



Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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TRAM TRACKS

Date Claimers

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

Janice led from the start – making the plan – organising sponsorship and media promotions – coordinating with QR and Council – taking bookings and selling tickets through the Museum. The help provided by our volunteers plus supporters from across the city and from QR was awesome.

This was the biggest and best event in the Museum's history and was popular with the community at large. All seats available on the steam train adventure were sold out in a couple of weeks.

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, 4 March 2015.**

The Twilight Steam Train Adventure

Most of you know of QR's celebration of 150 years of rail with a beautifully restored train of steam loco and wooden carriages travelling the old Sunshine route up the coast.

For the Rockhampton visit Council offered APRM in early December the opportunity to organise a Twilight trip as a fundraiser for our restoration works. Our Coordinator jumped at the chance – thus our normally quiet December-January became a whirlwind of activity.

Archer Park Rail Museum

Twilight Picnic Steam Train

Departs Rockhampton Railway Station to The Caves and Return (Drinks for Sale)

Thursday 22nd January
(Boards 6pm for 6.20pm departure)

Ticket MUST be presented for Entry to the Train and to receive Food/Drink. No Prams or Strollers on Train.

ADULT \$45

1 Drink

CHILD \$30
2-13 yrs

PICNIC MEAL

1 Drink

SOFT DRINK

Special diet requirements must be arranged at time of booking.

The importance of the event was recognised in higher echelons – honoured guests on the train included our community leader, Mayor Margaret Strelow, and our representative in federal parliament, Michelle Landry.

So the exercise was a success – customers enjoyed the experience – the Museum was given tremendous promotion within the community – and APRM raised much needed funds.

The big lesson for us was how much can be achieved if we're positive and really go for it.

What a coincidence! Our old stalwart, Bill Head, volunteered to help on the Twilight Train in the Dining Car. It turned out that this car, now restored, was the one he served on nearly 70 years ago as a junior Railway employee. The ABC reporter captured the story.

Heritage Grant

More good news for APRM came from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. We have been awarded a substantial portion of the grant monies we applied for some time ago. This funding will allow the upgrade of our soundscape which is to be done by contractor.

Coming Events

As a follow on from the Steam Train event, APRM will host a morning tea visit for the QR Heritage Volunteer Crew to show our appreciation of their help. This will be on Monday, 23 February as the train stops on its return from the north.

We hope all our volunteers, plus other supporters, will come – and we are looking at giving them a short ride on our steam tram.

Please let Janice know if you can come and if you can help with the catering.

Also on that day we expect a tour group of rail enthusiasts to visit for afternoon tea. We will need a few helpers for that group too.

Another important event is our first Family Fun Day for the year – on Sunday 1 March. We'll be contacting all the usual suspects to ensure we have a full roster of volunteers for the various tasks.

With this publicity we have had lately it should be a good day.

Rollingstock

The Purrey Tram and Billard Loco Tractor were stood down in December for their annual inspection, certification of boiler, repairs and servicing. All went well and the first running day for 2015 was Sunday, 25 January. The crews were happy with their performance.

Unfortunately restoration works proposed on the Purrey (mainly painting) have not yet been done, but will be in the coming weeks.

Training

Training our tram crews for Advanced Boiler Tickets started with a weekend in Mackay on 17/18 January. There will be a further weekend training in Mackay on 21/22 February followed by examination and assessment on 17/19 April in Rockhampton.

It is fairly heavy going for "old" brains but we'll get there.

Meetings

There was no members' monthly meeting in December so the meeting on 28 January was an opportunity for those attending to catch up with what has happened or is planned. Minutes can be provided if you need an update.

One issue that was discussed was the pending visit on Wednesday, 25 February by the Department of Transport's Rail Regulator. There will be training and audit involved which would clash with our monthly meeting for February. It was therefore resolved that the meeting be postponed until **Wednesday, 4 March**.

The Legacy meeting for 25 February will not be affected.

Membership – please let your friends, workmates and neighbours know that Archer Park is a great place to come and do volunteer work, interesting variety of jobs, great atmosphere, great company!

Venue Hire

We now have a new Venue Hire Guidelines brochure. This will be distributed to various places in Rockhampton and is available from the website.

Please spread the word that we have an air-conditioned venue for celebrations and meetings of all kinds.

School Excursions

Please spread the word to your local schools that they can come and visit Archer Park Rail Museum as part of the school curriculum. We have groups visit on a regular basis and we get very good feedback from all the schools.

Around the Museum

Although we have been busy, progress still continues on Museum maintenance and restoration.

Sleepers are being replaced, the big QR sign and the steam generator for the C17 loco are being restored, safety fences tidy up and weed and grass growth are being dealt with.

In conclusion, all in all it's been a busy but satisfying time for APRM and thanks go to everybody involved.

Letter to the Editor

Take a bow, Archer Park Volunteers!

I travelled on the Twilight Steam Train Picnic organised by Archer Park Rail Museum. It was a fantastic event and one of which Archer Park Volunteers and Coordinator, Janice, should be proud.

The volunteers did an amazing job not only in the preparation for the trip but particularly in servicing the passengers. I lost count of the number of times they walked the aisles of the VIP carriages offering drinks and food to everyone and making sure everything was in order.

They were a first class front line for Archer Park Rail Museum in this community event and I say "Well done and thank you!"

I'm sure the event wouldn't have happened if it weren't for the mammoth effort of Janice Seymour who, in my opinion, deserves the title of "Wonder Woman".

Thank you all.

Aurilea Augustine (Satisfied Customer)

Q150 Train at Rockhampton Station for the Twilight Picnic Excursion

Ian Tyrrell photographer

