



TRAM TRACKS

Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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New Roof!

Archer Park is finally getting its new roof, in the last budget of the then Rockhampton City Council. In the old measure, the roof is 300 ft long by 42 ft wide. The work will probably take about three weeks to complete.



No more buckets will be required during the rain at Archer Park - a new roof is in progress.

New Section Car Exhibit

One of Archer Park's volunteers recently drove a council tilt tray truck to Redbank and collected a TMC 6 Section Car from a private collector. The Friends of Archer Park paid for the machine and allocated money for Andrew Simpson's expenses. TCM No 016's engine has been removed by Andrew and son Owen, and is at the small motor shop to have a complete overhaul.

No 016 has been cleaned up and the side plastic weather blinds removed. The car will be used on special days for taking children for rides. We should be able to take more kids for rides than with the previous M 14 Conversion Car.

Award Nomination

Archer Park has been nominated for a Best in the Business Award again this year. We will have to wait and see to find out if we have won a category again this year as we have done in previous years.

Accreditation

Archer Park still has not been accredited by Qld. Transport. The delay is at Council, not with Qld Transport.

Without accreditation we cannot operate the Tram. Because the Tram hasn't run since the last Sunday in November 2007 we've had to cancel two of our big events, the School Holiday Programme and Carriage Shade Capers. It's also made a difference to our visitor numbers, and an increase in complaints.

1899 Ipswich Workshops Trolley

Brian and Dave should be congratulated on the wonderful job of restoring the 1899 Ipswich push workshops trolley. They bought new timber for the top, sanded back the sides and painted with Linseed Oil. The wheels were taken to Pierce Engineering by Keith, where they will be sandblasted and primed.

Sleeping Car 1007



Volunteers are demonstrating their painting skills on Sleeping Car 1007. John Cole and Brian Egan show how it is done.

Sleeping Car 1007 is also having some work done on it. Dave has finished off the sanding, filled in all the gaps on the platform side of the coach, begun undercoating and has put a sealer on the new windows. A new board was cut to size and sanded back to replace a broken board

in the passage between 1st and 2nd class. The passageway between the two sections has been measured up for new lino and underlay.



Dave Schulz surveys his painting preparation handiwork and the job so far

John's Accident

One of our volunteers has had a nasty accident while working at Biloela on the railway. John Kennedy badly strained his left knee, and at first was thought to have had tendons and ligaments damaged. John is getting around with a special brace on his leg and walking or hobbling around on crutches. I know the volunteers join with me in wishing John a speedy recovery. John is also a Tram driver.



John Kennedy is pleased to have the brace removed after his injury and is itching to get back behind the controls of the tram.

Caravan Holiday-Makers

Our gardener, Henry Dicoski, and wife Dawn are on a caravan holiday up to the Gulf of Carpentaria for two months. "Hey Henry, don't go patting any crocs while up in the Gulf".

John (another Tram Driver) and Joyce James are also on a caravan holiday to Perth, WA.

Combined Rail Groups Meeting

The first CQ Combined Rail Groups Network meeting for 2008 will be in Gladstone, 26th April, at the QR Volunteer Group's museum at Auckland Point. The day will include a tour of their museum, a three course lunch, and a tour of the Maritime museum after lunch.

Research Fee

A new fee will be charged from now on for anybody requiring research to be undertaken. The Director has agreed to a fee of \$10.00 per hour. Research takes time, most times with no thanks for all the time you put into it, when I could be doing something that's urgent.

Commercial Kitchen Regulations

The Government has issued new regulation that all commercial kitchens have to have a qualified Supervisor in charge of them. Archer Park is no exception and yours truly (Dennis) will be the bunny to go and do a TAFE Course to get the Supervisor Certificate. Otherwise we would have to close the kitchen and refreshment room.

AGM

The AGM will be held at Archer Park on Wednesday afternoon, 30 April 2008.

Hopefully you paid your membership by the end of March. While the due date has passed, you can still pay: remember, to vote at the AGM you must have paid your membership fees.

The cost of your membership hasn't changed for ten years or more. It's still \$10.00 single and \$20.00 double.

Regional Council

All the hype over Amalgamation has died down and our new bosses are the Rockhampton Regional Council which now takes in four shires: Fitzroy, Livingstone, Mt. Morgan and Rockhampton.

The Mt Morgan Railway Station will also come under the new council and the new Heritage & Tourism Group, so Mt Morgan Railway Station and Archer Park Railway Station (Archer Park Rail Museum) will be working together.

Work Experience Students

Archer Park is going to have two more job experience students from the Rockhampton State High School over the next two weeks. The girls will be shown how to run a tourist operation and a refreshment room. Last year we

had two girls join us at Archer Park for the same thing who went away a little bit the wiser on how the tourist industry works.

Tram Tracks New Look

This new look *Tram Tracks* has been produced by volunteers, although mostly using information supplied by Dennis. Hopefully it's the start of a more regular newsletter, with lots of input from members.

Send your stories to Dennis c/- the rcc e-mail address on the first page, or to Lynn Zelmer (lynn@zelmeroz.com).


The newsletter will be distributed electronically, including on the Friends' web site (see below: QldRailHeritage.com/archerpark), as far as possible, with paper copies only to those who do not have access to computing facilities.

Dot, Our Inspiration



Our tireless worker, Dot Marshall, celebrated her 83rd birthday on Wednesday, 16 April. She doesn't look a day older. Keep inspiring us, Dot.

Archer Park Rail Museum



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Station to Museum - 1899-1990

- 1899 - Station opened with the large curved roof
- 1903 - Brisbane-Rockhampton Line completion meant up to twenty-five trains a day passed through the station
- 1923 - Stanley Street Station extended and Archer Park's importance declined
- 1970 - Station closed to passengers
- 1990 - Museum established

The museum features a restored Purrey Steam Tram, one of nine tramcars and six trailers that operated in Rockhampton from 1909 to 1939, and Queensland Government Railways operations in Central Queensland.

It has a state-of-the-art soundscape and life-like mannequins that take you back to World War II times.


Entry: \$6.60 adult, \$4.50 pensioner, \$15.00 family, \$3.30 student/children (under 3 years free).

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We have a new identity! Formerly the Archer Park Station and Steam Tram Museum we are now the Archer Park Rail Museum.



Open 9 am to 4 pm daily, except Saturday and public holidays, near Rockhampton's city centre. The museum is handicapped-accessible, has a station tearoom and great parking.



The Purrey Steam Tram operates Sundays between 10 am and 1 pm (except during December and January). The *Volunteers* provide

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The Friends' colourful web site is located at QldRailHeritage.com/archerpark and promotes the Archer Park Rail Museum. The Mt Morgan Station Museum can also be found on the QldRailHeritage.com site.