

PORT BAY EXPRESS

Official Newsletter of the Portarlington Bayside Miniature Railway Inc.

Volume No.9 – Issue No.9.

September, 2024.



Its Sunday 7th July, 2024. Graeme Robinson is sen driving James and Passenger train arriving into Platform No.2 at Point Richards Station. Graeme is but one of our loyal volunteers whose help we really appreciate. Want to join our happy crew ??.

(Picture: Brian Coleman)

OUR PRESIDENT REPORTS :

- It still remains quite obvious that we still 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 seriously consider !!.**
- **The month of August** turned out to be a quite month for the mini railway, with our operating on 1st and 3rd Sundays (4th & 18th) only resulted in a tally of **502 Passengers** being carried, duly noted and recorded which is a gain of **106 Passengers** or **26.76 %** when compared to August, last year.
- **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 !!.**
- **Please take care** when you are filling out Drivers Pre-Running Check Sheets and make sure they are completed with all relevant parts correctly filled in.

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.

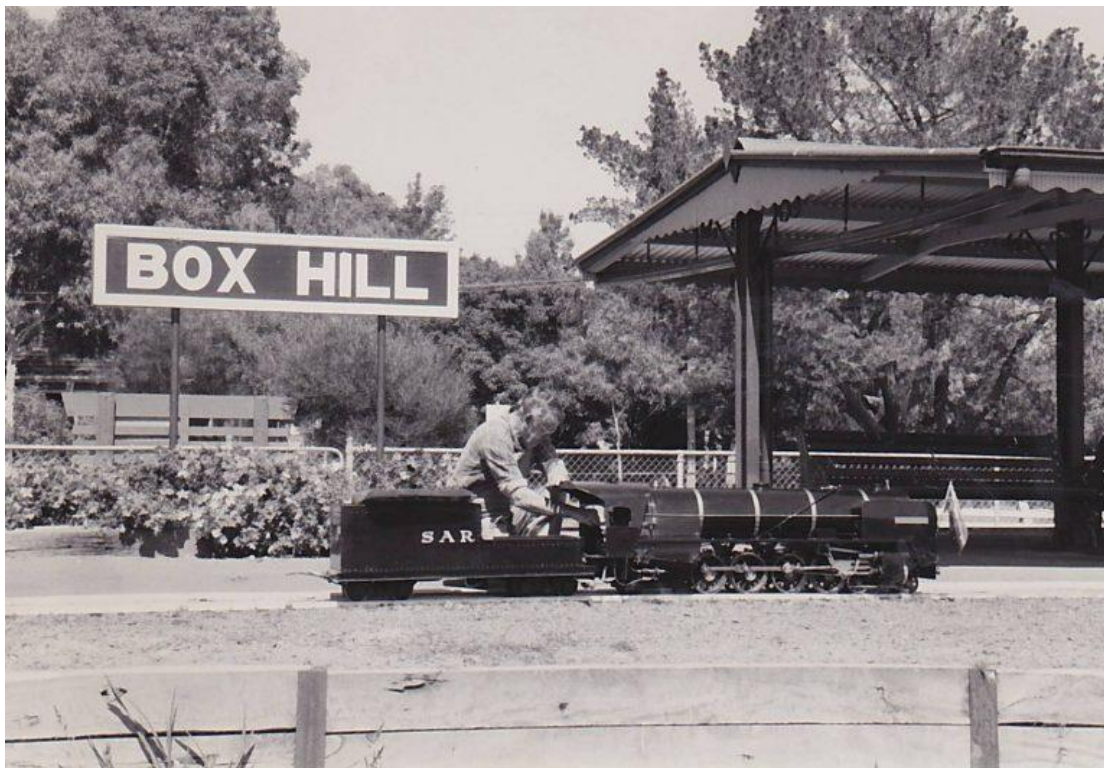
BOX HILL MINIATURE STEAM RAILWAY SOCIETY INC.

HISTORY:

The Box Hill Miniature Steam Railway Society is a group of miniature steam railway and model engineering enthusiasts whose founding members joined forces to build and maintain a dual gauge (5" and 7.25 inch) miniature railway.

The society was formed in October, 1981 and work on the Elgar Park site commenced in March 1983. By October, 1985 the Mayor of Box Hill was able to open the clubrooms and engine shed. By October 1985 sufficient track had been laid and site works completed to enable the railway to be opened for public running.

