

# PORT BAY EXPRESS

Official Newsletter of the Portarlington Bayside Miniature Railway Inc.  
Volume 2 – Issue No. 12.

December, 2017.



Daniel Blues driving “Arthur” and the Santa Express, December, 2016. (Pic: Kerry Blues)

## OUR PRESIDENT REPORTS :

- Thanks to all members who continue to work for, and support the railway on the days that we are open. May everyone have a very Merry Xmas & prosperous New Year as well.
- Minor repairs have been carried out to the track during our Running Days.
- All members appear to be working well together. If any problems - bring under immediate notice. **Please do not raise issues of concern within our public areas.**
- Our busy season is fast approaching. Members are asked to put in some extra yards.

**Keith Stasinowsky – President.**

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK :****Points from the Committee Meeting – held Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 :**

- Congratulations to Harm Jager on completing his Food Handling Course recently.
- Bellarine Bayside consider the re-development project as now complete. There are some minor issues which we will chase up for rectification etc
- Applications have been made to various authorities for grant funding and results are awaited with interest.
- A review of our recent Plant Risk Assessment will be undertaken shortly.
- A new “Trackmaster's Daily Report Form” has been implemented as from 5/11/17.
- The Railway will operate a \$2.00 Day and celebrate our 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Public Running on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.
- The Railway will participate in the 2018 Portarlington Mussel Festival. Volunteers are sought to assist with setting up, manning and packing up of our display stand.
- The railway has adopted a new Hand Washing & Safe Food Handling Policies and these will be displayed in prominent positions at the railway.

**Brian M Coleman – Secretary.**

**The Economisers      By Norman Houghton**

The old QR was generally run with a spirit of economy in regard to goods and materials used in the construction of buildings and track infrastructure. Rails, sleepers, bridge timbers, roof and wall claddings etc were recycled from one site to the other. These were the big ticket items where real savings could be made but occasionally the bureaucratic mind applied itself to economy in office matters.

In 1924 the Secretary to the Commissioner observed that the typists in and around the office were, in his opinion, somewhat wasteful of carbon paper. He mentioned that the typists wanted good, clean copies and if the carbon did not produce this result then it was discarded even though it still had life in it. He sent a circular memo to all the General Managers suggesting that used carbon papers from the various administrative offices be saved and sent to Goods and Parcels Offices for further use.

The GMs must have read this memo with stunned disbelief, particularly so at Rockhampton where the spirit of economy was most marked. Rockhampton wasted nothing. Old memo papers and bits of scrap cardboard were used as file backings. Files were created using very long fasteners so the files just grew and grew until about 10 cms thick when even the longest fastener gave out. Then, and only then, was a new file raised. When files were discarded they were burnt in an incinerator and the ashes given to the gardeners for use as a soil conditioner.

Under this regime, carbon paper had no second chance as it was used to the point of extinction in every office. The GM, Rockhampton, was able to reply to Brisbane in all truth that 'carbon paper is used until it is completely worn out and when it is discarded it is of little, if any, use'.

The Secretary beat a retreat on this one and the matter died as fast as it had arisen in the first place.

The economisers raised their heads again in 1950 at a time when most items were in short supply due to post war problems and this applied to ordinary office paper. The paper deficiency exercised one ingenious thinker at QR Head Office in regard to Skeleton Books. Goods Sheds and Parcels Offices maintained these books, which were blank paged books of varying thickness, and onto each page was pasted six freight invoices or waybills. The Books were used for accounting reference and to answer customer enquiries about their transactions. The retention period for invoices was then three years so the older books piled up in corners and nooks and crannies. At the end of the three years the books could be thrown out but many offices dusted them off and pasted the current invoices over the old ones.

There was a limit to this. Some staff objected to handling these dusty and filthy books that were infested with silver fish, red back spiders and bugs. Then it occurred to someone that if the invoices could be removed and the books washed then problem solved. So the edict went out in August 1950 to soak the expired Skeleton Books in water for 24 hours, peel off the invoices, allow the books to dry and then re-use them.

The response from far and wide was unanimous in condemnation. Most replies were politely dismissive but a few serious souls obediently experimented with the water method. One reported that the books were useless after immersion, another that the threads break away and the leaves fall out, another that the books turn to pulp and the residual glue sticks the pages together and yet another that the books take six days to dry out and are not much use anyway. Another doubter neatly got around the issue by saying that he disagrees with the three years retention because occasionally he refers to older invoices. He advised that his Goods Shed retains the books longer than three years and would not be washing any.

The Station Master at Longreach retorted that he had not been issued with Skeleton Books for months and his staff made their own books with strips of light pine, screw fasteners and newspaper pages. He even drafted a 'how-to-make-them' diagram at the bottom of his memo. Touche. The Goods Shed staff was just as resourceful in the paper famine and they kept invoices on bulldog clips in monthly batches, which were later wrapped in paper bundles and stored.

