



PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BE A TRAIN DRIVER FOR THE DAY ON PUFFING BILLY'S 120 YEAR-OLD STEAM TRAIN

Coined the **861 Footplate Experience**, the world famous Puffing Billy Railway is offering train buffs and rail enthusiasts the chance of a lifetime – to drive and have exclusive use of an 120 year-old Footplate locomotive for a day, under the expert supervision of an experienced Puffing Billy Railway Driver.

“Passengers now have the opportunity to be an honorary train driver for the day on the world famous Puffing Billy Railway and to drive a train in luxurious surroundings, whilst enjoying magnificent views of the Dandenong Ranges and soaking in the atmosphere of the steam locomotive’s rich and colourful history” said Puffing Billy CEO, Eamonn Seddon.

Learn how to light the fire, lubricate the locomotive, raise steam and how the Westinghouse brakes work, before spending several hours firing and driving the locomotive, over a highly challenging route, along one of the finest preserved steam railways.

No previous experience is required, and family and friends are welcome to ride alongside to enjoy the inspiring scenery as you journey along a winding, steeply-graded narrow-gauge railway between Emerald and Cockatoo.

The 120 year-old Footplate steam locomotive is named for its large metal footplate, which is full width of the locomotive and extends all the way from the front buffer beam to the back buffer beam.

Exclusive to Puffing Billy Railway, the heritage **861 Footplate Experience** makes for a truly unique and personal Christmas or Birthday gift for train enthusiasts and history buffs, alike.

Puffing Billy Railway is a not-for-profit organisation with more than 600 registered volunteers from all parts of the globe, without these volunteers the railway would not exist.

The cost of this exclusive opportunity is: \$1,500.00 including GST and all proceeds of the **861 Footplate Experience** directly support the Climax Locomotive Restoration Program. Included in the cost is:-

- Exclusive use of locomotive 861 and a train of two vehicles for the day, under the expert guidance of a Puffing Billy Railway driver, fireman and guard.
- This course operates on a fully operating railway around regular scheduled Puffing Billy services and events.
- Detailed course notes which will be sent in advance.
- Morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea. This can also be provided for your guests for a small additional charge. (Must be arranged at time of Booking.)
- A certificate of completion.

For bookings and enquiries phone: (03) 9757-0607, visit: www.puffingbilly.com.au, or email: driveatrain@puffingbilly.com.au

The 861 Footplate Experience Course will be available on Saturdays and Sundays during the months of March to November or other dates by arrangement (Dates in March/April 2010 may be limited during the Fire Danger Period).

Trains depart from Belgrave which is only 40kms or one hour east of Melbourne by car or coach. Easy access is also available by electric train from Melbourne in around one hour with a short walk from the electric train station to the Puffing Billy station.

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