



SAVING THE WORLD, ONE BROWSER AT A TIME



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Thursday 4th December 2014

For Immediate Release

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Melbourne's Forgotten Railway – documentary out now!

Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 4th December 2014. A new documentary has been released which details the rise and fall of **Melbourne's Forgotten Railway – The Outer Circle Line**: a steam-era train line that once ran through Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

The Outer Circle Line, built between 1888 and 1891, ran a distance of about 20km between Oakleigh and Fairfield. It was designed to get goods trains from Gippsland into Spencer Street Station and bypass a privately-owned railway.

But the short-lived experiment failed in a dramatic way. Bureaucratic bungling and political corruption around the time the railway was built meant an enormous amount of taxpayers' money was wasted.

The fragmented railway was closed and re-opened a number of times with mixed success. Today's Alamein line is the only surviving section of the original railway, which once traversed Camberwell, Balwyn, Deepdene, East Kew and the Chandler Highway Bridge, as well as East Malvern and Oakleigh.

Producer Ron Killeen said, "There are so many parallels between this story – why this railway failed – and what's happening in Melbourne today, particularly with the proposed construction of the East/West link and the Doncaster Rail Study."

“Many people don’t realise that lobby groups have been trying to get a railway line built to Doncaster for over 120 years,” said Killeen. “It’s a fascinating story, and an important part of Melbourne’s history – certainly one we can learn from.”

The documentary was privately funded, and the producers Andrew McColm (Evolving Communications) and Ron Killeen (Shack West) ran a successful crowd-funding campaign on [Pozible](#) to help finance the project.

Killeen says that the documentary features historians, an urban planning expert, as well as people who actually remember seeing and riding on the train. “The last section of line closed in 1943,” said Killeen. “We’ve found quite a few people that remember seeing the train when they were children, or who played on the old track and stations after the line closed.”

More information can be found at the project’s website, which is www.outercircleline.com.au.

Shack West is a privately-owned media production company based in East Kew, Melbourne.

Evolving Communications is privately-owned digital agency which specialises in online media, online brand and product marketing, social media and e-commerce.

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