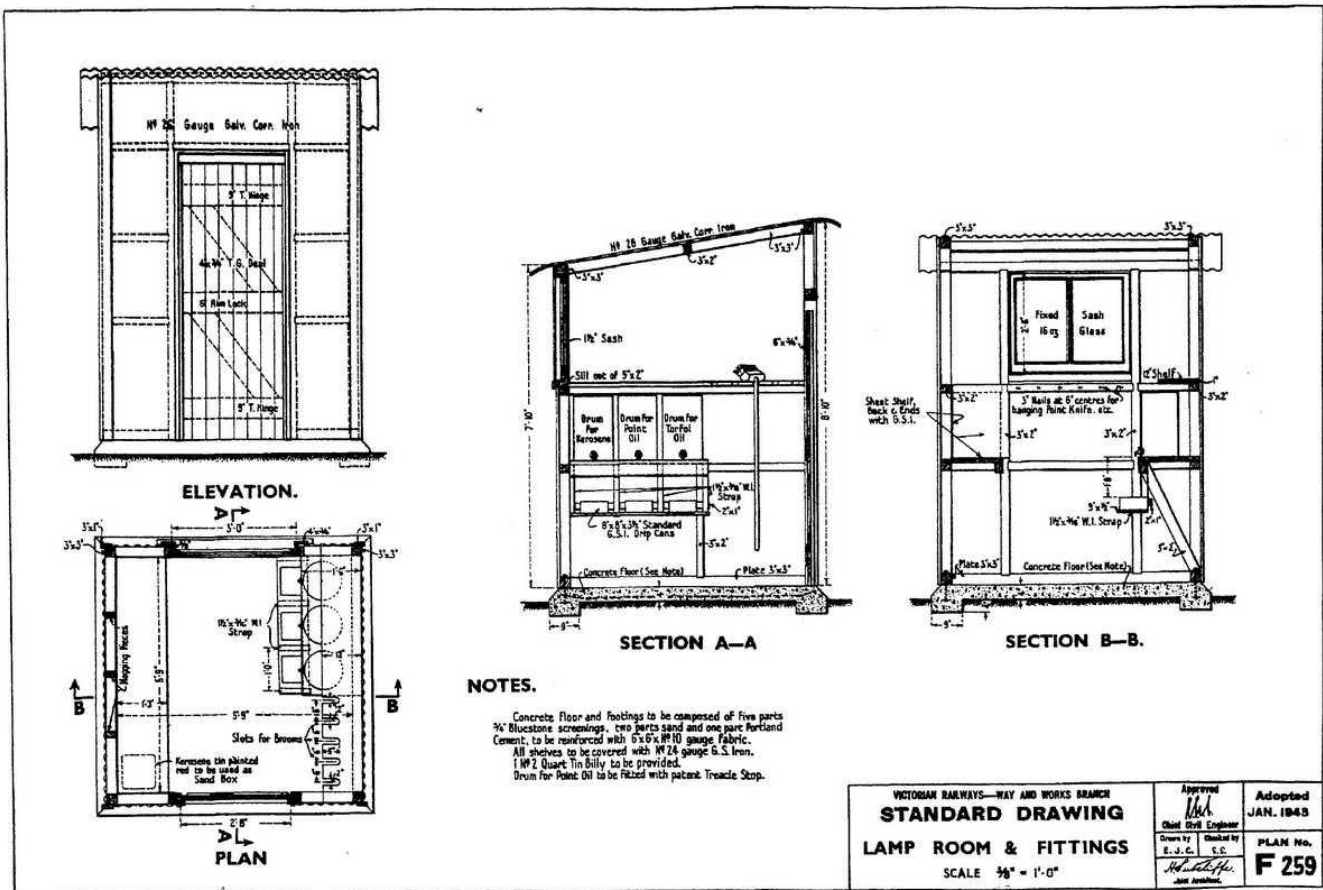
On stations which had kerosene lamps for signals or station buildings a lamp room was built, but because of the flammable liquid (kerosene) these buildings were usually set away from the main station. Healesville was no exception, and the rebuilt lamp room is now in the location where the original lamp room once stood.



