

## Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

PO Box 573, Rockhampton, Qld 4700, Australia

Ph: 07 4936 8191 Fax: 07 4927 0120

E-mail: archerpark@bigpond.com

URL: archerparkrailmuseum.com

F: facebook.com/ArcherParkRailway/



# ARCHER PARK

RAIL MUSEUM

### 2022 Date Claimers

6 & 13 April | School Holiday Activities

29 June & 6 July | School Holiday Activities

21 & 28 September | School Holiday Activities

To Be Confirmed due to Covid:

24 April | Family Fun Day

26 June | Family Fun Day

28 August | Family Fun Day

23 October | Family Fun Day

### Friends of Archer Park

President: Ricky Weir

Vice President: John Kennedy

Secretary: Elaine Alexander

Treasurer: Paula Roberts

Safety Officer: Ricky Weir

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

**Happy New Year** to all our members and supporters!!! We hope you are all staying healthy in these increasingly worrying times.

**2022 Start and Covid Restrictions as at 1 January 2022:** The Museum started off very quietly with quite a few volunteers away on holidays or absenting themselves due to Covid issues.

With this in mind - we are really needing some Ticket Officer help, so if anyone can offer to help we would appreciate it. The ticket person runs the till, but must also be responsible for making sure that the current laws are being observed. At this time that is seeing the QR Code entry tick and green Vaccination tick - or a paper version of certificate of vaccination and entry information.

Please know it is not the "Friends" that require this - but the Queensland Government and Rockhampton Regional Council. We have no rostered ticket officer for Mondays, Thursdays and every second Sunday at the moment.

**Cancelled:** With the current Covid 19 rates rising and safety being our first priority - the Management Committee has made the decision to cancel the February Family Fun Day. We do not feel we can invite hundreds of people here as the risks are too high. We have also made the decision to postpone the planned Trivia Night at the end of March, and move it later in the year.

**Visitor Numbers:** At the end of December we were looking good with our visitor numbers for the year despite the huge drop in visitors in August. Our figures are higher than at this time for the last 2 years, but as January February and March are usually smaller entry numbers I believe that the annual figure will slowly go down to closer to previous year's figures - especially with so much Covid around..

**Grants:** We have had some success with grants from 2021 and we have received a Volunteering Grant with funds to purchase 40 new chairs for the Refreshment Room. The chairs were in desperate need of replacing, this will make the room look much nicer and seats much more comfortable.

We have also been successful in gaining a Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism Grant to purchase a large A3 Digital Scanner to commence digitising our Historic Documents and photographs. These grants amount to around \$6,000 and will certainly help the Museum.

We applied for and received funds under the Covid Support Grant in November 2021 due to the dramatic drop in visitors and income in August 2021. The process was very specific, wanting income figures for every day for a 7 day period that we chose, and doing this process we discovered that our income loss in one week

in August was over 70% and in other weeks was over 60%. This grant of \$10,000 is already assisting us in paying for advertising on radio and one week per month for 3 months on a big electronic billboard as you enter Rockhampton. We are also working on other advertising strategies to help bring in visitors.

In February we will be applying for a Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant to create the exhibit in the CWM21 Camp Wagon. The exhibit will include up to 100 historic documents, some clothes and tools and will be an important addition to the museum if we are successful.

**Queensland Gallery and Museum Standard Review Program:** We have been liaising with the staff in Brisbane and now have a tentative date for a site visit from our two mentors and Museum officer for 28 March 2022.

This program was supposed to be completed in 2021 but due to Covid we are still trying to get it finished. The advice we receive from these experienced mentors can greatly assist us in improving our Museum procedures.

**Purrey Steam Tram:** Some of you will be aware that we had concerns about the Boiler on the Tram passing inspection. You'll be happy to know that we had an inspector with AICIP qualifications come in and he has passed the boiler. He has also advised that he can assist us in making sure that the Boiler will be able to continue for many years to come. This is very important to the Museum as the Tram is an important part of bringing visitors to the Museum and creating income.

Unfortunately with Covid the work required to get us back on the track has been delayed, but

we hope to have the tram back on the track by mid/late February 2022.

**Work for the Dole Program:** We are very pleased that Max Solutions has restarted their WFD program and we have begun getting some of their workers. This will help us get the Gardens and Hedges cleaned up as they are in great need of attention.

**Assistant Treasurer:** I would like to acknowledge all the work that Emma Barnes is doing in her new role as Assistant Treasurer, helping Paula while Paula is working from home. Thanks Emma!!

**Relief Coordinator:** Kate Jones, one of our long term volunteers, will be taking on the position of Relief Coordinator from March 3-18. Kate has a good understanding of Ticket Office, Kitchen, document control and general operations. She will be supported by the Management Committee while Janice takes time off to get married.

We hope that all our members will support her during this time. John Kennedy and Dennis Sheehan will work as Train Controller for this period, and Merrill Fossey is back up if required.

**Rail Group 30th Anniversary:** 2022 is the Anniversary of the "Friends" from when they first started as Capricorn Historical Steam Train Association. We are planning to have a celebration at the June Family Fun Day. More information to follow as we work it out.

**Public Holiday Closures:** Members and volunteers - please remember that we are closed on public holidays - there are a few coming up.

*Janice Seymour*