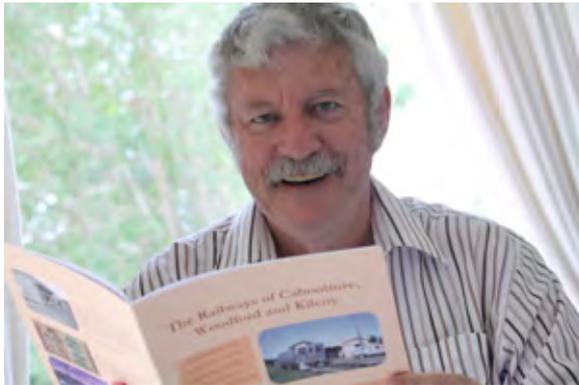




## Tracking railway's hundred years

Thursday, 3 December 2009

Source: Lee Oliver; <http://www.thewesterner.com.au/pages/blogs.aspx?ID=2950>



Train enthusiasts will gather at Woodford this weekend to celebrate the centenary of the introduction of a railway service in the region.

Members of the Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society (ANGRMS) will celebrate Woodford's locomotive past on 6 December, 100 years to the day the region was connected to the Queensland Government's railway network.

A book entitled *The Railways of Caboolture, Woodford and Kilcoy*, which tracks the history of the railway and is written by club member Brian Webber, will also be launched on the day.

Mr Webber said extending the railway line to areas such as Woodford and Wamuran, after years of lobbying, was a significant event for the community.

"In the days before sealed roads when only very few cars were in Queensland, and almost everybody who wished to travel had to ride a horse or a horse-drawn vehicle, the coming of the railway was a very important event for a district," Mr Webber said.

He said the branch line, which was extended to Kilcoy four years later, was used to haul timber goods out of the region.

"The main traffic for the new branch line from Caboolture was log and sawn timber from the several mills in the Woodford district," Mr

Webber said.

Dairy products were also transported to butter factories at Woodford, with passenger services to Caboolture starting in 1927.

Mr Webber said while the railway played a role in the war effort during the 1940s, the need for trains in the area began to wane post-war.

"During the Second World War, the railway enabled the military to be transported to and from camps in the Woodford district," he said.

"However, with peacetime came a surplus of motor vehicles, while many men learned the value of them while in the army.

"As soon as petrol rationing was ended, motor vehicle ownership and usage rose dramatically while the branch railway saw no improvements, although new railcars were introduced."

The railway line was closed in 1964.

"The State Government had seen that the days of steam trains meandering along branch lines shunting at most stations were over, and the proposed increase in height of Somerset Dam would flood the track," Mr Webber said.

"So the Wamuran–Kilcoy section was closed in 1964, nine years after the nearby Ferny Grove–Dayboro section."

ANGRMS, which has 60 members from around the world, houses a collection of historic locomotives and restored vintage steam and diesel trains at its home base at Durundur Railway in Woodford.

Trains rides are held at the Margaret Street venue on the first and third Sunday of every month from 10am to 3.45pm. Rides cost \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$2.50 for children and \$15 for families. Phone 5496 1976 or visit <http://www.angrms.org.au/>