



## The Friends of Archer Park Rail Museum, Rockhampton Queensland



## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

### Archer Park Station

The Archer Park station building and carriage shade is Heritage Listed. The station was originally opened for traffic on 11 December 1899, the same month the railway bridge over the Fitzroy River was opened. It was closed as a rail station in 1970, when it became a freight depot. It was extensively restored and opened as a museum on 11 December 1999.

Archer Park Railway Station was busier than the [old] Stanley Street Railway Station for many years, and the railway mileage pegs were rerouted from Stanley Street to Archer Park because of its popularity.

The main traffic at Archer Park station during the forties and fifties was for the very popular seaside trains to Yeppoon and Emu Park.

### Purrey Steam Tram

One of Archer Park's main attractions is the Purrey Steam Tram. Purrey Steam Trams were also used in France, Brazil, Argentina, Portugal and Spain, but this is the only operational tram of this type left in the world.

The original Purrey Steam Trams were built in Bordeaux, France. Rockhampton City Council had nine trams and six trailers, all fueled with a mix of coke and coal.

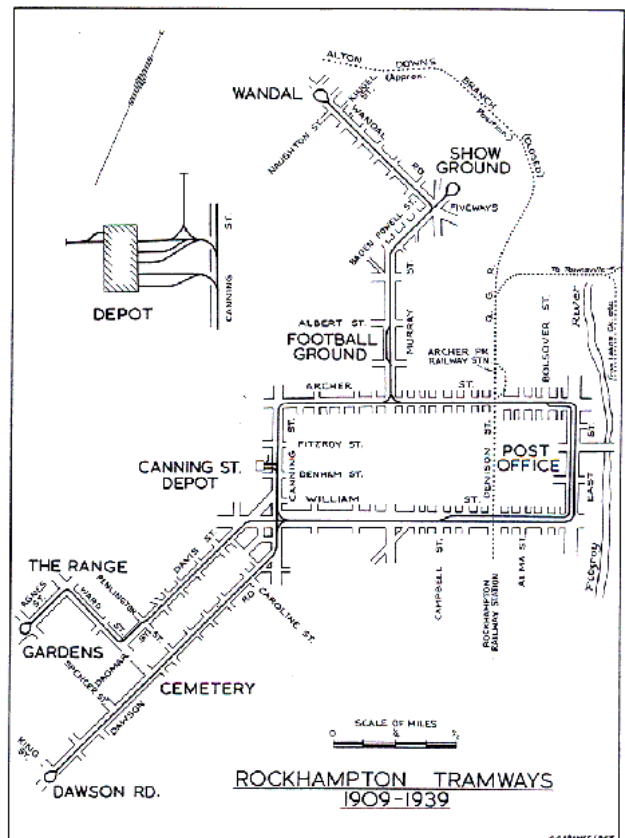
Archer Park's tram was rebuilt from railway plans at the old bus depot on Canning Street by the then Rockhampton City Council using day labour. It was officially commissioned on 5 June 1988 and ran on QR's Dennison Street tracks for the official opening.

Purrey Steam Trams ran on the streets of Rockhampton (south of the river) from 5 June 1909 to 24 June 1939. The trams did not enter the Archer Park Station precinct, but there was a tram stop nearby. QR also ran Purrey Steam Trams for services to Lakes Creek and the old Alton Downs/Ridgelands line west of Rockhampton.

The Council's Purrey Steam Trams travelled 4,526,932 miles during their thirty years of operation. They carried 40,514,932 passengers and collected 356,476 pounds in fares.

122

THE AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Map from Knowles, JW (June 1974), *The Rockhampton City Tramways*, ARHS Bulletin 440, p 122. Further details can be found in the Museum's *Tram Room* or in the downloads section of the Friends' web site.

### Locomotive C17 988

The C17 steam locomotive 988 was built by Walkers, Maryborough in 1953. The loco and its tender are on loan from QR and will be repainted in 'Brown Bomber' colours (brown and green), have missing parts replaced, etc.

During its working life the locomotive was based at Cairns and was originally going to be restored and used on the Kuranda line. However this didn't happen and the locomotive was used

in a Movie World theme display before coming to Archer Park in 2011.

### **Locomotive 1614**

The English Electric built diesel locomotive, DEL QR 1614, is on loan from the ARHS(Qld) museum at Rosewood near Brisbane. One of 18 similar locomotives built at Rocklea, Brisbane, in 1963 and decommissioned in 1991, it often visited Archer Park during its operational life.

### **Billard Locotractor**

The French-built yellow Billard Locotractor 11E2 was not used as a sugar cane loco! Diesel powered, it was built at Tours in 1948 as a mining locomotive and with two others was used by Citra Constructions on mining and dam projects around Australia. This loco is used as the shunt engine for the Purrey Steam Tram.

### **Special Car 434**

QR's Special General Manager's Car 434 is on loan from QR. It was built in Ipswich (1903) as sleeping car 360 but was converted for the Central Division's use in 1929-30 and renumbered 434.

### **Sleeping Car 1007**

The QR sleeping car JCS 1007 is on loan from a private rail enthusiast. It was built in Ipswich in 1921 and saw extensive service between Brisbane and Cairns before its use between Brisbane and Dirranbandi. Bill Head, an Archer Park volunteer, remembers working in this

coach as a Car Attendant before he became a Station Master.

### **Mannequins**

The mannequins are made of fibreglass, dressed in real clothes sprayed with a special resin to harden them, then painted with a car body paint. They are set in the 1930s era of this station and were made by Brandi Exhibitions, Geebung, Brisbane. They are not from Expo and Brandi Exhibitions did not make the Expo mannequins.

### **Hands-On Displays**

The Museum has several interactive displays for children. There are two telephones, one in the Station Master's office and the other in the signal box, where the No 19 signal lever can be pulled to raise or lower the red and white signal between the station and Archer Street. As well, the Morse Code keys can be tapped (but not hammered please).

### **Refreshment Room**

The piano in the Refreshment Room was built in 1863 in England and restored by Terry Kirwan of Rockhampton in 2000. The music you hear as part of the 'soundscape' was played on this piano by well known Rockhampton pianist, Kev Doyle.

The Friends of Archer Park (volunteer Museum workers) take pride in offering all visitors a complementary tea or coffee and bickies.



Archer Park Rail Museum from Cambridge Street. [lz 4487]

**Thank you for visiting the Archer Park Rail Museum**