



April 2019

Welcome to the second edition of Puffing Billy's 'eMotion Stakeholder Update'. After a challenging 2018, under the guidance of the board, I am excited and looking forward to getting Puffing Billy back on track (pardon the pun). A lot of work is being done behind the scenes on things that are very important to us and critical for our future, such as child safety and long term planning for our infrastructure, volunteers and workforce. As you'll see in this edition, the Discovery Centre and several other projects are also getting closer to fruition.

In this edition of eMotion we have updates on:

- Lakeside Discovery Centre project
- Masterplan capital projects
- Safety matters
- Tourism industry involvement

Plus an invite to:

- Run in this year's Great Train Race on Sunday, May 5

We would also like to say a big thank you to our staff and volunteers for their contribution over the summer holiday period, Chinese New Year and more recently Easter, which were all incredibly popular. The dedication displayed by volunteers and staff ensures the smooth running of our services.

Best regards,

Steve O'Brien
Interim CEO
Puffing Billy Railway





Record Numbers at Volunteer Recruitment Weekend!

In the last edition of eMotion, we mentioned that our Behind the Steam volunteer recruitment weekend was taking place in February. We are thrilled to report that the event attracted 70 visitors and resulted in 32 expressions of interest to volunteer. We are currently in the process of welcoming 21 new volunteers. Congratulations to the Volunteer Services team for pulling out all the stops.

Volunteer contributions are critical to the future success of Puffing Billy. We aim to grow and diversify our volunteer workforce to ensure that not only does Puffing Billy have a sustainable future, but that it is a fun and rewarding place to be. We encourage those considering becoming a volunteer to [submit an expression of interest](#) via the Puffing Billy website.



Lakeside Discovery Centre

PBR has released its 'request for tender' (RFT) for the Lakeside Discovery Centre main complex construction.

A short list of pre-qualified contractors, selected from the Department of Treasury and Finance's Construction Supplier Register and assessed as meeting the key project delivery criteria, received the RFT.

We remain on track to commence construction in the first half of 2019, with the goal of having the Lakeside Discovery Centre operational by the end of 2020.

For project information and renders, visit - puffingbilly.com.au



Master Plan Progress Report



Project Completed: New Way and Works Building at Belgrave Station

As per the PBR Masterplan, the dilapidated home of the Way and Works department has become a thing of the past, replaced with a new and improved office. The building was designed to complement its surroundings and provide increased office capacity and improved amenities. PBR was proud to work with local business, Cornerstone Constructions to deliver the project.

Planning work is underway to improve the broader Belgrave precinct and Volunteer amenities.



Lakeside Signal Box

A new signal box has been built at Lakeside Station, with installation and commissioning of the signalling equipment being the only stage left to complete. Centralising the signal box along the Lakeside platform increases the efficiency of staff and train operations. To our visitors, the signal box

adds to the theatre of the railway, with the structure designed using drawings of similar signal boxes from Puffing Billy's era of significance (1900s).



Our Safety Strategy continues to develop as we strive for the highest standards. One aspect which is the focus of continuous improvement is our safety culture. Ensuring no harm comes to our visitors, volunteers, staff and neighbours is paramount. The key message we want to instil is, "If you see something, say something". This message is about proactively engaging with all community stakeholders and empowering them to be safety ambassadors for the railway.

Fire Prevention and Preparedness

We have said goodbye to summer and welcomed the cool change of autumn. Long hot summer months and lack of rainfall mean the railway corridor remains dry. Until further notice, we are still operating rail mounted fire patrol vehicles behind each train, whether it is steam or diesel hauled. In early March we witnessed the Bunyip State Park bushfire - huge fires sparked by lightning strikes. The bushfire threatened local communities including Gembrook and Cockatoo townships through which Puffing Billy runs. The weekend that the fires took hold, our Day Out With Thomas event was cancelled at short notice by our management team in response to the threat of danger. Excursion trains to Cockatoo and Gembrook for the following week were cancelled as the safety of staff, volunteers and the local community were made a priority. Puffing Billy would like to thank emergency workers, volunteers and staff for helping keep our communities safe.

Sitting on the Side of Carriages

Lastly, PBR continues to address the practice of sitting on the side of carriages, with the hope of a positive outcome. An exciting project approved by the ETRB provides for the installation of boom gates at three high-risk level crossings in Emerald, Cockatoo and Menzies Creek. This risk mitigation strategy is aimed at assisting with decision making in relation to the reintroduction of sitting on the sills. Additional strategies are also being considered and we will keep you informed on this matter.



Puffing Billy prides itself on promoting its authentic heritage narrow gauge railway experience to domestic and international visitors. As a not-for-profit organisation, the railway relies on tourists to ensure its heritage is preserved and restored for future generations to enjoy.

The strategic marketing plan to increase brand awareness of this unique experience, and the Lakeside

Discovery Centre project, saw industry representatives attend Tourism Australia's largest annual travel and tourism business-to-business event in Perth, the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE). Over the course of the event, over 80 appointments were conducted with key buyers from around the world to promote our experience and collect valuable feedback.

Upcoming Events



Puffing Billy Great Train Race

Sunday 5th May 2019 | [Register Now >](#)

Join us on Sunday, May 5, for the annual Puffing Billy Great Train Race. Puffing Billy's "training" is well underway and the train has never been better prepared to take on the 3,000 runners over the 13.5 km course that winds its way through the undulating hills and scenic views of the Dandenong Ranges.

This year will mark the 38th running of the Great Train Race. The event is a major fundraiser for the not-for-profit railway, which operates under the steam of more than 600 volunteers.

For more information or to register for the race, please visit greattrainrace.com.au

[Register Now](#)

Huffing Hashtags

Celebrating the best images shared by our passengers on Instagram using [#puffingbilly](#).



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