



## 2018 Date Claimers

Wednesday 3 October: School Holiday Activities

Sunday 28 October: Family Fun Day

### Friends of Archer Park

President: Ricky Weir

Vice President: John Kennedy

Secretary: Ian McCully

Treasurer: Merrill Fossey

Safety Officer: Ian McCully

Rollingstock Supervisor: John Kennedy

Track Supervisor: John Kennedy

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, 23 October 2018.

### Coordinator's Report

It was very exciting to finally get the new stand to display our Qld Gallery and Museum Achievement Award for Sustainability that we won in 2016. It is now on the shelf in the Refreshment Room where everyone can see it!!

August had highest amount of visitors since 2013 with 1040 people through the door in the Month!! Our promotions are working.

We had a very good Family Fun Day at the end of August 2018 with 501 visitors through the door. Unfortunately only 10 of them were stall holders. Stall holders say they could come, then phone or email at the last minute to say they couldn't come.

We plan to do a Facebook post to try to grow the group of stall holders to ensure that the visiting public gets more entertainment and activities to look at on the day. Please pass onto friends and colleagues that we are looking for stall holders - sorry no food vendors.

Our Signal Masts are now refurbished and up and looking great! Our boys took the signal arms and lights off, then repainted and refurbished

them so they look good. And of course put it all back on prior to them being lifted into place.

We have several trainees working towards their positions. Michael Feldman-Budarick is spending his Sundays that he is not rostered as a Conductor learning how to be a Tram Driver and Shaun Hudson is learning to be a Conductor. Keep up the good work guys!

The flanges in Cambridge and Archer Street were cleaned out by RRC in early August, keeping things in tip top condition.

We have been successful in our Community Gambling Grant for \$5562.70!! This put power to the CWM21, including light fittings and power points. The electrician has been and completed the work and it is looking good in there!

We had Grade 2 of the Rockhampton Grammar School visit. Of course they asked for their special friend - Bill Head - who they love, to be there on the day! Alex, Michael and Cliff were also tour guides. Bill has just now celebrated his 89th birthday and we all wished him a lovely day!

We received our outcomes for the *Best 100 Queensland Tourism Experience Report* that is done by Queensland Events and Tourism. We found that we received 91% for the experiences that our visitors had when they visited the Museum!! In the comparisons with other regions that was extremely high - which is great!!

Unfortunately we do need more interaction on our Social Media to be put on the list of the Best 100. More reviews on Facebook and Trip Advisor are needed, and we hope that by 2020 we will have a website where we can also offer online bookings. So if any of our friends and volunteers can go onto our Facebook page and give us a review that would be great. We are also working with RRC to get access to respond to any Trip Advisor comments.

Our thanks to Kate Talbot for coming to the Museum to do some Social Media Training with

me and Peter Mackay and Aimee Bartlett for their assistance.

We have a CQU student - Jessica Cathcart spending time with us on a Wednesday to gain knowledge about the Museum processes. Jessica is studying History and Writing and is currently helping to replace much of the Museum signage.

We are planning to have a Mystery Night fundraiser in March 2019. Merrill Fossey is in

charge of the event, and we hope that our volunteers can help her prepare and of course on the night.

This will be a murder mystery event with 50 tickets for each of the 2 nights. A local theatre group will also participate in the activity. More info to come!! Contact Merrill if you are an enthusiast and would like to be involved.

*Janice Seymour*

