



**Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc**

URL: [QldRailHeritage.com/ArcherPark](http://QldRailHeritage.com/ArcherPark)

PO Box 573, Rockhampton, Qld 4700 Australia

Ph: 07 4922 2774 Fax: 07 4927 0120 E-mail: [archerpark@bigpond.com.au](mailto:archerpark@bigpond.com.au)

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# TRAM TRACKS

## Date Claimers

8 Apr 2013: School Holiday Activity

28 Apr 2013: Family Fun Day

**1 May 2013: Annual General Meeting**

24 Jun 2013: School Holiday Activity

30 Jun 2013: Family Fun Day

1 Jul 2013: School Holiday Activity

25 Aug 2013: Family Fun Day

23 Sep 2013: School Holiday Activity

30 Sep 2013: School Holiday Activity

27 Oct 2013: Family Fun Day

## Friends of Archer Park Executive

President: Dot Marshall

Vice President: Wilma Coghlan

Treasurer: Ross Carter 07 4922 2774

Secretary: Phil Augustine 0429 094377

Meetings of the **Friends of Archer Park** are normally on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the refreshment room, so the **next meeting is 12:30 pm, 27 March 2013.**

## Friends Activities

Our first monthly meeting for 2013 was held at the new time of 12:30 pm on 27 February and was well attended.

From discussions, the concerns for the future included:

- Finding committed Friends/Volunteers willing to serve on the Friends Executive – or to share running the Refreshment Rooms – to replace members wanting to retire.
- Identifying projects or displays to enhance the Museum to which Friends can contribute funding support.
- Ideas for new activities or changes of displays to attract visitors.

Any suggestions for discussion at our next monthly meeting on 27 March would be welcomed.

By the time this newsletter our next most important date is Wednesday, 1 May. Our 'April' monthly meeting and our AGM have been rescheduled to avoid possible clash with the Anzac Day holiday at the end of April.

And a reminder on fees – our 'financial year' ends on 31 March and membership fees for 2013-14 are due from that date.

## Museum Activities

As scheduled, the tram resumed again for public running on 17 February. There were a couple of minor maintenance issues which were promptly fixed and tram drivers reckon the Purrey seems to have a real lift in performance. (Maybe it was that load of fresh coal Alex and Phil brought in.)

Actually the tram was fired up for gate to gate runs for 2 days prior to the official start up. These were special runs for volunteers from the Tourist Information Centres who were given a familiarization tour of our heritage sites at Archer Park, the Village and Mount Morgan. It was well worthwhile as some of these volunteers have only a vague of what we offer.

On the weekend 2/3 March the ATRQ (Association of Tourist Railways Queensland) held their tri-monthly meeting at Archer Park. Fifteen members from all over Queensland attended – notable exceptions were those from flood ravaged areas. Many members reported that, similar to Archer Park, their visitor numbers were at an all time low. It seems to be the trend right through Australia. Apart from the interesting anecdotes from various representatives there was an information session on changes occurring in the rail safety regulatory organisation nationally. The Editor has elaborated on this later in this bulletin.

David Gilchrist, a freelance journalist (Caravan World, Independent London, Australian Geographic, Outback, The West Australian and New Zealand Herald) visited the Museum on 10 March. His photographs and comments will hopefully appear in coming months.

### **Future Events**

Saturday, 6 April (evening) will be our first wedding for 2013. Around 60 guests will attend the stand up wedding.

The first Family Fun Day of the year will be held on Sunday, 28 April. As is usually the case, we will need a big roll up of Friends and Volunteers to help on the day. Dennis and Phil will contact as many as possible for the roster. At this stage we seem to have a good roll up of stall holders.

### **Museum Exhibits**

Work is continuing on diesel loco 1614. The batteries are now starting the engine but are not being recharged when the engine operates. Thanks to Bob for all his work on the batteries and generator.

The steam generator for C17 988 will be sent down from Townsville in the coming weeks. The builders' plates for each side of the cabin are being made in Mackay in plastic material instead of brass and so are cheaper. Jim is still working on freeing up all the levers in the cabin.

The QR sign from the Rockhampton Station has been donated to the Museum. It fits together like a jig saw puzzle and is made out of stainless steel piping and measures about 7' along the top. We thank QR for this donation.

### **Future Strategies**

Declining visitor numbers have been a real concern lately. A meeting is planned in April with our Council Marketing person, managers and Friends executive to see if we can come up with some strategies for events or functions or advertising to bring about an increase in visitor numbers.

### **Administrative Issues.**

Two new volunteers joined the team in March. We welcome Garry McLennan and Graeme Cave to Archer Park.

Volunteers who have received a new Blue Card should advise the updated number to the team leader so our records can be kept up to date.

Council regulations require all tradespeople, contractors, and RRC staff to sign the Visitors' Book in the office. If in doubt as to who signs the rule of thumb is anyone who normally doesn't work at Archer Park except for paying visitors. Please do your part to ensure this happens.

### **Rail Safety Terminology**

An overview of rail safety terminology and acronyms as the rail safety environment evolves from state-based to a consistent national system.

**NTC:** National Transport Commission of the Commonwealth government: [www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au)

**ONRSR:** Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator, opened 20 January 2013: [www.onrsr.com.au](http://www.onrsr.com.au). [See this site to download Rail Safety National Law 2011, etc.]

Queensland will transition to ONRSR late 2013 or early 2014. What were operational audits will become focussed compliance inspections.

**TRSA:** Transport (Rail Safety) Act 2010, Queensland legislation

**RRU:** Current Queensland government Rail Regulation Unit

**SMS:** Safety management system. A SMS is not strictly required for Accreditation but it is required before commencing rail transport operations.

**Audit:** desktop exercise as SMS evolves to ensure SMS agrees with rail safety legislation

**Compliance Inspection:** on the ground verification that operations conform to SMS

**RSO:** Regulator-based rail safety officer

**RTO:** Rail transport operator

**RSW:** RTO-based rail safety worker

**Accreditation:** The approval process, with related documentation, that allows a RTO to provide transportation services. Existing Queensland Accreditations will be recognised under the new Rail Safety National Law for a two year transition period, after which full compliance with the RSNL will be required.

**Unaccredited Railway:** Small lengths of track for static displays, plinths, etc., owned by Heritage Villages, Museums, Councils, etc. Normally if rail transport operations occur they need to become accredited.

## 2013 Flood Events

The Bundaberg Railway Museum and the Australian Sugar Cane Railway (Bundaberg Botanical Gardens) were severely affected by the recent flood events. In both cases it will take many months for restoration of their facilities and we extend our best wishes in their restoration efforts.

The Sugar Cane Railway had all their locos fully covered with floodwater and mud and all will have to be totally cleaned and put back together again before operating. As well their track has been badly damaged. The Museum was the depository for a good portion of the ballast from the nearby North Coast Line. The flooding destroyed many of the paper exhibits, library materials, etc.

The scarcity of accommodation and eating facilities, as well as the sites still being restricted, means that coordination is required for anyone volunteering to assist their efforts: Graham Hibberd (grhibberd2@bigpond.com) for the Museum and Wendy Driver (poppy52au@yahoo.co.uk) for ASCR.

Below: Track, ballast and rolling stock was washed away, and locos, wagons and buildings were inundated at Bundaberg's Australian Sugar Cane Railway. Recovery is in progress and on Saturday 16 March the Childers Rural Fire Truck came to the Society's aid, using 60,000 litres of water to clean the line where No 1 was stored, the loco shed wall in that area, and the track where the carriages are stored. ASCR photo.

Bottom: Brisbane modeller Chris Westbrook's 5" gauge model of C17 988. Chris took the photo.

