



**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 4936 8191 Fax: 07 4927 0120 E-mail: [archerpark@bigpond.com](mailto:archerpark@bigpond.com)

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# TRAM TRACKS

## Date Claimers

2015

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

## Friends of Archer Park

President: Phil Augustine 0429 094 377

Vice President: Dennis Sheehan

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, 24 June 2015.**

## Friends' Association

As scheduled, the Annual General Meeting was held on 29 April 2015 and annual reports were presented. The Treasurer's and President's reports are included in this issue. In summary, the Friends' Association has had a successful year with many notable achievements and improvements.

The outgoing 2014 Committee and Coordinator Janice were thanked for their efforts by Jan Wallace who presided over the election of the new executive members. These were all familiar faces – Phil Augustine - President; Dennis Sheehan - Vice President; Helen Hansson - Secretary; Ross Carter – Treasurer.

The meeting also awarded life membership to Jenny Schulz and Brian Egan – Congratulations to you both.

## Activities

The Museum has done well over the last two months with a half dozen venue hires and a couple of tour groups. By far the most significant was the choice of our facilities for a meeting of the Premier and Cabinet on 24 May. Coordinator Janice and Ross Carter were in raptures over how well this went – see Janice's report.



Ross and the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, during the Community Cabinet visit.

Let's not forget the Family Fun Day at the end of April which was very successful with over 560 visitors. The volunteers available on the day were kept very busy and are to be commended for their effort.

We are about to start promotions and rostering for School Holiday Activities and the next

Family Fun Day at the end of June so please lend your support if you can.

### **Projects/Grants**

We have received a substantial grant from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for upgrade of the Museum's soundscape. Work has started off site with the ordering of equipment by the company doing the work.

For the restoration of floors and upholstery in the carriages, the Rockhampton Regional Council has awarded us a grant from the Community Assistance Programme. These funds, together with those raised by the Steam Train Adventure, will allow completion of the work which is to start in July after the school holidays. We have an agreement with the Career Employment Australia group to help with our labour input.

As a result of safety concerns, it has been decided to install a set of stairs for access to the diesel loco cabin. Quotes were called and we expect an engineering company to construct these in the near future.

### **Rail Regulator Visits**

Two teams from the Rail Regulators Office have visited the Museum recently.

The first group advised on meeting various requirements under the Act including Audit and Asset Management and improving some of our procedures and policies.

The second team, a few days later, examined our compliance with rollingstock management and governance issues. Again we identified a few areas we need to improve.

Overall, we found the brief sessions to be helpful as the teams appreciated we were committed to doing the right things but with limited resources.

### **Training**

After changes in WH&S legislation, we have been obliged to upgrade the credentials of our Tram Drivers to Advanced Boiler status. Four of our volunteers have now completed the course and assessment and have their new licences – John Kennedy, John Cole, Alex Limkin and Lance O'Brien. Good work men!

### **Around the Museum**

Over recent weeks we have been able to tackle many of those clean ups and improvements which require a fair bit of labour. Our Coordinator arranged help from Career Employment Australia and their teams have done wonders to cleaning up the tracks, bunkers, paths, gardens etc – and have agreed to help with further labour tasks.

At long last we have the donated steam generator for the C17 Loco restored and fitted atop the boiler. Many thanks to Jim, Gary, and Bernie for their efforts.

A noticeable "addition" to our exhibits is the Camp Wagon standing on the concrete pad. It's not ours – we are storing it for a few weeks for the Swanbank Rail Heritage Group while they arrange suitable transport.

That's it for now.

*Phil Augustine*

### **Premier & Cabinet Visit to Archer Park Rail Museum**

On the 24th May 2015 we had the pleasure of having a visit from the Premier and Cabinet whilst they were in Rockhampton for the Community Cabinet meeting.

The Premier & Cabinet held a stand up reception for around 200 people. This event had all the Qld MP\_s as well as Director-Generals and senior staff of many government departments. We also had Mayors, Councillors and business representatives as well as School Principals, Emergency Services employees and volunteers, and other members of the community.



Janice and the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, during the Community Cabinet visit.

I had the pleasure of greeting Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and I am pleased to say that we had very good feedback about Archer Park from everyone, including the Premier and Cabinet members.

*Janice Seymour*

### **President's Report 2014/15**

For the Friends of Archer Park Rail Museum, 1/4/14 to 31/3/15 has been a year of challenges but also one of notable achievements.

A year ago we took over management of the Museum for the Rockhampton Regional Council and Janice Seymour joined our team as Coordinator. There was a serious learning curve to follow – led by our Treasurer and Coordinator and their consultants – to implement business systems to suit running of the Museum. All business and administration systems are now working well – and we have achieved a good result for the year as the Treasurers report will show.

Early in the year we developed Safety Management Systems for operation of the Museum rollingstock. With these in place we duly applied for and were granted Accreditation as a Railway Transport Operator by the Transport Department. Since that time, the Friends have been responsible for operation of the rollingstock and scheduling of maintenance – this has gone well.

In mid 2014 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection hosted an event at the Museum which led to a donation and an invitation to apply for grant funding. The application process was arduous but we were successful and recently received a sizeable grant for restoration of our sound system.

During the Christmas holiday months – with support from QR Heritage and Rockhampton Regional Council – Janice was able to lead in organizing the Twilight Picnic Steam Train Adventure as a fundraiser for the Museum. Another success. Funds from this event are for further restoration on our coaches – and we are optimistic in thinking Council may contribute a further grant to complete the last of this Project.

Another achievement has been the promotion the Museum received over the year – from media exposure, information drops and networking with tourism businesses, schools

etc. There would be very few in the region who do not know of our Museum now. And we are becoming known across the State. This promotion has resulted in renewed interest in venue hire and tour groups. We are, in effect, aggressively addressing the tendency in recent years for a drop off in visitor numbers and we seem to be doing well

Finally, I must commend the efforts of the Executive, the Coordinator, our Tram Tracks Editor, and all the crews and volunteers for their support over the year in entertaining visitors, maintaining and improving the Museum and its exhibits. Without the whole hearted input of you all the Museum could not be the success it is becoming.

*Phil Augustine*

### **Summary Treasurer's Report 2014/2015**

The 2014/2015 had been an interesting year with us taking over the management of Archer Park Rail Museum on behalf of the Rockhampton Regional Council.

This has involved setting up and managing budgets and becoming an employer, setting up workers compensation, public liability and volunteer insurances, as well as having to pay wages doing BAS for our GST and PAYG payments with the assistance of our accountants.

This also meant setting up some new accounting systems and bank accounts to process EFTPOS sales and make Debit card purchases and use internet banking which is more cost effective than writing out cheques.

This has been a steep learning curve for all of the executive and the coordinator.

Visitor numbers for the year were 4012 and would have been higher had it not been for the cyclone. The trading accounts fundraising is down from previous years. Soft drink/ water sales are up on last year, while merchandise sales are on par with previous year.

Both general admissions and venue hire income were above our budget predictions along with our Twilight Train Fundraiser which all helped to increase profits over budget projections.

Anyone requiring further explanation should contact the Treasurer.

*Ross Carter*