



TRAM TRACKS

Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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Friends' Update

For those Friends who aren't able to attend meetings here is an overview of the last couple of meetings.

John Cole, one of our "handyman" volunteers, scaled the heights of the ladder to check out the problem with the speaker near the "Lady and Man" mannequins. Dirty terminals were the problem and our thanks go to John for getting it working again – and returning safely to the platform.

The track requires some attention as the weeds have enjoyed all that rain we had and now require spraying. We will check out what the Council intends to do about the weeds. If necessary the Friends will purchase some weed killer for the job.



John Kennedy and Phil Augustine work to ensure that the track is safe for the running of the tram. There is always maintenance work to be done on the track and all offers of help will be greatly appreciated.

With development of the area across the road from the station under consideration, the issue of sealing the road area was raised. Dennis will find out what the Council proposals are in regard to access to the proposed complex and advise the Friends.

Everyone is looking forward to when the tram will be up and running. The accreditation

process is progressing and it will be necessary for the "running staff"/volunteers to undergo the necessary medicals as well.



The vestibule now features a handsome new display case which was donated by Dave and Jenny Schulz. Dave put in many hours of hard work constructing the display (ably supervised by Jenny, of course) and our sincere thanks go to them for their generous donation. The case will be used to display Friends' merchandise.



Dave's hard work in constructing the display and the Schulz' generosity in donating it are recognised by this plaque on the display case.

Some repair work is being done on the recently acquired quad and we look forward to adding it to our "fleet" to transport visitors.

Archer Park opened for the Museums Alight recently. Even though it was State of Origin night some visitors availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the museum. It was nice one family return again this year because they enjoyed it so much last year.

The volunteers continue to transform JCS 1007 and it will be worthy of a “grand opening” on completion. Thanks go to the Heritage Village (via Phil A.) for the loan of the trestles which have made the job a lot easier.

Remember, we would love to have your input at our Friends’ meetings – we value your membership.

Roof Completed

CQ Plumbing have finally completed the roofing of Archer Park, a large amount of the timber under the roof had to be replaced, the men’s toilet roof was the worst affected with nearly all timber battens and bearers having to be replaced.



Men's toilet area of the roof while under repair early June.

Accreditation Status

Queensland Transport have finally given Archer Park Accreditation status. After two years of writing procedures, risk assessments, and safety issues we have finally got there.

Now having Accreditation status we have got to get our tram crews through their medicals and we still can’t operate the tram until this is completed. We have a driver with a medical but not a conductor.

Kitchen Supervision

Dennis has completed the required course through the TAFE College to be the supervisor of Archer Park’s kitchen. Having passed this exam means that "I can get a job in a kitchen, restaurant, café or eatery if I ever get sick of Archer Park".

Batteries for 1614

It looks as though diesel electric loco No 1614 will require a new bank of batteries as the batteries that are in it are getting very old and require charging every week to start the loco.

Dennis has a chap down south looking into the possibility of getting us some new batteries.

Purrey Steam Tram Repairs

The Purrey Steam Tram was fired up last Sunday and given short runs through the station, this was to check for leaks and to make adjustments to the safety valves. It was good to hear the steam pump purr away after being pulled down and rebuilt, thanks to Pierce Engineering for a job well done.

RSL Outing

Sunday June 22 saw seventy-one ladies from the RSL visit Archer Park. This was the ladies' outing—the men attended a conference in Rockhampton that weekend with other RSL people from all over the state.



Ladies from Toowoomba and Hervey Bay were among a group who visited Archer Park during the recent RSL Conference held in Rockhampton.



Dot Marshall and Wilma Coglan prepare the morning tea for the RSL visitors.

Sleeping Car Restoration

Sleeping Car JCS 1007 is starting to look as though someone cares about it, John Cole is doing a lot of the outside woodwork and painting, Dave is getting all the windows and shutters sorted out and putting a lot of the internal cover strips back into place.

Dennis will be asking a carpet layer to lay the industrial lino in the passage way between the 1st And 2nd class cabins.

The volunteers have done a first class job cleaning up under JCS 1007, getting rid of all the old wood and rubbish plus storing away the water tank and battery box of 1007. It certainly looks a lot better under and around 1007 now.

Painting the Loco Shunt Runner

John Kennedy is doing a good job on painting the Loco Shunt Runner and is starting to look good with its new coat of railway yellow.

New Section Car

The new section car has still got its engine removed and is waiting for the small motor shop to put new rings and valves into it, the problem being the motor had no identification numbers on it to say which model Briggs & Stratton motor it is.