The Society is a non-profit organisation and its members provide their labour in a voluntary capacity. Proceeds from fares charged on Public Running Days are used to administer the Society, improve and maintain the railway and to assist charity groups, mainly within the City of Whitehorse.



The societys members are drawn from all ages and walks of life. Its various activities provide not only recreation but also the opportunity to exercise rarely used skills and develop new ones. There is something for everyone from gardening - to skilled metal machining - to selling tickets - to locomotive driving.

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The hobby of miniature railways provides considerable enjoyment and satisfaction and the society welcomes new members who are willing to assist in the maintenance and running of its railway.



Yarra Valley Railway Information No.41.

Memories of an 80 year old

Keith Matson was 80 in 2021. Born in 1941, he has lived all his life in Healesville. As a boy he says that they had no money but that did not stop him. He was never bored. There was always plenty to do in Healesville.



In his short pants and long socks the young Keith was always on the go – somewhere.

His bike had the handle bars turned down, the way they were set for people who rode fast. They could be turned up for more dignified riders!

The bike had no gears and brakes on the front and rear wheels.

One of Keith's most visited places was the railway station. In those days steam locomotives were responsible for all the trains and Keith got to know the two local drivers who had both been World War 1 men. Ivan Gardner who was known as Rangi and Norm Heatherton. Both were happy to have young Keith on the footplate as they shunted in the Healesville yards in their D3 and K class locomotives.

When it came to Easter, Keith recalls the Healesville yards being filled with 4 trains having brought holiday makers to Healesville to stay in the local guest houses over Easter. Not only were there more trains but exotic locomotives such as the powerful A2 class steam locomotive. Absolute bliss for the young boy!

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Keith was involved with Forestry for much of his working life. He does not remember the timber tramway that brought logs from the forest to the mill at the Healesville station. He attributes the decline of these tramways to the Second World War when money was available for all sorts of projects, including the provision of better district roads, essential as part of the war effort. This meant that road transport replaced the timber tramways for transport of

Keith says that in those days 12 squares was a common house size (a "square" is 10 feet X 10 feet – approximately 3 metres by 3 metres). The saw mills produced a pack of all the timber required for a house. The pack was taken to the Healesville station and the gantry crane lifted the pack from a road truck into a rail truck.



On one occasion Keith was offered a ride to Lilydale in the cabin of a steam locomotive. To the question as to whether it was a passenger train or a goods train, Keith replied that it was probably the 11 o'clock mixed – a goods train with a passenger carriage attached. When the train got to Coldstream Keith left the locomotive so that the Station Master at Lilydale would not be aware of him travelling in the cab of the locomotive. Once at Lilydale Keith drifted off to the coal stage and turntable area where the locomotive was turned, refuelled with coal, had the tender filled with water. Keith said that the locomotives never took water at Healesville but were able to do the entire run with a fill at Lilydale.

80 year old Keith Matson has fond memories of his Healesville childhood.

In 1957 the steam passenger service was replaced by a Walker Railcar. Keith used to travel on it as a student at Melbourne Tech. In winter the railcar was heated and the Healesville passengers filled the railcar. The railcar pulled a trailer which was not heated so the space in the trailer was available for Yarra Glen passengers who boarded about halfway on in the journey to Lilydale.

There was a year when the district was plagued with caterpillars. They crawled over everything. The rails were no exception. The rail car was driven by only one axle so with caterpillars on the rails the railcar could not climb the hill to the tunnel. The two driving wheels skidded hopelessly on the rails as it attempted the 1 in 40 climb up to the tunnel. It had to return to Healesville and passengers were transported by bus.

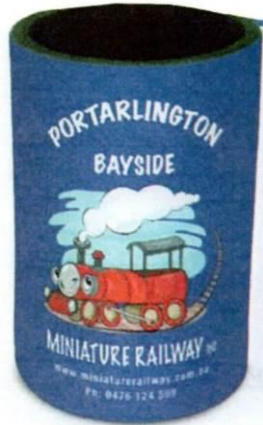
To overcome this problem the rail car driver used his initiative and attached two straw brooms to the front of the rail car to sweep the caterpillars off the rails. Keith reports that the technique was successful, but was not applauded by railway officials.

In a final story, the truth of which is open to question, Keith tells of a train crew having their meal break. They looked up to see their steam locomotive heading off towards Lilydale totally unattended. As the story goes, they ran after it as fast as they could but could not catch it. So they raced across to the pub and elicited the help of a patron who owned a car. He drove them to Tarrawarra station. Standing on the platform the driver and fireman were able to scramble aboard the locomotive as it trundled through. It was returned to Healesville. There was no record of the event happening!

