

Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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ARCHER PARK

RAIL MUSEUM

2020 Date Claimers

Saturday 21 November Friends' Christmas Luncheon at APRM

Friends of Archer Park

President: Ricky Weir

1st Vice President: John Kennedy

2nd Vice President: Dennis Sheehan

Secretary: Elaine Alexander

Treasurer: Paula Roberts

Facility Safety Officer: Shaun Hudson

Rail 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 **Wednesday** of the month in the refreshment room.

Coordinator's Report

Volunteers

We need more volunteers! We are trying to get more volunteers by using Facebook and now we have received \$700 grant money from RRC to do some radio advertising and interviews. If you know anyone that has some free time we would appreciate you suggesting they come and volunteer at the Museum.

We do have several prospective volunteers that are about to come on board over the next couple of weeks - Jessie to clean and Shelly to help with office work

Covid-19 restrictions

We are still operating under the Covid-19 Tourism and Accommodation Industry Plan. This means that we can still only have 50 persons in the Museum at one time - including our volunteers.

We are legally obligated to try to remind all visitors and volunteers that they must social

distance and hand sanitise. Thanks to all the volunteers for trying to comply with the Covid-19 restrictions.

Whilst it is difficult to remember, as long as we all try and help each other to follow the rules we will help to keep our volunteers and customers safe.

Visitor numbers

We have had some very successful Sunday operations for the 6 weeks of our advertising from the Adapt Grant. But unfortunately our numbers through the door are still down nearly 1,300 as at the same time last year - due to our 10 week closure.

We cannot hold Family Fun Days due to the Covid-19 restrictions for seats on the tram, which reduce the number of people that can be accepted through the door. Even if we have bookings we would have to keep numbers down to 225 over a 5 hour Family Fun Day so that all visitors can ride the tram.

Our School Holiday attendance has been good for the first week or so with 87 on the Wednesday Tram operations and 104 on the Sunday, with good numbers other days.

Government support

We have been lucky to get tax relief and the Jobkeeper subsidy since it came out, but won't be sure if it will continue after September until we get our figures for the last 3 months to compare with the previous year.

Annual Track Inspection

John Kennedy and the Coordinator have done the Annual Track Inspection, spending around 8 hours out on the track to document for the Sleeper Replacement Plan and then John completing APRM 12 - Annual Track Inspection. We now have a new Turnout Inspection form, which is an improvement of our documenting our turnout information.

Rollingstock Maintenance

We are still waiting for the Billard to return after its gearbox repairs. We have QR Maintenance staff coming to measure the flanges on both Tram and Billard to ensure that they are "fit for purpose".

Men's Toilet Block

It is very pleasing to see the refurbishment of the men's/disabled toilet and tool shed now complete. This was a major repair from termite damage.

Closure of MyState Bank

With the closure of the local branches of MyState Bank we are working out where we will put the funds from the account that we always called the "Friends" money - around \$15,000 usually. We are checking into interest rates and fees and will confirm the decision of which bank at the next management meeting.

Grants

We were successful for our *Significance Assessment Grant* with *Community Heritage Grants* - \$5,500, and a *RRC Small Project Grant* receiving \$700 towards some radio advertising recruiting volunteers. We have 2 grants we are waiting to hear if we are successful - *Tackling Tough Times Together* for \$20,000 to design the

exhibit in the Camp Wagon CWM21 and a *Supplementary Volunteer Grant* for some IT equipment for the office. We also have a couple of donation and sponsorship requests out just waiting to hear back.

Rockhampton Regional Council Contract

The Management Committee has commenced the process to negotiate the next contract as the current contract ends on 30 June 2021. This is a process that must take into account the financial changes that have occurred since the first contract commenced on 1 April 2014. It is to be noted that the members of the "Friends" have worked very hard over the years to improve the Museum, and its operations.

Friends' Christmas Luncheon

Due to the financial situation we are unable to splash out with a fancy Christmas function this year. Instead we'll have a quiet Covid-Safe luncheon at Archer Park itself — mid-day Saturday 21 November.

The Friends will supply basic salads, ham and chicken. Members are asked to bring either a plate of nibblies or a dessert. BYO beverages except tea and coffee.

Janice Seymour

Archer Park Rail Museum

RAILWAY STATION

ARCHER PARK

Wants You!

Would you like to meet new people, enjoy a new hobby, and help keep one of Queensland's most impressive museums a fun and exciting place to visit?

Ask about becoming a volunteer today!

Be a Driver or Conductor on our Purrey Steam Tram!

Restore Exhibits!

Be a Tour Guide!

Work in our office!

Help in the kitchen!

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Contact us at archerpark@bigpond.com

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