



Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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TRAM TRACKS

Date Claimers

22 and 29 September, 1-4 pm: School Holidays Programme. Admission charges have been changed for this month to see if it attracts more families.

29 September: Monthly Meeting, 4:00 pm

October 2: Regional rail heritage meeting at the Bundaberg Rail Museum

10 October: Friends of the Gardens BBQ

October 31: Carriage Shade Capers (last big event of the year)

2 November: Melbourne Cup Day

Notes from the President

On Sunday, 10 October, we are hosting the 'Friends of the Gardens' for a tram ride and BBQ lunch. In return, we are then heading to the Kershaw Gardens for a guided tour of the 'Bush Tucker Walk' and other places of interest. Please support this activity if possible as we would like to establish closer links with other like volunteer groups.

The final 'Carriage Shade Capers Day' for this year is to be held on 31st October and we are desperately in need of more stalls and activities. Any ideas or suggestions for additional stalls are greatly appreciated. We should have our new advertising banners displayed for this day so it will be interesting to see if there is any noticeable increase in attendance.

It has been suggested that we adopt a 'Halloween' theme for the day and have some prizes for the best dressed 'Witches and Warlocks'. This would complement the 'Halloween Night' to be held at the Heritage Village on the Friday night and give us a great opportunity to advertise our day. Any suggestions.

The monthly meeting will be held on 29th September and there will be discussion on other

Friends' future functions. We need your support to hold a Melbourne Cup Luncheon so if you are unable to attend this meeting at least put forward your ideas for consideration. Feel free to contact me at home on 4928 1930 or on my mobile 0429 647 453.

Merv Edmonston

Volunteer Activities

Gordon Leech passed away as this issue was being finalised. Our sympathies to his family and we'll have a tribute next issue.

In August volunteers worked for 981 hours plus the hours the executive, etc., clock up behind the scenes.

Dot Marshall will organise another one of her Melbourne Cup luncheons this year.

Dave sanded back all the base speaker boxes and revarnished them. They look good, this is the first time they had been done in ten years.

Archer Park received a rail gas heater from a chap relocating to Ballarat. Dave has cleaned and painted the unit and screwed it to the wall in the station master's office. The gas heaters were used in QR guards vans around the 1970s.

Dave has also put new hinges on the new flat metal plate which drops down over the motor on the VW Compressor. The compressor did have a metal covering over the motor but it wasn't long enough to do the job properly. The new plate will make the motor more waterproof.

Neil has got all our stool seats and the seats in the Tampa Six reupholstered.

Regional Rail Heritage Meeting

The CQ Combined Rail Groups Network will have their first 2010 trip away on 2 October. The Bundaberg Railway Historical Society will put on morning tea and a meeting afterwards and the Australian Sugar Cane Railway will provide lunch and a train ride. A visit to the new

aviation centre is also being planned and a boat trip on the Sunday.

Notes from the Coordinator

Visitor numbers for August were the best in three years with a total of 1020. The last best figures were in July-August 2007 with over a thousand visitors over the two months.

The August Carriage Shade Capers numbers were down on June's figures with only 343 people visiting for the special day. In June we had 400 visitors.

Bush Poets night saw only 31 people attend but on the whole was a good night.

Two Qld Transport officers recently undertook a spot audit on the operations of the Tram. We passed the inspection OK, I believe.

Twelve newly acquired second-hand batteries have been lifted into diesel locomotive 1614. They were charged up and the loco started first time. Next, repairing the controller...

Next year the School Holiday Programme will be on a Monday rather than a Wednesday, and the timing will be changed to be a more of a morning event.

The Get Set For Life kids are still doing a great job at Archer Park and putting their hand to a host of jobs.

The Purrey Steam Tram is operating well and we are about to order paint for one side of the tram where the paint has peeled off to the bare metal.

I have been informed that 21 September Archer Park will have a new [official] website that can be maintained by myself.

Good things happen to those that wait! Hopefully that is the case with C17 988... we are waiting for the bookwork to be done by QR before we can organize low loaders and cranes to bring her to Rockhampton from Ipswich.

