

PORT BAY EXPRESS

Official Newsletter of the Portarlington Bayside Miniature Railway Inc.

Volume No.9 – Issue No.3.

March, 2024.

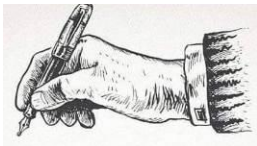


A lovely picture of the late Graeme Harvey driving Bendigo Bank and train during 2019. This member was responsible for the original vision and drive which established the miniature railway at Portarlington way back in late 1990's. As our 25th Anniversary approaches, it is apt to remember him - He is sadly missed. (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 February** turned out to be quite month for the mini railway, with our only operating on 1st and 3rd Sundays resulted in a slight loss of 221 passengers being carried being duly noted and recorded.....
- We need your valued help...A few working bees are planned in the future and your support is always required. There are a few outstanding jobs “on the books” and the help of all members is earnestly requested. Notices of Working Bees will be sent out, **so please consider when that happens !!.**

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
- **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....**
- **Whenever a reportable incident occurs** it the responsibility of the member(s) concerned to **submit an Incident Report** to the Trackmaster on duty. These reports are to be passed onto the Secretary ASAP, for further processing as the case maybe.

Brian Coleman – Secretary.

A NEWSPAPER WITH YOUR BREAKFAST MADAM ?.

By David Watson.

Some two years after the *Spirit of Progress* had commenced operation between Melbourne and Albury, it was decided to make newspapers available to the Parlor Car patrons on the morning train.

The Melbourne papers did not reach Albury until well after the train's 7.50am departure, but did arrive in Seymour at around 6.00am on the "News Goods". However, the *Spirit of Progress* was non-stop throughout, so how to get the papers on board was the question. The way in which this was achieved is quite fascinating.

In a circular numbered A. 2429/39 dated 16 November 1939 issued by M.A. Remfrey, General Superintendent of Transportation, the following procedure was set out –

- The train to pass through the platform at Seymour at 5 miles per hour
- The Parlor Car Conductor to open the exterior door of the car on the platform side
- The conductor to prevent passengers entering the vestibule of the car and to stand clear himself
- Stationmaster Seymour to have three adult employees, each with a bundle of newspapers (presumably the Sun, the Age and the Argus) at 10 yard intervals along the platform
- The papers to be thrown into the open door of the Parlor car as the train passed.
- The Conductor to stop the train with the emergency brake cock should a bundle of papers fall between the train and the platform.



The Spirit of Progress departs Spencer Steet Station circa 1938



The Spirit of Progress travelling on the double line track going towards Seymour - c 1938.

This last instruction is interesting. There was no instruction to stop if a bundle fell back onto the platform so presumably recovery of the papers was not the issue. It may be that with the possibility of the bundle getting under the wheels and causing a derailment, the view was that it would be undesirable for the train to begin to accelerate.

A former Seymour station employee (now deceased) who as a young man had been involved in this procedure told District Superintendent David Watson that the bundles were thrown into the Guards Van. As the Van was at the front of the train and the Parlor Car at the rear, this would require the newspapers being carried the length of train including through the Dining Car which would be serving breakfast at that hour. It would be interesting to hear from anyone with further information on this point.

The same employee volunteered to do it again for a special train which operated for Board Chairman A. G (Bill) Gibbs and VIPs in November 1973 in connection with the centenary of the North East Railway. Unfortunately, the train was travelling at somewhat more than 5mph and the passage of time had dulled his skills. The bundle missed the open door of the PCO van, bent the hand-rail and burst open on the platform. The train did not stop!

SOME MORE BRITISH RAILWAYS HUMOUR:

A man on the northbound "Night Caledonian" sleeping car train ordered one of the attendants, "I have to be off at Perth, I'm a heavy sleeper (no pun intended!), but I **must** get off there. I want you to put me off, whatever I say." The next morning he woke up at Inverness! Extremely annoyed he found the attendant and gave him a piece of his mind. After he had left, somebody asked the attendant, "How could you stand there and take that kind of talk?" "That's nothing!", replied the attendant, "you should have heard the guy I put off at Perth!"

