Meet the fleet

‘Bety’ BB18 ¼ 1079

The ever popular BB18 ¼ 1079 was built in Maryborough and has been in service on the Queensland Rail network since 1956.

The train is often fondly referred to as ‘Bety’ after the old Queensland Railways telegraph code identification for the BB18 ¼ class.

When the BB locomotives were first introduced, they travelled to places as far as Cairns, Mount Isa, Longreach and Winton and throughout their life have worked as suburban trains, freight trains, coal trains and sugar trains.

Bety has travelled right across the state since the 1970s as a special events locomotive and in 2015 alone has transported more than 14,000 people across the state to celebrate 150 years of rail.
Del 1620 diesel locomotive

1620 was built in 1966 by the English Electric Company at Rocklea in Brisbane and entered service on 4 January 1967. The light blue colour scheme was used on all diesel locomotives in the 1950s, 1960s and into the 1980s. 1620 is fondly known as ‘Budgie’s Blue Baby’. ‘Budgie’ after Mal Neilsen, a former employee of Queensland Rail who oversaw the project of returning the locomotive to operation in 2008 and ‘Blue Baby’ after its distinctive blue colour scheme in reference to DD17 1051.

It has serviced most areas of Queensland throughout its career including hauling Brisbane suburban trains early in its life. 1620 re-entered service with Queensland Rail’s heritage fleet in 2008.
Rail Motor 1901

Since the 1920s many country passenger services had been operated by a varied fleet of small rail motors (the infamous Tin Hares, or Red Fred’s) constructed by the Queensland Railways.

In 1954 the Queensland Railways ordered two examples of a new model of self-propelled diesel railcars – SRCs. The 1900 class, (1900 and 1901 as the railcars were designated), were placed in to service in 1956.

In the early 1960s, Rail Motor 1901 worked on both country and suburban services. Between 1983 and 1985 it worked on special parcels and freight business outside of Brisbane, and on the Ipswich-Helidon rail motor service in the early 1990s.

1901 has travelled all throughout Queensland on special charter tours for enthusiast groups and continues to run today as a rail inspection vehicle for Queensland Rail.