



Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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TRAM TRACKS

Tram Repairs

The Purrey Steam Tram was still not operational early February as all eleven superheater tubes have been removed. Three weeks before we closed the tram down for the Christmas break a superheater tube blew out. A decision was made to remove the tubes and get new ones made. This is the first time in ten years of operation that the tram has blown a tube, water or steam.

As yet the new tubes haven't arrived and our advertised date to commence running the tram (14 February) is fast approaching.

The new air horns have been installed on the tram and we are all looking forward to hearing them being used when the tram is up and going again. They will be certainly be much louder than the horns previously on the tram.

Progress on JCS 1007

Sleeping Car JCS 1007 has all it's lights blazing and the fans are also working since the new transformer was installed. The new transformer converts 240 volts to 24 volts, which most of the early carriages were run on. Car 434 will be next to have its wiring checked and wired up to work off the same transformer. When both are joined together the 10 amp system will be converted to 15 amps to take in the extra load on the system.

Volunteer Activities

Volunteers clocked 414 hours for January, plus the unrecorded hours put in by the executive, web and newsletter editor, etc.

Please check with Dennis to see if your Child Related Employment *Blue Card* record is up-to-date. When you get a new card please let Dennis know the new card number and expiry date so that Archer Park's records are correct. Since it's unlawful for a volunteer to work at any venue without a Blue Card, a person without one may be asked to leave.

It was sad to see Aurilea Augustine, Secretary of the Friends, resign both her position on the executive and as a member of the Friends. Aurilea has so much on her plate she had to decide which activities to let go. We will certainly miss her smiling face around Archer Park and all the assistance she has given to helping make Archer Park work.

Our treasurer Ross Carter and wife Cheryl have returned from a holiday in Canada which they thoroughly enjoyed. Ross said they visited the Prince George Railway & Forestry Museum (complete with miniature railway) in British Columbia (<http://www.pgrfm.bc.ca>), and the day they visited Jasper it was -20° C.

Lynn and Amy Zelmer visited Canada and Denmark over the break and Lynn reports that several of the cities visited have automated subway, skyway or light rapid transit systems. He found it quite interesting to sit right at the front of a driverless train.

Variations in the amount of redundancy and security in the control systems were also interesting—for example the barriers on some that kept passengers away from the tracks. Full automation is obviously possible in a closed system but is less feasible when there is the possibility of adverse weather conditions or public access to the transport corridor.

Notes from the Coordinator

We are at long last getting some new brochures. It's been over 12 months since we have had any brochures to hand out. The new brochures have a new look and design about them.

Even though we are not running any rolling-stock at present it doesn't mean we can become complacent about rail safety or risks around the museum, I urge everyone to look at every situation, especially the risks we take in our everyday work around the museum. I welcome

any discussion on rail safety, visitor safety or volunteer safety at Archer Park.

I have had Peter, our new volunteer, go through our PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) products and make a list of new items and replacements and I am happy to say we now have a full issue of PPE products for every type of work we do at the museum.

We had a break in at the museum over the Christmas period: a lump of tree branch was thrown through a window on the platform, smashing it in a thousand pieces. The funny thing was nothing was taken and no other damage was sustained.

The Director of the Ipswich Workshops Museum, Andrew Moritz, apparently visited Archer Park while I was on holidays.

The security monitor in the kitchen has sustained water damage and is away with the electricians getting checked out. Water had come through the ceiling and dripped on to the monitor, which gives a picture of who is coming through the front door, and the microwave.

Our first school visit is coming up on the 18th February, the Rockhampton High School Southside has organised tours of Archer Park every year and it is always great to see them.

Early February a coal train derailed just west of Rockhampton at Wycarbah, about a half hour drive away between Stanwell and Westwood. Officials seem to think it was caused by a washout under the line because of the rains, the heaviest in 17 years. Cleaning up the site and repairing the double-tracked line is proving very difficult, two Pacific National locomotives and several coal wagons were derailed, power line were brought down and the track was damaged, but no train crew were injured in the derailment.

Web Site Update

A number of new items have been added to the web site since the last newsletter, including several dozen images from David Parker's collection. Most of the images are in colour, and are all available from the *Photos* page.



QR C17 966 circa 1997 being removed from Archer Park for transport to ZigZag in NSW for restoration and potential use. Unfortunately full restoration was not possible due to its condition, having been on display in a Coohee Bay park for some years. David Parker photographer.