Young Alec and his parents were drinking at the bar in a train station when they heard a whistle. The three of them rushed out of the bar onto the platform only to discover that they had missed the train. "The next train is in one hour," said the stationmaster. The three went back into the bar. The parents had another drink, Alec had a coke. Again they heard a whistle, rushed out and discovered the train pulling away. "Next one is sixty minutes from now!" said the stationmaster. An hour later, Alec, with his mum and dad, raced out onto the platform, and his parents leaped onto the train as it pulled away. The boy was left standing on the platform and began to laugh uproariously. "Your parents just left you," said the stationmaster. "Why are you laughing?" "They only came to see me off!"

There was an Irishman, an Englishman and Claudia Schiffer sitting together in a railway carriage travelling through India. Suddenly the train went through a tunnel and as it was an old style train there were no lights in the carriages and it went completely dark. Then there was this kissing noise and the sound of a really loud slap. When the train came out of the tunnel, Claudia Schiffer and the Irishman were sitting as if nothing had happened and the Englishman had his hand against his face as he had been slapped there. The Englishman was thinking: "The Irish fella must have kissed Claudia Schiffer and she missed him and slapped me instead." Claudia Schiffer was thinking: "The English fella must have tried to kiss me and actually kissed the Irishman and got slapped for it." The Irishman was thinking: "This is great! The next time the train goes through a tunnel I'll make another kissing noise and slap that English idiot again."

Jim wanted a job as a signaller on the railways. At the job interview the inspector asked him this question: "What would you do if you saw 2 trains heading for each other on the SAME track? Jim said: "I would put all signals to danger" "What if they were going too fast?", asked the inspector. Jim said, "I would switch the points for one of the trains." "What if the lever broke?" asked the Inspector. "Then I'd dash down the signal box steps waving a red flag" ,said Jim. "What if it blew away in the wind?" asked the inspector. "Then..." Jim continued, "I'd run back into signal box & phone the next signal box." "What if the phone was engaged?" "Well.....in that case," persevered Jim, "I'd rush down out of the box & use the PUBLIC emergency phone at the level of the crossing." "What would you do if THAT was vandalized?" "Oh well, then I'd run into the village & get my Uncle Harry." This puzzled the Inspector, so he asked, "Why would you do that?" "Because he's never seen a train crash!!"

A lawyer gets on a train to go to London. He sits next to a poor farmer. To pass the time the lawyer decides to play a game with the guy. "I will ask you a question and if you get it wrong, you have to pay me 1 pound. Then you ask me a question, and if I get it wrong, you get 10 pounds. You ask me a question first. "The farmer thinks for a while. "I know", he says, "what has three legs, takes 10 hours to climb up a palm tree, and 10 seconds to get back down?" The lawyer is confused and thinks long and hard about the question. Finally, the train is approaching London. As it pulls into the station, the lawyer takes out 10 pounds and gives it to the farmer. "I don't know. What has 3 legs, takes 10 hours to get up a palm tree and 10 seconds to get back down?" The farmer takes the 10 pounds and puts it into his pocket. He then takes out 1 pound and hands it to the lawyer and says: "I don't know either."



LOCAL “EMAIL TREE” CALLS - “IT’S TIME” !!!

On Sunday, 4th February, 2024, the PBMR hosted a send off for the Portarlington Community Email Tree, at which many representatives from the local community attended.

The Email Tree was established during 2009 through the efforts of Wage from the City of Greater Geelong and Eliz Turner, a local Community Activist who both saw the need to improve communications around the Bellarine by creating an email newsletter for distribution. It was supported by many sectors from the local community including this miniature railway association.

For over 14 years the Tree has done what was asked of it – shared activities, events, ways to join in, calls for volunteers, opportunities to have a say and so much more. It is estimated that the tree reached around 1,600 people, with many people receiving the tree, passing it around.

The decision to close the Email Tree has not been an easy one, however there comes a time to say “it’s time” and that is now, said Liz Turner. A small function was held at the Point Richards Station with a couple of speeches and the handing out of a souvenir coffee mug to all those that supported the tree. Many partook of the BBQ where snags were of offer to all those present. **Thank you Liz & Wade** for your great community spirit and work - it has been very much appreciated.



