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Established 1960 Incorporated 1992
A.B.N 51 949 755 737

Situated at: ELTHAM LOWER PARK, ELTHAM, VICTORIA

Information for Prospective Members

The Diamond Valley Railway Inc. welcomes your enquiry and interest in becoming a member of our Railway.

The Railway is located within the picturesque natural bushland settings of Eltham Lower Park, Main Road, Eltham. The Railway consists of approximately 3.5km of 7 ¼ inch (184mm) gauge track which is now mainly laid with 6kg JIS rail. The Railway operates a public passenger service every Sunday and most public holidays through the voluntary efforts of its members. The club owns a fleet of 12 steam, diesel, and petrol-powered locomotives and more than 12 carriage sets. Together with a large fleet of privately owned rolling stock and locomotives, the Railway can provide a variety of equipment to run our very popular train service for the public.

Membership of the Club is available to anyone 16 years and over (14 years if a parent is a member). People under the age of 18 years are required to complete an application for *Junior Associate* membership. People over the age of 18 years are required to complete an application for *Associate* Membership.

Membership costs are as follows (GST Inc):

All Members \$20*

*Where a **full** member is active at the railway and can show attendance for at least 5 hours on each of 2 days per month, their annual membership fee is discounted to \$10 per annum.

All membership applications are put before the first Committee meeting after the receipt of the application. If the application is passed then the applicant will be admitted as a *Provisional* Member for a provisional period of 12 weeks, during which period the applicant is required to attend the Railway on at least 4 Sundays. This requirement is waived for long distance applications. On completion of the provisional period, and upon obtaining a volunteers Victorian Working With Children Check (WWCC) the Committee will reconsider the application and the member may be accepted as an *Associate* or *Junior Associate* Member.

As an *Associate* Member of the Club you are free to attend any of the Railway's operating days, special events, social functions, Members and General Meetings. However, *Associate* members do not have voting rights at General Meetings, nor can they hold Office on any Committee. After a period of 6 months membership, an *Associate* Member may apply for *Full* Membership.

Full members are required to attend the Railway for at least a minimum total of 6 hours of active service during public running on at least 6 Sundays a year – with some specific exemptions.

Full Membership entitles you to have voting rights at General Meetings, and you are eligible to hold Office on the Committee of Management.

It is important to understand that the railway is a passenger carrying miniature railway, committed to providing a regular public service. To this end, strict safety standards are maintained and operations are conducted in a serious and responsible manner, notwithstanding DVR being a voluntary, not for profit organisation. Specific clothing and footwear must be worn and used at all times for everyone's safety.

Our railway is divided into several branches, namely Ways and Works, Rolling Stock, and Signals and Telegraph, plus several specialist groups including Station and Traffic Operations, Bookings, Public Relations, Publishing, Archives, Library, First Aid, Fire Train, Parks and Gardens and a Heritage Preservation Group. Each of the branches are headed by a Superintendent, who is elected annually, and under whose direction the membership carries out the duties necessary to ensure that the Railway can operate in a safe manner.

New members are issued with a copy of our Statement of Purposes and Rules, By-laws, and Operating Regulations. As a member you should make yourself familiar with all the Railways operating instructions and rules as soon as possible. As you would expect, to operation of the Railway is subject to certain qualifications. It is essential that you understand our safe working operating practices. All Drivers, Guards and Signallers must pass a written and practical examination to qualify as operators while the Railway is operating. You will be encouraged in every way by the more experienced members to learn and obtain the necessary qualifications to become a real 'railway person'. Our approach to training and familiarisation for new members is given in more detail in the attached DVR policy – New Member Work Experience Procedures.

The Club newsletter, Diamond Rails, is generally issued monthly, and members are covered under a voluntary workers accident insurance policy whilst working at the Railway.

Currently the Railway has several projects in the planning or implementation stage, including:

- The financing of the acquisition/construction of an additional diesel electric locomotives so a better service can be provided to the public
- The laying of additional new railway track and related materials to reduce operating costs
- The completion of a new computer-controlled signalling system to better manage train movements and improve operating practices on the Railway
- Development of a carriage service area and implementation of a cyclic bogie rotation and maintenance system to ensure that the Railways carriage fleet is kept in a safe condition
- The expansion of the clubrooms and workshops below to better cater to the growing number of members.
- The completion of a new carriage storage facility to house the Railway's carriages and locomotives and items of rolling stock constructed by members

Completion of all the above projects will help the railway provide a better service to our visiting patrons, have a positive effect on the local community, as well as providing an enhanced tourism destination for people to enjoy the social, cultural, and recreational amenities available at Eltham Lower Park.

