

Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc

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Meetings of the Friends of Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum Inc. are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month commencing at 12.30pm in the office, unless otherwise advised by the Secretary.

Newsletter schedule: Feb/May/Aug/Nov.

Friends of Archer Park Management

At the AGM held at the very end of May we had some changes to the Management team.

President/Safety Officer: Ricky Weir

Joint Coordinator/Treasurer: Paula Roberts

Joint Coordinator: Emma Barnes

Vice President, Rollingstock & Track

Supervisor: John Kennedy

Deputy Vice President/Deputy Track &

Rollingstock Supervisor: Richard Parker

Secretary: Joanna Webb

Safety Officer: Tony Moore

2025-6 APRM Date Claimers

Sunday 23 August 2026 Heroes v Villains
Family Fun Day

Wednesday 23 September 2026 School
Holiday Specials

Wednesday 30 September 2026 School
Holiday Specials

Monday 05 October 2026 King's Birthday
Holiday Specials

Sunday 25 October 2026 A Spooky Sunday
Family Fun Day

Members News

An apology from Jo

Hello members,

I need to apologise to you all for the lateness of this newsletter. There have been a few technical issues, mostly involving me persuading the secretarial email to behave properly. I am sure that sometimes the laptop has decided to be



ARCHER PARK
RAIL MUSEUM

difficult for no good reason. Communications are flowing a little easier now.

There has been some illness in the office as well which meant the handover of secretarial duties has been a bit delayed here and there. However, I think we are now back on track. Massive thanks to Lynn for helping with the edit and production of this newsletter.

In memoriam Michelle Pownall

It is with great sorrow that we advise the recent passing of Michelle Pownall.

Michelle was a past APRM Volunteer and was a very active Fitzroy Lions Club Member. She participated in many Lions club activities, including the Eat Up Program. We were always delighted to see her on sandwich making days.

The Management Team and APRM wishes her family and close friends condolences and love during this time.

Some members were able to attend the funeral service to honour and celebrate Michelle's life on Friday, 24 July 2026, thank you for wearing your APRM badges.

Busy couple of months

June and July have been a couple of busy months, and it seems August will be even busier with several tours booked in, and requesting the tram.

Back in June we opened on the Rockhampton Show Day holiday and were very popular with families with small children. One mother commented that the Show is 'Awesome, but too much for smaller kids'. At the end of June we had our Teddies on the Tram Family Fun Day. We had fun ourselves, hiding different teddies of all shapes and sizes around the station. Kids were asked to find a very specific bear, Perry the Purrey Tram bear, with his gold bow tie. Once found kids told the ticket office where Perry was and were given a small bag of gummy style teddy lollies. Any child bringing their own teddy to join the fun was given a free tram ride.

It is a lovely, family friendly day. The tram had two teddies on board this year and volunteers dressed up with teddy themed hats and ears.

During July we ran our School Holiday Specials on the Wednesday of each week. Tram rides on these days are always popular, although we were confined to the station grounds. We are giving some thought as to what else we can offer on those days, suggestions are welcome.

Bayview Towers at Yeppoon run a popular tour of the region and we are delighted that Archer Park continues to be a regular feature of those tours. If you are ever in on a Wednesday morning, and would like to hear what the tourists hear, our tour guides would love to let you join in.

Looking ahead, there are a number of other tours booked in for August, some of which have requested the tram be running. Our next Family Fun Day has the theme Heroes & Villains. A few people have started thinking about what to wear, whether to be a hero, or a bad 'un!

Hope to see you at the station soon!

Tours, so many groups!

August has turned out to be incredibly busy with multiple tours choosing Archer Park as one of their places to visit. Bayview Tower tours continue to be regulars, and we thank them very much.

In addition we have already hosted Cathedral of Praise Ministry, and are expecting Ridgeland State School, Outback Aussie Tours, Duaringa State School, and Expanding Horizons.

All of these tours have requested that the tram be running, which means the tram crew are going to be flat out. Exciting times, and we are very pleased to see so many people expected through the station.

Track & Rollingstock Report

The team is really thrilled to announce that the external paintwork on the C17 is very nearly complete. We are 'down to the fiddly bits' once the final coat of nut brown is applied, hopefully this week. It is lovely to see the Brown Bomber looking more like herself again. There are long term plans to paint and make the driver's cab

more interactive but she will be available for people to climb aboard again while we source the necessary items.

We did a trial run using TMC6 as a towing vehicle for an old trolley the other day. This particular old trolley does not have an engine in it, but it does have railings surrounding it, and has sat to one side in the maintenance area of the station. We have started to restore the woodwork and paint. Safety chains mean it is very secure under tow. Long term we hope to be able to offer this as an extra ride available at Archer Park. Passengers will be able to sit on the currently non-existent top, hold onto the railings, and go for short, steady, rides.

Work continues on the M14 and ST2 trollies. The magnetos for both needed repair. The M14 needs just a few touch ups in the paintwork

before she is ready for operation.

Observant people will notice that work continues on changing the track crackerdust to stone. This is hard work. However, it should improve track drainage overall. Many thanks to the diggers and wheelbarrow crews.



We want you!

