

# THE RIESLING RAILWAY



The story of the Riverton to Spalding Railway, will be my book published in July 2018, to mark the centenary of the opening of the railway to Clare.

This book will not be sold through ordinary book shops. To purchase a copy, you will need to be on the distribution list for this newsletter.

Newsletter No. 8 January 2018

**THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THIS BOOK WILL BE AT THE NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM AT PORT ADELAIDE ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY.**

## **DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR BOOKS**

**On the weekend of 7/8 July** at the National Railway Museum at Port Adelaide, books may be collected from the bookshop 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

**On Friday 6 July and Monday 9 July**, customers in the Clare and surrounding districts may collect at Clare, Auburn and Riverton. Times and locations to be advised.

**Thereafter** books may be collected, by arrangement of a suitable time, from The Wilson Vineyard at Polish Hill River, the bookshop at the National Railway Museum, or from my home.

**Posted copies will be mailed out on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July.**

**Orders for Goolwa, Port Elliot, and Victor Harbor will be sent by rail** at no additional cost, and will arrive by the morning Cockle Train on Sunday 8 July.

**Broken Hill, Peterborough, Jamestown, Port Pirie, Burra orders:** I am trying to arrange a bulk consignment to a central location in city, for cost per book well below the postage charge. I shall advise further when I have a definite cost.

## **ORDERING AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Price is \$95 per copy if collected, and \$110 if posted to an address within Australia. Delivery to a Post Office box is acceptable. I am unapologetic about the price. I have set a very high standard for all aspects of production.

**THERE WILL BE ANOTHER NEWSLETTER ABOUT MID MARCH.**

**I WILL CEASE TAKING ORDERS ON 18 APRIL. AFTER THAT YOUR ONLY WAY OF GETTING A COPY IS TO JOIN THE QUEUE AT THE NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY 7 JULY, AND EXPECT TO PAY A LITTLE MORE.**

## **WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING**

*This looks great. The text looks so complete with such a substantial photographic collection and documentation. This will prove to be a very valuable history.* Tony Brady (A. P. Birks, Wendouree Cellars, Clare)

*Firstly I would like to say that I approached the task rather doubting how much railway detail I could absorb without falling asleep. I was pleasantly surprised to find a genuine interest in what you had written from the very first chapter. I am totally impressed with the detail that must have involved you in so many hours.* Peter Wood, Treasurer of the Riesling Trail Management Committee

*"Exciting!"* David Hay, Thorn Park by the Vines, Clare Valley.

*.... a fascinatingly detailed history of one of the State of South Australia's complex railway systems. Even for those of us who are not train enthusiasts, the development of group and individual needs for rail transport in the nineteenth century, coupled with the often divisive decisions of either important members of the public or of members of political groups make for interesting reading - always of interest; sometimes leaving the reader with frustrations that must have paralleled those of the original organisers, be they engineers, members of local councils, or private citizens of the times.*

*These factual accounts, coupled with the sometimes hair-raising stories of both fatal and near fatal accidents, are balanced with some very amusing tales of colourful local folk, train drivers, station stop restroom waitresses - the "Refresh Girls" - plus children of both early and more recent times, in incidents involving trains, their stations and accompanying yards areas - "Baby Health Centre Train".... one almost developed a personal interest in those stalwart women.*

*Couple the factual accounts together with the telling of collisions, derailments, circus trains, race meeting trains, the Ghost Train and The Rattler Train, and you have a thoroughly entertaining read!*

*John Wilson, is not just a painstaking author, but is also a medical practitioner, and a winemaker!*

*He is to be congratulated on his attention not just to the rail system's gradual development, with its 'ups and downs' - both geographically and politically, but to the infinitesimal detail that his detailed study has revealed, where he has often relied on individual's personal recollections including their fascinating period photos; plus many not-easily obtainable historical railway history items, sometimes hidden away in complex recording systems. Michael J. Speers, partner of "Thorn Park by the vines" (and guest accommodation at Spring Farm, Clare Valley.)*

## **USB FLASH DRIVE**

I have reproduced below, the contents of the USB Flash Drive. There are about 3mB of data

## **IMAGES OF SOME PAGES ON FACEBOOK**

The Riesling Railway has a Facebook page, and over the last few months I have been submitting posts that have included some sample pages.

## **PROOF COPIES FOR INSPECTION**

Commencing the weekend of 17 February, and every weekend thereafter, until mid April, there will be a proof-copy of the book available for inspection at the Wilson Vineyard at Polish Hill River, 10.00 pm to 4.00 pm

**CLARE VALLEY WINE, FOOD & TOURISM CENTRE** I will be showing a proof copy on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

**BACK ISSUES OF THESE NEWSLETTERS** are on the Riesling Trail website [www.rieslingtrail.org.au](http://www.rieslingtrail.org.au) under the History Tab.

