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***Bob the Railway Dog* by Corinne Fenton illustrated by Andrew McLean**

Publisher: Black Dog Books / Walker Books

RRP \$27.99

A true story of an engine driver who adopts an adventurous dog that loves to travel on trains across South Australia in the era when the railways were still under construction.

In the 1880s, Bob was often seen in his favourite spot on top of a Yankee engine or on a coal tender. The small dog became a familiar sight to both travellers and railway workers. Bob was welcome in any station, and he roamed far and wide on the trains as new railway tracks were laid over the vast country.

Nostalgic illustrations evoke the tawny shades of the landscape, olden-style clothing, and station buildings during Australia's early development. Rich watercolours enhance the glorious sunsets, night-time journeys, smoky railway scenes, and wide open spaces.

The striking front endpapers show pioneers driving bullock teams and wagons across a river in a barren Australian outback, while the final scene has a steam train crossing a bridge over the same river with the surrounding fields filled with lush crops.

This superb hardback picture book reinforces the affection that can develop between humans and animals.

Author's website:

www.corinnefenton.com

illustrator's website:

www.mcleanpicturebooks.com

**Reviewed by children's book
author, Jean Bennett**

