

Rottnest Island Railway Line

Presenter: Lindsay Richardson
Session Secretary: Trevor Dennherdt

Rottnest Island is 40 km long and 4.5km wide. It is 20km from Fremantle.

The original line was constructed in 1936 for the Australian Army to service the two guns on Oliver Hill. Two spurs were constructed to service the guns.

In 1960 the railway was used to take ammo down the jetty for removal. The condition of the rail was very poor, being 45lbs and no ballast.

The new line on Rottnest Island was started in 1994 and was opened in July of the same year.

The rails are 60lbs, it is 1067mm wide and 6.4 km long.

Bunning were the main sponsors supplying all the wooden sleepers.

Boral Contractors did all the earthwork.

It used 4000 tons of limestone ballast.

It was built in four months using Westrail staff from the Per Way Institute.

It goes through scrub and small trees and limestone.

Motive power was a shunting tractor (43.5kw power) brought up from Manjimup.

The carriages are 11 metres long. They seat 48 people.

In the near future there will be a pit and enclosed building.

Operation—five services per day, hourly service, seven days a week.

Full time staff are used; there are no volunteers.

Comments/Questions

Rod Atkins: asked about safety. The tour guide rides in the lead car and watches out for traffic. The train has priority over cars.

Ian Cooper: how many tourists? Not many.

Carolyn Dean: what does it cost? \$9.00.

Jim McCrum: asked about concession fares. No concessions.

Len Millar: asked about grades on the line. Slight grade.

Don Smith: is the tractor chain driven and was it covered and did sand get in? The tractor was chain driven and not covered so sand gets on the chain.