

Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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ARCHER PARK

RAIL MUSEUM

2021 Date Claimers

Tuesday 26 January: Closed/Australia Day

Friday 26 February: Historic Crime Puzzle
Night

Saturday 27 February: Historic Crime Puzzle
Night

Friday 2 April: Closed/Good Friday

Sunday 4 April: Closed/Easter Sunday

Monday 5 April: Closed/Easter Monday

Wednesday 7 April: School Holiday Activities

Wednesday 14 April: School Holiday Activities

Sunday 18 April: Car Park Family Fun Day

Monday 26 April: Closed/ANZAC Day

Monday 5 April: Closed/Easter Monday

Monday 3 May: Closed/Labour Day

Wednesday 30 June: School Holiday Activities

Wednesday 7 July: School Holiday Activities

Wednesday 22 September: School Holiday
Activities

Wednesday 29 September: School Holiday
Activities

Monday 4 October: Closed/Queen's Birthday

Monday 27 December: Closed/Christmas Day

Tuesday 28 December: Closed/Boxing Day

Friends of Archer Park

President: Ricky Weir

1st Vice President: John Kennedy

2nd Vice President: Dennis Sheehan

Secretary: Elaine Alexander

Treasurer: Paula Roberts

Safety Officer: Shaun Hudson

Rollingstock Supervisor: John Kennedy

Track Supervisor: John Kennedy

Museum Coordinator: Janice Seymour

Meetings of the Friends of Archer Park are now normally 12:30pm on the fourth **Wednesday** of the month in the refreshment room.

Coordinator's Report

Welcome Back in 2021: Welcome back to Archer Park for the New Year, we hope you all had a happy and safe holiday period. We have lots of big plans for the future, and this year has a few big projects!

Monthly Member Meetings: Don't forget that the monthly member's meeting is 12:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month. There are important decisions made at these meetings, that you can have input to. Please come and support the Management Committee in the hard work they do, to make sure that the Museum keeps giving all the members and the community this important heritage tourist site.

Membership Fees: Our financial year ends on 30 March 2021. There will be a motion put to the February 2021 member's meeting (12:30pm 24 February) to increase the fees from the \$10 it has been for many years to \$15 per year. Please come to this meeting to have your say and vote. We will confirm after the meeting how much to pay.

Covid-19: We managed to get through the end of 2020 with few on-site problems.

Implementing new systems and learning to educate not only our volunteers, but also the general public, has been interesting.

Some tourists from other areas are surprised that Central Queensland is being very vigilant with its social distancing, etc., and commented on our thoroughness.

In November the rules changed to increase our capacity to 1 person in 2 square meters, so that means that we can have up to 135 people on the platform. This makes things a lot easier on Sundays, and helps with our future plans for events. The rules for the 1.5m distancing have not changed so there will still be fewer seats available on the Tram.

Compliance Inspection by ONRSR: We will have a compliance inspection by ONRSR on Rail Safety Worker Competency and Rolling-

stock and Infrastructure Maintenance in March 2021. As the team and I work very hard on the compliance and safety procedures and policies we do not envisage any issues will arise, but take it as another opportunity to learn and grow!

Rollingstock: The 2020/21 annual boiler inspection became a cause for concern, with the Tram Boiler having to use Non-Destructive Testing to measure the thickness of the boiler. The boiler did pass its inspection but it is getting closer to the time when the Boiler will need to be replaced.

We already know that the body of the Tram is due for a refurbishment and these should be done together. We'll be discussing this with RRC over the next 12 months as the Tram could be off the track for up to 6 months when the work is done. The Billard is still waiting to have its wheels replaced or repaired. We hope we can get it back going this year.

Historic Crime Puzzle Night: On Friday 26 and Saturday 27 February 2021 we will be holding 2 Historic Crime Puzzle Nights where there are 3 crimes to be solved by 3 groups of 10 people. Tickets will be \$35 per person including supper. This will be a fun night directed by Jodi Van Der Wetering, and Lana Watkins and Kerrie Holmes will assist as group leaders. The Coordinator – Janice, will volunteer her time to oversee the event, with a couple of helpers to do the supper.

Car Park Market Family Fun Day: This will be held on Sunday 18 April 2021, from 8am-1pm. There will be Tram Rides – limited numbers and sold by numbered bench seat and numbered Tram Rides. We will need to make sure we have enough volunteers to operate this day.

We will have 2 entrances to the area between the Military Museum gates and Cambridge Street and volunteers to click numbers of patrons coming in, and a QR Code at each entrance for the public to log into the area.

There will be no entry fee into the Markets in the Car Park, but volunteers with donation buckets to seek donations. There will be a fee of \$4 adults, \$2 children for entry into the museum, and \$2.50 for tram rides.

We have sought feedback from our usual stall holders and there are many that are interested in coming and we will offer Rotary to have a

burger stall, Lions for a cake stall – general cakes, another food vendor and a coffee van. APRM will have a sausage sizzle on the front veranda, and some of the bands/dancers can use the front veranda also. More information to come once we get it worked out.

Visitor Numbers: At the end December 2020 our numbers through the door were down 1,155 less than at the same time last year. This was mostly lost from not having our Family Fun Days. We have found that extending our special School Holiday discount to the whole holiday period, has not been financially good to us, and after 1 April 2021 we will only have the discount for the Wednesday Tram operating Days in the April, June and September school holidays.

Improvements to the Facility: The RRC has approval to bitumen the car park. In doing this they will have to overhaul all the drainage for the car park, so it is a much bigger job than it seems. This work will commence at the start of February and go for around 8 weeks.

During this time we will have to come in through the Cambridge Street entry most of the time and it will be adjusted as they move through the car park. The section of the car park closest to Cambridge Street will not have works done in it, and when the section in front of the building is closed this will be for visitors, as it is close to the Disabled Ramp. We may have a period when we get volunteers to park in the rear of the facility. More information as it happens.

Volunteers: We have done a few sets of advertising during last year and again early this year. We also had some of our volunteers interviewed on 4RO. This is important to promote not only the museum, but the need for more volunteers. Without more volunteers we are really struggling to get the work done. If you have some spare time and can come and help – please do so. It is difficult when all the work stays with just a smaller group of members.

We have had a few new volunteers come on, but leave again due to their concerns about Covid. This is always sad when they are so wonderful, and dedicated but we lose them. If you know anyone that is looking for somewhere to do their 15 hours Centrelink volunteering, or are retired

and want somewhere to do something valuable, and make new friends, please encourage them to come and see us.

Blue Cards: We have liaised with the Blue Card Services to ensure we have the up to date information on who needs to have a Blue Card to volunteer at the Museum. At this point, we have in writing that it is only volunteers/staff that provide direct services to children – such as the Tour Guides that will need a Blue Card. We will also have the Coordinator/relief Coordinator and any Management Committee members – who want them have one as well. Applying for the Blue Cards does create work, so if a volunteer does not require a Blue Card

we will not renew it unless that volunteer requires it for a specific reason.

NEW Entry Fees: As of 1 April 2021 we will be increasing the entry fees into the Museum as follows:

Adults	\$10.00	was	\$9.50
Pensioner	\$7.00	was	\$6.80
Child	\$6.00	was	\$5.80 for 3 to 14
Family	\$30.00	was	\$28.00 for 2 adults and 2 children

School holidays \$6.00 was \$5.50 for everyone

Family Fun Day \$4 Adult, Child \$2.00, Tram Ride \$2.50 for over 18 months

Janice Seymour