



Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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TRAM TRACKS

Membership Fees (\$10) were due by 31 March -- but we're still accepting renewals! You need to be a financial member to vote at the AGM

Friends AGM: The 2009 AGM will be 3:30 pm 29 April at Archer Park. Nominations close at COB two weeks prior (15 April).

- Julie Bullas (Director, Rail Safety) on recent activities and legislative progress,
- Karen Klochern (Human Factors Specialist) on Contributing Factors Framework (see below), and
- Graham Wilson (Cancer Council Qld) on Skin Cancer Awareness (see below).



ATRQ President Paul Rollason presenting the 2008 ATHRA Steam Locomotive Restoration Award in recognition of Australian Sugar Cane Railway's (Bundaberg) restoration of Invicta. Award being accepted by ASCR's David Twiss, 28/2/09.

Happenings and Coming Events

Archer Park hosted the 28 February -1 March meeting of **ATRQ** (Association of Tourist Railways of Queensland) at Archer Park with 31 attending from rail heritage operations around the state. Activities included the usual meeting, tram ride (see photo last page) and sessions including:

Archer Park Rail Museum is an ATRQ member.

Mr and Mrs John Wilson of North Rockhampton have donated a 120 year old dresser from the Westwood Railway Refreshment Rooms to Archer Park (see photo next page). John worked in the ticket office of QR for twenty four years.

Work has again started on Sleeping car JCS 1007 and a qualified carpenter is going to replace some 3.6metres of dry rotted timber on the top side of the coach, just under where the roof curves down and above the windows. This section has proved to be a real headache for our two volunteer restorers and thought we should get some expert help.

Work on the Tampa 6 that we bought last Easter is at a standstill, we are waiting for a chap to look at the electrics of the vehicle.

Community Services are still sending young law breakers down to Archer Park so they can work off their time doing some useful work in the community. These people are doing jobs like painting, cleaning windows, gardening and general cleaning, we have found them to be honest and willing to work and they seem to enjoy coming to Archer Park.

A first for Archer Park was a sit down breakfast of bacon, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast and grilled tomato. Six friends of Lyndell Jamieson enjoyed their breakfast on Sunday morning.

April 2009: Birthday party (tentative) Saturday 4 April; **Closed Easter Sunday** 12 April;

Wedding ceremony, Saturday 18 April; QAL Retirees Tour Gladstone, Monday 20 April; *Carriage Shade Capers*, Sunday 26 April.

May 2009: Beef Week, short tram rides, Thursday 7 May, 1 pm to 4 pm.

June 2009: *Wine and Cheese Night* to celebrate 100th anniversary of the Purrey Trams in Rocky, Friday 5 June; *Carriage Shade Capers* Special Anniversary Tram Day and period costume dress up, Sunday 7 June, 9 am to 4 pm.

July 2009: School Holiday programme, Wednesday 1 July with short Tram Rides, 1 pm to 4 pm; Happy Wanderers Touring Club Bundaberg Tour, Friday 3 July; School Holiday Programme, Wednesday 8 July with short tram rides 1 pm to 4 pm; Bill Kingsley Tour Victoria, 30 people, Thursday 30 July.

August 2009: *Carriage Shade Capers*, Sunday 30 August.

The Legacy Guild of Australia hold their monthly meetings at Archer Park on the last Wednesday of each month.

The Friends of Archer Park hold their monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each month at 3:30 pm. Please attend at least a couple of meetings each year so everyone can hear your suggestions and proposed changes. Come along and have your say.

Q150 Steam Train

The Q150 steam train rides in Central Queensland sold out very quickly. Visit the Q150 web site for the schedule if you want photos, etc. (www.q150.qld.gov.au)

June Tram Centenary Celebrations: Our Purrey Steam Tram will be 100 years old in June this year and we are planning some special events to celebrate this great achievement.

On Friday 5 June we will hold an evening function for invited guests, and on Sunday 7 June we will celebrate the tram in all her glory at the *Carriage Shade Capers*. You are encouraged to wear period costume to add to the atmosphere – and encourage others to do the same. Let's get into the spirit of 1909 and have the best Capers Day yet.

With the centenary of the Purrey Steam Tram coming up on 5 June we have much pleasure in announcing Dick McNevin's generous donation of \$250.00 to the Friday nights Wine and

Cheese Night. Thanks Dick for your donation, it is much appreciated.

Visitor numbers: December 2008, 253; January 2009, 138; February 2009, 232.



