

Newport Railway Workshops Open Day Report

7th March 2020

STEAMRAIL VICTORIA
NEWPORT WORKSHOPS OPEN DAYS

PRICES

SINGLE DAY
ADULT \$25
CHILD \$14
FAMILY \$38

2 DAYS
ADULT \$40
CHILD \$24
FAMILY \$50

3 DAYS
ADULT \$50
CHILD \$34
FAMILY \$60

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND • 7TH-9TH MARCH

SEE 10 STEAM LOCOS ON DISPLAY!
INCLUDING A2 984, B3 439, K154, K140, K711, K741, T112, PLUS K702, K148 FROM THE VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS RAILWAY, 1541 FROM THE YARRA VALLEY RAILWAY PLUS YET TO BE ANNOUNCED GUEST LOCOMOTIVES

PLUS VINTAGE ROLLINGSTOCK & DISPLAYS
HERITAGE DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES, RAILMOTOR SHM, TAIT ELECTRIC TRAIN, VINTAGE MACHINERY, MODELS & OTHER HISTORIC DISPLAYS FROM NEWPORT WORKSHOPS 130 YEAR RAILWAY & MARITIME HISTORY

LOCATION
CHAMPION RD
10TH WHARF, NEWPORT
OPPOSITE WAREHOUSE
FROM 9 AM - 5 PM DAILY

INCLUDES FREE ENTRY TO THE ARMS RAILWAY MUSEUM

MORE INFO
PHONE (08) 9397 1913
EMAIL info@steamrail.com.au
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A TRIBUTE TO THE VICTORIAN GOLDMINE
OPERATING BETWEEN NEWPORT STATION & NORTH WILSONS BAY RAILWAY MUSEUM

yards where there were around (lost count) 10 steamed up (I'm not sure of the correct terminology) locos hissing away and moving rolling stock around. The highlight being three big R Class locos. Nice weather, great venue, great sights and smells - it was such a privilege to be able to experience it all.

The Newport Railway workshops are located in Champion Rd, Newport. They were opened in 1888 and are of historical significance because according to Heritage Victoria "are one of the best surviving 19th century railway workshops in the world". The buildings and larger rail complex would fit in perfectly to any episode of



I didn't have any interest/response from members to the advertised "flash run", and funnily enough the long suffering JoJo (wife) and my kids Ella and Harry showed no interest in attending because they were all "steam trained" out years ago and/or think Humpers are boring - I don't quite get it myself but that's the way it is.

So, I ventured down to Newport in Winston (Series 4) with my father-in-law in tow, who is a huge rail enthusiast. What a brilliant place it is. As soon as we parked outside the yards, we could hear a cacophony of steam whistles, see and smell the belching smoke from the steam locos (apologies to all the sustainable energy advocates, in normal circumstances I am with you). There is something inherently primal in mixing fire, steam and the smell of burning coal. We were able to access all the operational sheds, climb into locos and historic carriages, watch demonstrations of restoration works and that's all before we ventured outside into the rail

Thomas The Tank Engine. The current site and buildings are utilised by various organisations, such as Steam Rail and 707 Operations to house and restore steam and diesel powered loco's and historic rolling stock. As the photos show, its a real trip back in time and brilliant to see all the heavy engineering equipment in the workshops still being used. The workshops

have folklore status in my family, as my paternal grandfather Harry worked as a fitter and turner for VicRail at Newport in the 1920's. Harry's work mate Jack Smith, introduced him to his sister Ruby - who became my grandma (cute!).



The entrance fee allowed visitors to access the Williamstown Railway Museum, which is situated further down Champion Road and is the home of H220 (Heavy Harry), the largest steam loco built in Victoria. Given we were exhausted after 4-5 hours of excitement, we chose to give this a miss on the day, but vowed to return very soon - happy if anyone wants to join us after the C19 pandemonium has passed.

Jon Miller