



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 5th April 2016

Tourism and History Package for La Trobe

Jason Wood MP, Federal Member for La Trobe visited Steamrail Victoria today to discuss the restoration of the old Red Rattler trains with the Clark Twins, Tom and Kevin, from the ElecRail Division of Steamrail Victoria.

“This is a great opportunity to add to my vision of a Tourism and History Package, not only for La Trobe, but for Melbourne” Said Mr. Wood.

This History and Tourism Package includes four main elements.

1. Restoring of Red Rattler trains so that they can be used to transport passengers from Melbourne CBD out to the Belgrave start point of Puffing Billy.
2. Building a state of the art Discovery Centre at Emerald Lake to display the rich history of Puffing Billy and The Hills in Victoria.
3. Working in conjunction with the Yarra Ranges Shire Council to create the Villages of Mt Dandenong Walk which includes celebration of local and national artists from past and present.
4. Opening of the Bullen Bullen Indigenous Tours in mid-April educating locals and visitors of our rich local Indigenous history.

“ElecRail is currently working cooperatively with Metro trains to again enable the preserved red rattler to operate special excursion. Whilst fundamentally in good shape, the train needs a repaint following a vandal attack and safety enhancements are also required.” Said Kevin Clark, Manager at ElecRail Division of Steamrail Victoria.

Mr Wood’s work on the National Heritage Application for The Hills has been ongoing for a number of years now.

“Combining these four projects will deliver a great benefit to La Trobe and to Victoria.

“When the restoration of the Red Rattlers is complete, they can facilitate a connecting link from the CBD to Belgrave. Combine this with the \$9M Discovery Centre at the end of the Puffing Billy line that highlights local history, the completion of the Villages of Mt Dandenong Walk and the Bullen Bullen Indigenous Tour, and you have a huge incentive for tourists and Melbournians to come and explore the Dandenong Ranges

“Not only will this be a great boost to the local economy of the Dandenong Ranges, but if the National Heritage Application is successful we can preserve an area that is a true gem of Australia and potentially boost international tourism as well.” Said Mr. Wood.