
Passenger Cars:

- SH, FSH, FLH & VSH. H = ex blue Harris suburban electric cars. S or L = the Short or Long version of these cars. F = a Four car set rather than the original 3 cars. V = a fifth car has been added to some consists (V = 5 in Roman numerals).
 - N, FN & VN. N sets were introduced in the early 80's as 3 car sets. F = a Fourth car has been added to the set. V = indicates a 5 car set.
 - Over time the number of cars in a set may increase or reduce but the labelling of the set not change.
 - S & Z. Earlier steel bodied cars from the 1950's. Originally AS (first) and BS (economy), some were later modified to BRS (economy with buffet section). Similarly AZ (first) and BZ (economy) cars. Some AZ cars were modified to ACZ (first with a guards compartment) and some of these were later changed to BCZ (economy with guards compartment). V/Line use BS, BZ, ACZ and BCZ as extra cars and have modified some BZ cars to BZNs as the fourth cars on N sets.
 - PH, PCO & PCP. Power cars are required when the locomotive hauling the train does not have "head end power". N and P class are the only Victorian locos with HEP generators. A class locos require a power van in the consist.
-

Track numbers for locomotive classes:

Victorian

[A] – 4,5,12,14,26,30,32,33,35. [C] – 31,34. [G] – 2,6,7,9,13,14,20,25,28,30,35.
[H] – 4,8,19. [N] – 6,10,12,21,32,35. [P] – 4,7,14,21,26,28,35. [S] – 10,12,16,35.
[T] – 6,14,19,28,35. [V] – 6. [X] – 2,4,6,7,8,14,16,19,28,34,35. [XR] – 20,35.
[Y] – 5,7,11,35. [Sprinter] – 1,9,14,29.
Steam: [R] – 27,28.

Originally from other states:

New South Wales: [103 rebuilt 45] – 18. [81] – 2,6,9,22,31. [XPT] – 7,23.
South Australia: [AN] – 17,35. [BL] – 6,9,11,21. [CLF] – 24. [CLP] – 35.
[DL] – 6,17. [EL] – 4,13,16,18. [GM] – 24. West Australia: [18] – 6. [J] – 10,16.
[L] – 3,4,13.

Pacific National: [NR] – 2,6,7,9,13,15,17,21,29,31,32,34,35,36.

Links to maps of the railways in Victoria:

<http://www.victorianrailways.net/vr%20map/map.html>

<http://www.vrhistory.com/VRMaps/>

<p>Rail Tales Email - Rail.Tales@mac.com Web - RailTales.com.au</p>
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Welcome to the sixth Rail Tales DVD, and our first in 16:9 wide screen.

It's been a long time coming! As I pieced together the content for this DVD in 2016, I was amazed at how much has changed on Victoria's railways in the last dozen years.

There were so many Bulldogs around in 2004/5. This DVD includes several A class locos, a CLF, a couple of CLPs and GMs and the S in VLine livery and one in Freight Australia. And do you remember when we used to have a V class in Victoria and that there was an EL with Freight Australia wings on the front? Quite a mixture of liveries were around, including several special liveries on the NR class. Pacific National's blue and yellow livery was just beginning to appear. There was an array of passenger carriage types and no Velocities. It was also the time period when Spencer Street station was re-developed.

During this period there were diversions due to Geelong line upgrades and we follow one of these diverted trains along the line from Gheringhap to Ballarat and then towards Melbourne.

There is the usual mixture of locomotives. Victorian A, C, G, H, N, P, R (steam) S, T, V, X, Y & Sprinters. And from further afield – J, L & 1800 (ex WA), XPT 103 & 81 (ex NSW), BL, DL & EL (ex SA) and the NR.

In this DVD I have included some 'different' shots as not all trains do 100 kph. In a couple of cases where a train was travelling particularly slowly, I have not shown the entire train, it just takes too long. There are some night shots, some in the rain, some on windy days, some stop & go for a cross and a couple that show shunting and infrastructure.

Due to larger video files, several features of earlier Rail Tales DVDs had to be left out to enable close to 2 hours of trains to fit on a single DVD.

This booklet, compiled during October 2016, explains as much as I know about each track.

If you turn "Subtitles" on with your DVD remote control, then a number appears at the bottom of the screen at the beginning of each shot. These numbers correspond to the chapter numbers on the following pages. Like a book, some chapters have more video (pages) than others.

Thanks again to fellow rail enthusiasts from The Victorian N Scale Collective, for selecting the contents of this DVD from several hours of original material. Also thanks to Graham at the Gheringhap Loop website for some train details.

Particular thanks to the railway staff and crews for their helpfulness, sounding of the horn and friendly waves.

