



Smokestack



Your
centre stage
on the East
of Bury

President takes
on September 23
Lancs Railway out
north of

Manchester UK.

He's the one in the suit by the way not the one in the boiler suit.

The engine is one of Oliver Bullied's light Pacific streamlined 4-6-2 designs of the 1940s, originally for the Southern Railway company. Known to the enthusiast train fans as spam-cans.

This was our engine for a very satisfying evening trip along this preserved line that included an excellent dinner!

December 2023

A very belated greeting from myself and the Directors of IFRR for our belated Fall (Autumn to us UK members) issue of **Smokestack** which has turned into Winter edition. I don't have too much in the way of contributions but this will be an issue that asks for more and for a few ideas how IFRR might progress. In international terms the main event of 2024 will be the next Convention. Melbourne has come and gone. Singapore beckons in 2024.

*

*

*

2023 Rotary International Convention

27-31 MAY 2023 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

As most of you know I was unable to go for health reasons and I trust all those interested in Railroads and IFRR who did enjoy the local railways and tramways in Melbourne. I have fond memories of the City from working there in 1981 to a Museums Convention there and calling there after the Sydney Rotary Convention.

* * *

Database

Just a quick reminder that if you change Clubs or home address/email etc please inform Bruce McNaught on bruce@brucemcnaught.com as he very efficiently runs our database. This will ensure you continue to receive Smokestack and other communications.

* * *

Possible Merchandise?

Last year President Mike Waddell of the Rotary Club of Emmaus, PA, asked if we had any merchandise or a pin to give to another member. I asked in the last issue of Smokestack if anyone was interested but I have had no response so can only conclude the answer is no for now but Vice President Curtis is working on it.

* * *

Toronto Railway Museum

The Museum never forgets IFRR and constantly keeps me informed of activities. The total amount of information would take several issues of Smokestack alone so this must just be highlights.

Last summer saw the renewed mini train ride reopening for the Museum in Roundhouse Park. The picture shows one run through a leafy part of the park.



A whole range of lectures is offered relating to railway history in Canada. If they are current I'm happy to forward details to any IFRR members who contact me.

One of these online lectures in the series was on November 16 by Ryan Goldsworthy, Museum Director and Curator at the Royal Canadian Military Institute about Canadian Railway Troops. Later in November was the annual Museum Store Sunday. The Museum also launched a new Saturday Story Time program, which runs until December 30.

Roundhouse Park is an outdoor gallery space used to display the museum's collection of locomotives, rolling stock, and railway artifacts. It is a Toronto community space that is **accessible and free for everyone**, and is frequently animated through storytelling of Toronto's railway past, present, and future. There is a TRM volunteer team responsible for maintenance of the rolling stock. These consist of about twenty individuals with a passion for Toronto's railway history that they generously share with the community.

* * *

Railway Children

I make no apologies for continuing to one of my favourite Charities – the Railway Children. Supporting children in danger of abuse and trafficking from railway stations all over the world. My Rotary Club has supported recently.

As a supporter of Railway Children, I know the importance of us all playing our part to keep children safe and how, together, we form the essential eyes and ears that spot children at risk on the UK and other transport systems. But how much do you know about **why** children and young people are vulnerable, **what** has led them to run away, **how** they might be in danger and **where** we work?

And, faced with a vulnerable young person at a UK train station, would you know what to do to ensure essential protection reaches them before an abuser can?

Everyone loves a quiz at Christmas – so here is one with a difference
Let's get started.



1. How many vulnerable children do you think are found, on average, at transport hubs every day in the UK?

A

7

B

28

C

25

2. Which one is NOT a reason why children and young people run away or go missing from home?

A

Running away from care

B

Mental health problems

C

Behavioural issues

D

Exploitation

E

Conflict, abuse and neglect at home

3. Out of these children who go missing or run away, what percentage of them are at risk of serious harm?

A

25%

B

10%

C

65%

4. Let's try a scenario. You see a child travelling alone on the train during school hours and they seem worried and upset. What should you do?

A

Approach the child and ask them why they're not at school

B

Notify a member of rail staff or contact British Transport Police

C

Nothing – it's not my business

5. Which of the following are signs of risk for children and young people on the rail network?

Hint: more than one answer could be correct.

A

Being at a train station alone and at unusual times of the day

B

Behaviour that seems suspicious, anxious, distressed or scared

C

Keeping out of sight or avoiding authority

6. The number of safeguarding and vulnerability referrals involving children and young people on the rail network are among the highest in which of the following regions?

Hint: more than one answer could be correct.

