

31 York St.
Ballarat East.
Vic.
Easter Sunday '61


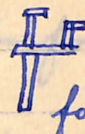
Dear John,

I received your letter & photos yesterday and wish to thank you for the same, also for the dope on the A. I. S. locos.

I am very pleased to get the two old prints of Maryborough & Toolamba.

Now regards to your question about Maryborough. I've drawn a rough sketch of the railways, but, some of the points & crossovers are not quite correct, especially those north of the "B" signal box and the lines over Majorca Rd. level crossing. The sketch is from memory only.

However, it will give you a rough idea.

Your old photo was taken just in front ^{side} of "B" signal box, probably from an old line signal post  or perhaps an old footbridge. Present day  footbridge is on north side of level crossing, as I believe the gates are often closed against road traffic during the shunting & the long freight trains. Your photo is looking south with Majorca Rd. level crossing gates in the centre. Ballarat line is straight ahead, up grade, while the Ararat line swing to the right around a 25 chain ^{curve} up 1 in 43.

My photo of N413 on freight from Castlemaine, was taken from a point marked xⁿ. This would be about 200-250 yds north (looking N.E.) from "B" signal box. The station building is of brick and quite beautiful. The loco

is also of brick & similar to both Ballarat & Bendigo sheds, but much smaller.

D³ 626 took C9 to Ballarat Nth Shops last Monday 27 -3-61, for scrapping, I believe. Enclosed is a neg of the old "girl" at Ballarat East. Hope you can make some use of it. I have a neg also.

The next steamer to go is N424. It's at B. East, & held for the shops. I saw it yesterday.

List at Ballarat East sheds at 3pm yesterday, 1/4/61 :-

B71, K159, 167, 172 N402, 424, 430, 432, 460, 470
476, 468.

J535, 550 (546 arrived 3.30pm) D³ 626, 647, 651.

R. 701, 705, 715, 716, 717, 718, 735, 747, 763. A² 990

^{under} ~~lined~~, held for shops, except 159 which is stored.

Much more steam traffic about yesterday than for some years. (Easter here is diesels everywhere.)

But yesterday. J546 on 7.30am goods to Ararat (unusual)
It returned on 10.40am up goods. (rare indeed for a Saturday)

A² 990 to S.E.C. Creswick Rd power station. 7.40am

N 476 on 8.40am Maryborough goods.

A² 990 - N481 10am Geelong

N 476 - J550 11.20am ex Maryborough goods

J 550 on 4.15pm mixed to Maryborough. 13 goods, 2, ABL, 2.

D³ 659 was the yard pilot.

On the 4.15pm mixed, I saw the "converted" "M" cattle trucks for the Fertiliser traffic. N^o being } 623, 667
} 828, 867

I believe

I spent a good 1½ hours at Ballarat Stn on Thursday afternoon. Just got on footbridge as N476-R705 arrived on the 9.20 AM goods from Geelong. Both locos then waited on car shed siding, while R736 came from loco. D³626 passed on N^o3 road & then coupled on to a goods to Redan, which was standing on N^o2 road. Then N468 on "up" empty oil tankers arrives on N^o3 road, while D³647, 651 and N402 were shunting near by. R736 was on the 3.20pm Geelong passenger (D³53 ZP, ABL, ⁴⁴ABL, ⁵⁴ABL, 470ZP.) instead of the 280hp Walker R.M.

B80 was on 1.40pm Horsham, N460 then came in on "down" ballast train. As I left the station, the "up" freight from Maryborough, was hauled by a N+J classes. Not a bad show for this Diesel age hey?

Tomorrow, Easter Monday. RM21 on 7.10 AM Maryborough instead of mixed. J546 on 9.45 AM Skipton goods
N476 " 10 AM Geelong
N470 " 1pm Eureka (1st "N" oil burner on record)
R735⁷⁵³ " 3.20p Geelong passenger (to Eureka)

Diesels on all Melb. passenger train. (no interest)

Regards the Div. Diary. Yes I think the first copy came out in Nov '57. I have every copy somewhere & will have ^a clean out & sort all in correct bundles.

I think Keith Tuckton, is making an extra good job, but then he gets around the system as a V.R employee (Think he is in the engineering branch) Comes from England

I believe.

Charlie Craig, (1st Editor) also made a good job, but is not in the railways & had to rely on others for news & some of it not correct. I try & supply what I can, but don't get out much these days.

There are others, (V.R. employees) who want to know all, yet let nothing out. Only recently, one such fellow, said to me, he'll make a big surprise one day, in his old age. I even doubt it.

We have had fairly good Easter weather so far, and hopes it keep like it for tomorrow
Must close now.