Please give train crews them a break and if you plan on spending time near the tracks, stay **well clear** of the running lines. Sometimes shots on this DVDs may appear to be taken from close to the track – this will be a trick of the lens or location. Please don't let your hobby ruin your or someone else's life.

I hope you enjoy Trains in Victoria - Volume 6. Comments, questions, corrections or suggestions are welcome.

Roger Vistarini

Rail Tales Email: Rail.Tales@mac.com

Website: RailTales.com

Note that "up" trains run to Melbourne, while "down" trains run from Melbourne. For example the "up Geelong" runs from Geelong to Melbourne, while the "down Geelong" runs from Melbourne to Geelong. I'm never quite sure with interstate, so describe them in terms of where they are from or to.

I have made every endeavour to ensure the accuracy of the information provided below, my knowledge is limited, and there may be errors or omissions.

2004

10/9/04....

1. 17.46 - 8326. Sprinters 7022 & 7011 pause at Wallan with an Up Seymour service.

1/10/04....

2. 17.13 8177 is the loco for the cement train that will run later today from Somerton to Berrima in NSW. A couple of extra cement hoppers was not unusual, but I am not sure why there is also a grain hopper attached.

18.13 What I believe is the Up CRT with G523 and X51 taking the loop at Somerton and waiting for a cross before completing it's journey to Melbourne.

Railway Companies.

National Rail and Freightcorp NSW were purchased during 2003 by Pacific National.

On 1/8/2002 the former Australia Southern Railway (ASR), Australia Western Railway and Australia Northern Railway became the Australian Railroad Group (ARG).

Freight Australia was known as Freight Victoria when it first purchased V/Line Freight from the Victorian government. Once its operations expanded beyond Victoria, the name was changed.

In March 2002, Northern Rivers Railroad was purchased by Queensland Rail and rebranded Interail. In 2004, Interail began running Brisbane to Melbourne and Sydney to Melbourne intermodal services. Two X and two G class locos were transferred from Freight Australia as part of an agreement when Freight Australia was sold to Pacific National. Locomotives were also hired from CFCLA. QR National was formed in 2004/05. The ex Freight Australia locomotives carried QR National branding from 2005.

Chicago Freight Car Leasing Australia (CFCLA) is a locomotive and rolling stock leasing company. The first locomotives acquired were 13 members of the EL class from Australian National in November 1998. In 2000, it diversified into wagons.

There are no West Coast Railways trains on this DVD. After a series of setbacks, WCR operated their last train on 31/8/2004. VLine ran the Warrnambool train from the following day.

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Different railway companies refer to permanently coupled container wagons in different ways. Some refer to them as 5 wagons, others treat them as a single unit. I first saw the term "platform" on the Gheringhap Loop website. This treats a "normal" container wagons of any length as 1 platform and a 5 pack as 5 platforms. I have used this term in these notes.

o-----o

Digital Sound - wind noise.

Some tracks have wind noise, but include trains or locations of interest that I did not wish to exclude. The only alteration I have made to the sound is where noticeable wind noise occurred. In this case I reduced the volume, and/or ran a high pass filter to reduce the sound level below 200Hz to minimise "popping" sound as much as possible.

The camera work was by myself using a mini-DV, Digital, Sony TRV17.

17.36 This shot taken from the overbridge at Wandong shows A73, on hire from FA, with a PCJ and FSH set heading for Seymour.

18/11/05....

33. 6.56 Another hired A class leading an Up pass (Albury or Shepparton) just before Wandong. Taken from the side of the Hume Freeway.

The Geelong area saw a lot of railway action. I videoed some of that at North Shore over a couple of days.

12/12/05....

34. 12.56 X37 (still in Freight Victoria livery) leads a short local from the refinery in Corio to North Geelong yard.

20.50 - MA3/9755. NR? C501 (George Brown) & NR28 in Indian Pacific livery slow their 64 platform train for the tight curve. This was my first shot of the recently restored C in Victorian Railways livery.

13/12/05

35. 9.04 Y171 & 118 shunt empty log wagons from North Shore sidings.

9.14 - AM6/9754. CLP14 (ARG) & CLP8 (ASR) with 47 platforms.

10.13 - 9140. The traction motor blowers are kicking up the dust as G525, X43, T374 & P23 work hard to get their 58 wagon train up to speed.

10.18 X37 brings some log wagons from the yards to be unloaded at North Shore.

11.15 X37 on a Down local to the refinery.

13.32 S302 with a PH power van, N set and D van on a Down Warrnambool.

14.34 A70 down light engine.

15.28 - PW4/9822. NR17 & AN7 on a Melbourne bound "steelie".

