



*On again.....Off again  
The joys of running a  
heritage railway  
during a pandemic !*



As soon as the new cases of Covid 19 appeared in Brisbane and there was the threat of more and more State restrictions, we had to make a decision about our railways future bookings.

To run at all, initiates a whole raft of expenses, such as a massive \$30,000 plus bill for insurance, the per/km charge from Queensland Rail and so on.

Bear in mind that we had also lost a lot of our seating capacity due to social distancing. So to operate at all we would have had to fill our train to capacity. This was not looking at all promising in our booking system by late August and sadly we had to act in the best interests of our long term survival, having had no income for many months.

So our apologies to those of you who had already booked for our trips to Clifton and out of Toowoomba during September.

The whole situation will be reviewed monthly and if things are looking more promising by Christmas we plan to begin operations again in the New Year.

The railway remains fully operational within our Precinct in Warwick, with restoration and maintenance volunteers flat out. Visitors are most welcome as usual!

Covid—Safe activities are being considered based on our excellent collection of rolling stock, our Museum and Railway Institute buildings. Our ride-on children's train is nearing full restoration, so if you are part of a group who would like to help us with fund-raising events based within our facility do please get in touch.

## SDSR Annual General Meeting 2020 a great success



Guest speaker Marco Giori one of our local councillors kept us amused with his accomplished skills as a Bush-poet.

Marco with our President Peter Gregory in the carriage restoration shop.

Vice President Dave Laker over at the engine shed with State Politician James Lister.





Brenton Witt Treasurer



Kelvin Hutchinson Secretary



Dave Laker Vice President



Peter Gregory President

The executive end of SDRS management committee. Re-elected for another year of dealing with legislation paperwork, fund-raising and mechanical madness.

Other elected officers are:-

John Brady  
Murray Sondergeld  
Chris Freeman  
Trevor Costin  
Julia Keogh  
Brenton Witt  
Kevin Patterson

Whilst the current situation could be seen as a blow to our volunteer run operations, everyone has been amazed and greatly heartened by the generosity of individuals, local businesses, institutions, local government and patrons in the support they have shown us. Many people have already donated towards the cause and if you could spread the word about our newly created Go-Fund-Me account on your Social Network platforms (Facebook, Twitter etc) that would assist us greatly.

**GO-FUND-ME Link:** [gf.me/u/tyw7s](https://www.gofundme.com/u/tyw7s)



Help crunching the numbers  
New faces either end Karen & Brooke  
Centre Julia and our man from the museum, Kevin.  
All very capable and a fantastic help in keeping on top of the legislative and accounting paperwork.



Stu and Darryl  
hard at work  
painting the ceiling  
of BL573



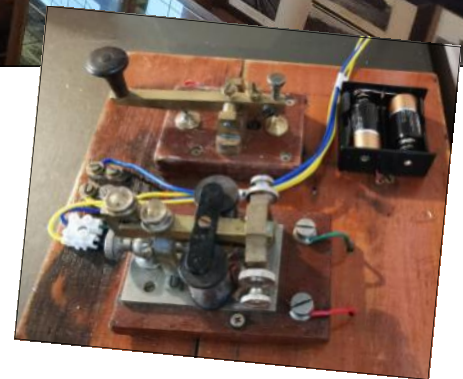
The exterior timber  
work is coming  
along well, with Rob  
making a fine job of  
restoring the end  
verandas



Left: Dozens of Watco cattle wagons are in and out of our yard for re-painting and axle refurbishment, it's great to see the old place so busy.  
Below: Our steam loco water tanker is being painted.







### LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Kevin is pleased to finally have some power in the museum

Thanks to Dave for the period looking fixtures.

The museum is very popular with our visitors and the exhibits are always developing.

Morse code, as a method of communication that was state of the art in the early days. Latest challenge is the paper tape machine [right]



Rust-eating spike bugs are around again...it must be Spring.

Our engineering Dept is very excited that we were successful in securing a State Gambling Fund grant to allow us to install a heavy lifting gantry crane and associated heavy jacks and gear.

This should enable us to safely handle the larger lifting jobs and also shift stuff between tracks in front of the engine shed.

