

## 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/

I: www.instagram.com/archerparkrail

X: https://twitter.com/archerparkrail



# ARCHER PARK

RAIL MUSEUM

### 2024 Date Claimers

Sunday 25 February 2024 — Family Fun Day

Wednesday 03 April 2024 — School Holiday Activities

Wednesday 10 April 2024 — School Holiday Activities

Sunday 28 April 2024 — Family Fun Day

Sunday 23 June 2024 — Family Fun Day

Wednesday 26 June 2024 — School Holiday Activities

Wednesday 03 July 2024 — School Holiday Activities

Sunday 25 August 2024 — Family Fun Day

Wednesday 18 25 September 2024 — School Holiday Activities

Wednesday 25 September 2024 — School Holiday Activities

Sunday 27 October 2024 — Family Fun Day

Sunday 17 November 2024 — APRM 125th Celebration

### Friends of Archer Park

President: Ricky Weir

Vice President: John Kennedy

Secretary: Emma Barnes

Treasurer: Paula Roberts

Safety Officer: Ricky Weir

Rollingstock Supervisor: John Kennedy

Track Supervisor: John Kennedy

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

Newsletter schedule: Feb/May/Aug/Nov

Welcome back, and happy New Year to all our members, volunteers, and supporters.

### 2024 Plans and Events

We hope 2024 will be a very successful year at APRM. This year marks the 125th Celebration of Archer Park Rail Station. As the majority of us know – the building opened on 11 December

1899; and has been an operational train station, a rail depot and now the museum. We will be celebrating the 125th anniversary at a special Family Fun Day on Sunday 17 November 2024. We ask that all members please been there as this will be an extended operating day. We will be open special hours that Sunday – from 9am until 3pm. So, put this in your diaries NOW as this will be one of our major events for the year!

Our first Family Fun Day is coming very quickly! Our first Family Fun Day will be on Sunday 25 February 2024. All our Family Fun Days this year will have a theme to them – including our special ANZAC Family Fun Day on Sunday 28 April 2024; and the Steampunk & Vintage Family Fun Day. We hope all our amazing members and volunteers can help at the Family Fun Days throughout the year.

Also, at APRM this year – we will have our school holiday activities – in April; June/July and September school holidays. Don't forget the tram operates on these Wednesdays – so we look forward to seeing many faces there as well.

### Member's News

**New Members:** We are pleased to inform our members that we have a new family on board at Archer Park Rail Museum – Sandi Barrett and her daughter, Opal. Sandi has been with us since October 2023 working in the office alongside the office team and helping fellow members in the kitchen and cleaning. You will see Opal mainly at our family fun days. Please do make Sandi and her daughter, welcome.

**Vale Dennis Sheehan – 1947-2023:** Just after the release of our November 2023 newsletter, we were informed of the passing of one our long-term members – Dennis Sheehan.

Dennis played a major role in, and was a key supporter of, the activities of Archer Park Rail Museum. He was the President of the Friends of Archer Park Rail Station and Steam and Tram Museum Inc from 1993 to 1999 and again from July 2015 until May 2018. Dennis also served as

the Museum Coordinator from 1999 until April 2014, when Janice Bobart (previous coordinator) took over the position.

His knowledge of the history of rail within the Rockhampton and greater Central Queensland district helped us with external enquiries from both in this district and further afield. In October 2022, Dennis was awarded one of three certificates (alongside John Kennedy and Jim Forrest) marking 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to Friends of Archer Park Rail Station and Steam Tram Museum Inc and to Archer Park Rail Museum. Dennis is sorely missed by the members and volunteers of Archer Park Rail Museum as well as the wider community across the Rockhampton district, Central Queensland and beyond.

We pass our condolences to Dennis's brother, Trevor, and his extended family, on behalf of the Management Committee, the Members, and the Volunteers of Archer Park Rail Museum.

Above right: Dennis chairing a CQ rail heritage group meeting, Bundaberg 2007.

**Coordinator:** We are also sad to inform everyone that our Coordinator, Kevin Chapman, resigned as the APRM Coordinator in November 2023 due to personal and professional issues. Throughout the latter parts of November and the months of December, January and early parts of February, the Management Team, lead by Ricky Weir (President) worked together to run the museum while the search was on to find and appoint a new Coordinator.

The Members of Archer Park Rail Museum thank both Paula Roberts (Treasurer) and Emma Barnes (Secretary) for stepping up and acting in the position from the time Kevin resigned until the new Coordinator is appointed.

John Kennedy continues to attend various Zoom/Teams meetings such as ATHRA; Qld ATHRA and National Rail Volunteering Group. Qld ATHRA is one of our main stakeholders in APRM and we hope to continue to work successfully alongside them.

### **Tram Operations**

Tram operations resumed on Sunday 4 February 2024. Our tram crew led by Alex Limkin and John Kennedy will be in action along with our other amazing drivers and conductors. The tram



is a vital service to our visitors to APRM as well as the people of Rockhampton. We would also like to inform everyone that Jo Webb, one of our latest members has successfully passed her conductor training as is now one of the tram crew.

### **Visitor Numbers and Venue Hire**

APRM visitor numbers are still low compared to this time last year. Since the tram resumed operations in August of 2023 numbers picked up. Over the Xmas period, numbers declined due to the tram being on annual service. We are hoping that visitors' numbers will start to increase as the tram is back in operation.

Our venue hire has been successful throughout the 2023 calendar – from having two weddings in the latter parts of the 2023 year; to the training group venue hire. If you know of anyone looking for somewhere to hire – do tell them that Archer Park Rail Museum is available for them to hire for any event (excluding 18th or 21st birthday parties).

### **Merchandise**

Don't forget - Member's get a 10% discount on merchandise! We have a wide range of merchandise including pens; notebooks; whistles; stubbie coolers; magnets and trains! They are good idea if you are looking for something to give a loved one as either a birthday or a Christmas present!