



Bundaberg Steam Tramway Preservation Society Inc trading as

Australian Sugar Cane Railway



Triple heading on Australia Day 2009

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

It is with pleasure that I present the 33rd Annual Report of the Bundaberg Steam Tramway Preservation Society Incorporated. 2009 proved to be another record breaking year—the third in a row.

Here's what happened:-

MEMBERSHIP Membership continued to grow during 2009. Lorne Brack and family were welcomed as members together with Brad and Ashley Knauth. Doug Wainwright joined in July and Roly Spry joined in November. At the Annual Meeting in 2009, Margaret Atkinson, David Laing, Jeff McPherson, Chris Williams were recognized for being members for twenty years, Maree Atkinson for ten years, and Brian Wilson, Lynn Zelmer, Robert Prickett and Ron Stitt for five years service. Junior members Josh Wormington and Nathan Williams were congratulated on their appointments to leadership roles in their schools.

MEETINGS The University of the Third Age's room in Woongarra Street was the venue for the monthly meeting of the Society during the year. Opinions and input from members are encouraged at the well attended meetings. Alan Beidermann attends meetings to advise on Quality Assurance matters—this assistance is greatly appreciated. Social functions were held on March 14, June 13, September 5 and December 5. A sausage sizzle was usually followed by a night ride on the train around the gardens. This gives members and their families the opportunity to meet and chat with more than fifty people attending each function.

ROLLINGSTOCK - LOCOMOTIVES

***Invicta* Leeds Fowler 11277 O-6-2T**—Following a report by Welding Inspector, Ron Pozzan, safety valve bonnet was NDT tested and repaired by a pressure welder. *Invicta* (referred to as the clock train by the children who visit) worked for several months during the year.

***Germany* Orenstein and Koppel 0-4-2T** *Germany* operated during the school summer holidays and worked till end of February. The ash pan was then repaired.

No3 Bundaberg Fowler 0-4-2T. No 3 shared the workload with *Invicta* during the year. Welding repairs were undertaken on the side tanks and the area was repainted.

No1 Bundaberg Fowler 0-6-2T No 1 is in dry storage.

Planet Planet underwent regular maintenance during the year.

Valdora Baldwin Diesel The air compressor was repaired; The engine was removed, reconditioned and replaced between Easter and June school holidays. Charlie Leslie arranged the work with Bundaberg Diesel Specialists and ensured the work was completed in time for school holiday running. Valdora ran during the fire bans in October and November.

Carriages The carriages were inspected weekly and any repairs documented and completed. Some repairs included the roof of each carriage revarnished' and vinyl on seats repaired. A procedure for axle testing was drafted and circulated for comments.

FACILITIES

After nearly eighteen months of negotiations the lease with the Bundaberg Regional Council was signed on December 18 by the President and Secretary on behalf of the Society. Before the lease could be signed the area around the buildings had to be surveyed and the lease sent to Department of Natural Resources for its approval also. The lease is for a twenty year period. The public liability insurance had to be increased to meet Council's requirements and the Society paid for Council's legal fees. The Society is indebted to David Baker of Baker O'Brien and Toll for continuing to be the Society's Honorary Solicitor. The area, in the track maintenance facility, that was previously used by Council Garden Staff was lined and sealed and when painted will be used as a training facility and also a meeting room.

Tear drop banners were purchased early in the year and displayed each running day to advise visitors to the Gardens that there is a train operating that day.

KEY ACTIVITIES

With the train operating 95 days and general maintenance undertaken every Tuesday, no major restoration work apart from the overhaul of Valdora's engine was planned for the year. Ross Driver, Maintenance Co-ordinator, prepared work orders for Annual Inspections and Tom Dowell documents regular maintenance as well as preparing works orders for maintenance listed for attention by crews on operating days. Energies were also channeled towards the track extension. Storage facilities have been labeled with contents within and an inventory com-

piled of all items on site.

Secretary, Ross Driver, spoke to the Councilors of Bundaberg Regional Council about the history of the Society and the implementation of the Quality Programme. He addressed media reports with them regarding Work Place Health and Safety and Queensland Transport.

When the Community Cabinet meeting of the Queensland Government was held in Bundaberg, two members met with the Minister for Transport to discuss accreditation. In December two staff from the Transport Department visited the Society.