Group pictures of the PCET Farewell Gathering at Point Richards Railway Station – Sunday, 4th February, 2024.
(Pictures courtesy of Eliz Turner)

A VISIT TO THE BELLARINE RAILWAY



On Saturday 10th February, 2024, Elly (my partner) and I headed off to Drysdale Railway Station, a terminus of the Bellarine Railway. The Bellarine Railway was offering the opportunity to go on steam train rides to Lakers Siding and then returning back to Drysdale, a 90 minute round trip. Being train lovers we jumped at the opportunity to do this. The special event had been organised to give aspiring train crews valuable practice and experience etc.



Steam Locomotives 3620 (Ex South African Railways) 2-8-4 (left) and T251 (Ex South Australian Railways) 4-8-0 (right) with train crews under training at Drysdale. (Pictures: Courtesy of John Mander) (Story by John Mander)

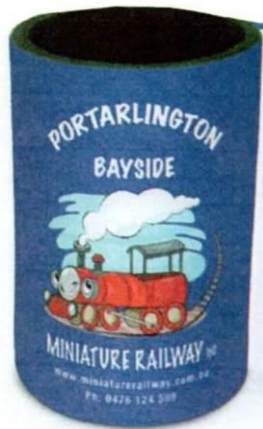


John Mander standing beside Steam Loco T251 (Ex SAR) at Lakers Siding.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY:

The Bellarine Railway (BR) is run by volunteers / members of the Geelong Steam Preservation Society and is a not for profit organisation founded during 1970. They originally started running trains at the Belmont Common, Geelong, before moving to Queenscliff and taking over the closed broad gauge (5'3") branch line to Drysdale and converting it to 3'6" gauge. It is one of the oldest surviving Victorian Branch Line still in operation, originally being opened for traffic during 1879, closed during 1976, regauged and re-opened by the BR during May 1979 initially to Lakers Siding and later extended to Drysdale.

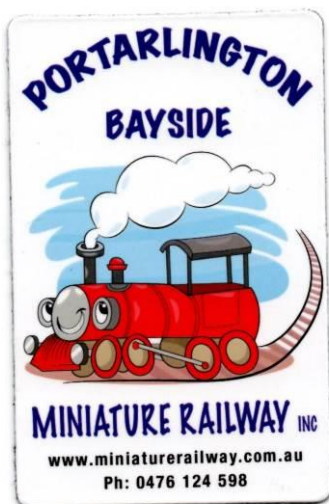
SOME OF OUR SOUVENIR RANGE :



CAN COOLERS \$7.00 ea.



ENGINE DRIVER CAPS
\$20.00 ea.



FRIDGE MAGNETS \$3.00 ea.



KEY RINGS \$4.00 ea.

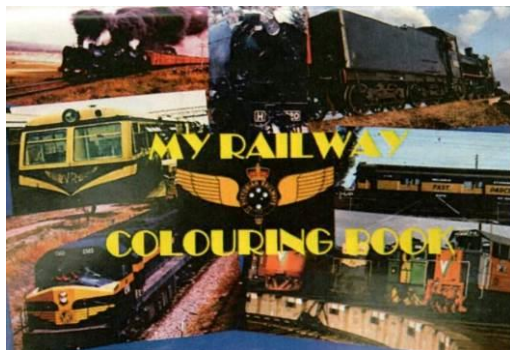


POSTCARDS \$ 1.00 ea.



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SOUVENIRS.

IF YOU CANNOT SEE IT -

JUST ASK.....

SOME OF THE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT OUR STATION KIOSK

Protect yourself and your family

Wash your hands regularly



1

Wet your hands.

Put soap on
your hands.

2



3

Rub the soap over all
parts of your hands for
at least 20 seconds.



Rinse your
hands under
running water.

4



5

Dry your hands thoroughly
with disposable paper towel
or hand dryer.



Stay germ free and healthy

CAMERA CORNER:



Harm Jager can be seen installing replacement Level Crossing signage at our road crossing. The signs were a donation from the Puffing Billy Railway. Harm is one of our loyal volunteers on whose help we appreciate. Want to join our happy crew ?. See Page 24 for further details. (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	2498	July	-	373	604	809
February	698	1044	-	427	206	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 **206 Passengers** during February, a loss of **221 Passengers** or – **51.75 %**

Results for the current 2023 – 24 Fiscal Year are **8146 Passengers** or a gain of **1160 Or + 16.60 %**

Figures represent a loss **in traffic** for the 2024 year of **322 Passengers** or – **10.64 %**.

