



**AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

MELBOURNE BRANCH

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VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS RAILWAY

Friday 10 April 2026

ARHS Melbourne Luncheon Outing Group will be travelling to Castlemaine and visiting the Victorian Goldfields Railway, travelling to Maldon and return on their heritage steam hauled train.

The Castlemaine to Maldon railway was closed in December 1976 but the Castlemaine and Maldon Railway Preservation Society was formed almost immediately and commenced operations in December 1986. Locomotive K160 was purchased from the Victorian Railways and later acquisitions included K157, J549 and E371. Currently the railway operates with J549 and K160 is nearing completion of a full restoration. Operations between Castlemaine and Maldon commenced in March 2005 and continue today with various travel experiences.

We will meet at the waiting room at Southern Cross Station opposite platform 5 at 8:40 am to catch the 9:05am V/Line service to Castlemaine, arriving at 10:31 am. The VGR train departs at 11:30 am and arrives at Maldon at 12:15 pm where we will walk to the Maldon Hotel for lunch. Departure from Maldon is at 2:45 pm arriving at Castlemaine at 3:30 pm before boarding the 4:30 pm V/Line train from Swan Hill to Southern Cross arriving at 6:09 pm. It is anticipated that the VGR will provide a shuttle bus at Maldon for those with mobility issues, but it cannot be guaranteed.

For all public transport travel, you will need your Myki or Mobile Myki with a \$5.70 (seniors) cap for all travel on the day. The return trip from Castlemaine is a Swan Hill service which is a reservation service, and a reserved seat is required to be booked. Alternatively, a non-reserved service from Bendigo leaves Castlemaine at 4:52 pm arriving at Southern Cross at 6:32 pm.

The cost to travel on the VGR train to Maldon and return including the cost for administration and tour notes is \$70 for First class travel in one of their heritage luxury carriages and \$50 for excursion class in a BPL or BWV carriage. These are concession fares with a discount for a group booking. Payment must be made by direct deposit to JT & EF Ruddock, BSB 083-363 Acct. 13 776 5266 and is required by Friday 27 March 2026 to enable a group booking to be made. Please make sure you include your name on the bank transfer. If you cannot make a bank transfer, the full payment will need to be made at the March 2026 outing.

Lunch is at the Maldon Hotel, meal and drinks at your expense.

For booking and enquiries, please contact Geoff Wallace 0412 056 033 between 7:30 and 9:00 pm or email melbournelog@arhsnsw.com.au.

Bookings close Friday 27 March 2026.

If you want to contact Geoff Wallace or Ian Gauntlett on the day of travel, Geoff 0412 056 033, Ian 0418 588 840.

E&OE