



Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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TRAM TRACKS

Date Claimers

2014 Activity dates will be advised when Archer Park's schedule has been determined by Rockhampton Regional Council. Consult the Friends' web site in 2014 for more current information.

Friends of Archer Park Executive

President: Alex Limkin

Vice President: Bob Rallings

Treasurer: Ross Carter 0407 038 065

Secretary: Phil Augustine 0429 094377

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, 22 January 2014.**

Friends' Matters

Sadly we've lost our long time stalwart Dot Marshall, who passed away on 18 October. Dot will be badly missed but she has enriched the lives of all who have been associated with her over the years.

Another 'loss' is that of Dennis Sheehan. Because of de-amalgamation issues he has decided to retire as our Council Coordinator/team Leader. More from Dennis later in this issue. We hope Dennis will continue as a Friend and Volunteer as opportunity offers in the future.

We sincerely thank you, Dennis, for all the support and guidance (and putting up with) you've given us over many years.

A most important issue for us at present is future management of the Museum. It is understood Council did not receive any formal expressions of interest, so RRC Officers are examining options for the future. The Friends' executive committee has had meetings with them to provide information for such options.

One more loss from our Friends is Mick Treasure, who has been our main tram driver on Sundays for the last year or so. Mick has moved to Cairns – we wish him the best for the future.

On a final note – we wish you all a happy and healthy Festive Season – and hope to see you refreshed and eager in the New Year.

Vale Dorothy Marshall



Dot cutting the cake for the Tram Centenary, Sunday 7 June 2009.

Our Friend Dorothy Marshall died on 18 October 2013 in Rockhampton.

Dorothy (Dot) had been a Friend of Archer Park for over 18 years, and during that time she served as President on two occasions and Vice President for many years.

Her dedication to Archer Park was exemplary, and her energy and humour will be so missed –

from the Refreshment Rooms and the whole museum complex.

Dorothy gave of herself to her community, not only through the Archer Park Museum but also through 60 and Better activities including leading a walking group and playing croquet.

During her latter years she was in her element, living beside her daughter Gail and husband Neil, growing her vegetables and enjoying country living.

We have been blessed to have known and loved Dot and are grateful for all she did and all she was to us.

May you rest in peace, Dot.

Museum Activities

Our Family Fun Day on 27 October was another good one with over 400 visitors supporting us. As usual, we had a great roll up of Volunteers to assist, including our boss, Jan Wallace, and Rhonda Nielsen (who was in period costume) from Rockhampton Heritage Village. For variety we had performances from the Rockhampton Pipe Band (in their kilts) plus many of our usual stall holders and a great display of old cars.

We expect we will continue with these days next year, with the first one in April, but cannot specify dates until confirmed by the new management.

One function we've looked forward to is our Friends' Christmas Dinner at Archer Park for which an outside caterer was arranged. It was at 3:00 for 5:30 pm on Saturday, 23 November.

The Legacy Ladies Christmas Lunch, for which our trusty kitchen ladies catered, was 27 November – our last function for this year.

Council has not scheduled the big all Volunteers thank you function this year but are sponsoring a Morning Tea for Heritage Friends and Volunteers. This is to be held at the Shearing Shed at the Heritage Village at 10:00 am on 11 December. Archer Park Friends have resolved to attend and maybe meet up with many other volunteers we rarely see.

Around the Museum

The Purrey Tram was closed down after the Family Fun Day to allow for its annual inspection and maintenance to be done in time for the changeover at the end of year. So far it

looks OK with only the lining of the fire box to fix.

Accreditation with the Department of Transport for the Museum to run the Tram and other rollingstock will be an issue for the new operators, as will number of qualified tram crew. We hope the Tram will continue to run often as it is a major drawcard.

The Tamper Section car was finally certified for operation recently and has run within the Museum precinct on recent Sundays.

Two blue plastic destination boards on the diesel loco were stolen recently. Over the past two years we have lost a battery charger, two destination boards, a fluro tube and a small fluro light. We are also looking for a missing rear destination assembly.

We are all in wind down mode now – the Museum itself will be closed from 24 December to 2 January 2014.

Farewell from Dennis Sheehan

It is with a heavy heart that on 22 December I say farewell to the Archer Park Rail Museum. For the past twenty one years I have volunteered and managed the Archer Park Rail Museum, seven years commencing in 1992 as volunteer President with my late wife, and from the 9th of the ninth 1999 working for the then Rockhampton City Council as the Arts and Cultural officer at the Archer Park Station and Steam Tram Museum.

A lot has happened at Archer Park and many projects have been achieved and there is still more to be done. We have a wonderful museum with many people making comments about how they enjoyed their visit, and many coming back again for a second look.

Over my twenty one years at the museum I have seen many volunteers come and go and have always classed the volunteers as my extended family. The saddest event that has happened in my career was the passing of Dot Marshall, that took the wind out of my sails. There were a lot of memories to look back on with Dot and the eleven years she and Mavis worked together fund raising, working the kitchen, and many other projects.