Dennis Sheehan

House Keeping (for action please!)

Brochure Distribution: Please do not give out brochures to visitors if they are already at the museum. Visitors can take a copy from the stand themselves if they want a brochure, but I have been advised we are going through our stock of brochures much too quick.

I am looking at producing a flyer (fact sheet) which will be a lot cheaper and can be handed

to all visitors. In the meantime, the brochure and other information sheets can also be downloaded from the 'Friends' web site.

The brochure can be found at the bottom of the right hand panel of the *Home Page* (scroll down). The historical notes, etc., are on the *Archives* page.

Contractors Sign-In: Would all volunteers please ask all contractors, council workers or trades people who come to do any type of work at Archer Park to sign the volunteers' sign in book please. This is a directive of the Rockhampton Regional Council and we will soon be issued a special sign-in book for these people.

Sunday Rubbish: Could volunteers working on a Sunday please check all rubbish bins along the platform and empty them before they go home. Sometimes food is left in them and this attracts maggots.

Tram Signs: One of our Cambridge Street tram drop down signs has been pulled out of the ground and left lying flat on the ground. It looks as though our louts have been at it again, I have also seen other signs around Rocky pulled out of the ground.

Carriage Shade Repairs: Council is going to patch up holes in the Carriage Shade this week where water comes in and drops on JCS 1007. They will patch the roof for the full length of the station and other work will be done in one of the rooms. A new PVC pipe which was fitted a few months ago has been leaking badly and this has to be looked at also.

Guinea Fowl: For quite a few years now a guinea fowl has been feeding on our car park lawns. Apparently he nests at night opposite the ambulance station in Fitzroy Street and comes down to us during the day. This fowl has a good knowledge of traffic rules and waits for traffic to pass before crossing Archer Street. He sure kicks up a fuss when anyone goes near him but I do worry that some stupid person may harm him...

Dennis Sheehan

ATHRA Alert: Draft National Code for Disability Access

The Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) recently released the draft National Code of Practice for Accessible Rail for review

and comment following the first draft in March 2010.

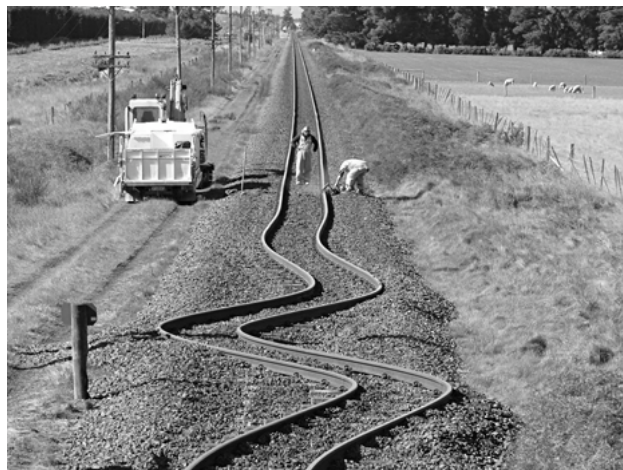
The objective of the Code that is to document solutions for independent access for people with disabilities to rail premises, infrastructure, rolling stock and communications. As this includes heritage rail operations the Code could ultimately have a significant impact upon our operations.

Safe Operation

The recent 7.1 magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks affected railway operations in New Zealand. KiwiRail Chief Executive Jim Quinn congratulated staff:

"Staff from all parts of the business pitched in and helped get the Christchurch network up and running again. Freight has kept the customers informed and recovered stranded locos with the help of Mechanical. Network staff have done a terrific job of getting track restored. Interislander has been pulling together extra sailings."

Express (KiwiRail Staff Newsletter) photo next column via David Philips.