Yours sincerely
Wal Jack

P.S

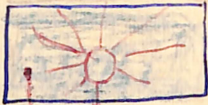
Since writing the above, I looked up a couple of photos and had to re sketch the map. Since your old photo was taken, an extra track has been put in, making 3 lines over the level crossing at "B" box (Castlemaine Road). More than likely there was an old footbridge in front of signal box, from which the old photo could be taken from.

n.g.

LOCO

CASTLEMAINE

MILDURA



COALING STAGE

MARYBOROUGH.
(FROM MEMORY)

Some crossovers not quite correct.

PRINCESS PARK OVAL & LAKE



PHOTO of N413

gas works.

SHEEP RAMP CATTLE

ROAD TO CASTLEMAINE

footbridge

LEVEL CROSSING

"B" SIGNAL BOX



MARYBOROUGH RLY STN

YARDS



GOODS SHED

Station has 2 bay platform, each one at each end of main platform.

"A" SIGNAL BOX

MAJORCA ROAD

LEVEL CROSSING

FLOUR MILL

COOL STORES

ARARAT LINE

up grade

up grade

BALLARAT

ROAD TO BALLARAT

ETC.

BANKS

SHOPS.

Now for the new...
The 70'...
24/4/61...
rest of part...
S2 + S50 flats...
+ 14 wagon

on Tues 2/5/61. I saw 3 "C" class N° 1, 16, 13 on 3 trains. N° 22 is also about. Maryborough - Ballarat - Geelong line.

Locos AT BALLARAT EAST SHEDS Today. 3pm.

C 1, 16

B 61

N 402, 415, 416, 451, 458, 466, 468, 470, 472, 476, 492

J 546, 556

D³ 626, 651, 659

R 701, 715, 716, 718, 747, 763 all held for stops.

A² 990

Note shunter's footboards, ^{Loco only} removed from 647, 651, 659.

There were 4 trains to Maryborough today

496 on 7.10 am mixed

C 22 " 8.40 goods

J 538 " 12.30p "

N 415 4.15 pm mixed

T 343-322 on "up" bulk wheat. } ex Maryborough
N 460-496 on 12.30p "up" goods. }

Now for some sad news.

The 70ft electric "A" turn table, ^{Ballarat East} last used on 24/4/61. Stripped down to the 2 main 70' guides last Saturday afternoon and out of fit by 4pm ~~then~~ Monday 1/5/61. Taken away to South Dynon diesel sheds on Thursday ~~4/5~~ 4/5/61.

The guides was loaded on to S 2 + S 50 flats, rest of parts in a Q^R + 1A wagons.

The "A" roads & pits are being filled in from dirt & clay from eastern $\frac{1}{2}$ of coating stage, which is being shortened by half. The turn table pit will carry a straight road & rest of pit filled in. This straight line will stable diesels & rail motors. Three (3) "B" roads off 70' hand worked T.T. is being extended across some "A" roads. One extension will be capable of holding 2 R class loco, but other two will be shorter owing to cast iron pillars (in way) holding roof frame. There will be room to stable at least 12 N^o or R class ~~at least~~, plus several D³, which will be better than all stinkers.

Les Poole & his mother was in Ballarat from 18/4/61 to 2/5/61. I had 3 runs to Trawalla, and 2 to Waubra Junction with him. Cripes his eyes are terrible, going blind so his mum says. The first day we saw D³639 on the Commissioner Train at Ballarat & later at Waubra Junction. The Ararat goods to & from Ballarat is generally run by an N class. The Eureka siding is now worked by N class too. Gone are the days of the Y, D¹, D² at Eureka.

The Vision car, is coming on Monday & staying until Thursday morning.

I can give you a bit of train to run on Monday, 8/5/61.

on Tues 2/5/61. I saw 3 "C" class N°1, 16, 13 on 3 trains. N° 22 is also about. Maryborough - Ballarat - Geelong line.

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AM

T. Sloan - 2.15th Dunsley.

4 AM Dunsley

B61 - N466

A2 990

N 468

C 1

N470

7.55 AM

Dunlop

7.40 AM

S.E.C. (Greenwich Rd station)

N472

8.10 AM

Boston

N416

8.40 AM

Warrington

C 16

9 AM

Warrington

J 546

9.45 AM

Warrington

B -

12.35th

Warrington

N451

1 PM

Warrington

N470

9.15 AM

Warrington

N470

2.30 PM

Warrington

PILOTS.

647 on 2 AM, 626 on 4 AM, 402 on 6 AM

647 & 659 on 9 AM,

626 on 2.15th. 402, 4 PM!

659 on 5 PM.

Note I think that the name, but it will keep keep you up to date in this district at least.

Best wishes,

from

W. J. Park

P.S.

May + York works £147,000

No actual London bridge.