The Healesville double lamp room, set away from the main station building to reduce the likelihood of fire of the flammable kerosene reaching other buildings. In the lamp room were all the materials that were required for the lamps: spare lamps, lamp wicks, wick trimming scissors, glasses, lamp components, and also oil for lubricating points (turnouts), and Torfoil Oil used for disinfecting toilets at unsewered stations.



There was a standard lamp room design, but there were many different designs. Shelves to carry the various components were placed on one side of the room. On the opposite side were the drums of Kerosene and Point lubricating oil. Each drum had its own tap and a drip tray underneath to catch any drips or spill.



The lamp rooms had a concrete floor as shown in the plan below of the Standard Lamp Room.

CAMERA CORNER:



On Sunday, 3rd December, 2023. The PBMR celebrated our 8th Anniversary of Passenger train operations. The picture above shows our President Keith Stasinowsky being ably assisted by Margaret Vella cutting the birthday cake, which was then distributed around to those present. (Picture: Brian Coleman.)

SAFETY BULLETIN BOARD

Living with the Sun



SLIP
ON A SHIRT
SLOP
ON A SUNSCREEN
SLAP
ON A HAT



These safety messages appeared in a Victorian Railways publication during the 1960's.

OUR MONTHLY PASSENGER TALLIES – From January, 2019 – to current :

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Month	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	2214	2708	1890	2599		July	-	373	604	809
February	698	1044	-	427		August	-	372	502	396
March	897	1257	1324	606		September	-	224	866	917
April	-	1718	2315	1975		October	-	1610	497	1253
May	-	990	1017	212		November	-	939	688	786
June	-	630	476	829		December	1290	1601	803	1281
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>10551</u>	<u>9637</u>	<u>12141</u>	<u>10608</u>			<u>5099</u>	<u>13466</u>	<u>10982</u>	<u>12090</u>
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY		YR	YR	YR	YR

Railway carried **1281 Passengers** during December, a gain of **478 Passengers** or + **59.52 %**

Results for the current 2023 – 24 Fiscal Year are **5442 Passengers** or a gain of **1482 Or + 37.42 %**

Figures represent a gain in traffic for the 2023 year of **1108 Passengers** or + **10.08 %**.

Passenger train operations were suspended from 22nd March, 2020 to 6th December, 2020, from 18th July, to 31st July, from 21st August, 2021 to 10th September, 2021 & from 22nd – 27th September, 2021 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic crisis. Closure from 29th January – 5th March, 2022 due to urgent track-works etc.

SOME RAIL RELATED HUMOUR :

A man and his wife check into a hotel. The husband wants to have a drink at the bar but his wife is extremely tired so she decides to go on up to their room to rest. She lies down on the bed... just then, an elevated train passes by very close to the window and shakes the room so hard she's thrown out of the bed.

Thinking this must be a freak occurrence, she lies down once more. Again a train shakes the room so violently she's thrown to the floor. Exasperated, she calls the front desk and asks for the manager. The manager says, "I'll be right up."

The manager is sceptical but the wife insists the story is true. "Look... lie here on the bed -- you'll be thrown right to the floor!" So he lies down next to the wife. Just then the husband walks in. "What do you think you're doing!", he says. The manager calmly replies, "Would you believe I'm waiting for a train?"

A passenger train is creeping along, painfully slow. Finally, it creaks to a complete halt. A passenger sees the guard walking by outside. "What's going on?" she yells out the window. "Cow on the track!", replies the guard. Ten minutes later, the train resumes its slow pace. Within five minutes, however, it stops again. The woman sees the same guard walking by again. She leans out the window and yells, "What happened? Did we catch up with the cow again?"

A few years ago, a young English woman decided to visit her brother by train who was stationed in Germany. The German ticket inspector on the train punched her ticket, then chatted cordially for a bit, making gestures like a windmill. The young lady simply nodded from time to time to show him that she was interested. When he had gone, an American woman soldier in the compartment leaned forward and asked if the young lady spoke German. "No," she confessed. "Then that explains it," she said. "Explains what", asked the young woman. "Why you didn't bat an eyelid when he told you that you were on the wrong train."

