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**VICTORIAN SIGNALLING by Accident or Design? Author Peter Fisher<sup>1</sup>**

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 Chambers<sup>2</sup>

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bridge at Walhalla, a bridge is lost by bushfire or any other natural disaster, this book will serve as an important historical reference for future historians.

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<sup>1</sup> **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.

<sup>2</sup> **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**

**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.

\* \_\_\_\_\_ \$29.95 post \$10.50

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This superb TWO HOUR and fifteen minute DVD comprehensively covers over 40 Victorian steam operations during 2006 featuring 16 different locos. HIGHLIGHTS include: Double K class up Ingliston bank; R 761 to Echuca and Ballarat; triple Na class as 8A returns to service after a 5 year overhaul; K 163 turns 65 on the Mornington Railway; K153 and K190 on push/pull shuttles on the heavily graded Glen Waverley and picturesque Hurstbridge lines; Cab rides on J 515, K 163 and Vulcan #4 at Bellarine; J 515 on the mainline and Victorian Goldfields Railway; G 41 on the 'Fielder Flyer'; Inside the boiler and firebox of R 707; first steam run on the 'new' single between Kyneton and Bendigo; 8A on a Gembrook mixed; Crew training specials to Geelong, Bacchus Marsh, and Ballarat; 861 turning 120 years old; Easter trains at Bellarine Railway; 'Driver Experience' specials at VGR and PBR; Two funeral trains at Puffing Billy and much more.

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**2000 - THE VICTORIAN YEAR IN STEAM - DVD**

This very popular TWO HOUR VHS production has now been released as a DVD so you can enjoy the historic sights of steam tours on a magnitude that is almost impossible to repeat. See Double R class paralleling double 38 class, Y 112 to Wakool, BPR Easter Extravaganza, NSW 38 class in Victoria travelling western lines for the first time, Super R 711 on regular and special trains to Warrnambool, Echuca and Ballarat, cabrides on PB 15 454 and K 160, D3 639 and K 190 to Robinvale via Ballarat, Maryborough, Inglewood and Castlemaine, J 515 meets the Olympic torch, Puffing Billy Centenary celebrations including the Climax and Peckett - minus Thomas cladding, R 761 on the Castlemaine - Maryborough line, Kyneton and Frankston signal boxes and much more! Well worth upgrading your almost worn out VHS copy to see how much the railway scene has changed!

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