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**CASTLEDARE  
MINIATURE RAILWAYS**

W.A. (INC)  
[www.castledare.com.au](http://www.castledare.com.au)

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**APRIL 2009**

ISSUE NO: 276

**Castledare Miniature Railway**  
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All information on this page ratified by Management Committee on 17th April 2009

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No personal letters will be printed without committee approval

**First Aid Officers:** Fran Jones, Keith Watson, Tania Watson

**The Castledare Miniature Railway is sponsored by:**

Coal Supplies: The steam locomotives at the Castledare Miniature Railway operate with coal supplied by Premier Coal

**Cover page:** Jamie, Steve and Geoff Thompson on 'Elizabeth'.

**Photographer:** Rob Cox - Altona Miniature Railway.

## President's Report

Twelve months on and it is hard to know just where to start with my report so much has happened and been achieved. Of course the crowning achievement has been the holding of the 53<sup>rd</sup> AALS convention. The fourth time an AALS national convention has been held at CMR, but with sixteen years since the Club last held one.

Now, not only did this mean that very few of our members had been involved in organising the last convention, but a good proportion had not even been to an AALS convention. This can be both a benefit and a hindrance, but fortunately we had enough with experience, and lots of hard working enthusiastic members.

One of the key factors for the convention being such a great success was having a small but good organising committee chaired by Tom Winterbourn, with Mike Crean and Craig Belcher. Also John Watson in the early planning stages, before he went away, was on the committee and of course, Sue Belcher, with her past experience of organising, along with Ken, all made it the fantastic event it was.

Also, thanks to everyone who put their name down on the convention roster, and I hope you all enjoyed the laid back atmosphere, I certainly did.

Of course nothing would have been possible without the commitment of the Membership which, after making its decision two years ago to hold the convention, got right behind the event. It is no secret that I was, I think, the lone dissenting voice, but I'm very happy to admit I was wrong.

The convention was always going to do one of two things, make or break the club, and we all now know exactly what it has done for the club. We now have our five inch track back from the dead with good unloading facilities and steaming bays, plus a much better track configuration with all unnecessary track removed. The bulk of this work was carried out by what we now call the Wednesday crew. Lots of other track work has taken place in the past year by a dedicated band of members under the guidance of Craig, our Track Master. To all those involved in this very important work, I say a very sincere thanks.

For me the highlight of the event was having the honour of driving 'Dennis P Moore', the official train. I think having 'Dennis' as a club loco is a very important part of our Club's history. Also, you may not have realised, but four generations of the Thompson family were represented, with Jamie driving 'Elizabeth' under supervision from his father Steve, Grandfather Geoff and of course the engine 'Elizabeth' was built by Jamie's great Grandfather.

I made the comment before the AALS meeting on the Saturday night, that when organising an event such as the convention, which is very hard work, it is all made so very much easier when all members are reading from the same page, and can even be enjoyable. I was asked how I had managed to get all members on the same page. I was quick to assure that person that it was nothing I had done, but a change of attitude started by my predecessor, Richard, and the will of the membership having a goal to work towards. It is nothing more, I think, than that, and all I have done is try to portray a positive atmosphere to help to keep that momentum going, along with an excellent and hard working committee.

This past year has seen a few new members who have been willing to get involved, both with work days and run days. The more qualified members we have spreads the load and makes for ease all round. Another pleasing thing is an increasing diversity of engines that are coming to the club. I'm a steam guy, but I also love to see many other forms of motive power. This can only enhance our club and attract more members of all ages. It is also pleasing that more of our ladies are taking on different operational roles and obtaining qualifications. This is all good for the club's long-term survival.

As you know, I reintroduced member's day on the second Sunday of each month, and this has had a mixed response, mainly due to the large amount of work that had to be done for the convention. I would like to see more members turning up to these days where we can just play trains and drive the club locos. It is hoped that members of other clubs, especially those with 5" locos, can join in and enjoy our improved facilities.

What pleases me, and it should also please the members, is that everything that was done for the convention was done with one thing in mind, and that was to be of lasting benefit to the club and its members.

Our run days continue to be well supported with our Wilson run fast catching up with our first Sunday. This increases our income, but with the railway heading towards 50 years old, we have much infrastructure to maintain and also some that now needs replacing.

Our bridges, which are still safe, are in need of upgrading and also now service the general public, who use them to access the regional park. However, until such time as the land ownership changes take place, we are unable to apply for any form of grants. We are just one of the stakeholders who would benefit from this so let's hope that in the next two years something will happen.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me this year, especially your hard working committee. What we have on the banks of the Canning River is something that is unique and the envy of many other clubs. Let's all continue to improve what we have worked so hard for this last twelve months, but at a more enjoyable pace. It has been an enjoyable time for me and I thank everyone for your support.

Roger Matthews  
President, Castledare Miniature Railway

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### **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:

- ⇒ Private party bookings have started to come in already for 2009.
- ⇒ More knapsack water sprays to be purchased
- ⇒ Painting has commenced on all of the external walls to help brighten up the area
- ⇒ Exit ramp completed
- ⇒ Copy of the new rule book is now available from the Secretary – if you have not yet received your copy – please see Ken at your earliest convenience
- ⇒ Convention update provided to the Committee

The Club's Annual General Meeting for 2009 was conducted on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April in the meeting room of the Wilson Park Eco Centre – the meeting was followed by an informal discussion among those present re the future prospects of the club and the projects that should be investigated further to enhance the club's facilities, both for members and our patrons.

