



## SteamRanger's Heritage - an insight into our past

### BACKGROUND

Our Victorian colleagues arranged a very impressive interstate tour in June 1981 which brought their "K" class loco to South Australia

A substantial package of local tours was included as outlined in the pages from the Tours Brochure attached.

### K190 in South Australia

ARHS Recorder June 1981 page 119



The K class were built to satisfy a need in Victoria for a powerful engine to operate on light lines and the first 10 were built at Newport in 1922-1923. A further 43 of these engines, including 190, were built between 1940 and 1946.

K190 underwent a major overhaul during 1965 and saw service from December 1967 to July 1968 and then placed in storage at Ararat. It was moved from Ararat to Bendigo in June 1976 to replace another K as workshops pilot but it failed shortly after re-entering service and was promptly stored at Bendigo until 12/5/79 when it was obtained by Steamrail Victoria and transferred to Bayswater in Melbourne where repairs were made to make the loco serviceable to join K153 and K184 as Steamranger's fleet for enthusiast train journeys on Vicrail tracks. K190 ran its first trip under the auspices of Steamrail on 13/9/79.

Early in the planning for the Easter steam happening at Peterborough it was intended to bring a locomotive from Victoria to participate but circumstances at the time prevented that event from occurring. Negotiations were in an advanced stage when the decision was made and ARMS Steamranger Tours decided not to waste the opportunity of having a Victorian steam locomotive in South Australia and Steamrail responded by preparing K190 for the trip.

In terms of tractive effort the 2-8-0 K class 'Consolidation' is mid-way between the 520 and 620 class of ex SAR locomotives. The following table shows a comparison set of figures in the imperial measure for the three classes of locomotive.



Loco K190 bursts from the Upper Sturt Tunnel on 26 May 1881  
enroute to Bridgewater Photo: A Holding

Locomotive	621	K190	520
Wheel arrangement	4-6-2	2-8-0	4-8-4
Weight (tons, cwt.)	140-15	104-12	200-13
Length (feet, ins.)	69ft 7 3/4ins	60ft 3 3/8ins	87' 4 1/8ins
Boiler Pressure (lbs/sq.in.)	200	175	215
Grate area (sq.ft.)	33.4	25.75	45
Tractive effort (lbs.)	25,000	28,650	32,600
Axle load (max)(tons, cwt.)	15-0	13-10	15-16
Tender capacity - coal (tons)	9	5	9.75
Tender capacity - water (gals)	5200	4200	9100
Driving Wheel Diameter (ft, ins.)	5'6"	4'7"	5'7"

Reports of the runs of this locomotive in South Australia during May are contained in *Railscene*.

The engine was used on a suburban tour on 24/5/81; to Bridgewater on 26/5/81; Outer Harbor and Penfield on 28/5/81; Victor Harbor on 30/5/81 and Bowmans on 31/5/81.



K190 on the Hills like Photographer not attributed



K190 on its first SteamRanger sponsored journey in SA teams up with home grown Rx224 to lift its load towards Noarlunga Centre on 24th May 1981 Photo: Roger Currie

Some more details from the tour brochure

"FESTIVAL OF THE K"

MAY-JUNE 1981

*A green K class steam engine is coming to South Australia! Yes, after an epic 777 km journey from Melbourne, Victorian engine No. 190 will arrive in Adelaide on Saturday 23rd May. It's here for a 2 week stay and in that brief time South Australians will have a number of opportunities to ride behind it. Make the most of it as we don't expect to be able to repeat this exceptional treat for those who love steam trains. It will be a festival of steam the like of which has never been enjoyed in South Australia before.*

*The only main line steam engines preserved in working order in Victoria are K class locos and they have always been a favourite. K190 is a medium powered locomotive with plenty of get up and go and it boasts a wonderfully melodious chime whistle. To hear a K class beating across the countryside whistling occasionally for a level crossing is pure magic. Let's share a bit of the magic with you!*

A trip to meet the K at Tailem Bend

"MEET THE K"

SATURDAY 23RD MAY

The most exciting trip of all. Join our train at either Dry Creek station or Keswick and let's tackle the mountains with two Rx class steam locomotives. The twin bark of our veterans up the steep grades is guaranteed to delight you - it will be a magnificent spectacle and a marvellous experience to be on this train. At Bridgewater Rx 224 will be detached and the superheater No. 207 will carry on alone hauling our train. Still some grades to tackle such as the long pull out of Balhannah and up the notorious Warla bank. Bound to be some good steam music there.

Before lunch we'll be at Tailem Bend to meet the K. After servicing, watering and fuelling Rx 207 it will be coupled to K190 and the combined Victorian and South Australian trains for the run back to Dry Creek. What a saga! This surely will be the most remarkable steam journey in South Australia. To capture it for all time there will be superb photo stops in the most rugged sections of the Mount Lofty Ranges which even the most ardent motorists will find it difficult to reach. So give yourself the treat of a lifetime and build up a few wonderful memories.

TIMES: Dry Creek depart 7.15 a.m. - Keswick depart 7.32 a.m. - Blackwood depart 8.10 a.m.  
Back at Dry Creek by 6.15 p.m. and other stations correspondingly earlier.  
Note: This train does not call at Adelaide station in either direction.

FARES: Adult return \$32.00 - Children under 16 \$21.00.

