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# Maryborough-Hervey Bay Chronicle

Established 1860

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Registered by Australia Post, Publication No. QAC0418

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1987

Recommended Price 35c

## Maryborough firm gives new heart to transport veteran of Qld

A Maryborough engineering firm has breathed new life into an old steam engine that pushed a tram around Rockhampton about 50 years ago.

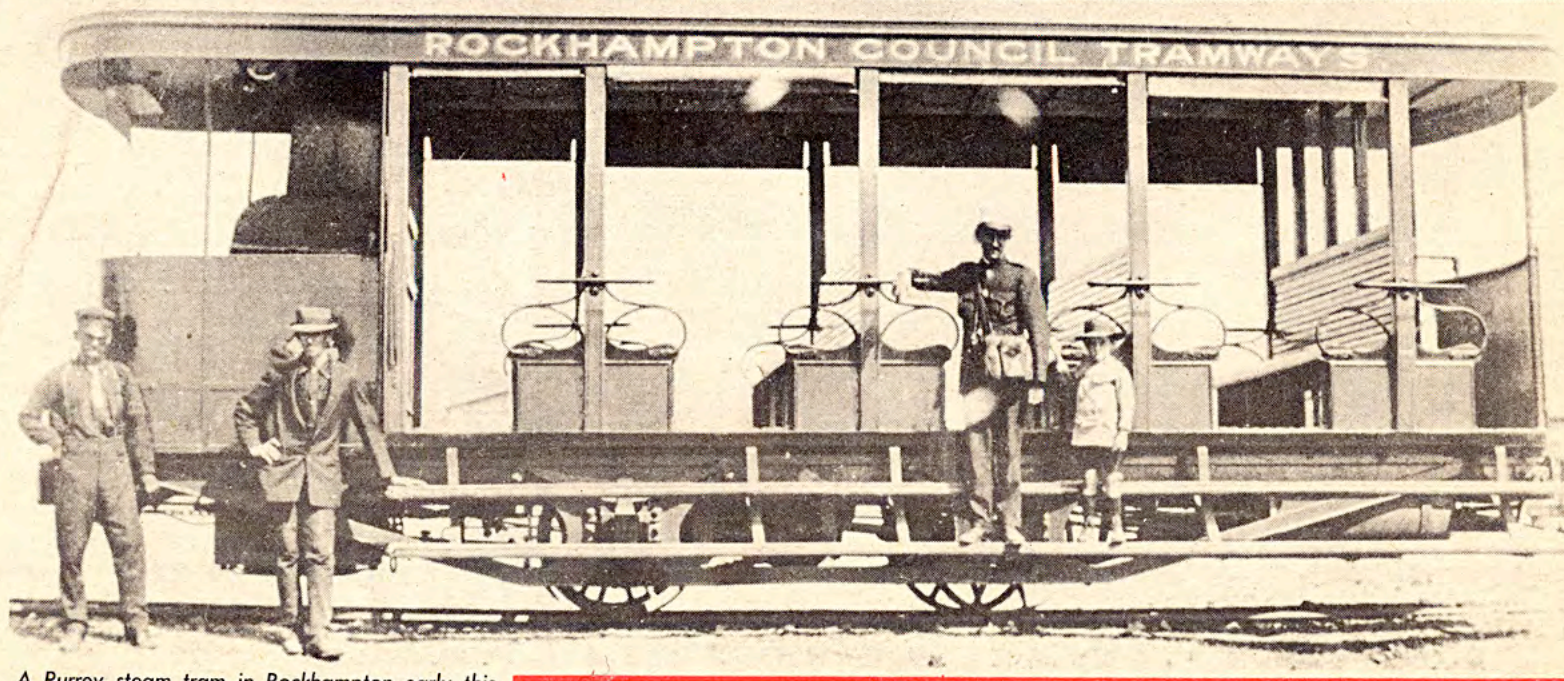
The engine puffed smoothly back into life at W. Olds and Sons on Wednesday and will be taken back to Rockhampton next Friday.

It will be fitted into the restored body of one of the old steam trams that puffed around the Queensland cattle city from 1909 to 1939. When back in action, it will be the only surviving Purrey steam car in the world.

The tram system was run by the Rockhampton City Council and holds the record for the longest period a local authority has run a public transport system in Australia.

The trams were built in Bordeaux, France, ran on a 3ft 6in gauge and were fired with coke. Two years ago the council began a project to restore one of the vehicles in Rockhampton.

The two-cylinder engine weighs about half a tonne.



*A Purrey steam tram in Rockhampton early this century. One of the vehicles is being restored and probably will be the only Purrey tram in the world. The engine has been rebuilt by W. Olds and Sons, of Maryborough.*

A spokesman for the firm said major parts of the engine had to be cast and machined. It had been restored as closely as possible to the original.

A delegation led by the Rockhampton Mayor, Ald. J. R. Weber, will inspect the engine when it is put through its paces on Thursday before it is shipped north.