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



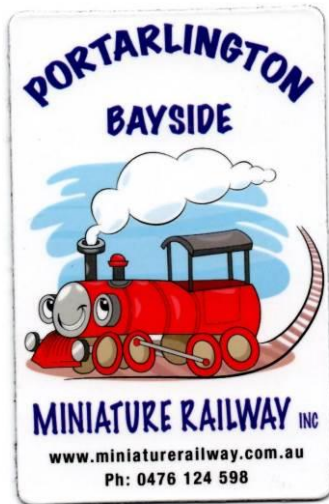
SOME OF OUR SOUVENIR RANGE :



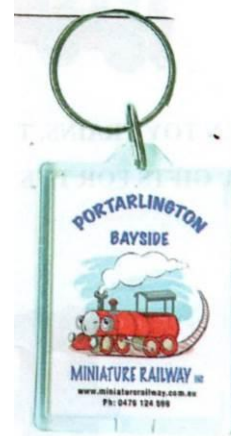
CAN COOLERS \$7.00 ea.



ENGINE DRIVER CAPS
\$20.00 ea.



FRIDGE MAGNETS \$3.00 ea.



KEY RINGS \$4.00 ea.

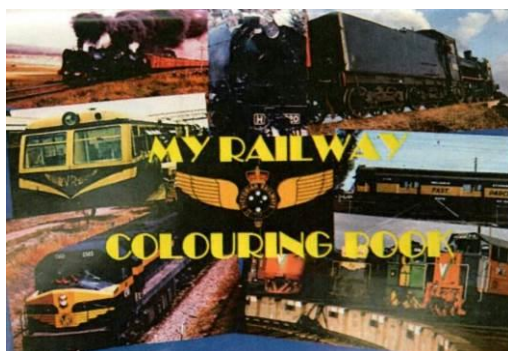


POSTCARDS \$ 1.00 ea.



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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

CAMERA CORNER:



On Sunday 28th July, 2024, our Annual Members Luncheon was held at the Gateway Tavern. Corio. The above picture shows many of the 20 members and family who attended this special event. It was fairly evident that a great time was had by all !!.

(Pictures by Phil Dall & Brian Coleman)

SAFETY BULLETIN BOARD



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

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

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Month	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	2708	1890	2599	2498		July	373	604	809	765
February	1044	-	427	206		August	372	502	396	502
March	1257	1324	606	2355		September	224	866	917	
April	1718	2315	1975	862		October	1610	497	1253	
May	990	1017	212	628		November	939	688	786	
June	630	476	829	724		December	1601	803	1281	
	<u>9637</u>	<u>12141</u>	<u>10608</u>	<u>12715</u>			<u>13466</u>	<u>10982</u>	<u>12090</u>	
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY		YR	YR	YR	YR

Railway carried **502** Passengers during August, a gain of **106** Passengers or + **26.76 %**

Results for the current 2024 – 25 Fiscal Year are **1267** Passengers or a gain of **62** or + **5.14 %**

Figures represent a gain in traffic for the 2024 year of **687** Passengers or + **8.74 %**.

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 was due to urgent track-works.

SILL SITTING BACK ON TRACK AT ICONIC PUFFING BILLY



Visitors to the much-loved heritage railway Puffing Billy can once again participate in the century-old tradition of sitting on the sills on open-side carriages for the full length of the trip from Belgrave to Gembrook for the first time since 2018.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos today joined Chair of the Puffing Billy Railway Board Tim North OAM KC at the railway's Lakeside Visitor Centre in Emerald to announce the return of the full iconic experience.

Puffing Billy Railway is also celebrating the completion of upgrades to Gembrook Historic Station and Menzies Creek Station platform, thanks to \$1.4 million in funding from the Victorian Government.

Gembrook Station has a rich heritage dating back to the town's initial settlement in 1873, and is named after the area's gemstone discoveries. The recent works have restored the station's facade back to its original glory.

These works follow the 2021 opening of the \$24.8 million Lakeside Visitor Centre, backed by a \$12.7 million investment from the Victorian Government. The state-of-the-art centre took out the prestigious global award for Best New International Architecture at the 2022 International Architecture Awards.