# THE RIESLING RAILWAY



## **The history of the Riverton to Spalding branch-line.**

**To be released in July 2018, being the centenary of the opening of the line to Clare. Content will include the Riesling Trail and the Rattler Trail.**

**200 pages, A4 size, hard cover with colour throughout, this book will come with a USB Flash Drive containing extensive files and diagrams.**

**Price will be \$95. The last day I can accept orders will be 18 April.**

**Price posted anywhere in Australia is \$110**

**Dear Friend of the Clare Valley**

It is about the origins of The Riesling Trail. We all want the Riesling Trail to be South Australia's No. 1 rail-trail, and having its story told will help it be there.

The book comes with a USB Flash Drive crammed full of interesting data. There are 7 digital files that are linear maps of the Riesling and Rattler Trails showing gradients, curves, cuttings, embankments and many other features. These can be printed out and given to visitors to take on their trail excursion.

This book will not be sold through the usual retail outlets..

This is a high-quality digital printing production that is printed in South Australia by OpenBook Howden of St Marys.

On the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1921 at Riverton railway station Percy Brookfield MLA, was gunned down. It has been claimed that this was Australia's first political assassination. Some disagree. Within the USB Flash Drive are copies of Coronial depositions, witness statements, medical reports, and newspaper reports – you be the sleuth.

The Trail's Marketing Committee has granted me space on their website. This includes quarterly newsletters, and a book synopsis. You will find this material under the tab labelled HISTORY.

The Riesling Trail website will include reviews.

[www.rieslingtrail.org.au](http://www.rieslingtrail.org.au)

Arrangements for collecting books.

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> July at the National Railway Museum 10.00 am to 4.30 pm.

6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July at Clare, Auburn and Riverton (locations and times to be advised).

You can pay by cheque or direct bank deposit into my account **065 149 1036 2850**.

I will need to know your name, contact details, and collection or delivery request. **We must have a mobile number if sending by post to allow tracking.** Cheques to my home address, 27 Nunyah Drive, BANKSIA PARK 5091. I am not quoting an ABN or GST as I am doing this as a hobby. An ATO quoting form will be on Newsletter no. 8. It can be downloaded from The Riesling Trail website. Receipts will be provided on request, and will be enclosed with the book.

I am planning further books and it will help me if you can indicate your field of interest, using the following menu as a guide – you may indicate more than one.

Railway fraternity (including modellers), regular user of the Trail(s), SA History, a fan of Monica McInerney, Rail-Trails other than the Riesling/Rattler, an attachment to Clare/Auburn/Riverton/Spalding.

A proof copy of the book will be available for inspection at The Wilson Vineyard, Polish Hill River, weekends only, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, from 17 February.

\*For customers unable to collect their book at one of the nominated locations and times, alternative arrangements can be made and will be notified ahead of the day.

**I have produced this book because the Riesling Trail is evolving into a major attraction of the region, and the growing interest by visitors in the history behind it. It has involved research over the last 3 years, and the book is extensively illustrated with photographs, maps, and diagrams relevant to the text.**

**Copies of the book will be numbered. Numbers will be issued in the order that we receive your order.**

**I will try to meet requests for a specific number for those who order early. Numbers 1-10 are already allocated**

[wilsonriesling@internode.on.net](mailto:wilsonriesling@internode.on.net)

**John Wilson January 2018**

The illustration is a painting in oils, done by Watervale artist, Harry Sherwin, which was commissioned for the purpose of featuring on the cover of the book. Railcar No. 5 was one of 12 Brill Model 55 railcars imported by the South Australian Railways from Pennsylvania in 1924, to provide fast passenger services on lightly-patronised branch-lines. Clare was the first rural destination to benefit from the new service.

# Contents of USB flash drive

**1913 Cadastral** map showing the proposed line of railway and the Proclaimed Railway District

**1924 SAR Timetable** 204 pages

**2007 Model Railways Convention** Powerpoint slide show of the Spalding line compiled by Des Egan.

**Baby Health Train.** Train Notices 1939-1947

**BDT. The Barrier Daily Truth.** Newspaper items relevant to the shooting of Percy Brookfield.

**Blueprints.** Barracks, cottages, Clare Station-master's residence,

**Bridge Report (1975)** Folder containing sheets photographed in State Records SA with distances in km (shown to two decimal points) from Adelaide, of every bridge, culvert and drain pipe between Riverton and Barinia.

**Brookfield.** Witness statements, police reports, medical reports, Madge Kewey death certificate.

**Clare Spalding Train Notices.** Clare Show trains 1949 to 1962. Poison train 1958, 1936 Centenary Limited included "Broughton" car,

**Clare Station modifications.** Includes proposed barracks, parcel shed.

**Contract drawings** gradient profiles, cuttings, embankments, per-way, check-rails,, crossings, fences, mile-posts, passenger & goods platforms, culverts, arch culvert near Farrell's Flat Rd, Farrell's Flat Rd. concrete bridge.