We look forward to you joining us at the Diamond Valley Railway, with the understanding that your reward will be as great as the effort you are prepared to put in! For all enquiries about the operation of the railway please do not hesitate to **contact our Assistant Secretary on (03) 9439 1493 or email membership@dvr.com.au**

DVR Policy – New Member Work Experience Procedures

1. All membership applications are put before the first Committee Meeting after receipt of the application.
2. If the application is approved, then the applicant will be admitted as a Provisional Associate member for a period of 13 weeks, during which period the applicant must attend the Railway on at least six (6) running days and/or on Wednesdays or any other organised activity (interstate/international applications exempt). If this presents as an issue to you please let us know and we can sort a solution out.
3. In the first 13 weeks, new members shall gain an introduction to the workings of the Railway by assisting on the Station as a Station Assistant for at least 20 hours. Attendance shall be verified by the Station Master and by signing a log book of attendances. The role of a Station Assistant will give the new member a thorough understanding of the workings of the Railway, a chance to meet most members relatively quickly as well as basic training in the safe management of passengers joining and leaving the trains.
4. As soon as the 20 hours have been completed as a Station Assistant, the new member may progress to training to become a guard and undertake the guard's theory examination.
5. Involvement in other areas of the Railway during the 13 week introductory period is encouraged including time with Way & Works, Signals & Telegraph and Rolling Stock. Other areas include the Heritage Group, Archives and Photography, Marketing, Traffic Branch, Secretarial and any specific promotional activities that may be advised by the Secretary.
6. On completion of the 13 week provisional period and after the provisional member has obtained a volunteers Victorian Working With Children Check (interstate/international applications exempt), listing the Railway as an organisation, the Committee will reconsider the application and the applicant may then be formally accepted as an Associate or Junior Associate Member, or the provisional membership extended.
7. Acceptance as an Associate or Junior Associate Member will have regard to the member's compliance with all operating guidelines, including signing off the required number of hours in different activities by an authorised Officer, as well as their general attitude and demonstrated support towards the aims and objectives of the Railway.
8. After a period of six months membership from the date of acceptance of the initial application, an Associate Member may apply for Full Membership.
9. The Committee and members naturally look favourably on applicants for Full membership who have demonstrated their willingness to fit in and regularly assist with the weekly operation of the Railway.
10. Full members are required to attend the Railway for at least a minimum total of 6 hours of active service during Public Running on at least 6 Sundays a year – with some specific exceptions.
11. Full membership entitles you to have voting rights at General Meetings, and subject to compliance with the Railway Rules, which are based on the provisions of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012, you are also eligible to hold Office on the Committee.

12. New members are issued with a copy of our Statement of Purpose and Rules, By-laws and various Operating Regulations as we are operating a 'Railway in Miniature' which carries members of the public, you are encouraged as a member to make yourself familiar with all the Railways operating instructions and Rules as soon as possible.
13. As you would expect, the operation of the Railway is subject to certain qualifications laid down by various statutory bodies, and it is essential that you gain an understanding of our safe working practices so that we can maintain our high safety standards.
14. All operators (Drivers, Guards, Signallers, and Station Staff) must pass a practical and written examination to qualify as operators when being involved in the operation of trains or the custodianship of passengers. You will be encouraged in every way by the more experienced members to learn and obtain the necessary qualifications to become a valued and experienced 'miniature railway operator' who understands the ethos and responsibilities in running trains at the Diamond Valley Railway.
15. To become a guard, you must pass a written theory test and operate trains as a trainee guard for generally a period of 30 hours or such period of time as the Examining Officer requires.
16. To become a driver of a diesel hydraulic, petrol mechanical or electric locomotives you must have a guard's certificate and have also served at least 30 hours as a guard. You will be trained by an authorised supervising driver and then examined by an approved examiner that you are competent to operate a specific type of locomotive safely in public running.
17. Operating a steam locomotive is a further step in the DVR training regime. Due to State Laws, only members over the age of 18 years can drive a steam locomotive. The extent of steam locomotive training and boiler management under service conditions will depend on the aptitude and prior experience of the trainee. Therefore between 20 – 30 hours should be allowed to complete the theory and practical components of the Steam Engine Drivers Certificate.
18. All training courses will be conducted under the guidelines adopted by the Committee of Management on the advice of the relevant Examinations Officer

Frequent Questions and Answers

How long has the Railway been around?

