



LAKESIDE VISITOR CENTRE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically disrupted many aspects of life and production all around the world, the construction industry in Victoria has thankfully remained largely unaffected and hence, the Lakeside Visitor Centre (LVC) continues to make great progress.

Assisted by the availability of grant monies from the Victorian State and Australian governments, work is continuing across the site thanks to the ongoing efforts of the LVC project team and construction company, Kane Constructions. This includes the long-awaited installation of the visitor centre's first key interpretation piece, the unrestored 3A locomotive.

Built in 1900, 3A is the first NA locomotive to be assembled at the Victorian Railways Newport Workshops. Painted in the then standard Victorian Railways two-tone green, this locomotive was deployed to the Upper Ferntree Gully to Gembrook line and was used on the line's construction.

Over the years, it saw service on the Colac to Crowes and Moe to Walhalla lines, but it saw more service on the Gembrook line than any other. In 1954, it hauled the first 'Young Sun Specials' between Upper Ferntree Gully and Belgrave as part of what was meant to be the farewell of Puffing Billy Railway. The immense popularity of these farewell trains led to the formation of the Puffing Billy Preservation Society and the continued operation of the Railway.



3A was installed last Wednesday, 1 July, prior to the frame and roofing installation in this area, with special guest Chanel Nine News coming out to capture this significant moment. Watch the piece below.

Nine New Melbourne - July 1, 2020.



[WATCH HERE](#)

Other LVC related works completed, or near completion, include:

- > Construction of Stage 1 of the project, being the main building, undercover walkway, platform, related civil works and trackside landscaping, is approximately 40% complete.
- > A new high-pressure water main diversion has been installed and the old pipe removed.
- > All structural concrete slabs and the alfresco dining area and building walkways have been poured.
- > Structural steel portal members and main building steel framing sections have been erected in the south entry, staff wing, retail areas, café and café walkway, with the Great Hall, Multipurpose Room, Kitchen & Amenities planned to be completed by end July
- > Roofing is complete to 50% of the building and wall cladding has commenced to the staff wing and south entry sections.
- > The undercover walkway is structurally complete, roofed, timber lining and asphalt paving installed.
- > External landscaping works have begun in the rail corridor with the first stages of preparation complete for asphalt and timber decking.

Work is also progressing well on other scope items which are yet to begin construction. These include:

- > Stage 2 carparking and landscaping works
- > Interpretive displays
- > Wayfinding
- > Lakeside Platform 3 and related rail infrastructure

Kane Constructions, alongside the Emerald Tourist Railway Board, Terroir architects, AECOM and our key external stakeholders continue to plan the remainder of works.

The Lakeside Visitor Centre is still on track for handover by early 2021.

Temporary Closure of Puffing Billy Railway

Due to COVID-19, please note, we are still temporarily closed.

Please take care during this time and we look forward to welcoming you back again soon. Click below for information and updates.

[MORE INFO](#)



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