I must thank all volunteers, past and present, that have put their heart and soul into the

museum. Without you we wouldn't have a rail museum.

My thanks to all the council staff I worked with over all these years and the assistance they have given me to get the job done. Also I must thank all my Council coordinators, managers and administration staff, plus the people who have stood in for me on my days off.

In summing up I would hope Archer Park goes on for many years to come and doesn't fall

victim to new cost cutting and staff reductions. Thank you again to RRC and Volunteers for a fantastic twenty one years.

Dennis Sheehan

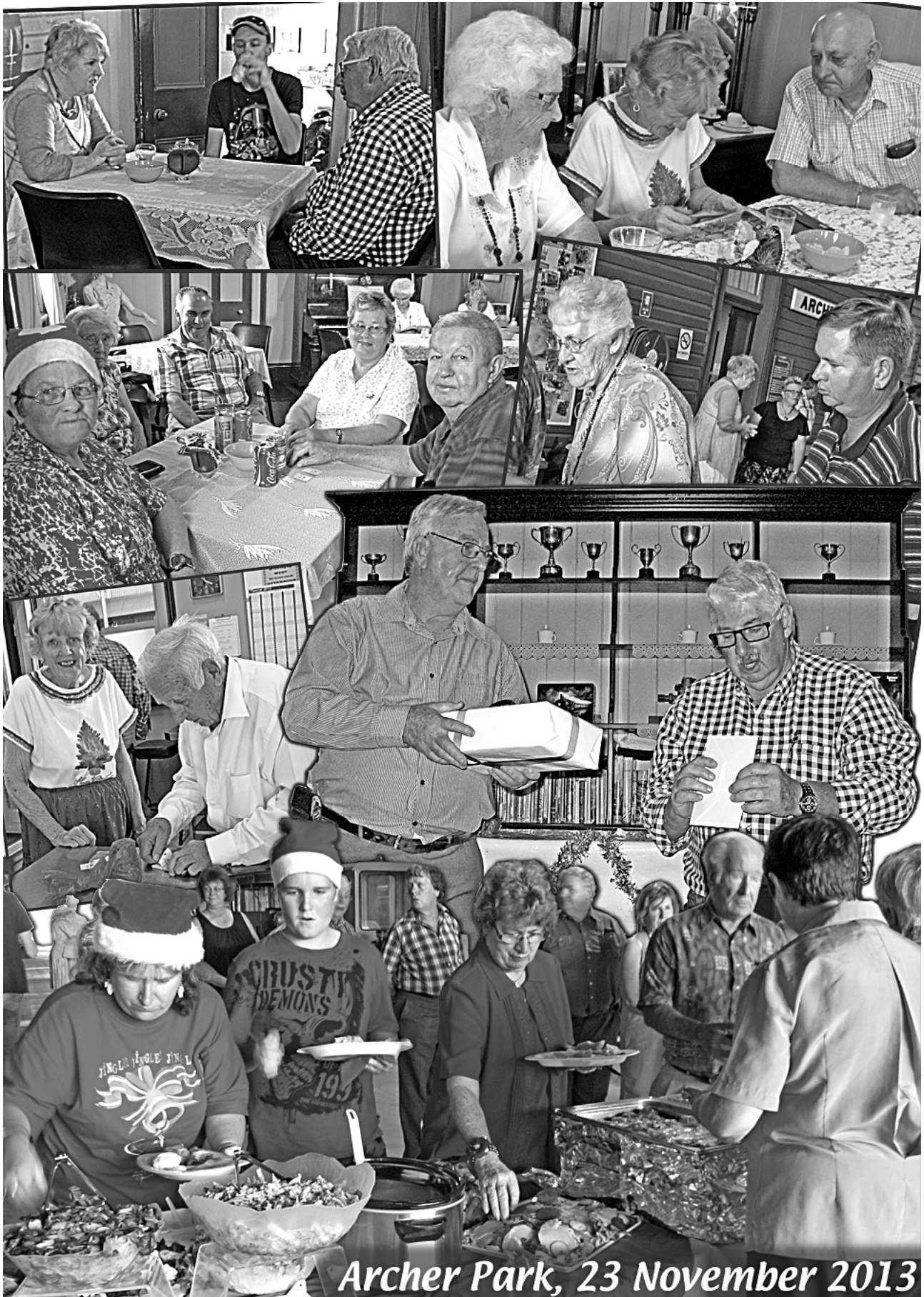
Team Leader Archer Park

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Above and below: Images from the Family Fun Day, 27 October 2013.





Archer Park, 23 November 2013

Scenes from the combined Friends of Archer Park Christmas Party and Friends' Farewell for Dennis Sheehan, Archer Park Rail Museum, 23 November 2013.