SPECIAL TRAIN / PARTY BOOKINGS NOTICE BOARD :

Special Train / Party Bookings have been received, as under:

<u>DAY & DATE</u>	<u>TYPE :</u>	<u>TIMES OF HIRE :</u>	<u>No. of Trains :</u>	<u>No in group</u>
Saturday, 13 th January, 2024	Party	1400 - 1600	2	50
Sunday, 14 th January, 2024	Party	1330 - 1530	Service Trains	21
Saturday 20 th January, 2024	Party			

JANUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES :

The following members have birthdays which fall during the month of **January** and the railway would like to record our congratulations and sincere best wishes on their happy occasion. We hope that they will have a great day and that all their birthday wishes will come true !!.

Peter Walker	Oliver Wilkes	Tom Train
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TRAIN RUNNING ROSTERS : (Harm Jager – Roster Clerk.)

The **January Train Running Roster** has been issued. Members are asked to note the dates which they have been rostered and to ensure that they attend on their rostered day of duty. If you cannot attend kindly find a replacement. The draft February Roster is to be circulated to the members, for comment soon. **For Roster Enquiries**, contact **Harm Jager, Roster Clerk** on **Mobile Tel No. 0481-117-981. Email: harmjager78@gmail.com.au**

REMEMBER : IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND - CONTACT HARM JAGER ASAP....



PBMR Bumper Stickers (as pictured above) available at our Station Kiosk – Only \$2.00 each.....A great little gift idea for that someone special....

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS SLANG

Most trades and professions have made their contribution to that vivid and expressive underworld of language known as slang. Among others, the army, navy, air force, legal and medical professions have their own special variety of slang; and there is the slang of the turf and of the circus.

Railwaymen have also contributed their quota to the treasury of slang. Below are given some words and phrases current in the operating branches :

Big Wheel Driver :	Driver of a passenger train
Peg :	A train staff
Snatching the peg :	Exchanging staffs
Setting the trap :	Erecting the automatic staff exchange apparatus
Flag and whistle king :	A suburban guard
Rip and tearer :	Rhyming slang for a repairer
Dropping the anchor :	Dropping the hand brake on a truck
Blocko :	Block & Signal Inspector
Red light in front :	Signifies that a senior officer is travelling in the cab of an electric train
Free wheeling :	Express runs of electric trains
Crackers :	Detonators for fog signalling
They're punching her all the way :	A difficult trip on an engine pulling a heavy load under adverse conditions.



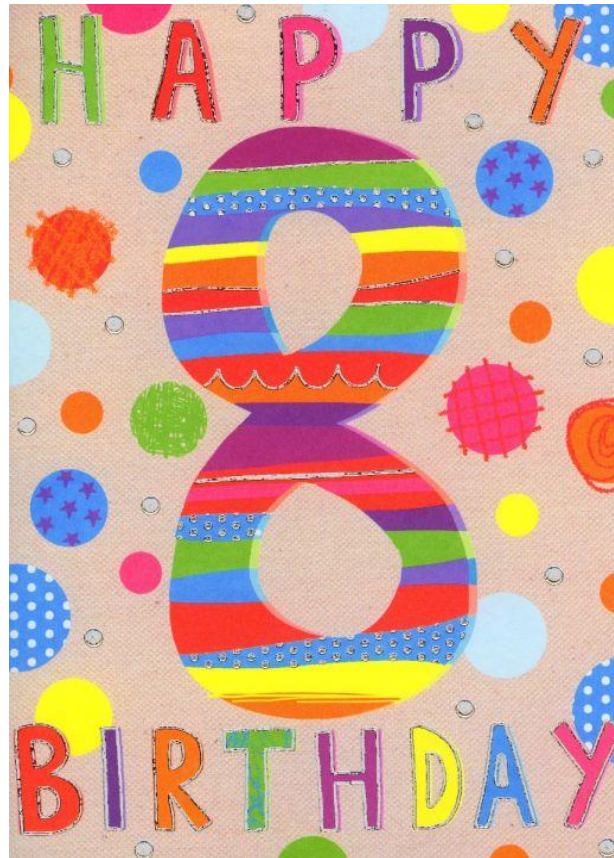
The above article appeared in the March, 1950 Edition of the Victorian Railways News Letter, which we gratefully acknowledge as the original source of this information.



**How do locomotive
engineer's get
better?**

Train , train , train.