15.47 Up N468 with an N set has just picked up passengers while XR550, G511, X42 & S301 begin to slow their Down goods approaching the diverge to the yards.

17/12/05....

36. 20.40 - AM8/8702. The Overland with NR113, Melbourne bound at Manor.

20.46 - MA5/9701. Adelaide bound, NR97 & 98 with 79 platforms. I have no idea why there was a guards van attached, but it brought a smile to my face.

The End ☺

18.15 NSW bound Pacific National superfreighter with NR109? NR102? & NR? Somerton signal box can be seen in the background, it was saved from demolition and transported to Mornington Tourist Railway in 2007.

23/10/04....

3. 14.35 - 9641/7MJ?. L251, 270 & 254 in ATN livery, but by now run by PN Down through Somerton.

29/10/04....

4. 5.34 Up Freight Australia broad gauge goods from Shepparton (or beyond) at Summerhill Road Craigieburn. X42, X49? & A71? have a great array of wagons in tow, including ex NSW grain hoppers.

7.02 Down Interail/QR National Service, with EL52 & 56 in CFCLA livery sneak around the back of Craigieburn station.

8.41 The Down Tocumwal goods with A77, X34?, P20 & X43 at Summerhill Road Craigieburn.

11.19 A Down quarry train to Kilmore East with H2 & X38 and the usual 21 hoppers at Summerhill Road Craigieburn.

17.25 Plenty of power for this Down transfer to the ATN depot in Sunshine North, L251, 270 & 254.

12/11/04....

5. 8.37 to 8.56 An interesting 19 minutes sees a series of shunting movements in the Bank Sidings at Spencer Street station.

Y161 drops onto an MTH car. Soon after A70 pushes back with it's cars having recently arrived from Warrnambool (PCJ van, ACZ, BZ and S cars). Y161 then propels the MTH on to A70, and Y163 removes the Warrnambool set. Y161 moves off leaving A70 to push the MTH back into the platform as Y163 is off to other work. A70 departs for South Kensington where it will run-around the MTH before departing for Frankston as the change-over loco and MTH for the Stony Point service. The final shot sees the Y classes displaying 2 variations of the VLine passenger livery.

30/11/04....

6. 7.29 - PM5/9712? NR44 & 69 negotiate the 'Murgheboluc Curves' with a Melbourne bound superfreighter. Like several others, NR69 has received Pacific National branding on the side panels, but there were no NRs painted blue and yellow yet.

9.14 - AM5/9702? Having slowed for the tight curve in North Geelong NR114 & 36 continue towards Melbourne.

9.17 A long Down Geelong goods, behind X43 and X38, slows for the diverge to enter the North Geelong yard with the following wagons: 18 cement, 28 log, 18 grain, 4 cement, 2 oil, 11 grain and 2 container flats.

10.23 - PM9/9752 (extra). G541 & V544 with a fuel pod, vans and container flats. Evans Road, Lovely Banks. The fresh blue flats were on delivery for CFCLA.

10.33 The same train at Refinery Road in Corio.

12.15 - AM3/9756. NR90, DL49 (still in original National Rail 'arrows' livery) & NR104 head the 'Patricks' superfreighter to Melbourne.

13.30 - SP2/9821. NR59 in Steelink livery & BL28 in fresh Pacific National livery with a mixed load of steel and containers.

There was an interesting array of carriage sets in use during this period as can be seen from the following few minutes on the Geelong line at Manor (near Werribee). Manor used to be the site of a station in VR days, it is still shown as a locality on many maps.

17.21 Down N465 has a PH power van and a VN set. The first 2 cars, originally BZ type, have been added to the 3 car N set.

17.25 N457 with VN18 on an Up train. This N set has what was originally an AZ as well as a BS type car added to make up the 5 cars.

17.28 Another Down sees N467 with a 4 car scratch set trailing a D van. There is a BZ and then 3 cars that started life as AZ, then converted to ACZ. (Some of these have now probably been 'downgraded' to BCZ.)

17.32 - AM2/97?? These ex Western Australian locos, now owned by Patrick ran into Melbourne for a short time. 1873 & 1872 at Manor.

19.20 The locos for MP9/9751 SCT train to Perth were provided by Freight Australia at this time. V544, G531 & G543 are approaching Kororoit Creek Road Altona, on their way to SCT Laverton to collect their train before departing for Perth.

19.37 This Geelong bound train behind N452 has VN17; an S car and what was originally a BZ added to the N set.

21.17 On my way home I caught T371, X46, X45 and 8166 shuffling around Dynon.

2/12/04....