ATRQ Chuff Awards

Archer Park's two gardeners missed out on getting an award through the ATRQ Chuff Awards, but received a letter of thanks for participating in the awards.

Volunteers Needed

This month (July) is going to be difficult to have enough volunteers to staff the museum with three of our key volunteers being away. Ross is away for three weeks and Blair is away for about the same period and Aurilea will have difficulty working Sundays because of other commitments. Quite a few of our volunteers are already working two and three days a week but it would be appreciated if you could spare an extra three hours per week to help out.

Because of the shortage of volunteers please ask a friend or relative do they know of someone that would like to do some volunteer work, we are getting desperate.

Speaking about volunteers it is becoming very worrying for us at Archer Park and within council that our volunteer base is shrinking

rapidly with no new volunteers joining the Friends, and this year we had over a dozen volunteers not renew their memberships. We also lost three drivers from the tram crew which is very worrying.

This trend is not only happening at Archer Park but across the board where volunteers are required.

Coming Events and Functions

Friday June 27 will see Herron Todd & White and Edwards Evans Edwards & Assoc. hold a Mexican Night at Archer Park for their clients. Free food and drinks will be the order of the night with an expected one hundred and fifty guests to turn up for the Mexican themed night.

There have been numerous calls about bookings for weddings and other functions and we've had two confirmed bookings for weddings for 2009

Thursday July 10: Ladies' Probus Club Yeppoon visit.

Monday July 14: Commonwealth Employment Options Workshop all day event.

Saturday July 19: Tentative Booking for birthday party from Monto.

Wednesday July 30: Friends of Archer Park monthly meeting commencing 3.30pm. RRC Community Services Director Bradley Duke to attend.

Saturday August 23: 90th Birthday Party (Dennis's mother).

Sunday August 31: Carriage Shade Capers (to be confirmed) and Seniors Week Special Day at Archer Park.

Monday September 1: Mayor's Civic Reception for Pensioners and Superannuates.

Saturday October 18: Wedding Ceremony, Steve Ross and Linda Elmes.

Saturday October 25: Wedding Photos (Shigwin).

Friday October 31: Gladstone West School tour, 80 to 90 kids.

Saturday December 13: Blair Jamieson's Birthday Party.

Please note that bookings could be added or deleted from this list at any time.

Archer Park's Vital Statistics

Admission numbers to the museum:

April 2008: 256

May 2008: 381

June 2008: 490

Visitor numbers to the museum are still well down on previous years and this is attributed to two things: high petrol and diesel prices and the Tram not operating.

Passenger numbers on Tram unavailable as Tram hasn't operated since February 2008.

Regional Rail History: John Edward (Jack) Desmond, Glenusk Siding on the Jerico & Blackall Line, 1913-14

Queensland built a number of development railways in the first half of the 20th Century, including one out of Blackall. The line has now gone, but the Blackall Historical Society has information on at least one of the navvies who helped build the line.

Jack Desmond and his family arrived in the Blackall area early in 1913 and wrote back to his family in the UK on 10 March 1913, as the edited extract below shows.

Dear Sister

I received your letter quite safely this morning and was very pleased to hear that you are all quite well.

We have arrived quite safe up in Queensland 900 miles from Brisbane and I have started work 8 hours a day on the Railway. It is rather hard work under the conditions as it is horribly hot. The sun has made my arms very bad, it has taken the skin off them and it makes them very painful because I can hardly bend them. This is the hottest country I have been in up to now, what with the Mosquitoes and the Flies I can tell you we are having a lively time. We are living under canvas right up in the bush so you can see we do not get the Most Dreaded of Persons Calling here on Mondays saying "Rent Please" -- the Landlord I mean.

We do not have anything to pay thank goodness, that is one blessing, but we have to pay extra money for food such as butter. We cannot get any under 1/6 per lb and everything we order has to be pounds, we cannot get 1/2 lb of anything. 9d for a tin of milk, 4d a lb of sugar. The bread is the same price 5d per quarter.

We have our stores come up in the train 3 times per week so we have to make a standing order with the baker and the butcher and we have to order on Fridays enough grocery to last all the week. So when we give the order in on Fridays for the things we get them on the Monday morning.

New QRN 3800 Class



QR National 3802 (AAR Bo'Bo'Bo' all axles powered) being loaded in Europe for shipment to Australia. Peter Andrews photographer.

Thanksgiving Divorce

A man in Phoenix calls his son in New York the day before Thanksgiving and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough."

"Pop, what are you talking about?" screams the son. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her."

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this."

She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at her father, 'You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing DO YOU HEAR ME?' and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay dear," he says, "they're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way."