The miniature railway was originally established at Chelsworth Park in Ivanhoe in the 1940's. It was flooded in 1959 and the railway closed. It has been carrying passengers at the Eltham Lower Park site since 1961.

Who runs the Railway?

The Railway is run by the Diamond Valley Railway Incorporated. It is run solely by volunteers and is a not for profit organisation incorporated under the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

What is the aim of Diamond Valley Railway?

Diamond Valley Railway's aim is to run the miniature railway for the enjoyment of all. It provides people, who are not normally railway men or women, with the opportunity of building and operating a real passenger carrying railway system in miniature.

How often does it run?

The Railway operates on approximately 70 days per year. This comprises of every Sunday between 11am – 5pm and selected public holidays between 1pm – 4pm.

What is the frequency of trains on a run day?

Every few minutes depending on the number of trains out on the track

How many passengers does it carry?

Since October 1961, over 3 million passengers have been carried. It is second to Puffing Billy in patronage and is Australia's most popular miniature railway. There are over 100,000 visitors each year. The railway is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Yarra Valley region.

How long is the ride and how much does it cost?

Everybody pays \$3 a ride. The journey covers a distance of 1.3 to 2 km depending on the route designated on the day of travel and takes between 12 – 15 minutes through the park.

How many trains are there?

There are approximately 25 locomotives and 60 carriages. They include petrol, diesel, steam and electric (battery) locomotives. Some of the trains are club owned while others are privately owned by members. We can run up to 12 trains on a busy public run day.

What sort of engines do the trains have?

Car engine include Datsun, Toyota, Honda and Holden. Diesel engines include Toyota, Kubota and Perkins.

Do the signals work?

Yes, the Railway is fully signalled and controlled from two signal boxes. Signals are interlocked with points and comprise of lower and upper quadrant semaphores and colour light signals. Drivers must observe and obey all signals. Two-way radio communications allow drivers, guards and signallers to communicate with each other at all times.

How fast do the trains go?

The maximum running speed is 12-15 km/h. Some sections of track have speed limits of 5 km/h or less

What scale is the railway?

The rolling stock is generally 1/2 full size; signals are 1/4 full size; buildings are 1/2 size. Track gauge is 184mm (7 1/4 inches). It is modelled, as much as possible, on the Victorian Railways of the 1920's.

Why are there guards?

Guards perform the vital and responsible task of keeping the Railway running and are required on all multi-carriage trains for safety reasons.

Who owns the land?

The Railway leases the Crown land from the Nillumbik Shire Council, who are the Committee of Management, and maintain the Railways and the grounds at no cost to the council.

How much track is there?

The Railway consists of 1,440 metres of mainline plus 510 metres of alternate mainline and 1,840 metres of sidings, of which 460 metres is within secure lockup. There are 104 points and diamond crossings (including spares), 3 stations, 6 level crossings, 2 tunnels, 3 bridges, 9 signal gantries and an 18-foot turntable.

Where does the money from the fares go to?

The Railway is run as a not for profit organisation, so all income is used to pay for the running, maintenance and development of the railway and its facilities. 5% of gross ticket sales is donated to local charities or community and service support groups operating in the Eltham area.

What current projects is the Railway undertaking?

- Purchase and construction of additional locomotives and carriages to improve the service,
- Replacement of the main line track to improve the ride
- Plan and construct an extension of the Railway towards the Yarra River in consultation with local stakeholders

How do you get to drive the trains?

New members are required to work on the station initially to gain experience in the operational aspects of the Railway. They are then encouraged to train as a guard, then as a driver by way of training programmes. All operation staff (drivers, guards, and signallers) are required to be qualified operators by the way of practical and theoretical examinations. Some members choose to be involved in other areas of the Railway such as signalling, rolling stock and locomotive maintenance and administration activities.

How many members are there?

Approximately 150 people.

How old do you need to be to become a member?

Membership is open to anyone 16 years and over.

How often do you need to volunteer as a member?

Volunteering is not onerous. Full membership requires attendance of one day per month at the Railway. Associate membership requirements are less but we encourage active involvement by all members.

How do I apply for membership?

