

# Frequently asked Questions about the Mary Ann

The name Mary Ann came from the names of both Sim and Pettigrew's daughters.

Pettigrew began surveying a railway line in 1872, finding a suitable terminus near Cooloola Creek.

The Mary Ann ran on a 3ft 3ins gauge instead of the 3ft 6ins gauge of Queensland. It is thought by historians that 3ft 3ins was a mistake.

The Mary Ann boiler was upright instead of the normal horizontal. The reason given is for placing the wheels at as short a distance from each other as possible in order to admit the locomotive working around the sharp curves.

The Mary Ann weight was 6 tons.

The Mary Ann engine cylinders are 6 ins x 10 ins and a 2 cylinder simple expansion.

The Mary Ann wheel diameter was 2ft 8ins.

The Mary Ann operates at 150 RPM (revs per minute).

The Mary Ann operating pressure is 100psi.

The Mary Ann 8 horsepower engine could haul about 14 tons of freight and could run about 8 mph.

When the Mary Ann was not busy hauling logs she would stand still steaming gently and had a long flat belt fitted to her drum pulley flywheel and on to a saw bench built on two wagons. The throttles lever would release her pent-up energy and she would cut sleepers and rails needed to take her further into the wilderness.

Off cuts from her own saw bench were used as fuel for the Mary Ann.

The Mary Ann was taken to Cooloola from Walkers down the Mary River through the Great Sandy Strait into Tin Can Bay by the steamer Hercules.

The rails used for the operation of the Mary Ann were Spotted Gum (4½ ins x 3 ins). The sleepers were made from Cypress Pine (7 ins x 4½ ins and were notched to receive the rails and fastened together by wedges.

The Mary Ann was made by Messrs John Walker and Co and cost about £600 (in 1873) for saw millers Pettigrew & Sim.

The Replica Mary Ann cost \$250,000.00.

The cost of the Mary Ann carriage was \$25,000.00.

In a few hours the Mary Ann could carry about 40 tons of timber to the rafting grounds at Cooloola Creek, a feat that would have taken a bullock team two to three weeks to achieve.

The Mary Ann Locomotive was destroyed by fire during the 1890's.

*Some information from the book 'Welcome Back Mary Ann' by Nancy Bates*