Original Westwood Station refreshment room cupboard, 120 years old and donated by Mr and Mrs John Wilson of North Rockhampton

Volunteer Activities

Renewal of membership of the Friends of Archer Park Station and Steam Tram Museum falls due on 31 March 2009. Members must be financial to be eligible to vote at the AGM.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Friends of Archer Park Station and Steam Tram Museum Inc will be held on Wednesday, 25 April 2009 at Archer Park Rail Museum.

Please give some serious consideration to nominating for one of the positions: President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. All organisations need an injection of "new blood" from time to time and we can all contribute to making Friends bigger and better for 2009 - and the years to come.

Special thanks. As reported above, the ATRQ meeting at Archer Park went very well and attendees were appreciative of the refreshing

food served during the weekend. Special thanks go to our two gems in the kitchen, Dot and Wilma, for the sterling job they did in organizing the food. Thanks also to the other ladies who helped out.

Four of our volunteers have had more than their fair share of health problems this year with Alma and Sandra Smith both having health problems and Norma Hoffmann having an operation in Brisbane and not forgetting Wilma Coglan who has been sick also.

The Friends of Archer Park have voted to approach QR for one of their surplus QLX wagons, as Archer Park is badly in need of more room for storage, and the QLX would fit the bill very nicely. A camp wagon is also being looked at for another display area.

All volunteers should check the Blue Card list in the kitchen and see if there is a Blue Card number against your name. If there isn't, please look yours up and write it down next to your name. A register of Blue Card holders' names and card numbers is a legal requirement.

In February 2009 volunteers logged 709 hours at Archer Park, plus likely an equal number of unlogged hours by the Executive, social history project, newsletter/web, etc.

Notes from the Coordinator

We have had a spate of kids trying to knock down a door at the museum: the double garage doors came in for a lot of kicks. After repainting the doors they were again kicked at and the wheels of bikes or a motor bike rammed into them, It looks as though we will have to repaint some of the doors again.

As in previous years Archer Park will not be open to the public on Easter Sunday, as we have not enough Tram drivers and conductors to operate the tram that day and some because of the long weekend will be going on holidays, some of the usual volunteers will also be going on holidays over that long weekend as well. It is not appropriate to open the museum on a Sunday and not run the tram.

I would like to make a plea to all our volunteers to talk to everyone they know and see if we can't get some new volunteers, we aren't alone in trying to recruit new volunteers, the situation is getting desperate and with an ageing volunteer membership it can only get worse. So

please talk to anyone you know and tell them about being a team member at Archer Park and the new friendships they can make.

Qld. Fire & Rescue Rockhampton have held two exercises at Archer Park and it gave me the opportunity while they were here to ask them if they could wash out our two level crossings for me, they said no worries and the Cambridge Street crossing was washed out this morning. They said it only took a few minutes with their high pressure hoses to clean out the build up of dirt and gravel between the line and guard rail, the other crossing in Archer Street will be done tomorrow. It is essential to keep these level crossings clean as the tram isn't heavy enough to cut its way through the build up of dirt and gravel and could easily take off down the street if the build up is to great.

I have taken steps to try and cut down the risk of coming to grief on a level crossing with the tram. Our tram crews will record the number plates of motorists who don't stop at the stop signs, who take the right away from the tram, or who try to out run the tram as it goes across the crossing. All tram crews will be armed with a notebook and biro to take the number, which will be handed on to the Police. Level crossings are the most talked about subject within rail circles today trying to determine how we can make them safer. The subject was brought up at the recent ATRQ meeting in Rocky, with participants observing the problem here at first hand. On a normal weekday volunteers have counted up to twenty cars who don't stop at the level crossings.

Rail Safety: Contributing Factors Framework (CFF)

The Contributing Factors Framework (CFF) captures and codes information about all of the factors that may have contributed to a rail safety occurrence.

The CFF enables information to be recorded in a consistent way to support industry-wide analysis.