Archer Park, like a lot of places around Rocky, relies on volunteers to keep it going. We are a bit short on people willing to help with cleaning, kitchen work, and the many other jobs around the station. If you are able to offer some time please let us know what you might be 'up for'. Thank you!

View from the Driver's cab

It is a very different view from the front of the tram. For a few years' now I have got used to one perspective, but up front is a whole new responsibility. Learning about the boiler was one thing, and took a lot of effort. Learning about our particular tram is another thing altogether.

Keeping a sharp eye out for wayward cars and people has become second nature. What no-one really told me was that the local animal population sometimes lack a sense of self-preservation. Dogs will generally just get out of

the way, and pretty sharpish too! One day, however, there was a cat. This particular cat lives somewhere near the block of flats opposite the station on Cambridge Street. I had seen it out and about, off and on. It's a lovely looking ginger tabby.

One Sunday I was 'up front' and taking the tram out of the station. You have to understand that events all took very little time, just a few minutes...

As usual, made sure everything was open (or shut) as it should be, plenty of water, plenty of steam pressure, etc. etc. Got the bells to 'go', answered, looked up and down Cambridge Street, no traffic, tooted a warning on the horn. All of that is normal procedure. I look ahead and notice the cat is tucked right in next to our rail line, squatting, doing what all creatures have to do from time to time. Meanwhile I have released the brake, applied the regulator, and we are trundling out of the station to cross Cambridge Street, another toot on the horn as usual. Cat doesn't move.

'No worries', I think to myself, 'There's still time for it to move'. The rail starts to curve and I realise that if the cat stays where it is, it will probably be clipped by the lowest of the steps. It is just too, darn, close. Another toot on the horn. Cat looks at me, I look at cat. I am reaching for the brake but also realise I might not be able to stop soon enough because (remember, this is all very quick) we are now very, very close to each other and it can take a bit of distance to stop tram once she's got going. I promise you that cat's eyes were getting bigger, and bigger. Sheer panic written all over its furry little face.

Desperately I gave a long blast on the horn, and, as I have one hand on the brake and am starting to apply it, the cat leaps to its paws and shoots off towards the flats. Sadly, it had not quite finished its business... I imagine it did find somewhere quiet to calm down and, er, complete the necessary.

I sigh a sigh of relief and settle down to concentrating on spotting other critters that might be intent on getting hit by a big, reddish, thing on wheels belching steam. I haven't seen that particular cat since that day either. You might spot a traumatised ginger tabby out and about, give it my regards.

Jo

Reminders

Absences and Illnesses

Just a reminder, that if you are away can you please contact the office on 4922 2774 or let a management member know that you are unavailable.

Also, if you are unwell, please do not attend the museum for two weeks as we are trying to keep our members and visitors healthy and well. We ask that you ring the office on 4922 2774 to let us know that you are unwell.

Contact Details

If you have changed any of your contact details within the last six months – now is the time to update our records. Please let us know if you have changed either your mobile number; postal address or email address so we can update them in our system.

Staff Sign In Book

For all staff members at Archer Park Rail Museum – the sign in book is now located in the office. When you arrive – please sign in and on your departure – to sign out. This is required, allowing for management to know who is on site when there is an emergency evacuation.

Merchandise/Fourthwall

With items ranging from stickers to warm, snuggly blankets our online merchandise store has something for everyone. Tote bags, greeting cards, mugs, glasses, the variety of Archer Park branded items is really amazing. All profits come back to the station BUT we do have a special discount code which will save you 15% on your entire order, including shipping. Follow this link <https://archerparkrailmuseum-shop.fourthwall.com/en-aud> for the code to be automatically applied when you checkout your shopping basket of goodies!



If internet shopping really isn't your favourite thing see one of our Front of House staff next time you are in and they will be happy to help you with badges, stickers, mugs, etc. etc. You will get a 10% member discount on in-house merchandise.



Spirit of Queensland passing APRM 5 August 2026.



Cathedral of Praise visit to APRM 11 August 2026.

Archer Park Rail Museum presents:

HEROES VS VILLAINS



Family Fun Day
Sunday 23 August 2026
9am-1pm

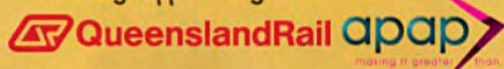
**The Heroes and
Villains Parade**
11am

**Prizes awarded to the
best adult & child plus
runner ups**

\$4 adults
\$2 children
\$2.50 tram rides
Displays; Stalls; Entertainment
Refreshments & Tram Barbecue



Proudly supported by:



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RAIL MUSEUM



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Open: Sundays 9am-1pm; Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm. Closed Friday, Saturday and all major public holidays. Tram Operates: February-November.



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Looking for something to do
these school holidays???

SCHOOL
HOLIDAY

FUN!

Archer Park Rail Museum

School Holiday Specials

Wednesday 23 September &
Wednesday 30 September 2026



Entry Prices: \$6 per person

Tram will be operating from 10am until 1pm

Kids activity packs available - \$1

Merchandise available for purchase

Put your Driver's hat on and
aboard the C17 Steam Locomotive
and the 1614 Diesel Locomotive
Wander through the passenger
carriages



Experience the changeable signals

Look at the different exhibits

Light snacks and drinks
available for purchase from
the APRM Refreshment Room

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