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.

Railway Information No. 35

Turntables

It is preferred to have steam locomotives running funnel first, rather than tender first. The locomotive crew have far better view looking forward, rather than having to hang out the side window to see past the tender if travelling tender first. Few locomotives have a headlight on their tender. Travelling funnel first also offers better protection for driver and fireman, from the weather. Most tender locomotives are designed to travel funnel first and when travelling tender first their maximum speed is reduced. Tank locomotives have no tender and are designed to run in either direction.

There are three common methods of turning locomotives: 1. Triangle, 2. Balloon loops, both require considerable space and, 3. Turntables. - So their use became common practice.

The length of turntables in Victoria have changed over the years. **50 foot** long (15.24 metres) turntables were common, particularly on branch lines. As time went by and larger locomotives were built, many of these turntables were extended to **53 feet** (16.15 metres). To turn a locomotive longer than this mean that the locomotive and the tender had to be separated and each turned. This was done, but train crews avoided doing that if possible. It was a slow, time demanding process.



D³ steam locomotives (4-6-0) were very common and were turned on 50 foot turntables, like this one at Queenscliff.



Healesville also had a 50 foot turntable but to accommodate larger locomotives, such as the A² it was replaced by a **70 foot** turntable (21.34 metres)

Upside down the old turntable is now a bridge over a creek on a private drive leading off River Street, Healesville.

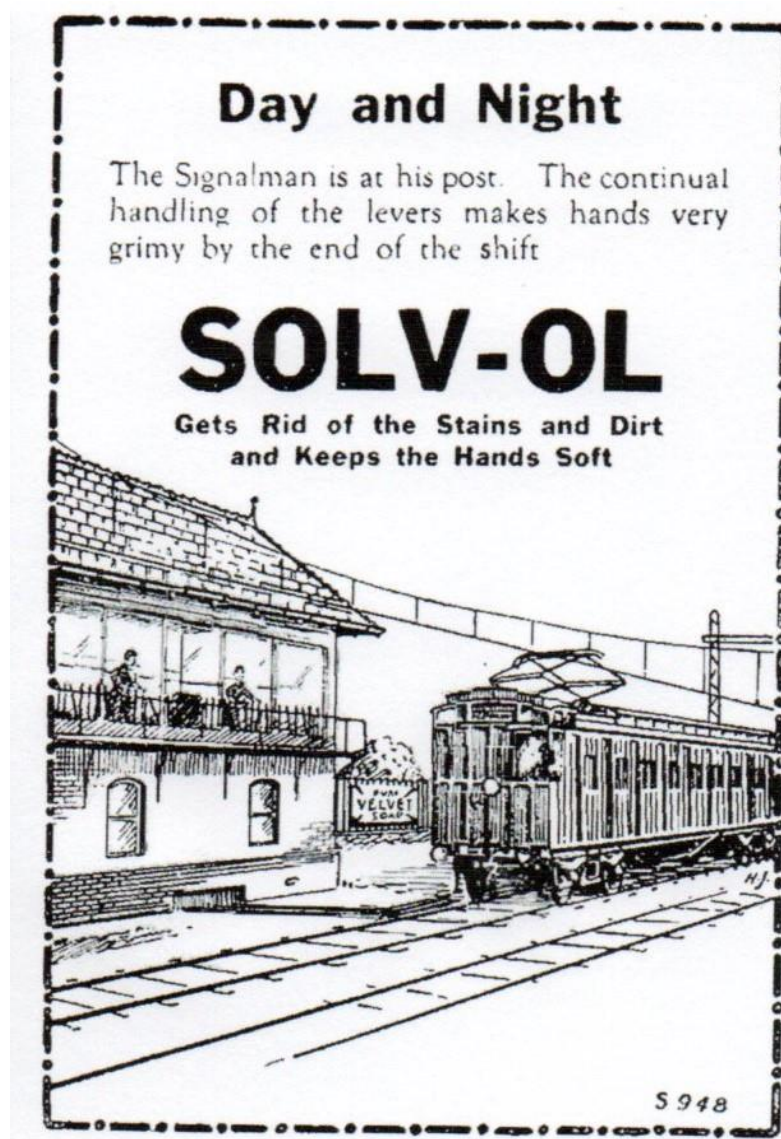
Below: For many years after closing the line in 1980, the Healesville turntable sat unused. It is now being restored.



