

The Melaleuca Messenger

**** SPECIAL EDITION ****

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Lilyvale to Ti-tree railway to close!

A reporter from the Melaleuca Messenger has obtained a confidential report on the Sandstone & Termite Railway.

It will come as no surprise to users of the SaTR that a State Government Inspector's Report has found that the track, bridges and buildings are in a parlous state.

However it does appear that the Mechanical Branch is doing a sterling job in maintaining the locomotives and rollingstock.

The major problems are with the girder bridge leading to Ti-tree. It is in such a dangerous state that passenger train services have been suspended.

As a result of the Report, SaTR Management have announced that:

the line from Lilyvale to Ti-tree will close completely in September.

The SaTR claims that this will allow it to reduce losses and address the shortcomings of the rest of the network.



The Reporter wonders how the SaTR Management can justify this decision when the Owner and General Manager, Mr Wil. E. Gobust, has just taken delivery of his new Bugatti roadster.

Track. Here are some of the serious track problems uncovered.



At Melaleuca the rotting sleepers are a serious defect, even if on a siding.



More serious are these sleepers in the mainline at Lilyvale.



And this rail kink at Sandstone

Stations. The station platforms are no better shape.



Here at Ironbark there is a major safety hazard for passengers.

While at Ti-tree, the platform is rotted away.



and the station building has been vandalised.



The Report did recognise that some remedial work had been carried out at Melaleuca since the last Inspection.

Bridges



The Lilyvale viaduct has serious cracking and had scaffolding erected at the last inspection, but it appears little work has been carried out. A 10 mph speed limit has been imposed.



The long girder bridge leading to Ti-tree has piers leaning in a dangerous manner. This picture shows the main pier and the very temporary measures taken to try to counteract the sinking pier.



At Maple Junction the retaining crib wall is in need of extensive repair.