OUR ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY:



5th December, 2015 is an important date in the calendar of the PBMR. It marks the resumption of public passenger services following this association's legal formation on 5th April, 2015, much negotiation with the Rotary Club of Drysdale Inc to formally take over the railway operation and much work to get the railway in good working order and in a "train shape" condition once again.

On Sunday 3rd December, 2022, we have reached our 8th Birthday. The event was celebrated with a lovely chocolate birthday cake provided by the PBMR The cake was cut by Keith Stasinowsky, our President, ably assisted by Margaret Vella (See picture on Page 15) and was then passed around to all those members and visitors present.

The day dawned overcast but turned into bright and sunny day. These prevailing conditions unfortunately did not have a positive effect on the number of passengers we carried and the tally was only 157 passengers for the day. Perhaps due to Xmas shopping distractions had an adverse effect and kept patrons away from us ?. Fortunately enough members and volunteers were present and their assistance was greatly appreciated.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH :

FIVE RULES FOR A BETTER LIFE:



Less Meat
More Vegetables



Less Sugar
More Fruits



Less Drive
More Walk



Less Worry
More Sleep



Less Anger
More Laughter



WANTED TO SELL :

CURTIS CONTROLLERS (24V 110 Amp)

- Available for Immediate Sale. \$265.00 ea.

CONTACT: Harm on MOBILE No. 0476-124-598.



- Ornithologist? - Incorrect
- Zoologist? - No
- Entomologist? - Much closer - but wrong
- Arachrologist? - Wrong again.
- Mothologist? - Hmm, looks good - better check the Dictionary - No such word - still wrong!

It's the Editor looking hopefully in the Mail Bag for Articles or Topical Notes - How About It ? ? ?

(SLSV - BWN)

Thank you to the Office of Steve McGhie, Member for Melton for support and printing.

PBMR – CALENDAR OF EVENTS :

<u>DAY & DATE:</u>	<u>EVENT & TIMES:</u>
Wednesday, 3rd January, 2024	School Holiday Run 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 7 th January, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Wednesday, 10 th January, 2024	School Holiday Run 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Saturday, 13 th January, 2024	PARTY BOOKING
Sunday, 14 th January, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Wednesday, 17 th January, 2024	School Holiday Run 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Saturday, 20 th January, 2024	PARTY BOOKING
Sunday, 21 st January, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Wednesday, 24 th January, 2024	School Holiday Run 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 28 th January, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 4 th February, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 11 th February, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Sunday, 18 th February, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 25 th February, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Sunday, 3 rd March, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 10 th March, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Sunday, 17 th March, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 24 th March, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Saturday, 30 th March, 2024	Easter Saturday Run 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 31 st March, 2024	Easter Sunday Run 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

THINGS TO BE NOTED :

- Summer Timetable began on Sunday, 1st October, 2023.
- Running 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month – 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
- Running every Sunday & Wednesday during January, 2024.
- Party Bookings: See “Special Trains Notice Board” - Page 18.
- Volunteers are always required – Contact Harm Jager.

OUR SPONSORS – PLEASE SUPPORT THEM...

WANT TO FILL THIS SPACE ??.

CONTACT THE PBMR

(For details - See Page 26.)

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5251 2388

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Libby Coker MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CORANGAMITE



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BETTER TOGETHER

Phone 03 5261 7663 Email Libby.Coker.MP@aph.gov.au
Address 26/500-540 Torquay Road, Armstrong Creek, VIC 3217

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23 Weymouth St, Hamlyn Heights. Ph: 0466 041 803

Alison Marchant.

Member for Bellarine

Supporting Our Local Community

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- ☎ 03 5250 1987
- ✉ alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 alisonmarchantmp.com.au

connect with me



THE TAIL DISC :



LOOKING FOR A NEW HOBBY - WE NEED YOU !!
NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.
VACANCIES EXIST FOR STATION STAFF, SIGNALLERS,
DRIVERS, HANDYPERSONS, KIOSK STAFF ETC ETC...
APPLY AT OUR STATION...

EMAIL:	secretary@miniaturerailway.com.au	FACEBOOK	miniaturerailway
WEBSITE:	www.miniaturerailway.com.au	PHONE:	0476-124-598
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