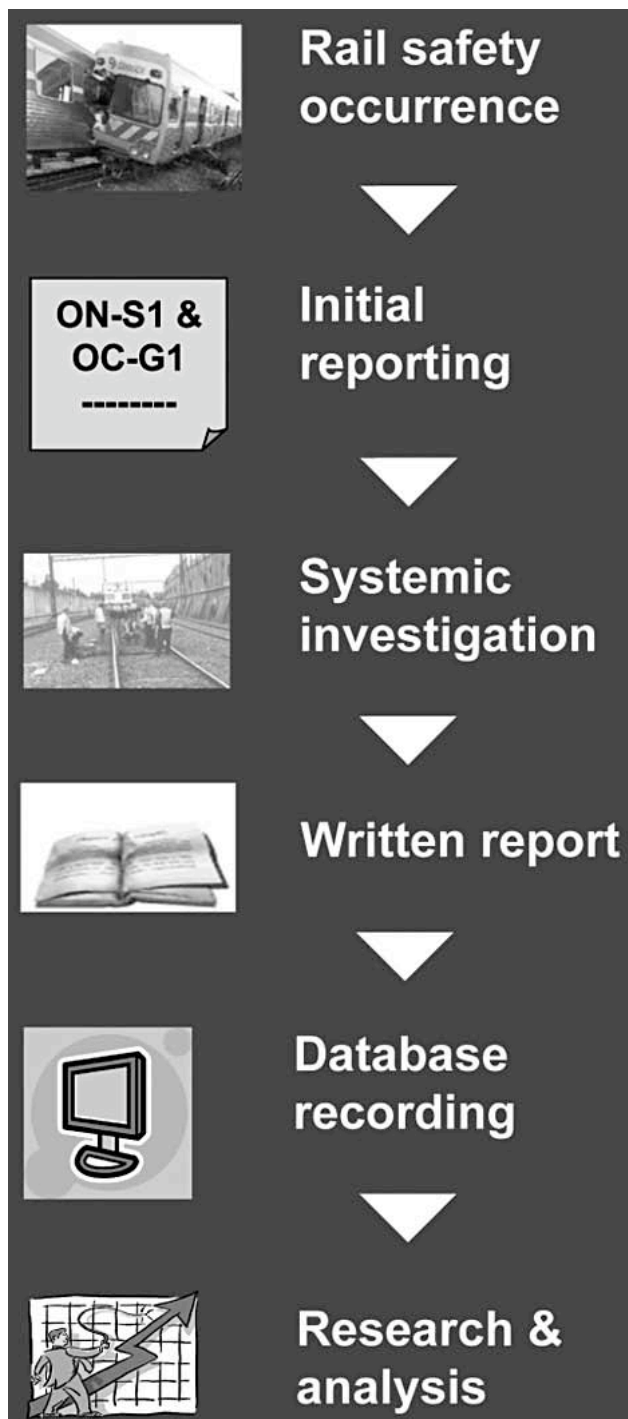
The CFF is endorsed by the Rail Safety Regulators Panel (RSRP) and is complementary to current occurrence reporting processes.

It allows rail operators [eg Archer Park Rail Museum and other rail heritage operations] and regulators [eg Rail Safety, Queensland] to collect systemic safety data so that they can

identify patterns and trends in safety issues and take action to rectify them.

Use of the coding framework by rail industry stakeholders is voluntary, but encouraged.

From 1 July 2009, state rail safety regulators will be using the coding framework on the investigations they conduct or receive from accredited rail operators in their jurisdiction.



CFF documentation is available on the RSRP website (<http://www.rsrp.asn.au/>).

Skin Cancer Awareness

As well as being a rail enthusiast, Graham Wilson is a Cancer Council Qld volunteer. His

presentation at the ATRQ meeting covered a range of topics related to skin cancer, including sources and types of skin cancer, detection, personal protection and the UV Alert.

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. More than 1800 Australians die from skin cancer each year, and one in two will develop skin cancer in their lifetime.

Skin cancer is a disease of the body's skin cells caused mainly by overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

High temperatures or sunlight are not indicators of UV levels, high levels occur even on cool and/or overcast days. In practical terms, UV levels are high to extreme across Queensland twelve months of the year.

Be SunSmart

- Seek shade
- Wear protective clothing ((cover arms and legs as well as your body)
- Wear a broad-brimmed hat that shades your face and neck
- Wear wrap-around sunglasses that meet Australian standards and are appropriate to the task
- Apply SPF30+ water-resistant sunscreen every two hours

Additional information from the local Cancer Council office or www.cancerqld.org.au.

Railway Trivia

James W Cox was an American newspaper tycoon who ran for the US Presidency in 1920. As a young reporter he was sent to cover a railway accident "but first stopped at the telex office to instruct the operator to begin transmitting the Bible. It was, in those days, against the law to interrupt a telex, so all the other reporters had to wait for Cox to return from the scene of the railway accident and file his copy, before they could begin their own. He scooped the lot." (The Weekend Australian, 14-15 Mar 2009, p3).

[*Editor's note: It was the telegraph office, as telex wasn't in use before the 1930s; and according to the Dayton Daily News, the first paper Cox owned, he asked the operator to send the telephone directory, not the Bible, over the wire. (www.daytondailynews.com/history/content/service/info/history/cox.html, downloaded 15/03/09)]

Social History

In this issue of *Tram Tracks* Bill describes the operation of the Rockhampton trams. As well, we have another of Jack Desmond's letters from the Blackall area back to his family in the UK.