7. 7.19 - 9691. Down Bandiana sees Y151 behind G533 at Summerhill Road Craigieburn. The Y was being returned to Wodonga for shunting duties after servicing.

17/7/05....

27. 9.02 R761 running tender first through Footscray on its way from Steamrail at Newport to Spencer Street station where it will run around before departing. The cars are mostly ex VR with one K type formerly from South Australia. Many still in West Coast livery.

9.38 Now running funnel first, the train is passing Middle Footscray.

30/7/05....

28. 8.43 An Up Bandiana? at Somerton with G526 and T3?? Leading.

10.05 Still at Somerton, R761 with a Down Steamrail special.

10.43 The Down Tocumwal with X31, X38? & P23? This train normally ran down empty on Saturdays.

27/8/05....

29. Ararat yard is a shadow of it's former self. But a number of items have been preserved. The re-situated signal box houses a collection of memorabilia that is well worth a look. The Overland still stops here.

10.41 7004 crosses the standard gauge and arrives into the broad gauge dock platform. Soon after the passengers alight, the Sprinter is taken to a secure stabling area.

14.27 - WP2/9821. NR100 with a short steel train just before Ararat.

19/9/05....

30. 15.07 G520 is Melbourne bound as it hauls its train behind Euroa Station.

16.58 Somerton. Due to a loco shortage, VLine hired A71? from Freight Australia to haul this down Seymour service with a PCJ and FSH23.

24/9/05....

31. 8.20 Due to crowds attending the AFL finals, an expanded Overland is headed by NR5 & 8118. Brunel Street in South Kingsville (Spotswood).

9.05 The train crosses the Maribyrnong River.

9.16 Making a slow arrival into Spencer Street Station.

10.49 C508 shunting Dynon yard. (As an N gauge modeller, I was intrigued by the amount of movement of the coupler.)

30/9/05....

32. 12.44 Between Donnybrook & Wallan, the Down Albury, N474 & FN.

13.55 Same location sees a NSW bound superfreighter, headed by NR44, 70 & 80.

8.55 H1 collects X41 from the Broad Gauge turntable at Dynon, West Melbourne.

11/3/05....

20. 19.50 G521 & XR550 have received the "stick" to proceed with 52 grain hoppers (not all shown), at Somerville Road in Brooklyn.

20/3/05....

21.16.52 - PW4. NR21 & BL28 Melbourne bound at Manor

16.53 - 8263. Several special trains were run for the Avalon Air show. Most were push-pull to enable fast turnaround. P17, SH27, FSH24 & P14 are passing Manor, bound for Lara Station.

17.01 - 8265. Another air show special, N466, SH28, VSH29 & N458 near Werribee, also heading for Lara where buses will take passengers to the air show.

30/3/05....

22. 19.01 8166 with 10 freshly painted PN grain hoppers en route to Somerton, on the goods line just down from Albion Station in North Sunshine. Note the different application of the PN logo.

31/3/05....

23. 11.51 Sydney bound XPT at Somerton lead by XP2001 in new Countrylink livery.

28/5/05....

24. 16.27 The agents siding at Appleton Dock hosts CLF4 (ARG), GM38 (AN) & GM42 (ARG) along with a crew car.

17.52 - MA6/9753. The train departs paralleling Footscray Road, dwarfed by the stored containers.

17.53 Once a common occurrence causing long delays to traffic, the train crosses Footscray Road on grade. An overpass now carries road traffic overhead a much modified track layout.

18.23 The train runs behind Newport Station.

3/6/05....

25. 7.17 G511 leads the Down Quarry as it approaches Kilmore East on a very Foggy morning.

4/6/05....

26. 13.50 While visiting my mum in Shepparton I caught P20 and A71 holding up the traffic in High St while working the yard.

8.22 The same train at Tallarook.

9.48 The Sydney bound XPT at High Street in Seymour has power units XP2009 & 2018. You can see NR108 in the loop waiting for it to pass.

9.49 The Down Tocumwal service is headed by X39 & P23. The petrol loading is for Shepparton.

9.51 NR108 & 80 continue to Melbourne after the XPT has passed.

???? The down Tocumwal train again, just before Mooroopna.

3/12/04....

8. 19.54 A Down train approaches Kilmore East behind H1 & X33

7/12/04....

9. 7.41 - 3SM5/9602. NR4, 42 & 79 and train are just South of Broadford on a very wet morning.

8.53 - 8310. The rain is easing as 7018 departs Kilmore East on an Up Seymour service.

15.58 - 3MB2/9605. NR46? NR?? & NR?? Cross the Maribyrnong River viaduct in Sunshine North.

