



Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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Volume 8 Number 5, **October 2014**

TRAM TRACKS

Date Claimers

26 October – Family Fun Day

See below for Christmas Shutdown dates

2015

1 March – Family Fun Day

17 April – School Holiday Program

26 April – Family Fun Day

29 April – Annual General Meeting

28 June – Family Fun Day

29 June – School Holiday Program

6 July – School Holiday Program

23 August – Family Fun Day

21 September – School Holiday Program

28 September – School Holiday Program

25 October – Family Fun Day

An important task in August was a submission to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for a substantial grant to:

- Upgrade the sound system which is reaching the end of its reliable life
- Restore floor coverings in the 2 coaches which are badly deteriorated and damaged by bugs
- Re-upholster seats in the GM's Coach.

There was a lot of work involved particularly for our Coordinator in determining what jobs from our wish list could be approved, seeking quotes, and compiling justifications for our submission. We should hear late October or November whether our bid is successful. If it is successful work will be done in the first half of 2015.

Activities

For our regular Family Fun Day at the end of August we lost a few of our regular stall holders and some volunteers were missing through illness. Visitor numbers were disappointing but it was still a fairly good day.

For the 2 school holiday activity days at the end of September, visitors were again disappointing.

On a brighter note we had 3 large school group tours. Each was well organised with our guides leading small teams through the various exhibit areas and we re-introduced a segment on safety around railways. Overall our little customers enjoyed the experience and so did our volunteers!

At recent meetings the Friends have been planning optimistically for next year's main activities and the dates are listed above.

Note that we have introduced an extra Family Fun Day on 1 March 2015 to start the year.

Just a reminder at this stage that our next Family Fun Day will be on 26 October 2014 and we

Friends of Archer Park

President: Phil Augustine 0429 094 377

Vice President: Lyn Pegler

Treasurer: Ross Carter 0407 038 065

Secretary: Helen Hansson

Museum Coordinator: Janice Seymour

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, 22 October 2014.**

President Phil's Notes

The Friends Association has now completed its first 6 months managing and operating the Museum for the Rockhampton Regional Council. It has been pretty full on for some and a learning experience for us all – but with the positive and helpful support of our volunteers and quite a few council officers – we have done well so far.

will be checking in due course who is available to help.

Promotions

Our coordinator has continued to do heaps of work getting information on the Museum out across the region. Lately the Museum featured several times in local TV and newspapers. Our leading guide, Bill Head, appeared as a "Local Hero" on Channel 7. Local radio 4RO interviewed Janice and Phil on the Morning Program. In addition, Janice has negotiated a weekly Saturday night segment on 4YOU for which she and John Cole have been editing audio tapes recorded some years ago by Lynn Zelmer, and adding new stories from our members of their railway memories.

Christmas Party

It was resolved recently that our Christmas Party will be a luncheon starting at 12.30pm on Saturday 29 November 2014 at the Victoria Tavern in Lakes Creek Road. Some entertainment will be provided and it is proposed to have our usual Lucky Door and Multi-Draw Raffle. For this some help will be needed with donations of small prizes. At this stage we expect the cost to members will be \$10, and for non-members and guests estimated cost is \$17. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend so we can all catch up for the festive season.

Christmas "Shutdown"

To give early warning of our Christmas schedules we propose to close down the Tram after running on 30 November 2014. Tram Crew volunteers will be needed to strip and clean the Tram and Billard on 1 and 2 December 2014 ready for inspection by the Contractor and repairs as necessary by the Dooley Street workshop staff. It is hoped that the servicing of these units will be completed by Christmas.

The Museum itself will close after business on the 24 December 2014, and reopen for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 28, 29, 30 December. It will be closed again over the 1, 2 and 3 January 2015 and reopen again on Sunday 4 January 2015. Start-up date for the Tram is yet to be determined.

The Museum

Some of our enthusiasts are looking to improve the appearance of the station and particularly the

platform by re-establishing gardens and potted plants and trimming hedges. This is to be encouraged and we will have to ensure that some volunteers are available to maintain these gardens in the future.

Darryl Hawker, our expert in negotiating support from local firms, has arranged for ARC Fencing to provide a generous donation of fence panels to make more substantial and tidier safety barriers around the Museum area.

Training

We have been advised that our existing qualified Tram Crew need to have their Basic Boiler Tickets upgraded to Advanced Boiler Tickets, and one or two others will require full training to ticket certification for operation of the tram. As members of the Association of Tourist Railways Queensland (ATRQ) we have bids in for training from a Registered Training Organisation at a substantially reduced cost. However dates have yet to be advised.

Trackside Safety Training for Tram and Track Crews is also required and it seems that this can be provided for ATRQ members free of charge. We have also asked for this training to be provided and again have yet to hear a date when this can be done.

A Volunteer Induction Program has been developed which is more relevant to our particular circumstances in operating this Museum and over the next few months each of us will have to undergo this induction program just to refresh our knowledge.

Personal Snippets

Bill Head – our leading guide – his face and his voice have appeared so often lately in various media we will have to line up to get his autograph. Note he just turned 85 years a couple of weeks ago so he is wearing well!

Henry Dicoski and Darryl Hawker – have been under restoration surgery on knees and other parts – we hope to see them jogging around the platform in the near future.

Blair Jamieson – sadly our old stalwart is not improving in mobility and has now been admitted to Bethany so we need to try to visit him on a regular basis and keep him updated on our progress.

Alex Limkin –has just returned from a Canadian trip – and is telling stories to make us envious.

Finally...

We must pay tribute to all the volunteers and the support they have given us over the last couple of months. However, more volunteers are badly needed to help in all our tasks – it would be

helpful if you can pass the word amongst your relatives, neighbours and friends to see if others can be recruited.

Phil



C17 957 and C17 247 at Rockhampton, 1 November 1966. Weston Langford photographer. 108165



Promotional photo taken at AP for the QR Troop Train to travel from Winton to Brisbane next April just before the Anzac 100th anniversary. Morning Bulletin © photo, Chris Ison photographer.