A

The North West

B

London

C

The South West

D

Glasgow

7. Now you know the truth, it's time to make a change. What can you do to help?

A

Donate

B

Take on an event

C

Volunteer

D

Spread the word

ANSWERS

1. *B. Every day, 28 children are found vulnerable and at risk on the UK rail network.*That's equivalent to a whole classroom of children every day, and over 10,000 a year*
2. *D. It's a common misconception that children run away because they have 'problematic behaviour'. This stigma blames the child for running away and can prevent them from getting the support or protection they need for any underlying issues.*
3. *A. According to government reports, 25% of children who go missing or run away are at risk of serious harm, including exploitation, violent crime or exposure to drugs and alcohol.*
4. *B. If you have concerns about a child travelling alone during unusual hours, always tell a member of rail staff or contact BTP on 0800 40 50 40 or 61016*
5. *A B & C. In fact, all three answers were correct signs of risk. Report your concerns to BTP by calling **0800 40 50 40** or texting **61016**.*
6. *A B & D. Railway Children have a Safeguarding on Transport programme and Safeguarding Action Groups at key stations across London, including Euston and Waterloo, to increase awareness of vulnerable children and young people on the transport network. The North West and Glasgow were also correct answers!*
7. *A B C & D. Of course! All are possible. Just ask about Railway Children here in the UK or at many other places around the World.*

Railway Children - registered charity no: 1058991. Tel: +44 (0) 1270 757 596

*

*

*

Vice President Curtis tells me he rode on the Puffin' Billy outside of Melbourne, Australia in June after the RI Convention. (He and girlfriend Tara rode the city light rail from the main station in Melbourne (presumably Flinders Street) right to the PB Station in Belgrave!) They rode all the commuter rails in Melbourne and Sydney and visited the Australian National Railway Museum in Port Adelaide. In February, 2023 they also rode the TranzAlpine train from Greymouth (west coast of New Zealand) to Christchurch

through tunnels, Arthur's Pass and over viaducts.. including beautiful rivers and mountains, although not snow-capped in their summertime.

Later in the year they also visited the Heber Valley RR near Park City, Utah, the Nevada State RR Museum in Carson City and Railtown State Park in Jamestown, California which is operated by the California State Railroad Museum. They always find a reason every year to ride the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner down to Santa Barbara, Los Angeles or San Diego. The tracks run right next to the Pacific Ocean for two to three hours of that trip - passing surfers, whales, vineyards and rolling hills as well as right through Vandenberg Space Force Base where SpaceX and the US government launch all the west coast missiles. A very active IFRR member – the joys of only being in your 70s!



I asked him for some photos and he's obliged immediately.



An amazing entry to the Steampunk museum in Oamaru, New Zealand

Railways AND Rotary at last! Tara at the National Railway Museum in Port Adelaide. The local Rotary Club serve lunch one day a week as a fundraiser.



A well known shot from onboard the Puffin' Billy!



Sydney Train Station during a vivid light show.

There's lots more from Curtis and we hope to include them in future issues of **Smokestack**

Your President during the year has had one or two visits, mainly to general transport museums and some model railway exhibitions – but nothing else to do with Rotary I fear. Only the Railway Children has a connection so we need to know more from IFRR members. Your President's latest trip was very local – just 20 miles to Manchester for the local Model Railway exhibition. Many old friends there of course.

This fine model of a very early Diesel Mechanical loco built for British Railways in 1951 was on show.

An amazing model of York station in the 1930s in 2mm scale



*

*

*

2024 Rotary International Convention

25-29 MAY 2024 SINGAPORE

It would be interesting to know of any IFRR members who are going to Singapore. Do you have any suggestions for IFRR activities while there? At that meeting we will also be wishing to appoint some new Officers for IFRR.

It seems certain that I as your President will be unable to be there or at any other Convention from now on. My Doctors are very much against such travel and stress of taking part in such events with my present heart condition (that is not going to get any better). At 80 they, and my wife Enid, think it time I stepped back and relaxed from Rotary and the like. Indeed, in July I shall become an Honorary Member of my Club and thus ineligible to take an RI Officer's position. We are looking for someone to take the reins!

Please, if you are going, contact Vice President Curtis on Curtis Reinhardt, Rotary Passport Club of the Central Coast, USA. 'Phone 805-773-4173 email: curtis@curtisreinhardt.com as he will be attending.

As ever we rely on you the members to tell us more. Anything historic would be a welcome addition but most of all anything where ROTARY is involved. Let us know your interests and how you want the IFRR to continue. We need to hear from you.

In the meantime I wish all who are going to Singapore a happy and productive time.

Bob

Robert Bracegirdle
President IFRR
Rotary Club of Macclesfield Castle (D-1285)
2 Farfields Close
Gawsworth
MACCLESFIELD
Cheshire UK SK11 9RX
Cell. (+44) (0) 7711 815903. Email: bobbracegirdle@gmail.com

*

*

*