However the Commissioner's Secretary was unmoved by the torrent of objections and in March 1951 reiterated his previous instruction that owing to the scarcity of paper the covers and inserts must be reclaimed where they are in good condition. Who knows how many complied?

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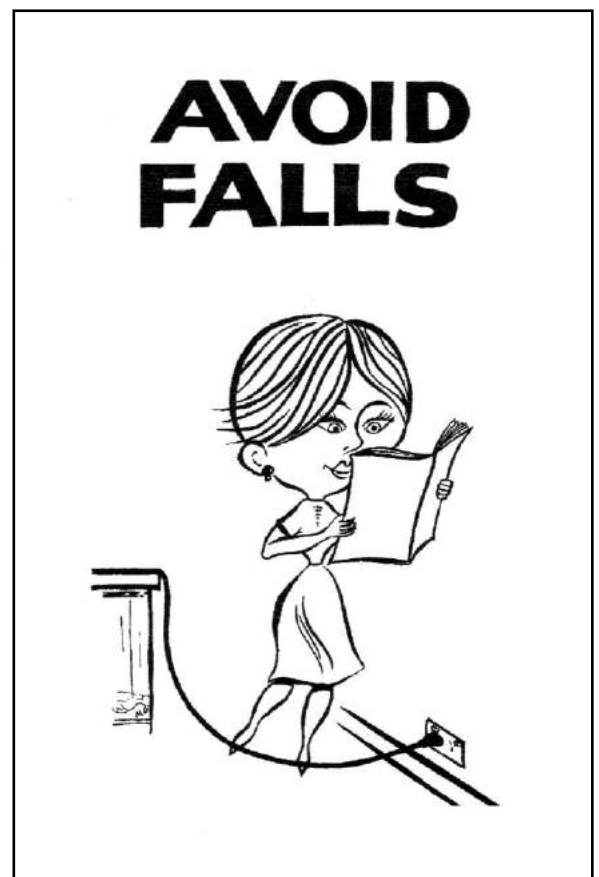
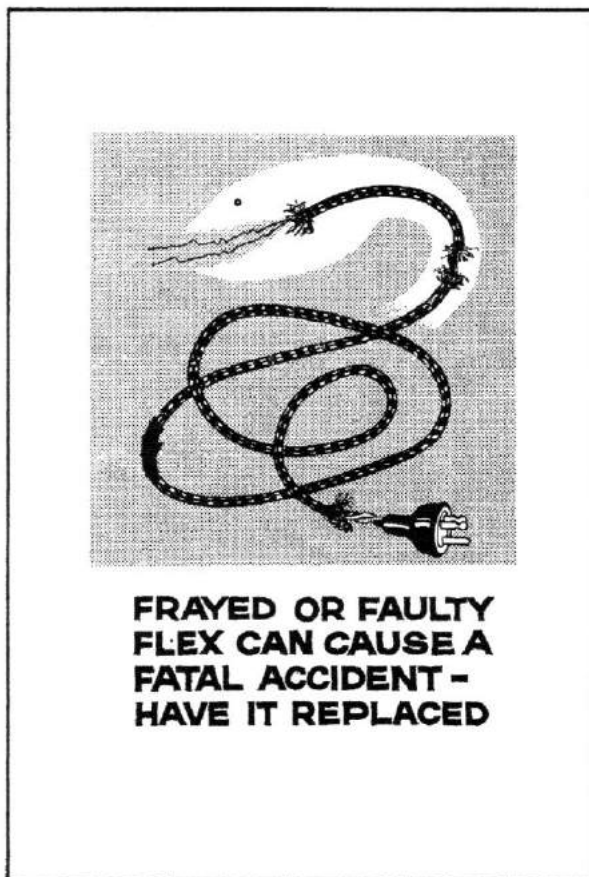
**Bumper Stickers (pictured above) – now available @ \$2.00 ea – PBMR Station Kiosk.**

**OUR MONTHLY PASSENGER TALLIES – From December 2015 – to current :**

<u>Month :</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Month :</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
January	-	665	1622		July	-	325	398	
February	-	522	306		August	-	118	-	
March	-	606	522		September	-	793	572	
April	-	399	1636		October	-	432	939	
May	-	403	316		November	-	325	811	
June	-	341	422		December	407	725		
<b><u>TOTALS :</u></b>		<b>3343 FY</b>	<b>7543 FY</b>			<b>407</b>	<b>5597</b>		

**Comments:** The railway carried **811** Passengers during November or a **rise of 149.5 %**.  
 Tally of passengers carried for the current 2017 – 18 Fiscal Year is : **2720 Passengers**.  
 Railway was re-opened by PBMRI for passenger traffic on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

