

Paul the Wheelwright – 90-second monologue (c.1910)

*"Morning! I'm Paul, wheelwright at Boston's Carriage Factory. If you've arrived in Korumburra without walking... there's a fair chance you rode here on **my** wheels."*

Now, anyone can make a wheel... but can they make one that's round? **That's** the clever bit!

Mr Robert Boston's my boss. He started the business back in 1893 after his engineering works in Melbourne went bust. He came to Korumburra, fixed mining gear, repaired farm machinery, built pumps... basically, if it was broken, Bob Boston could fix it.

Then someone looked at Korumburra's roads—you know, those giant mud puddles pretending to be streets—and said, *"We need better buggies!"*

So Boston started building them.

Before long we were making the finest buggies, jinkers and wagons in Gippsland. We even built the big wagons for the Butter Factory. Makes a wheelwright feel pretty important!

I use all sorts of hand tools to cut and shape the different pieces of wood to create each wheel. You can see some of the tools I use in the building here. I have spent years perfecting my techniques and now I am teaching the new young lad apprentice these skills.

I always feel a great sense of pride as I watch a new buggy roll out of the factory and I like to think about where it will take the new owners...

A good journey still starts with a good wheel.