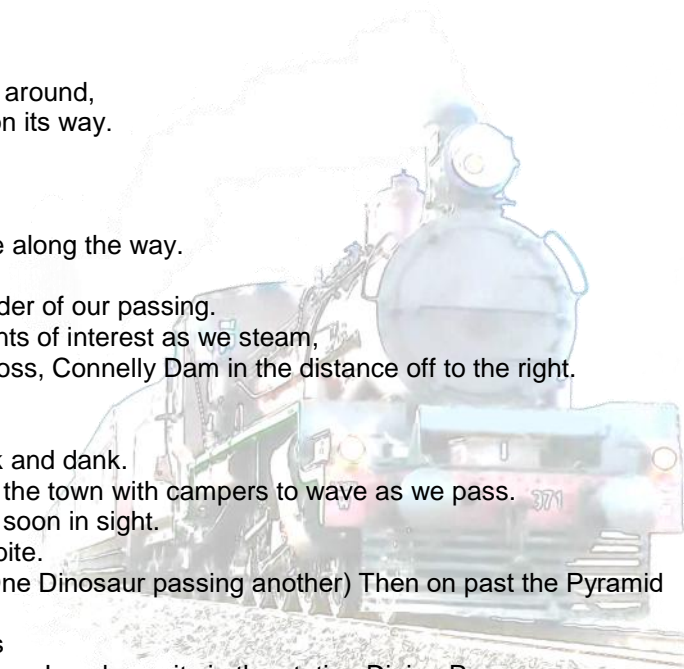
So although we are unable to operate carrying passengers at present, there is a huge amount of work going on in the yard.

If you would to join us as a volunteer, please call in for a chat any Wednesday or Thursday 8-3.30



**Penned by our own boiler specialist Trevor Costin  
[in the style of Man from Snowy River]**

There was movement at Warwick Station for the word had passed around,  
That the "Bob Keogh" from Southern Downs Steam Railway was on its way.  
And all the fans had gathered for the day.  
With the Geraghtys on the footplate and Kevin in the van,  
JB came along to lend a hand  
They were off to Wallangarra for the day, with a stop at Stanthorpe along the way.  
At eight a.m. a toot, a cloud of steam and Bob Keogh led the way,  
Up the range with cuttings deep and black, resounding to the thunder of our passing.  
In each carriage there is a member of the Team to mark these points of interest as we steam,  
Thru Silverwood Siding, where the Sydney Mails were timed to cross, Connolly Dam in the distance off to the right.  
Cherry Gully Tank, where the steamers stopped and drank,  
Gorge Dam supplied the water for the tank.  
Then further up the range thru the Cherry Gully Tunnel, long, dark and dank.  
The Rabbit Fence along the left leads us thru Dalveen Tunnel into the town with campers to wave as we pass.  
Thru Thulimbah, Cottonvale and The Summit and Stanthorpe was soon in sight.  
Bob Keogh takes a pause while passengers enjoy a cuppa and a bite.  
Then it's off to Wallangarra, Thru Ballandean with it's Dinosaur, (One Dinosaur passing another) Then on past the Pyramid  
and the Plane in the paddock  
Many sights to see, next the Devil's Elbow with it's twists and turns  
With Bob Keogh running freely for the last leg into Wallangarra where Lunch awaits in the station Dining Room.  
We've reached the halfway mark, Bob Keogh is turned around to take the homeward journey with the scenery in reverse.  
Lets keep this past reminder of Downs History alive and well, and hope for many passengers to share it with us as well.



**SDSR Members please note**

When renewing your subscription or for any other purchases  
We now bank with ANZ and not Warwick Credit Union

Account number and BSB are on the website renewal form.

***GIVE US YOUR CANS!!***

**Here is a way to help our cash flow  
Containers for Change**

**When you have that pile of bottles and cans to get rid  
of.....take them to your nearest re-cycling centre and  
quote the following I.D. to have the funds diverted to  
Southern Downs Steam Railway**

**C10275959**



SDSR Secretary goes  
into isolation  
....by getting  
into C17 boiler



**PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!**

Buckaroo Motor Inn	<a href="http://www.buckaroomotorinn.com.au">www.buckaroomotorinn.com.au</a>	07 4661 3755
Warwick Comfort Inn	<a href="mailto:comfortinnwarwick@bigpond.com">comfortinnwarwick@bigpond.com</a>	07 4661 1699
Vines Motel	<a href="http://www.warwickvinesmotel.com">www.warwickvinesmotel.com</a>	07 4661 1810
Condamine Club	<a href="http://www.condaminesportsclub.com.au">www.condaminesportsclub.com.au</a>	07 4661 1911
Warwick RSL	<a href="http://www.warwickrsl.com.au">www.warwickrsl.com.au</a>	07 4661 1229

**Hall for Hire**

**The old Queensland Rail Institute building is available  
to other groups.**

**Application forms available by email or call in to our  
office at the precinct, Wed & Thurs  
[info@sdsr.com.au](mailto:info@sdsr.com.au)**

**Steele's Bakery**  
Fitzroy St Warwick  
Feeding hungry volunteers!

**We are located in the old railway precinct near Warwick  
station at the corner of Fitzroy & Hamilton Streets.**

**A not-for-profit, volunteer-run project, for rail  
enthusiasts of all ages.**

**Working days are Wed & Thurs every week.  
Visitors welcome!**

**Southern Downs Steam  
Railway**

**Patrons: Lawrence Springborg, James Lister,  
David Littleproud**

**Bookings: [www.downsexplorer.org.au](http://www.downsexplorer.org.au)  
email: [info@sdsr.com.au](mailto:info@sdsr.com.au)**

**Phone enquires: 07 4661 9788**