The Puffing Billy Railway has been part of Victoria's railway history for 123 years, with generations of families making the journey through the Dandenong Ranges at the much-loved attraction. Puffing Billy attracts around 400,000 visitors annually and is one of the finest preserved heritage steam railways in the world.

The opportunity to sit on the sills of the carriages was reopened on the Belgrave to Emerald leg of the railway in 2022.

To find out more, including information on the sitting on the sills experience and the iconic Puffing Billy Running Festival taking place this September, visit puffingbilly.com.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

“Puffing Billy Railway has been one of the most beloved experiences for Victorians and international visitors alike for over a hundred years, and now visitors can enjoy the excitement of sitting on the sills for the full length of the journey.”

“We are proud to continue supporting Puffing Billy which contributes so much to jobs and the local economy in the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley.”

Quotes attributable to Puffing Billy Railway Board Chair Tim North OAM KC

“We're thrilled to announce the return of leg dangling to the Lakeside to Gembrook section of Puffing Billy Railway. This beloved tradition is back, allowing our passengers to experience the full charm of the Puffing Billy journey.”



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>

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES :

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

Daniel Blues	Lyndon Coon	Ronnie Frank
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TRAIN RUNNING ROSTERS : (Harm Jager – Roster Clerk.)

The **September 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 October 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 :

I knew a place called Yesterday
Where once I used to live.

Nobody there would turn away
Their time, they'd always give.

Everyone looked out for you
As you did the same for them,
In that place called Yesterday
I can still remember when.

People never had anything much
What they did have, it was shared.
They always waved and gave a smile,
That's how we knew they cared.

We used to call it mucking in,
That's what it was all about.
It was easier to help each other
When all you had was nowt.

Now I live here in the Present,
In a street of those unknown,
Whose life is so much easier
If they keep it close to home.

Yes, I was raised in Yesterday
Where we always had respect.
Here in this place called Present
I find it suffering from neglect.

AMRA VICTORIA PRESENTS

OPEN DAY

2024



SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER, 10AM-4PM
GOLD COIN DONATION

THE AUSTRALIAN MODEL RAILWAY ASSOCIATION VICTORIA BRANCH CLUBROOM PUBLIC VIEWING
LARGE HO PERMANENT LAYOUT • HUGE 3 LEVEL GARDEN RAILWAY • THOMAS AND FRIENDS U-DRIVE
MODEL MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS • PRE-LOVED ITEMS FOR SALE • SAUSAGE SIZZLE
92 WILLS STREET, GLEN IRIS - OPPOSITE THE STATION. FREE PARKING

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BELLARINE VINTAGE MACHINERY MEET – 2024.



Bellarine Vintage Machinery Group



**Father's Day Sept 2024
Vintage Machinery Event**

FEATURING THIS YEAR

Vintage Tractors & Engines
Steam Traction Engines & Portable Engines
Classic Cars, Motorbikes & Trucks
Remote Controlled Model Vehicles
Emergency Services
Market Stalls
Delicious Hot & Cold Food

WORKING DEMONSTRATIONS

Tractor Pull
Sheep Shearing
Blacksmith Shop
Chaff Cutter
Roller Mills
Horse & Cart Rides
Tractor Rides




WHEN

Father's Day
Sunday, 1 September 2024
9am - 3pm

WHERE

Onday Estate Winery
45 Curlewis Road, Curlewis

ENTRY

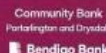
Adults \$10 Children Free

- Free bottle of water upon entry
- NHMA Guidelines to apply
- Proof of Insurance must be shown by exhibitors
- Classic cars to pay a gold coin donation per person per car
- Exhibitors welcome to join us and display their machinery
- Exhibitors must be set up by 9am

