

TRAM TRACKS

Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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Date Claimers

Annual membership: \$10 now due

2 February – Tram resumes Sunday operations

31 March – Friends' Membership deadline

27 April – Family Fun Day

30 April – Annual General Meeting

29 June – Family Fun Day

24 August – Family Fun Day

26 October - Family Fun Day

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, 26 February 2014.

Friends' Matters

Welcome to the New Year 2014 – we hope you've enjoyed the break over the last two months.

During this period, future operation of the Museum has been the main issue for Archer Park Friends and our Council Managers. One thing we all want is that the Museum will remain open.

The main option for future operation which will satisfy Council "Community Management" Policy is for the Friends Association to manage the Museum.

This is a whole "new world" for us, so the Executive Committee has been meeting with Council Officers to define a proposal which is within the limited capacity of the Friends and satisfies Council management. Any such

proposal will still need the final approval of the Regional Council.

At the January meeting of the Friends Association the Executive reported on, and discussed what's been happening with the many members present. Discussions also emphasised our limitations with age, health, and numbers available for the new challenges. However, the majority resolved that the Executive continue with developing a proposal satisfactory to Friends, to operate the Museum on a trial basis.

While the future is being resolved - hopefully by the end of March – the Council will continue to pay the salary of a part-time manager and limited expenses. Ross Carter is acting as that manager or Team Leader.

The Museum started up again on 2 January, but is now open with reduced hours — 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday to Thursday and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Sundays.

The Friends meeting also reviewed a list of likely events for the year ahead and these are listed at the start of this Newsletter. School Holiday activities which operated in past years and involved the Tram may not happen due to limited numbers of Tram Crew so they have not been listed.

The Purrey Tram passed all its inspections and is to start normal Sunday operations from 2 February. Operating every Sunday may be subject to review when we see how crews cope with the roster.

In wrapping up, let me agree we face a new challenge to operate the Museum for the future. What most of us do now will not change much but we will be working for the Friends – not the Council. Let's all approach the future in a positive way and contribute ideas and discussions which will improve the performance of the Museum.