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The new Marc Fidian book entitled, "*Stations Near and Far*" embraces a wide range of stations. Included are Harpers Ferry, Adelaide, Auckland, Dunedin, Denver, Marseilles and Sacramento. And to make things closer to home in Melbourne and Victoria: there is Hartwell, Seymour, the Thorpdale line in Gippsland; as well as Kerang – and my favourite – Yea. There is even in this little book of wonders the long-demolished 42nd Street station on the New York elevated system. So, at \$17.95 for 128 pages and \$4.95 postage – this is the buy of the month; if not the year!!

* _____ \$17.95 post \$4.95

VICTORIAN SIGNALLING by Accident or Design? Author Peter Fisher¹

Peter Fisher has researched the development of signalling systems overseas (particularly in the UK and the USA) to establish the correlation between overseas best practice and its adoption and adaptation to the Victorian environment. The book explores how and why Victoria chose to blend two vastly different philosophies to achieve a cohesive outcome. The motivation behind this book was the author's concern that the mechanical signals on the Victorian Railways were fast disappearing without any published record which led him to his meticulous preparation of the material for this book. The book's 120 pages are printed on high quality paper and include over 160 black & white; as well as colour photographs and illustrations.

* _____ \$54.95 post \$9.50

Wooden Wonders: Victoria's Timber Bridges

By Don Chambers²

Timber bridge history is intrinsically connected to road and rail history. This book could be described as a showcase for design ingenuity or even a regional tour of Victoria. The asset of Australian hardwoods combined with simple stand-alone structure makes for compelling essays and dramatic black and white (as well as colour) photographs.

Undertaken as an exploration both for Dr. Don Chambers and research for the National Trust's Timber Bridge Study for the Trust's Timber Bridge Committee. If as in the case of the wooden rail bridge at Walhalla, a bridge is lost by bushfire or any other natural disaster, this book will serve as an important historical reference for future historians.

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¹ **Peter Fisher** has been interested in trains, and particularly signals, since he was a small boy living atop the Northcote cutting. At ten years of age he started the Northcote Train Society, supported by *The Spirit* newspaper. He is now a professional environmental consultant and university lecturer. He also writes freelance for the *Australian Financial Review*. He is meticulous with researching for his profession and for his hobby.

² **Don Chambers** was born at Lilydale in 1935 and grew up in and around Euroa in north-eastern Victoria. At 16 he became a rural worker. He studied extensively at Melbourne & Cambridge Universities. He teaches history at Monash University; renovates houses and is involved in the heritage and Open Learning scene in Melbourne.

NEW & RE-RELEASED BOOK

Eliza's Vision: A History of Wattle Park 1838-2006 – Ray Peace – 207 pages – profuse amount of photos and map.

Wattle Park is a jewel of the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Adorned by wattle it combines man made landscape and historic buildings with natural bushland containing much remnant indigenous flora and fauna. The fate of the park as a public domain appeared to be sealed when wealthy company director Eliza Welch purchased the property and bequeathed it in 1915 as an open space for the people of Melbourne. 76 years later her covenant was overturned by legislation, the park becoming a bureaucratic battleground over its long-term future. *Eliza's Vision* puts on the public record for the first time the complete story of this tramway park from the colourful early days of its settlement to the present day. The story also comprises the construction of the Wattle Park tramway, the development of the public facilities, the effects of economic depression and war and community groups closely linked with the park such as the Melbourne Tramways Band and the Field Naturalists Club.

* _____

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NEW Australian DVDs – In stock NOW

THE GRANT HYLAND SERIES vol 1-6

Grant Hyland has been videoing Tasmanian trains since 1990 and has accumulated a library of hundreds of hours of trains operating in all parts of the state. In these volumes Steam Alive brings you the best of his footage, concentrating on diesels. These DVDs are for enthusiasts of Tasmanian railways, there are plenty of run-bys and in most cases, the full consist of each train is shown at least once. There is no narration but most locations are identified by captions. Along the way you will also see the ongoing changes to the infrastructure, operations, staff and the consists of the trains that have taken place over the last 15 years. All footage has been digitised and computer edited. Available as DVDs, Pal, 4:3 format. Running time each volume approx 90 minutes. (Except Vol 6, 2 hours.)

EACH \$34.95 _____ post \$5.50 each

Rail Around Queensland - Out Of Dalby

The Excellence of the Rail Around Queensland series continues with Out Of Dalby. This documentary takes us on a visual journey through the history of the Branch lines to Glenmorgan, Jandowae and Bell, as well as the Main Western Railway from Bowenville to Macalister. Steam, Diesel and Railmotors can be seen, and one of the special features includes a "seamless journey" from Macalister with a coal train bound for Brisbane. Numerous class Diesels make the journey, and the sequence even includes "driver-cam" footage.

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Along the Lines Volume 2—Passenger Trains in Victoria

This Rail Media production focuses on passenger units in Victoria with footage of current rolling stock in both suburban and country networks. Hitachis, ComEng, X'Trapolis, Siemens; as well as the last regular locomotive hauled commuter trains are all featured. Melbourne's unique tramway crossings where trains and trams meet is another specialty of this very detailed look at the Melbourne commuter & Victorian loco scene.

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