



Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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TRAM TRACKS



2018 Date Claimers

- Sunday 25 February: Family Fun Day
- Wednesday 4 April: School Holiday Activities
- Wednesday 11 April: School Holiday Activities
- Sunday 22 April: Family Fun Day
- Sunday 24 June: Family Fun Day
- Wednesday 4 July: School Holiday Activities
- Wednesday 11 July: School Holiday Activities
- Sunday 26 August: Family Fun Day
- Wednesday 26 September: School Holiday Activities
- Wednesday 3 October: School Holiday Activities
- Sunday 28 October: Family Fun Day

Friends of Archer Park

President: Dennis Sheehan, 0409 287 786
 Vice President: Ricky Weir
 Treasurer: Ron Truss
 Secretary: Merrill Fossey

Safety Officer: Ian McCully

Museum Coordinator: Janice Seymour

Meetings of the **Friends of Archer Park** are now normally on the **fourth Tuesday** of the month in the refreshment room, so the **next meeting is 12:30 pm, 25 January 2018.**

Archer Park Rail Station Reborn!

Archer Park's refurbishment is now complete and looks a million dollars. The new colour scheme for the station is classic cream with Indian red trim, and lime white on posts and beams and metal lace work at the front of the building.

Everyone at Archer Park is over the moon with the new paint job and it has put everyone in good spirits.

The carriage shade (roof) over the tracks has also been completely renewed.

Other Museum News

While we were closed a small group of *Jobs Queensland Trainees* came to paint the shelves and stairs in the ticket office as it had been quite

some time since they had last been painted. The exhibits were moved off to prepare the surfaces and paint; the trainees then came back a week later to return the exhibits to the shelves. It was a big job, but worth it as the Main Museum room is now looking very good!

The kitchen at Archer Park has also had work done to repair water damage from the leaking roof — paint bubbled and architraves collapsed. The gyprock ceiling, walls and architraves have been patched or replaced and repainted.

Following our closure from 2/10/2017 to 9/11/2017, and a well earned rest for the volunteers, the Museum is now open again to the public. During the shut down the Coordinator and management committee still staffed the office, completing Safety Management System audits and other necessary work to keep the Station compliant with ONRSR. Janice had two weeks annual leave during the closure, heading off to China for her holiday.

Wednesday 15 November saw two representatives from ONRSR undertake a Track Maintenance and Procedures audit. We received helpful feedback for minor improvements from the process and were pleased to hear that we are compliant and doing a good job.

The yearly compulsory tram boiler inspection and maintenance will commence on 11 December. It has been decided to operate the Tram for an extra Sunday on 3 December due to this short delay in beginning the maintenance.

We've had good visitor numbers since reopening the Museum and the tram operating again.

We are hearing that many people are viewing information on our Facebook page. Thanks to Debbie also for the work she does on Facebook posting about our exhibits and volunteers, and helping keep everyone up to date with what is happening at the museum. Janice shares our posts with other pages to extend our coverage.

The Management Committee have agreed that the Museum will close for the Christmas break from Friday 22 December 2017 and reopen on 2 January 2018.

Hopefully we'll have a special February Family Fun Day or grand opening of the refurbished Museum, but this will be determined by the

State Government and Rockhampton Regional Council.

The Exhibit Story Sensors are working well and getting good feedback from visitors. We thank Peter from the Heritage Village for his help with showing us how to get the sensors working.

New volunteers Kimberley Jackson and Shaun Hudson are settling in well with Kimberley learning the ropes in the ticket office and Shaun learning how to be a Tram conductor. Another new volunteer, Bill Pandi, is doing a great job keeping the gardens pruned and looking good. Well done guys.

President's Report

You could say I am the happiest guy on the block now the station has been restored to QR's mid-twentieth century colours and the carriage shade roof replaced.

I have been researching the origins of the drop down hand basins found in QR coaches to determine if they were made in Queensland. Neither the curator of the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney nor the Ipswich Workshops Museum uncovered anything of note but the Wunderlich factory at Redfern Sydney did manufacture similar basins from 1910 to 1927 for NSW Rail and Victorian Rail. Our conclusion is that QR, or QGR as it was known at that time, likely also got the basins from Wunderlich. The pressed metal or art nouveau design was the earliest type produced. Later they dropped that design for just a silver finish.

A query from a member of the public asked why Port Curtis Junction was called a junction. I researched this and e-mailed back to her with the information.

I would like to thank the volunteers and coordinator for all their work in getting the museum back to normal after the refurbishment, well done everyone.

As this newsletter will be the last before Christmas I would like to wish the Coordinator, my management team, the volunteers and members a *Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*. Thank you all for a fantastic year of hard work and dedication and I look forward to working with you all in 2018.

Dennis Sheehan



Archer Park Rail Museum, Christmas Party, 25 November 2017