

Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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ARCHER PARK

RAIL MUSEUM

2020 Date Claimers

Monday 21 December -- Saturday 2 January:
Museum Closed

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

Message from the Coordinator and Management Team

We want to congratulate all our members/volunteers on getting through a tough year. With Covid-19's 10 week closure it has been a different and interesting one! We hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all here in 2021.

Christmas Party

The "Friends" Christmas party went off well on 21/11/2020 with lots of fun and food!! Around 30 members attended and went home very full!!

Visitor Statistics

At the end of October we had recorded around 1,100 people fewer through the doors than at the same time last year. We had a big and fast influx for the first couple of months after we opened again, helped by the paid advertising through

the *Adapt Grant*, but as the weather warmed up the visitors to the Museum have again slowed down.

Volunteers

Our *Small Projects Grant* to advertise for more volunteers has been very successful. Richard, Anthony, Jean and Janet have started with us in various positions, and this will make a big difference to the workload of the few that have been here during the Covid-19 period. Great to have you on board!!

Thanks must go to Dennis Sheehan for working hard to assist with all the public enquiries about rail history. He is kept busy making phone calls, emails and research to answer all the questions asked of us.

Covid-19

We have all been learning how to deal with our visitors and operations in a Covid Safe way. The most recent update of easing of restrictions means that we are going on 1 person per 2 square metres rather than the previous restriction of only 50 persons in a Museum.

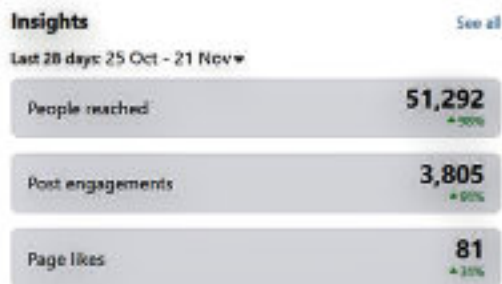
This means that whilst now our visitors are lower, as it is our non-peak period, we can have around 135 persons on the Museum platform and will be able to have a lot more visitors in the Museum for any event we might plan!!

Jobs Qld

Thank you to *Jobs Qld* who came and assisted us with a clean down of the building, removal of over ballast from the track and some general garden work.

Promotions and Events

We have been very lucky to have good helpers with our Facebook page over the last couple of years. Emma Barnes is now taking care of our Facebook page and we are getting a lot of contact from her work. The stats below, all up from the previous period, show the activity we are getting.



We have started making plans for some promotional events in 2021. Firstly we hope to have a Crime Stories event (similar but not the same as the Murder Mystery) – perhaps over 2 nights in February 2021. This will be a small fundraiser. We are also planning an APRM Car Park Markets in April.

Keep an eye out for our future events. These will be very important to top up our income, after a very low year in 2020.

Port Bay Express newsletter

Dennis was kind enough to write a story on Archer Park Rail Museum for the Port Bay Express newsletter. This went to many rail groups in Victoria and around Australia, and is good promotion for us.

Bitumen of Car Park

The Rockhampton Regional Council has plans to bitumen our car park from the start of February 2021 and it will take around 6 weeks. This will make it really easy to get in and out of the car in the rain, and certainly present the Museum much better.

Rollingstock Maintenance

The Billard has been a problem this year, with the gearbox breaking down and a major gear breaking into 3 pieces (see photos). Now the wheels have not passed an inspection and we need to get them repaired to be “Fit for purpose”.

We are very appreciative to QR Maintenance at Gracemere for their assistance with this. To do the work on the Billard they had to use a crane to remove the Billard to the RRC Workshops.

Rail Safety Auditing

Thankfully the 2020 SMS and Document Review are finished for the year. I would like to thank the Management Team members, Tram Crew and Safety Officer for their assistance in getting this important work completed. With 114 APRM documents, around 70 of which are rail safety, as well as the 30 Element SMS Auditing process, it makes for a busy year for this work.

Collection Catalogue

We are currently doing a major audit of the Exhibit Catalogue, Paperwork Catalogue and Library to make sure they are correct and up to date. This entails many hours of checking the location of every exhibit piece to see if it is where it is supposed to be and tidying up any outstanding problems with the spreadsheets.

Grants

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with our *Supplementary Volunteering Grant* – we were advised that there were so many applications and not enough funds to go around – maybe next time! We were also unsuccessful with the *Tackling Tough Times Together Grant* for the Camp Wagon Project.

We have just submitted a *BMD COVID-19 Recovery Community Assistance Program Grant*, applying for \$5,000 for advertising from January 2021.

Janice Seymour