Additional Information

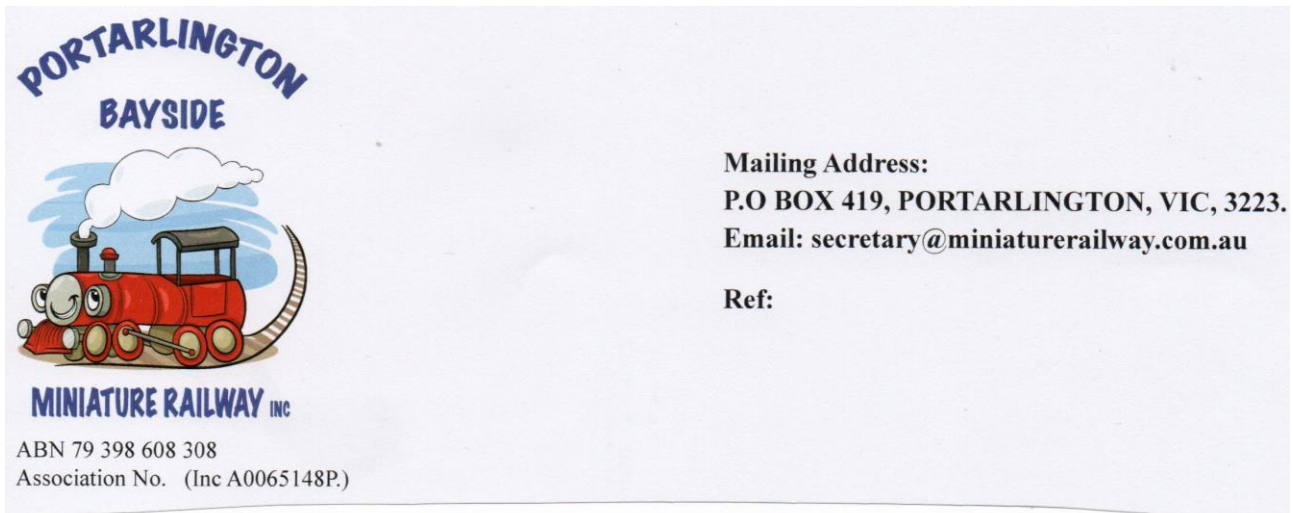
Graeme Brown - 0408 524 067
Andrew Belfrage - 0407 843 143
Email: bvmginfo@gmail.com

SPONSORED BY



It's on again !!. Bellarine Vintage Machinery Group's Fathers Day Event at Onday Estate, 45 Curlewis Road, Curlewis, on Sunday 1st September, 2024. There will be plenty to do and see for the whole family, including horse and cart rides, tractor trailer rides, various market stalls, various displays, classic cars and trucks and there will be food available on site. We hope to see you there... and.....Yes the PBMR will be in attendance !!.

- **Contcat Graeme Brown on 0408-524-067 for further information.**



FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION AT MINI RAILWAY :

A big hi to all our supporters – better bring Dad down to the Railway on **Father's Day, Sunday, 1st September, 2024**, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm. The great news is that Dad's will ride free all day on this day – Now that's not going to break the family budget !!. Have heard a whisper that Dad's may also be in the running for some little treats as well. There will be several Lucky Tickets drawn during the day and all you need do is buy a train ticket to ride !!. Bring a picnic lunch or have lunch with us on site. Plenty of room to run and play and get Mum & Dad up and joining in. Picnic tables, Seats, Electric BBQ's and Toilets – available on site.

Let's get everyone outside in the sun and have some playtime !. A big thanks to all volunteers who forgo their own Father's Day to help run our mini trains, they are priceless. Fingers crossed for lovely weather.

This miniature railway situated within the grounds of the Portarlington Bayside Family Park, Corner Point Richards & Boat Roads, Portarlington. (Melway Map No. 444 – C5.)

Further details can be obtained from the Portarlington Bayside Miniature Railway Inc – At P. O. Box 419, Portarlington. 3223., Or Call Harm on our Info Line – Tel No. 0476-124-598.

- Or -

Visit our Facebook Page : <https://m.facebook.com/miniaturerailway/>

Our Website : www.miniaturerailway.com.au

Our Email : secretary@miniaturerailway.com.au

BOOK REVIEW – “ON SPLINTERED RAILS” – Vol 3.

