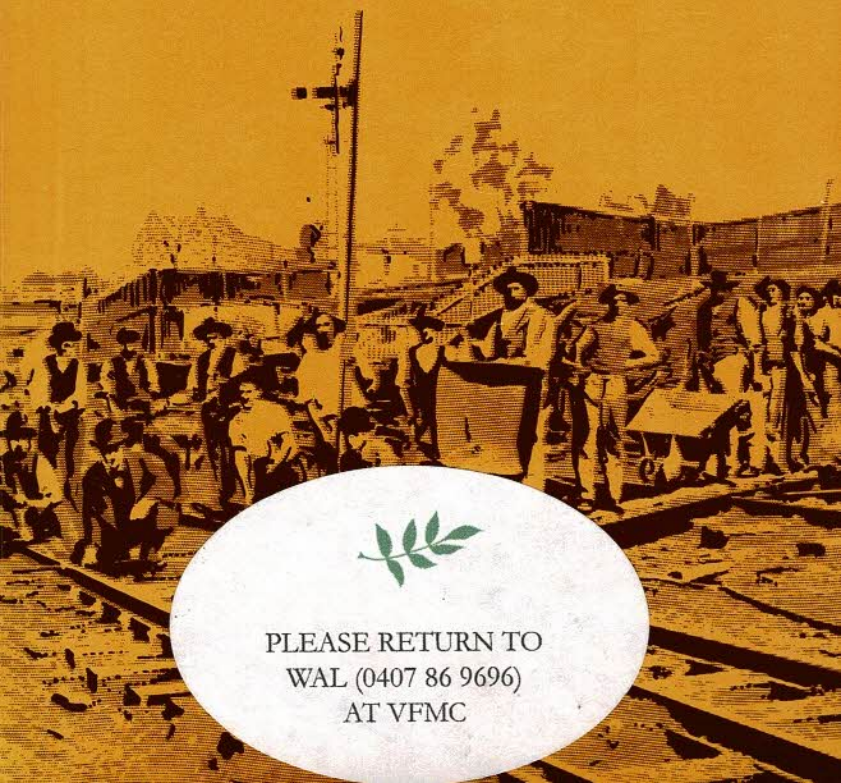




# Folklore of the Australian Railwaymen

PATSY ADAM-SMITH



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*Railway passenger:* 'What do you do when you find a dead body?'  
*Guard:* 'Run a ring of phenyl round him to keep the bull ants off.'

In the days when railways crossed land that was still being explored, the men who worked them had to be tough and resourceful. Yet their individualism, vigour, and warmth brought life to the isolated outposts for whose inhabitants they were the only link with civilisation.

Patsy Adam-Smith has collected a rich host of humorous, historic, and tragic anecdotes from the navvies, guards, fettlers, gangers, station-masters, drivers, and other men and women of the Australian railways—men and women who, bringing character and life to the loneliness of the remote parts of Australia they opened up, were a vital part of our history.

**PATSY ADAM-SMITH** is Australia's best-known writer on Australian railways. Among her other writings on this subject are the successful books *Hear the Train Blow*, *Romance of Australian Railways*, and *The Desert Railway*. She has absorbed countless details of railway life and lore, both consciously and unconsciously, since her childhood in a railway family in northern Victoria.

Her life has been an unusual combination of study and adventure. She is a talented musician, with A.Mus.A. in piano and violin; spent six years as an Adult Education Officer in Hobart; and has researched in every State archives and reference library and many overseas. She was the first woman to be articulated on a coastal trader in Australian waters and spent six years as a cook and radio officer; she has travelled six times round Australia, and lived on remote islands. At present she is the Manuscripts Field Officer for the State Library of Victoria, engaged in seeking historic documents for preservation. This is the only such appointment in Australia.



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