



Harry Potter magic at Geelong

Geelong Regional Library in conjunction with Bellarine Railway celebrated the launch of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* with a steam train ride. The atmosphere was electric with over 300 children and adults running through a banner depicting Platform 9¾. The lingering misty morning and the vast array of colorfully dressed characters added to the excitement of the morning. As the steam train arrived with much whistle blowing and noise the crowd realised that this was a very special event. At 9.01am there was much cheering and clapping as the first box was opened by one lucky train traveller who received the first copy. Then it was all aboard for the trip to Queenscliff, where the judging of the best-dressed Harry Potter and other characters took place. All children received a showbag and there was a lot of lolly eating on the trip back, although several train travellers including adults were already engrossed in the pages of the new book. As the train arrived back at the Drysdale Station at 11.45am, it was a remarkable sight to see so many people emerging from the carriages. It was a memorable morning and a fitting end to the last Harry Potter book in the series ... or is it?

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Bellarine Railway all dressed for the occasion



Winner of Harry Potter Competition



Carriage full of Harry fans



Caroline Morton staff member all dressed up



Two Harry Potter fans

Photos courtesy of Ferne Millen