

THEN The railway line from Lilydale to Healesville via Yarra Glen, with stations at Coldstream, Yering and Tarrawarra, was formally opened on the 1st of March 1889. Due to a large section of the track following the Yarra River flood plains there was over 3km of trestle bridges built for the line. The line also boasts a 508ft brick tunnel, which was blasted and dug out by hand. Traffic on the line included timber, livestock, milk and dairy products in addition to passenger services. Steam locos including J, K and D3 Classes, ran the services on the line until 1964, when they were replaced by Walker Railmotors such as the one you are riding today.

The final passenger train service was in December 1980 and the line was officially closed to all traffic 10/3/83.

NOW The Yarra Valley Railway (YVR) is a completely volunteer, not-for-profit community based organisation that is restoring the railway between Healesville and Yarra Glen.

The YVR commenced passenger train services from Healesville Station to Tarrawarra Estate on the Walker Railmotor RM22 on the 17th July 2010—the first passenger train service in 30 years.

The YVR currently has over 500 members and is solely run by Volunteers. Since the commencement of this passenger train service, the YVR has focused its efforts on the restoration of the remainder of the rail corridor, from Tarrawarra Winery to Yarra Glen.

TOMORROW The vision of the YVR is the restoration and operation of heritage rail services, including railmotors, diesel and steam locomotive-hauled trains between Yarra Glen and Healesville.

Linking the Valley: The Reconstruction Project

The YVR is actively restoring the rail corridor between Yarra Glen and Tarrawarra Estate. Recent achievements include the full restoration of Yarra Glen Station Building, and all structural bridge works for the 16 trestle bridges. In the last 12 months the YVR had over 500 individual volunteers from 10 different community organisations contribute over 50,000 volunteer hours, making the project one of the largest volunteer projects in Australia.

Over 100 local businesses have provided pro bono professional services, free materials and services to the project.



Welcome Aboard the Yarra Valley Railway! Today you are travelling on the fully restored 22RM Walker Railmotor. This type of railmotor was built for the Victorian Railway 1948-1955. 22RM was painstakingly restored to operational status by the Volunteers of the Yarra Valley Railway, on site in the Healesville Station Mechanical Workshop. The restoration was of such high quality, the Yarra Valley Railway received a national restoration award in 2009.

Your trip today will take you on approximately 4.5km of restored railway, through the picturesque Yarra Valley and historic Tunnel before halting behind Tarrawarra Estate. There is plenty to see along the way. Some of the major sites you will see are listed in this leaflet, but be sure to ask your Guard for more information.



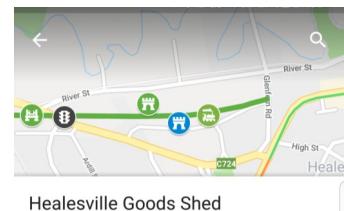
Follow your Journey on your mobile device !

Use your mobile device's GPS to follow your journey on the Walker Railmotor. Visit yvr.com.au and click on

"YVR Journey Tracker"

to launch Google Maps and YVR's Journey Tracker. Click on the icons to learn more about the sights you will see on your trip.

(Data charges may be applicable).



Yarra Valley Railway Sightseeing Map - 29 min

[VIEW MAP LEGEND](#)

HEALESVILLE RAILWAY STATION

When the line was completed in 1889 it was originally planned to continue further into the centre of town, but due to a lack of funding it stopped at its present location. A temporary station was constructed and it was not until 1903 that the permanent building was erected. The weatherboard station building that now stands at Healesville is listed with Heritage Victoria.

Healesville Station Goods Shed has recently been restored. This rustic venue is now available for community use including meetings, special events and parties. Contact our Reservations Officer Andrew on 03 5962 4429 or email reservations@yvr.com.au for more details.

Other original infrastructure at Healesville Railway station includes a Turntable (that is still in full working order and original condition) and a 20,000 gallon water tower which is currently under restoration to working order, in preparation for the return of Steam Locomotives to Healesville.



Healesville Station Goods Shed

WATTS RIVER BRIDGE This is the third of 32 wooden trestle bridges on our line and crosses the Watts River. This is the feed river for the Maroondah Dam



Watts River Bridge, with river in flood

and runs into the Yarra River only a kilometre or so down stream from this point. The reconstruction of Watts River Bridge was one of the first major infrastructure projects completed by YVR Volunteers.

DONOVANS ROAD OVERPASS Is the only a wooden railway road overpass left in Victoria, this bridge stands as an example of the workmanship put into road bridges in the late 1800's.

HISTORIC TUNNEL The tunnel was constructed in 1888 and is 508 ft (154.4 metres) in length. Cut through the hill at the top of a 1 in 40 grade on both sides, it was lined with hand made bricks from the Healesville area. A minimum of four layers of bricks make up the inside structure of the tunnel which can be seen in the arc of the tunnel mouth and in the sides of the workmen's alcoves. There are four alcoves along the length of the tunnel, designed to allow a safe retreat if a train was to enter. The Yarra Glen to Healesville railway line is the only tourist line with a tunnel in Victoria!



The 130 year old tunnel

TARRAWARRA ESTATE This is where our ride terminates at present. From here you can see a section of the Yarra River flood plains. The Yarra Valley Railway is actively restoring the remainder of the rail corridor to Yarra Glen.



Volunteering at the Yarra Valley Railway

The extent available for volunteering at YVR is almost limitless no matter your experience, back ground or abilities there is a role for you at the YVR. There are so many areas that you can pick to be involved in as we are all volunteers at the YVR. For example administration, marketing, engineering, planning, including of course train running, restoration, track work etc. including the opportunity to learn under skilled guidance.

If you are interested in becoming part of the volunteer team involved in this exciting project please contact info@yvr.com.au