Steam locomotive H 220 (Heavy Harry 260 tons) was too long for a 70 foot turn table, so an 85 foot (25.9 metres) was installed at Ararat. It was envisaged that H220 would haul the Overland (Adelaide Express). This did not happen, and when running in North Eastern Victoria it was turned on the Wodonga triangle and the Melbourne balloon loop. This was also the way the Spirit of Progress was turned so that the Parlour Car was always at the back end of the train.

A 70 foot turntable will be required at Yarra Glen for turning steam locomotives.

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



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>

MARCH BIRTHDAY WISHES :

The following members have birthdays which fall during the month of **March** 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 !!.

John Mander	Alistair Blues	Patricia Harvey
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TRAIN RUNNING ROSTERS : (Harm Jager – Roster Clerk.)

The **March 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 April 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....

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH :



KARMA

**WHEN A BIRD IS ALIVE, IT EATS ANTS.
WHEN THE BIRD IS DEAD, ANTS EAT THE BIRD.
TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES
CAN CHANGE AT ANY TIME.
DON'T DEVALUE OR HURT ANYONE IN LIFE.
YOU MAY BE POWERFUL TODAY, BUT REMEMBER,
TIME IS MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU.
ONE TREE MAKES A MILLION MATCH STICKS
BUT ONLY ONE MATCH IS NEEDED
TO BURN A MILLION TREES.
SO BE GOOD AND DO GOOD.**

LAURIE BLICK – A FOND FAREWELL :

Sad news was recently received that Laurence (Laurie) Blick had passed away suddenly. Although not a member of the miniature railway, was a strong supporter of PBMR, through his efforts to train some of our members in the fine arts of First Aid and to keep us well supplied with first aid equipment and resources.

Laurie was born in January 1959, attended his schooling and eventually became a Paramedic starting in Geelong, later transferring to the Metropolitan Ambulance Service. Spent several years in Melbourne then returned to Geelong, becoming a paramedic. He helped save many lives during his career. He spent over 31 years in the service of ambulance brigades.

He was a good mentor and willing to train other paramedics. He always had a smile and a joke. At the end of his paramedic career he started his very own successful first aid business – known as Bellarine First Aid.

His personal traits transferred to training the community using his vast professional experience to impart first aid knowledge to those who required it in order to further community safety. At the end of his first aid courses, there was always his favourite Ferrero Rocher Chocolates or similar on hand, to say farewell to his attentive students !!. Sadly, he passed away during January, 2024, aged only 66.



Laurie Blick doing what he loved best - teaching first aid. Great advice, a friendly smile, a funny joke and lessons learned well by many who attended his first aid courses, over the years. RIP Laurie 1959 – 2024. (Pic: Colin Dempsey C/o Volunteering Geelong)

PBMR – CALENDAR OF EVENTS :

<u>DAY & DATE:</u>	<u>EVENT & TIMES:</u>
Sunday, 3 rd March, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 10 th March, 2024	Special Event (25 th Anniversary) 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.
Monday, 11 th March, 2024	COMMITTEE MEETING
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
Wednesday, 3 rd April, 2024	School Holiday Run 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 7 th April, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Wednesday, 10 th April, 2024	School Holiday Run 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday, 14 th April, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Sunday, 21 st April, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday, 28 th April, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Sunday, 5 th May, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sunday, 12 th May, 2024 (Mothers Day)	Extra Running Day 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday, 19 th May, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday, 26 th May, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED

THINGS TO NOTE:

- Winter Timetable to begin on Sunday, 7th April, 2024.
- Running 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month – 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
- Party Bookings: See “Special Trains Notice Board” – Page .
- 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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Alison Marchant.

Member for Bellarine

Supporting Our Local Community

- 📍 Shop G066, Gateway Plaza, 641-659 Bellarine Highway Leopold VIC 3224
- ☎ 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...

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WEBSITE:	www.miniaturerailway.com.au	PHONE:	0476-124-598
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