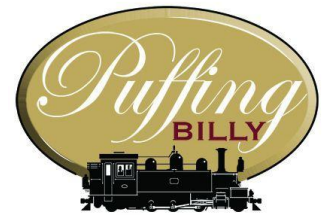


MEDIA RELEASE



CLIMAX 1694 STEAMS AGAIN!

The *Puffing Billy Preservation Society* officially launched Climax geared locomotive No. 1694 back into service on Sunday 8 September, 2013.

For the past 12 years the Climax Locomotive has been under restoration at Belgrave, which has included major work on the boiler, frames, gears and brakes along with new wheels and axles.

“The number of volunteer hours that has contributed to restoring this locomotive is in excess of 2,500 hours”, said Jeff Goodwin, President of the Puffing Billy Preservation Society. “The restoration process has cost \$700,000 which is being raised via a number of fundraising initiatives including proceeds from the ‘*Great Train Race*’ and the ‘*861 Footplate Experience*’ trains. There is still a significant amount outstanding re the associated loans we have incurred, so if anyone wishes to contribute, our ‘*Coffee for the Climax*’ fundraising campaign is still running”.

The Climax locomotive is so special because:

- Only three other Climax locomotives are still operational (all in the USA)
- Only 19 Climax locomotives survive, mostly in North America
- Climax 1694 is the only one built to 2ft 6in gauge
- Climax 1694 is the only intact survivor of over 50 Victorian timber tramway steam locomotives
- Climax 1694 is the only wood burning locomotive at Puffing Billy Railway.

“We were thrilled to welcome the Climax 1694 Locomotive back especially as it coincided with the 85th anniversary of when it first entered service” said Mr Goodwin.

The *Puffing Billy Preservation Society* ran a special train today hauled by the Climax 1694 Locomotive. The train ran through a specially made banner and was greeted by over 150 train enthusiasts with cameras at the ready.

“Everyone here at the Railway is truly excited to have this locomotive back in service and we’re looking forward to seeing it regularly running through the Puffing Billy corridor again”, said Mr Goodwin.

For further information visit www.puffingbilly.com.au

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