1. Request a membership pack at the ticket office, or
2. By email to membership@dvr.com.au
3. You can also ring the Railway's information number on (03) 9439 1493 for operating information

Members Activities – Diamond Valley Railway

Data Sheet 35

In order to meet its aims and objectives the Railway offers a wide range of activities for members to participate in and contribute to the success of running trains at Eltham Lower Park.

<p>Administration</p> <p>Secretarial, legal and administration Strategic planning Town planning Project management Meeting management Minute taking Mgt of Rules, By-Laws, Committee Guidelines Grant applications Publications Promotion of Railway events Magazine production – journalism Security systems, electronics & data cabling Computer software skills</p> <p>Treasury</p> <p>Accounting Book keeping and cash books Budgets Booking office and banking Insurances Asset register</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>Finance Social Outings Special events (as required) Heritage Group Storage Allocation CLP Locomotive Group Engineering Advisory Group Website</p> <p>Project Activities</p> <p>Project Management Programs</p>	<p>Train Operations</p> <p>Driver, Diesel Locomotives Driver, Steam Locomotives Guard Signaller Booking Officer Station Master/Operations Officer/Station Staff</p> <p>Way And Works</p> <p>Points and Track Fabricator Track Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair Landscape and Gardening of Grounds</p> <p>Signals and Telegraph</p> <p>Project Coordinator Electrical Circuitry – Planning, Installation and Repair Interlocking of Signals</p> <p>Traffic Branch</p> <p>Assist in running shed maintenance and management of the carriage fleet so as to ensure that all car sets are available for traffic at all times.</p> <p>Rolling Stock</p> <p>Engineering Project Management Carriage Repair and Maintenance Diesel Locomotive Mechanic Steam Locomotive Fitter Machinist, Fitter and Turner Painter Plumbing Pneumatic Control Systems Electrical Applications Drawing Applications</p>
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Diamond Valley Railway is one of Australia's most successful volunteer miniature railways due to the diversity of jobs that members can contribute to. Whilst a number of activities identified above relate to the running of trains on a Sunday, many other activities are vital to the success of the Railway.

For more information on becoming a member please email membership@dvr.com.au or the Secretary (PO Box 245, Eltham, 3095).

- THREE GREAT ANNUAL EVENTS -

Diamond Valley Railway Inc

Diamond Valley Miniature Railway holds three exciting and educative run days through the year that provide a great opportunity for both Members, Miniature Railway Enthusiasts and the General Public to experience the operation of the Railway in a variety of ways.

The March Labour Day Community 12 Hour Run

The Community Day Run is a unique opportunity for members of the wider community to ride the Railway between 11am and 11pm at night with all proceeds going to selected charitable and local service groups.

During the daylight running it's a time for picnics and people enjoying and experiencing the spectacle of the little trains running through a bushland setting beside the Diamond Valley Creek in Eltham Lower Park (Melway 21 H10). Another highlight of the run is the acclaimed operation at night over the 2km track controlled by a kaleidoscope of coloured signal lights. The evening running is a great favourite of children. This also happens to be the time when the Railway is operating the most intensive service of any miniature railway in Australia with up to 12 train operating at once.

It's a fun time when the Railway showcases itself to the people of Melbourne.

The June Queens Birthday Weekend Teddy Bear Picnic and Steam Gala

Dedicated to the love of steam engines, on the June Queens Birthday Weekend children up to the age of 17 years can ride the trains accompanied by an adult free of charge at a time of the year where many steam locomotives of different shapes and sizes are operating.

If you enjoy the fun of displaying your favourite teddy bear against the backdrop of the sights and sounds of steam locomotives, this is a great time to visit the Railway.

For members of the public, Sunday public running is the time to see steam operation at its best.

The Annual Birthday Corroboree

In the fourth weekend of October, the Railway treats itself to a birthday celebration when it invites all miniature railway enthusiasts, whether they be steam or diesel fans to come and enjoy the comradeship of the Railway. Saturday is set aside as a time to play trains, enjoy a yarn with other enthusiasts or just watch the trains go by. On Sunday the Railway comes alive with its normal six hours of public running for the enjoyment of the public coming to enjoy a wide variety of cultural and recreational activities at Eltham Lower Park.

Diamond Valley Miniature Railway
ONE OF THE GREAT LITTLE 7 ¼ INCH GAUGE RAILWAYS OF VICTORIA