## A choice of shorter excursions whilst the "K" is in SA

### "NOARLUNGA MEANDERER"

SUNDAY 24TH MAY

A significant date in railway history. For the very first time a Victorian K class steam locomotive will depart from Adelaide station. Actually we are bound for Noarlunga Centre, but first we are off to a number of other interesting places. We'll call at Outer Harbour then take the Rosewater loop to Dry Creek and hopefully explore the interesting branch line through Penfield with its sharp balloon loop. Back again to Dry Creek after a fast sprint across the plains. Here the head end power will be increased by attaching an Rx class steam locomotive for the severe grades out of Brighton.

Enjoy the two steamers storming up the Seacliff bank and then the picturesque coastal scenery through to South Australia's most modern rail-bus interchange complex at Noarlunga Centre. Should be great fun. 142 km of K class travel - twice as far as to Bridgewater and back.

**TIMES:** Adelaide depart 12.20 p.m. return at 5.30 p.m.

**FARES:** Adults \$9.00 - Children under 16 \$4.50.

### "STEAMRANGER TO BRIDGEWATER"

TUESDAY 26TH MAY

#### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SPECIAL

Guest appearance of Victorian steam engine K190 on the famous SteamRanger to Bridgewater. Five tunnels, steep grades, beautiful scenery. Plenty of huff and puff. Watch the big steam locomotive swing around effortlessly on the Bridgewater turntable. Departs Adelaide at 10.45 a.m. and returns to Adelaide by 3.15 p.m. Light refreshments including Devonshire teas can be purchased from the EFS ladies near Bridgewater station.

**FARES:** Adults \$6.00 - Children \$3.30.

### "VICTOR HARBOR"

SATURDAY 30TH MAY

Travel with us on Australia's most picturesque railway behind the steam engine from Victoria. Green engine with vintage green and cream centenary cars. Photostops with action run pasts to capture the majesty of the steam train in all its glory. Plenty of time at Victor Harbor to stroll across to Granite Island. Evening barbecue at Strathalbyn and then two fabulous listening stops in the Bugle Ranges. Hear that fabulous whistle echo across the valleys - a soul stirring experience. Don't deny yourself the pleasure of this outing. A momentous occasion never to be repeated!

**TIMES:** Adelaide depart 9.20 a.m. return at 10.00 p.m.

**FARES:** Adults \$22.00 - Children under 16 \$11.00.  
\* Carton lunch \$4.00 \* Barbecue dinner (3 course) \$4.50  
\* Must be prebooked.

### "BOWMANS BOTH WAYS"

SUNDAY 31ST MAY

#### THE GREAT FAMILY OUTING FOR 1981

Time is slipping away for the broad gauge line from Salisbury to Bowmans. Quietly and efficiently AN engineers are making plans for the change to standard gauge which is timed for completion within 18 months. Now is the time to sample the broad gauge at its best so relax as the Victorian K class spins the miles away with a huge train of 1936 vintage steel cars. Have a cup of tea or coffee at Mallala as the loco takes water and inspect the beautifully restored 1926 model Rio Fire engine which will be on display at the station.

Then off to Bowmans with its huge coal seam excavation where in fact we'll refuel the engine with top quality Aberdare cobbles. Watch the engine turn on the triangle maintained by SteamRanger then

"seats please" for the run across new territory to Balaklava for lunch. Cheapest barbecue meal ever! Sausage, chop and hamburger with a slice of bread for the modest sum of \$2.50 - almost unbelievable. The homeward run is by a different route through the rolling wheat country of Owen, Hamley Bridge and Roseworthy. Photo stops of our impressive train at selected locations.

**TIMES:** Adelaide depart 8.50 a.m. return by 5.30 p.m.

**FARES:** Extraordinarily low fares for this 223 km journey.  
Adults \$14.50 - Children under 16 \$7.50  
Family concession: 2 Adults and 2 children for only \$36.50!  
A real family outing at 1972 fares.

### "K CLASS CELEBRATION DINNER"

TUESDAY 26TH MAY

Evening trip to Bridgewater behind K190 with the elegant Dining Car "Adelaide". Superb cuisine. Need we say more!

**FARES:** \$30 including dinner. Pre dinner drinks included.

**TIMES:** Adelaide depart 7.30 p.m. return by 11.00 p.m.

## The ultimate excursion to Melbourne with the "K"

### "THE MELBOURNE LIMITED"

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE to MONDAY 8TH JUNE  
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

An exciting opportunity to travel from Dry Creek to Melbourne by steam train. Homeward run of Victorian K class engine No. 190. This is our programme:-

Saturday - Dry Creek depart 7.15 a.m. Keswick depart 7.32 a.m.  
Photostops from Murray Bridge onwards.  
Overnight at Bordertown.

Sunday - Bordertown to Ararat.  
Overnight at Ararat.

Monday - Ararat - Cressy - Geelong - Melbourne.  
(Connects with Overland.)

It is possible to make your journey either a 2 day trip or a 3 day one. People booking for 2 days can return home on the Overland on Sunday evening from Ararat. If you travel the whole way to Melbourne then return can be made on Monday night's Overland. Meals and accommodation en route on the steam train journey are optional extras.

<u>FARES:</u>	<u>RAIL ONLY</u>	<u>RAIL WITH MEALS &amp; ACCOMMODATION</u>
Dry Creek to Ararat	\$107	\$156
Dry Creek to Melbourne	\$125	\$210

All overnight accommodation is in Motels. See Booking Form for child fares.  
Overland reservations can be made on your behalf if desired.

N.B. It is possible to travel on the steam train to Tailem Bend and return to Adelaide by the Mount Gambier Bluebird. Anyone interested should contact Ralph Lee (phone 278 1800 between 6.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. week days) for fares etc.