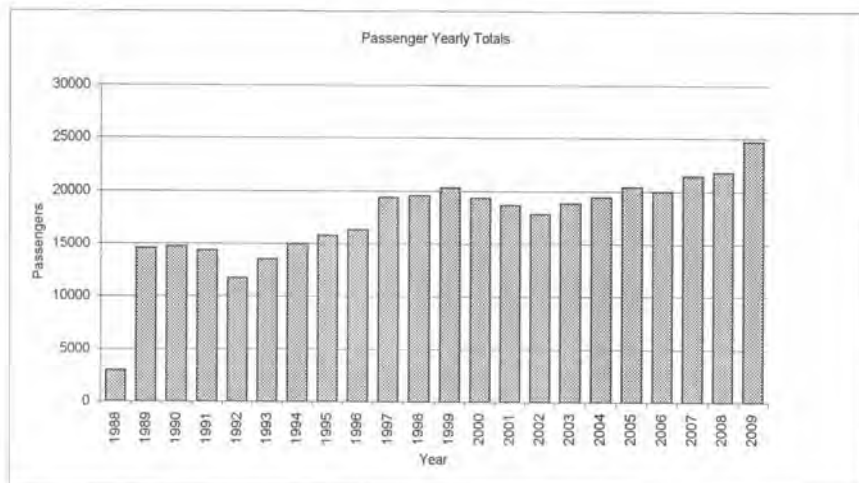
Permanent Way Maintenance Each week the permanent way is inspected by Ron Atkinson to monitor its condition. When required a maintenance day is organized. Members are contacted and if available assist with the work—during the year 9 sleepers were replaced and fish plate bolts were replaced in some sections.

Permanent Way Extensions During 2009 approximately 700 metres of track was built and laid in sections—this included a road crossing and lots of fill to have the completed line about high water level. Just 100 metres and one road crossing remain to be done to complete the circuit. Ron Stitt, Vice President and Cane Railway Engineer, has supervised this work.

Passengers 2009 saw the record set the previous year fall. 24706 passengers were carried on 95 running days. This now makes five years in a row where more than 20000 passengers were carried. Many thanks to the members who work on the roster to provide this service to the community. Thanks to members who are able to assist at short notice when required. To date 361,090 passengers have been carried since operations began in 1988.

Quality System— Monthly meetings, apart from the general meetings,

YEAR	TOTAL	Run Days	Avg/Run Day
1988	2941	14	210
1989	14564	66	214
1990	14721	68	216
1991	14358	68	211
1992	11700	68	172
1993	13510	68	199
1994	14976	68	220
1995	15832	68	233
1996	16365	68	241
1997	19436	68	286
1998	19583	68	288
1999	20358	68	299
2000	19403	69	281
2001	18726	69	271
2002	17876	71	252
2003	18893	71	266
2004	19455	70	278
2005	20453	78	262
2006	20027	75	267
2007	21431	94	228
2008	21776	94	232
2009	24706	95	260
2010	0		
2011	0		
2012	0		



have been held to discuss the progress of the Quality System. Members with expertise in certain areas are invited to these meetings so their input can be used in preparing work instructions, check lists and procedures. Training logs have been produced and issued to members who are recording their hours in order to have the requirements for authority to operate. An easy access area has been built near the sign on book and risk assessments, check sheets and other paper work is in clear labeled storage facilities with manuals in acrylic hangers. Training and information days were held on June 20, September 12 and November 28. These were very well attended and morning tea was provided. The Steam Locomotive Driver Work Instruction was worked through on two days and the trial Induction Instruction was also undertaken. In November the axle testing information was discussed and demonstrated.

Assets and Stores

A Public Address system has been purchased and installed at the station so that approaching trains can be announced.

All chain blocks and slings were tested and tagged by Bundy Lift and Test.

Welding screens have been built so that Work Place Health and Safety requirements are able to be met.

Funding for data projector has been received from Bundaberg Regional Council. When purchased the projector will be installed in the training room.

New curtains for the windows in the station have been made by Nola Dowell.

As members now bring their own lunch a new fridge was purchased for the station so food and drinks are cool for crew members on hot days.

AFFILIATIONS

Association of Tourist Railways Queensland Inc.