Partial transcript of an interview with Bill Head, 5 Sep 2008 (prepared from the recorded interview)

BILL: It would have been round about 1935, and I was about five years of age when we came down on holidays from Jericho and were going through to Brisbane. And we stayed one night at the old "Peoples' Palace" which used to be down in Dennison Street and my memories of the old Purrey Steam Tram at night time -- you could always see these coals and sparks flying out the funnel as they stoked them up.

And I can remember that quite plain, even though, as I said, I was only about five. They were pretty quiet and they ran along pretty quietly too considering, but that's my only memory of them, and saw them at odd occasions, other times during those years up to 1939.

When we came down on holidays we used to see them going up the street, but unfortunately can't ever remember that we actually rode on them.

Well, the first ride I ever had on one of them, naturally, was when I come here to Archer Park in 1991 and had a ride on the old restored Purrey steam tram now.

LZ: You were talking about where they ran, the kind of events they ran for.

BILL: Yes, well apparently, it was pretty free and easy with them by what we're told. They looked after the picture theatres, they all run right up to, it might be 11 o'clock at night, to clear everybody from the picture theatres and, I believe, they had a great arrangement with their passengers. The conductors and the drivers, they more or less were conversant with... they picked up the same people every day more or less, and would get to know them and apparently it worked out real well, that if they pulled up, the driver pulled up at a stopping place to pick up the passengers and if there was nobody there, if the regular wasn't there, they didn't drive straight off.

They'd hang around, might be a minute or so because the arrangements were so good between them that if the person wasn't catching the tram today was sick, a member of the family would come down post-haste to the stopping place and say, "Mommy" or "Daddy" or whatever it might be, "is sick today, not going to town today," then they'd take off, but they never ever like nowadays but back then, but they always had these regulars.

They just wouldn't drive off. They always had these regulars; they'd always wait to make sure they didn't leave them behind.

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

This extract from the letters back to his sister in the UK is from 17 May 1913.

My Dear Sister & Arthur,

I got your letter quite safe and am pleased to tell you I am going treat up till now. As I told you in my last letter I had got a good job on the railway. Though it is in the Bush districts it is a healthy life and the Money is good. £12 a month, sometime more according to the hours. The proper amount of hours a day is 8 but we are having to push the job forward as this part of the line is to be opened to the public. Where we are is almost the same distance from Brisbane as Gibraltar is from England. We were two or three days in the trains so you can see it is a long way up in the bush....

We are having winter here now, it is cold during the night & morning but gets very hot in the daytime, equal to English summer time. When we first got here the heat was unbearable especially working with Pick & Shovel but still I take no notice of that as you do get a proper wage for what you do, which is more than you get in England, a Starvation Wage. Of course, things are dear here but still you can save here and you can't at home.

I should like you and Arthur and the children to come out here at it would be the Making of you all. Arthur is just the sort they want here as he is a good Horseman and he understands farming. As farming here is not like it is at home, it is not done on Scientific principles like it is in England, but the job the Government would give him would be Boundary Riding, a Million times easier than what he is doing now. If he thought of coming here he could get his Uncle to give him a reference as to his abilities in farming work, which ten to one he would not be required to do when he got here and I am sure he could Milk Cows, and I think he has told me he understands Lambing and Calving, that is sheep and cattle giving birth to young. As long as he was qualified to do these things I am sure he would get here alright. [to be continued]



ATRQ Meeting at Archer Park Rail Museum, 1/02/09: ATRQ Secretary Peter Hyde (left) and ATRQ President Paul Rollason with Queensland Transport Safety Director Julie Bullas (left centre) and Human Factors Specialist Karen Klochern.

ATRQ Members (www.atrq.net)

Archer Park Rail Museum, Atherton Tableland Railway, Aust. Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society, Aust. Railway Historical Society - Qld, Australian Sugar Cane Railway, Bally Hooley Steam Railway, Brisbane Tramway Museum, Bundaberg Railway Historical Society, Darling Downs Historical Rail Society, Mackay Heritage Railway, Mary Valley Heritage Railway, Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway, Qld Rail, Ravenshoe Railway Company, Savannahlander, Southern Downs Steam Railway, Sunsteam, Workshops Rail Museum - Qld, Timberwah Mountain Railway, Trainaway Tours, Whistle Stop.



Archer Park Rail Museum Collection

Rockhampton's Purrey Trams operating along East Street, date unknown but early years.



ATRQ members from around Queensland enjoyed a ride on Archer Park's Purrey Tram, during the Sunday operating session, 01/03/09. Lynn Zelmer photographer