**Detailed station drawings** of major stations, proposed slate quarry, Broughton bridge, Spalding engine shed, Penwortham timber bridge.

**Gawler 1907 collision & 1912 near-collision.** 1913 station yard layout and newspaper reports.

**Gradients and curves.** Spalding-line. 1935 original, and the redrawn diagram.

**Harry Sherwin.** Railcar No. 5 painting as used on front cover. Medium and low resolution files. Also a high-resolution scan that will be suitable for generating art-quality reproductions. Your purchase of this book conveys licence to make reproductions for personal use. Be aware that producing reproductions for sale would be an infringement of copyright.

**John Evans Train Orders** & explanation of permissive block.

**Linear maps.** A series of 7 maps of the Riesling Trail and the Rattler Trail from Riverton to Barinia with distances, all features up to date 2018.

**Marketing report.** An analysis of the quantity of books printed.

**Northern Argus** reporting of the opening day.

**Photographs** an assortment of photographs that may be used for educational purposes.

**Poems and songs.** *Stop 84 at Penwortham; Harold Dridan's poems, The Riverton Railcar Blues.* . *The Riverton Railcar Blues is copyright, but permission is granted for it to be performed by schools, and for fund-raising events by not-for-profit organisations.*

**Railway Facts** Produced by W. A. Webb in 1929. 124 pages

**Railway Transportation Magazine** An index of items relating to South Australia, Northern Territory, Silverton Tramway, and Commonwealth Railways 1952 to 1972.

**Reviews** of this book (proof copies) up to end May 2018.

**Riverton Station Yard Diagrams.** 1913 & 1928

**SAR Placards.** English Cricketers, Clare Show and Races. Back to Watervale and Auburn.

**Signals** Pages of diagrams pertaining to signals, and also has diagrams of Penwortham overway bridge.

**Spalding** station information.

**Special Trains** listing is accurate from 1965

**Stations** station timelines, stacking block plans for stations.

**The Riesling Railway** newsletters Nos. 1 to .

**Track plans & WTT.** Diagrams of all station track arrangements and Working Timetables 1950 - 1971.

**Train Orders (more) from John Evans' Collection.** .

**Weekly Notices** relevant to the opening of the railway to Clare and to Spalding. A listing of summaries of the highlights of Weekly Notices 1907 to 1972. Some years missing.

**Weekly Notices Index.** A listing of items relevant to railway operations from 1907.



The rock wall between the Showgrounds and the Quarry Road.

# CONTENTS

Introduction	2	The 1924 Timetable	93
Railway Gauges and Acknowledgements	5	<b>PART 4 OPERATIONS</b>	<b>95</b>
Abbreviations, Currency and Units	6	Locomotives	95
Chronology of Events	7	The Dort Cars	100
<b>PART 1 GETTING THE RAILWAY TO CLARE</b>	<b>8</b>	Safeworking	102
The Luck of the Irish	9	Incidents & Accidents	105
Early Railway Schemes	9	The Sevenhill Wig-Wag	108
The Port Wakefield Tramway	10	The Auburn Station-Master	109
Branch-line Proposals	14	Some Interesting Train-Orders	110
Broken Hill & Port Pirie	18	The Baby Health Train	111
The Railway Guarantee	20	<b>PART 5 RIVERTON</b>	<b>119</b>
Some Engineering Concepts	21	The Expresses	128
Jennings, Stewien, & Webb	22	Riverton Refreshment Rooms	131
Riverton to Spalding Railway Bill	24	The Refresh Girls & Uniform	136
Building the Spalding Railway	32	The Percy Brookfield Shooting	138
Progress Reports	34	Riverton Signal Cabin	150
The Opening Ceremony	39	<b>PART 6 FROM RAIL TO TRAIL</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>PART 2 ALONG THE LINE</b>	<b>42</b>	Grain from the Spalding End	152
Nomenclature	52	The Declining Years	155
A Losing Line	56	Clare's Last Station-Master	157
The Jamestown Railway Scheme	58	Riding the Riesling Railway	161
The Broughton Bridge	61	Origins of the Riesling Trail	164
Other Bridges	65	G.I.C. and the Rattler Rail Trail	168
Putting Penwortham on the Map	69	The Railway Children's Adventure Trail	170
<b>PART 3 PASSENGER SERVICES</b>	<b>71</b>	Add-Ons to the Trail Experience	173
The Barwell Bulls	71	<b>PART 7 ET CETERA</b>	<b>174</b>
Sir Henry Barwell	73	Engineman Eyes	174
City and Back in a Day	75	Addenda	178
The "Ghost Train"	77	Epilogue	187
Special Trains for the Clare Races	80	References	189
The Clare Show	84	Index & contents of USB Flash Drive	193
Other Special Trains	87		
Passenger Stories	91		