At the meeting in Rockhampton on February 28 David Twiss received the award the Society won in 2008 for Invicta's Restoration. The Society has ceased its membership of the state organization and is investigating joining the National body

Botanic Gardens Attractions

As these meetings are held on a Tuesday morning, the Society is not represented. Nina Higgins gives an update from the Society and gives feed back from the meetings.

Promotional Activities

Australia Day 2009 saw all Society's locomotives out and about. What a great day! Visitors to the Gardens saw a great spectacle. Many photographs were taken and Channel 7 news aired the story.

May 15 - No 3 operated for Museums Alight—50 invited guests enjoyed drinks and eats prior to a night train ride.

September 25—The Annual Teddy Bear's Picnic was held in the gardens and the train ran—anyone with a teddy rode free. This was well attended.

October 10 - Bundaberg was host city for the Tourism Awards and the train was asked to operate. No 3 ran and carried visitors to the city around the gardens.

The train also ran special runs for Senior's Day in September; Queensland Day—Q150; Hobart reunion on October 15 and 16; schools including Walkervale State School; Suncare Community Group; Make a Wish; and delivered Santa to the Autism Group's Christmas party.

During the year Friendship Force asked for the train to operate and on each occasion they kindly gave the Society a donation. The train also was hired for weddings.

The International Rail Conference was held in Ipswich from October 15 to 17 and junior member Nathan Williams applied and was selected to be a speaker. Nathan represented our Society and spoke about the future of Rail Heritage.

December 10 was **Pageant of Lights** and with many thanks to Bundaberg Sugar and the Bundaberg Regional Council No 3 was part of the parade. It was on Bundaberg Sugar's low loader under steam. The crew of Ron Atkinson and Keith Geddes (complete with Santa hat) brought many smiles with the whistle tooting. Ten members walked along side the low loader and handed out free passes to the children along the way.

WHAT'S UP THE TRACK?

It was expected that 2009 would see the track extension complete but wet weather hindered the progress. 2010 may see the project complete—weather permitting. Now that the lease has finally been completed funding will be sought to extend the locomotive storage facility. Germany is awaiting restoration work and this may commence.

THANKS

As a volunteer organization operations would not be possible without the assistance of the following:

Lynn Zelmer maintains the Society's web site. He updates the information promptly and is a keen supporter of the Society.

As the Society operates in the Botanic Gardens, a facility of the **Bundaberg Regional Council**, members work closely with staff who work in the Gardens and their friendly, courteous attitude is greatly appreciated.

Businesses in the city also assist: Thanks to **Rechenberg Security** for monitoring the premises; **Anchorage Welding** for being available to assist with pressure welding as required; **Wilson Enterprises** who always have the tools and spares that are sought; **Ron Pozzan** who donates his time as Welding Inspector. **Bundaberg Sugar** continues to assist the Society with the loan of items such as the low loader for Pageant of Lights and measuring equipment. Staff and workers at Bundaberg Sugar also give freely of their time to advise and assist when asked by the Society.

Management Committee

Patron. Bob Truscott continues to pop in, usually on Sundays, as his health permits.

Committee Member Ron Atkinson is often seen at the loco storage facility during the week—either inspecting the track, checking and cleaning the storage facility, maintaining the firewood for light up and putting out the rubbish bin. Keith Geddes is usually with him.

Vice President Ron Stitt, Cane Railway Engineer with Bundaberg Sugar, is supervising the track extension and is involved with the development of the Quality System.

Treasurer Chris Williams, manages the finances and has the accounts set up on the computer and can provide statistics and other information very promptly. Chris attends Quality System meetings when available. Chris is also the Society's electrician—testing and tagging and making sure the lighting meets Work Place Health and Safety standards.

Secretary Ross Driver works on the Quality System and completes all correspondence and minute taking for the Society. He has prepared Annual Inspection documentation.

The Society is not just the few on Management Committee. The Society is each and every member. Members often say they do not do much but every little job undertaken is important. Some people have more time than others to give but all efforts are appreciated. The team effort given by members be it a running day, a maintenance day or a line maintenance day is excellent. Time taken to talk to visitors who ride or to show a child how the train operates all help to provide the quality product of customer satisfaction. Together members provide a quality product of a safe ride—be it on a diesel or steam hauled train. Thank you for your efforts.

**WENDY DRIVER OAM
PRESIDENT**



Thanks to Ross Driver, and David Twiss for photographs used in this report.