Thank you to those members who took the time to attend and contribute to the discussions.

You will find the results of the elections to the Management Committee on page 2 of this edition of your magazine.



### **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

#### **Public Run Days**

Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> May – Public run day - Niana Station
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> May - Public run day - Wilson station
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup> June – Public run day - Niana Station
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup> June – Public run day – Wilson Station

**Work days / nights – all members welcome to participate**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May – workday  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May- workday  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May- work night  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May- workday  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May- workday  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June- workday

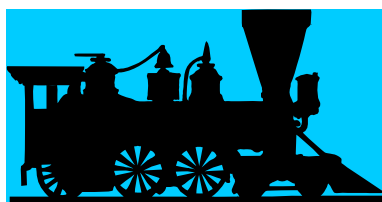
**General Dates for inclusion in your Diary**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Prepare railway for run day and General Meeting at 11am  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Public run day from Niana - 11am- 3.30pm  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Members fun day come and join in just sit, relax, catch up with fellow members for a chat, or play trains (no work) - BYO picnic or barbecue lunch  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Public run day from Wilson 10am – 2pm

**Dates to be remembered**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May - private booking for approx 100 people 10am – 1pm  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June - Foundation day run day from Wilson Park from approx 10am  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July - private booking for approx 60 people 10am – 1 pm

Model Railway Show is on again June long weekend 30/31 May and 1June, assistance will be required, please contact Craig Belcher if you are able to assist either with something to offer for display, or your time, during the weekend.



**Situations Vacant**

Anyone who has a green thumb and can assist with the maintenance of the gardens around the club grounds please contact the Secretary

Members to assist with the general upkeep of the grounds please contact the Secretary

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**2009 AALS Convention Report**

What a weekend! All the years of planning and hard work culminated over the four days of Easter. CMR members were joined by members of other miniature railway clubs from WA, the Eastern States, New Zealand and South Africa in enjoying ourselves playing trains on our extensive track beside the Canning River.

On Easter Saturday the grand parade was led by our President, Roger Matthews, driving one of the club’s earliest locos, ‘Dennis P Moore’, followed by ‘Elizabeth’ driven by Jamie Thompson, supervised by his father Steve, with his grandfather, Geoff, in the first carriage. The procession of trains that followed was impressive, consisting of a variety of steam, diesel and electric locomotives of all shapes and sizes.

The weather was hot and dry until Monday, when much needed rain fell as the convention wound up, with visiting locos and traction engines being loaded onto trailers bound for home, or to continue their tour of other WA clubs, who we understand made them very welcome.

The convention was only possible because of the years of hard work put in by the members of CMR, and thanks are due to everyone who joined in the organisational tasks and preparation of the railway. The convention was the trigger for a major upgrade of our track and facilities, which required literally years of work. Special recognition is due to a hardcore group of dedicated workers, who gave up exceptional amounts of their time and effort to restore our existing facilities and construct new equipment necessary for the convention. The convention has provided a step change in the quality of our club's assets, which will benefit our members and public visitors for years to come. In particular, we hope to see continuing use of the 5-inch gauge track by our own members and guests from other clubs.

With the first CMR convention in 16 years under our belt, thoughts are already turning to the next one, and how we can make our facilities better for future visitors. We can take a well earned breather after the hard work leading up to the convention, but there are many more projects in the pipeline to occupy the energies of our hard working and resourceful club members.

The Editor

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## Convention Stats

### **Attendees:**

Friday	209
Saturday	269
Sunday	211
Monday	106 - some of whom spent some time at Northern Districts

**Locomotives registered:** 84 - although not all turned up on site

**Evening meals:** 346 over the three nights

**Whiteman Park bus tour:** 29 on the bus with several others finding their own way their and joining the crowd

**Saturday evening bus tour:** 18 on the bus

Convention organiser, Tom Winterbourn, added NDMES was delighted to welcome 32 convention delegates at its Osborne Park track on Easter Monday. There were also six visiting locos -- five 5" and one 3 1/2".

## **Thank You**

A huge thank you to the general members of CMR for 'stepping up' to the mark to assist with the convention, especially when most of you had no idea what was required. Your willingness to help out, wherever necessary, was most appreciated.

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## **Notice Board**

### **Thank you:**

Fran would like to publicly thank all the ladies who worked so hard, with the canteen duties, during the Convention. Your efforts were greatly appreciated, thank-you.

### **Private Parties:**

Please note that Private parties, held on Public run days, MUST operate from the designated station of the day.

### **Security:**

Members are reminded not to leave valuables on display in parked cars. Vehicles parked on the top car park have been broken into recently.

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS**

Please do not forget to advise us if you change your email address. This will ensure that you always receive your Cinders and Soot notification. Thanks.

If you wish to contribute an article to Cinders and Soot, please note that the closing date is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send your contributions to Trish Stuart at the email address on the page 2.

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