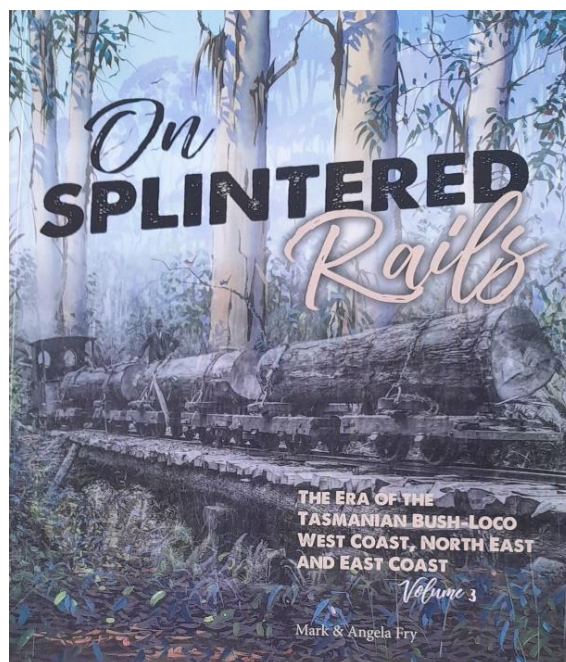
This is the third book in a series of four stand alone books recently self publised by Mark and Angela Fry. *On Splintered Rails – The Era of the Tasmanian Bush-LoCo West Coast, North East and East Coast - Volume 3* looks at each of the sawmills equipped with a locomotive worked logging tramway system on the West Coast, North East and East Coast regions of Tasmania. For some operations such as Mount Lyell Mining & Railway Co.’s Lake Margaret Tramway which operated for over 50 years, there is a plethora of information. For others, such as Gee & Co. there is limited information available regarding their sawmilling operations.

Considerable details are gleaned from 25 years of original research by the authors, including numerous riveting and amusing anecdotal accounts from those men and women once involved in this industry. Profusely illustrated with over 300 photographs, many never previously published, and a number of original builder’s plans once thought to have been lost, this volume brings to light a comprehensive account of the logging tramway systems worked by a locomotive once found on the West Coast, North East Coast and East Coast regions of Tasmania between 1895 and 1974.

All profits from the sale of each book are donated to the Kids’ Cancer Project.

The cost of the book is \$150 for an individually signed and numbered hard cover edition. The soft cover edition is \$110. Postage and handling charges are an extra \$25 per book.

For anyone who has an interest in purchasing the book Mark and Angela can be contacted by email on markfryoldina4@gmail.com





Thursday, 12th September, 2024 is marked down as RU OK ? Day.

Just what does RU OK ? Day actually mean for all of us.....

It means it's a time when we should all reach out to one another and offer whatever support that may be required. It has never been more important now to check in with each other, lean on those around you for support or seek the services of the following 24/7 assistance.

BEYOND BLUE	1800-51-23-48
LIFELINE AUSTRALIA	13-11-14
MENS LINE	1300-78-99-78

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.



4

Rinse your
hands under
running water.



5

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



Stay germ free and healthy

PBMR – CALENDAR OF EVENTS :

<u>DAY & DATE:</u>	<u>EVENT & TIMES:</u>
Sunday, 1 st September, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday, 8 th September, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Thursday, 12 th September, 2024	RU OK DAY – CHECK UP ON YOUR CONTACTS !!
Saturday, 14 th September, 2024	COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, 15 th September, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday, 22 nd September, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Wednesday, 25 th September, 2024	School Holiday Run 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday, 29 th September, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Wednesday, 2 nd October, 2024	School Holiday Run 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday, 6 th October, 2024 (DST Begins)	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to <u>4.00 pm</u>
Sunday, 13 th October, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Sunday, 20 th October, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Wednesday, 23 rd October, 2023	Children’s Week Specials – 11.00 am to 2.00 pm
Sunday, 27 th October, 2024.	RAILWAY CLOSED
Sunday, 3 rd November, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 10 th November, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED
Sunday, 17 th November, 2024	Ordinary Running Day 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Sunday, 24 th November, 2024	RAILWAY CLOSED

THINGS TO NOTE:

- Summer Timetable to begin on Sunday, 6th October, 2024.
- Currently running 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month – 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
- Party Bookings: See “Special Trains Notice Board” – Page 15 .
- Volunteers are always required – Contact details shown on Page .

OUR SPONSORS – PLEASE SUPPORT THEM...

Gayle Tierney MP
Labor Member for Western Victoria



As your local member of the Allan Government, please feel free to contact me to discuss any State Government matters you may have.

📍 Ground Floor, 1 Yarra St, Geelong 🌐 GayleTierneyMP
 📧 gayle.tierney@parliament.vic.gov.au 📞 gayletierneymp
 ☎️ (03) 5224 2088 🌐 www.gayletierney.com.au

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Libby Coker MP
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CORANGAMITE



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 Address: 26/300-340 Tarragon Road, Armstrong Creek VIC 3207

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97 High Street, Drysdale. Ph: 5251 2603

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153 Newcombe Street, Portarlington. Ph: 5259 3801

Alison Marchant.
Member for Bellarine

Supporting Our Local Community

- 📍 Shop G06e, 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...

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