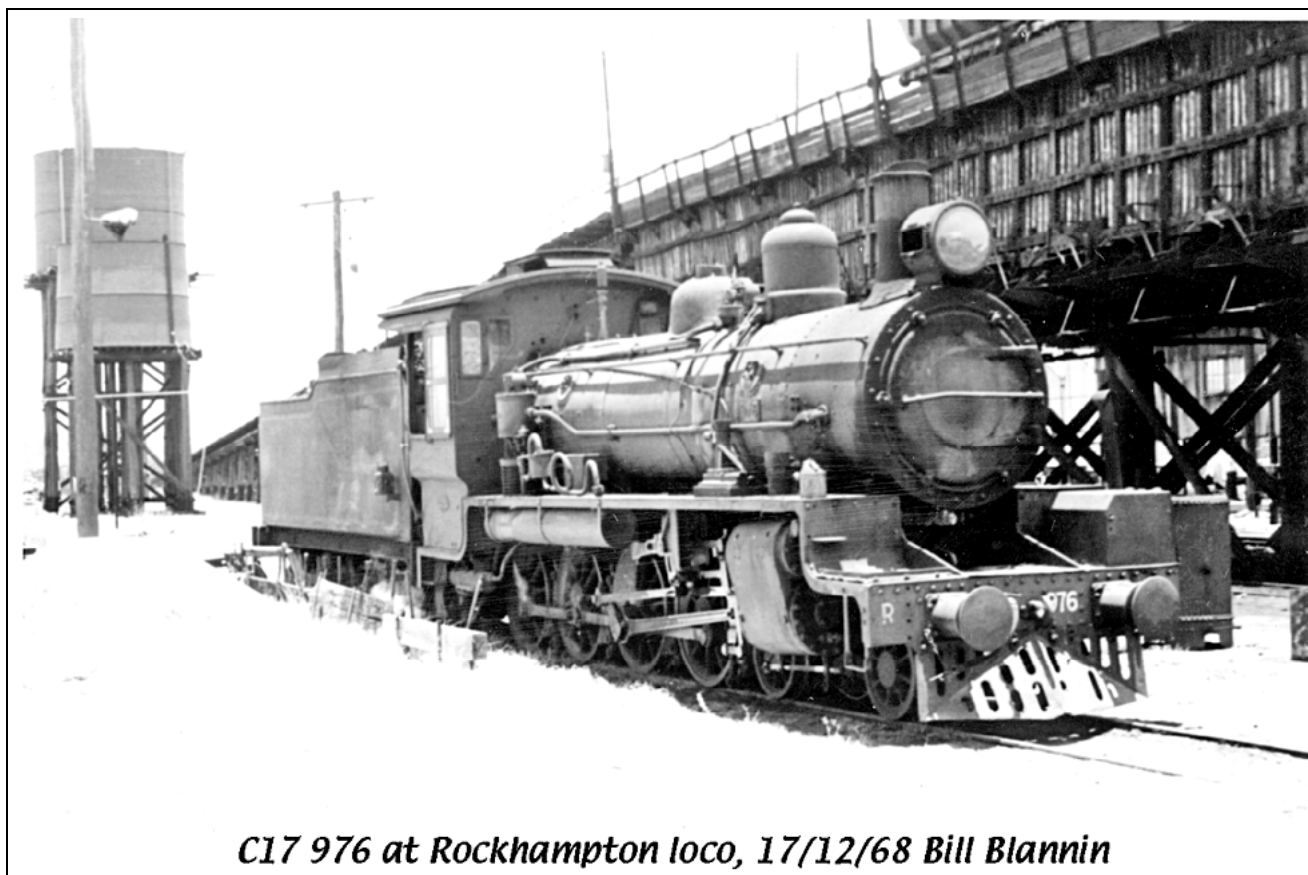
Preserving Our Rail Heritage

Several of our 'Friends' have sat with a recorder to preserve their railway recollections for posterity. If you have an interesting rail story to tell please get in contact with your newsletter editor to set a time for a recording session.

Similarly, if you have photographs that you'd be willing to share let me know and I'll get them scanned for posterity.

Finally, if all you want to do is read about the experiences of other volunteers, or to view old photos of rail operations, why not spend some time on the 'Friends' web site sifting through our archive collection!

Lynn Zelmer



C17 976 at Rockhampton loco, 17/12/68 Bill Blannin