18.23 8177 & 8130, the locos for 3MV9/9601 cement train, between Sunshine and Albion on the way to Somerton to pick up their train.

19.36 - 3MS4/9607. NR79, 42 & 4 have G531 along for the ride. The G was en route to the wheel lathe at Enfield NSW.

19.47 - 3MB4/9609. NR113, 19 & BL28 were almost hidden by the suburban Coming EMU set as they start their journey to Brisbane.

28/12/04....

10.11.56 N454 & S302 (ex West Coast Railway, ex VLine & VR) are heading to Spencer Street from the fuel point at Dynon.

12.35 Ex Western Australian J class 103 & 102, now owned by Southern Shorthaul Railroad at Appleton Dock, West Footscray.

30/12/04....

11. 11.20 BL32 & 29 lead the steel train to Long Island as a single Sprinter arrives at Spencer Street station, which is well into its refurbishment.

16.31 Spencer Street station. Y163 docks a D van and 2, 3 car, N sets.

1/1/05....

12.13.36 An Up Warrnambool service at Terang, headed by N460 with FN9, with an extra car and a PH.

15.36 The Down Warrnambool arrives and runs around. Under VLine, S302 working life was short and in this case had A70 along for insurance.

17.06 A70 & S302 depart with their N set and PH power van.

6/1/05....

13.15.20 - 0642. The standard gauge loop at Glenrowan sees a double cross beginning with the arrival of Melbourne bound light engines L251 & 254.

15.43 - 4MB7/9662. EL56 on hire from CFCLA and G516 (with QR National signage applied) follow the Ls into the loop.

15.50 NR33, 111 & 11 complete the cross with their Sydney bound train.

16.05 The QRN train again, just South of Glenrowan at the Old Hume Highway crossing.

17.24 One more time at Mangalore, just before Seymour.

14/1/05

14. The *Parwan Curves, on the Up side of Bacchus Marsh are a popular railfan spot. The curves were eased for the Regional Rail project as can be seen in this shot, but the gentler curves still provide good train views.*

7.15 An UP Bacchus Marsh service with P15? FSH27 (now with only 3 cars), SH?? & P13.

During upgrading of the Melbourne to Geelong line, goods trains were combined and run to Melbourne via Ballarat. A variety of locomotives were used including some VLine locos that were spare as no passenger trains were running between Melbourne and Geelong. I followed one of these diverted trains.

14.39 X41, (T)373 in Great Northern Railway livery & A78 haul cement, grain and empty log wagons through Lovely Banks.

15.05 Just before Meredith.

15.32 Elaine

15.52 Near Navigators

16.00 Beginning the descent of Warrenheip Bank into Ballarat.

17.05 While waiting for the diverted goods to appear this Up Ballarat pass came along with A60 hauling an S/Z/Z combination with a PCO power van. I think this is the bridge over Ingliston Rd on the edge of the Werribee Gorge State Park.

18.40 Back with the diverted goods, now with A78 leading, and minus the cement loading, as it descends Ingliston Bank.

18.52 The Parwan Curves where I started my day of train chasing.

19.23 At Rockbank the goods was put away for a cross with Down 7006 & 7015. That was the last I saw of the goods as it departed towards Melbourne.

20.17 G513 & G527 in fresh PN livery with a down goods at Sunshine.

16/1/05....

15.19.07 - PW4/9822. Somerville Road in Brooklyn. NR15 & NR30, one of two NRs painted in special Aboriginal livery, have almost made it to their destination, the Melbourne steel yard.

22/1/05....

16.9.39 Middle Footscray, at a spot that is now inaccessible. EL58 sporting modified Freight Australia livery, on hire from CFCLA to QRN, with X53 now with QRN, and some empty container flats.

10.34 J103 and S317 in SSR colours sneak by. I almost missed them.

20/2/05....

17.18.08 NR53 in Trailerrail livery and AN11 still in Australian National livery slowly haul their steel train across the Maribyrnong River.

18.38 NR81, DL46 in PN livery and NR10 leave Melbourne, Somerville Road in Brooklyn.

??/2/05....

18.14.17 EL52, 103 (previously NSW 4537 rebuilt by Austral, sold to Patrick in 2001 still wearing the livery of its previous owner BHP) & EL60 ease out of Appleton Dock.

14.50 - MB7/9663 The same train now heading for NSW at Middle Footscray.

27/2/05....

19.8.10 - 8193. Steamrail Heritage special departing Spencer Street station behind T364, 342 & 395. There was an issue with the 3rd loco which is corrected and then checked by one of the crew.

8.26 The same train now powering nicely at Hudsons Rd in Spotswood.