**SAFETY BULLETIN BOARD :**



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



**SPECIAL TRAIN / PARTY BOOKINGS NOTICE BOARD :**

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

<u>DAY &amp; DATE</u>	<u>TYPE :</u>	<u>TIMES OF HIRE :</u>	<u>No. of Trains :</u>	<u>No in group :</u>
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2017	Party Booking	11.00 am to 1.00 pm	Min 4 Plus	150
“ “ “	“ “	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Min 2	50
Saturday 9th December, 2017	" "	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	Min 2	30
Friday, 15th December, 2017	" "	TBA	Min 2	

**SECURITY SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS :**

The security arrangements in use at the railway have been vastly improved and it is now necessary to turn the system “On” and “Off” when entering or leaving the premises. Members who have keys are responsible for ensuring that the security system has been either “activated” or “de-activated” as the circumstances dictate. If you have any concerns or questions, contact the Secretary for advice.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR DECEMBER :**

The following members have birthdays which fall during the month of **December** and the railway would like to record our congratulations and sincere best wishes on their happy occasion.

<b>Kerry Blues</b>	<b>Keith Stasinowsky</b>	<b>Darryl Myers</b>
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We hope that they will have a great day and that all their birthday wishes will come true !!.

**ROSTERS – TRAIN RUNNING :**

The **December Train Running Roster** to be issued soon. 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 January Roster is to be circulated to the members, for comment later. For Roster Enquiries, kindly contact **Harm Jager, PBMR Roster Clerk** on Mobile Tel No. 0481-117-981 or by **Email:** harmjager@live.com.au

**MUSSEL FESTIVAL - VOLUNTEERS WANTED :**

**Can you help at the Portarlington Mussel Festival ?**. Volunteers are sought to help out at the Mussel Festival Site on Friday 12th January, 2018. We are also seeking volunteers to man our Stand at the Mussel Festival on Saturday 13th. **Can you help ??**. **Contact the Secretary by Email or Phone - if you can assist on either or both days !!.**

**WANTED – ARTICLES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER :**

Always looking for articles or items to publish in this, your Club Newsletter. If you have anything of interest, please consider sending it on to the Editor, Brian Coleman, for possible future publication.

**Email:** secretary@miniaturerailway.com.au **Postal:** P. O. Box 419, Portarlington. 3223. Vic.



Our friendly Station Master, Daryl Myers, tries out his new uniform (Pic: Brian Coleman)

<b><u>JOKE :</u></b> Why do some steam locomotives always complain...??.
Ans: It's when they've got a tender behind !!.

**NEW MEMBERS WANTED :**

**All members are strongly encouraged** to look for people who might make new members for the railway. If we each recruited a new person into our membership ranks, our numbers would be doubled !!. If you know someone who might be interested in our mini railway, please consider !!. New Membership Kits are available from the counter at the Station Kiosk or from the Secretary on request.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS :**

<b><u>DAY &amp; DATE:</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT:</u></b>
<b>Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2017</b>	<b>Special Party Bookings</b> 11.00am & 2.00pm. Can you help ??
<b>Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017</b>	Ordinary Running Day – 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
<b>Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017</b>	<b>Special Party Booking</b> 11.30 am – 1.30 pm Can you help ??
<b>Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2017</b>	<b>\$2.00 Day &amp; 2nd Anniversary</b> – 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
<b>Friday, 15th December, 2017</b>	<b>Special Party Booking - TBA</b>
<b>Sunday, 17th December, 2017</b>	Ordinary Running Day - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
<b>Sunday 24th December, 2017</b>	" " " "
<b>Wednesday, 27th December, 2017</b>	<b>School Holiday Running - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, 31st December, 2017</b>	Ordinary Running Day - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
<b>Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018</b>	<b>School Holiday Running Day - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, 7th January, 2018</b>	Ordinary Running Day - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
<b>Wednesday, 10th January, 2018</b>	<b>School Holiday Running Day - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm</b>

**THINGS TO REMEMBER :**

- **Summer School Holiday Running re-commences 27th December**
- **Operating Every Wednesday, 11 am – 4 pm during January, 2018**

**Party Bookings :**

- **Saturday 2nd December, 2017 11.00 am & 2.00**
- **Saturday, 9th December, 2017 11.30 am to 1.30 pm**
- **Friday, 15th December, 2017 TBA**

**Volunteers are needed !!**

**THE TAIL DISC :**



**A happy gang of PBMR "fettlers" doing track repairs along the line. (Pic : Brian Coleman)**  
(Left to right - Alistair Blues, Brian Parkinson, Don Gill, Harm Jager, Ronnie Frank, Robert Freeman)

**"FINITO"**

**Email :** [secretary@miniaturerailway.com.au](mailto:secretary@miniaturerailway.com.au)

**Website:** [www.miniaturerailway.com.au](http://www.miniaturerailway.com.au)    **Facebook:** Portarlington Bayside Miniature Railway.

**Postal Address :** P. O. Box 419, Portarlington. 3223. Vic.    **Phone Enquiries:** 0476-124-598.

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