



NEWS

December 2020

Southern Downs Steam Railway Home of the Downs Explorer



As we come to the end of a very frustrating 2020, I would like to thank all our volunteers who have toiled away to keep the railway alive. Whether maintaining locomotives or carriages, upgrading infrastructure within the yard and keeping up with the relentless compliance documentation, it has all been vitally necessary work.

Apart from the importance of preserving our railway heritage for future generations, our little corner of Warwick provides a hub of activity for retired folks and those wanting to make use of their DIY skills. So even with the social distancing restrictions, there has always been a nucleus of hard workers on site.

As you may remember, we stopped operations back in March, got ready to resume in September, were stopped again and now have our first trip planned to Clifton on the 2nd of January. Clifton will also be our destination on the 9th and then we make our first long trip to Wallangarra on the 24th (Australia Day weekend).

So to all our members, volunteers and train crews and families, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Peter Gregory
SDSR President



Gambling fund money put to good use!

Earlier in the year we were fortunate to get grant aid for new equipment, the largest piece of kit being a gantry and hoist that will sit across three of the tracks in front of the locomotive shed. This will allow for heavy lifting of items up and sideways to another track without the need for temporary scaffold and block and tackle. Once again local trades people have stepped up and offered their services at nil or reduced costs to our organisation and we would like to sincerely thank them for that.



Tim from Stark Concrete, Warwick
Dave Laker with Sam from Fontana & Co
Cameron Mauch, Southern Downs Concrete

Gantry will be assembled and lifted into place.

Everything and the kitchen sink Water tanker completed

An old fuel tanker that SDSR inherited many years ago has been transformed into a new water tanker to travel behind our steam loco.

Complete with load carrying deck at either end, fire fighting hose and yes, even a sink for crews to wash up after on-the-road servicing.

Our previous water 'Gin' was suffering after many years of service.

But the primary reason for change is that the new tanker has greater capacity, plus better suspension, brakes and wheel bearings.

A certain volunteer from Toowoomba spent many hours with a paint brush on this project!



Thanks to Noel Edson once again for his sign-writing skills.
If you live in the area and want some vinyl sign work done, give Noel a ring 0412349 689



Sallywags at the volunteers Christmas lunch !!



WANTED

Old but serviceable
Shipping Container
We urgently need one of these for
free or very cheap.

If you can help please ring Dave on
0407 673 807
THANK YOU!



Guaranteed to clean up your junk pile.
These rust-eating railway spike-bugs
are a great souvenir and they help
with our fund raising efforts.

Made by local volunteer John Goonan
they are available at our yard and at
the station on train running days.



John Goonan takes a break from
mowing to admire the restoration
work done by Gary & Terry on
our children's ride-on train.

This was kindly donated to SDSR
by St Mary's Catholic School.

We plan to use it in street
parades and festivals like
Jumpers and Jazz and for
promoting our organisation.

Happy Christmas everyone



Southern Downs Regional Council kindly promote us
with their banners by the Post Office

2021

We are back!

Southern Downs Steam Railway
Home of the Downs Explorer train, will be back in action in the New Year after nearly a year of Covid shutdown. Here are our trips in January 2021

2 January Warwick to Clifton

9 January Warwick to Clifton with pub lunch or sausage sizzle

24 January Warwick to Stanthorpe with Winery Tour & lunch

24 January Warwick to Wallangarra with lunch at the station & National Park bus tour

Full details & bookings
www.downsexplorer.org.au

2021

TRAIN TOURS
FEBRUARY

Heritage February

Southern Downs Steam Railway
home of the Downs Explorer train, would like to share with you happy memories of bygone rail travel.
Here are our trips in February 2021

Warwick to Clifton Sat 6 February
evening ride with a hotel dinner

Warwick to Stanthorpe Sat 20 February
with lunch & winery tour

Warwick to Wallangarra Sat 20 February
with lunch at the station & optional National Park bus tour

Full details & bookings
www.downsexplorer.org.au

2021

TRAIN TOURS
MARCH

March memories

Southern Downs Steam Railway
home of the Downs Explorer train, would like to share with you happy memories of bygone rail travel.
Here are our trips in March 2021

Toowoomba Weekend 6&7 March
with twice daily short trips to Wyreema

Warwick to Stanthorpe Sat 20 March
with Winery Tour & lunch

Warwick to Wallangarra Sat 20 March
with lunch at the station & optional National Park bus tour

Full details & bookings
www.downsexplorer.org.au

MONTHLY POSTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE IF YOU HAVE A NOTICE BOARD!

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

Abbey Boutique Hotel	www.abbeyboutiquehotel.com.au	07 4661 9777
Buckaroo Motor Inn	www.buckaroomotorinn.com.au	07 4661 3755
Comfort Inn Warwick	comfortinnwarwick@bigpond.com	07 4661 1699
Vines Motel	www.warwickvinesmotel.com	07 4661 1810
Condamine Club	www.condaminesportsclub.com.au	07 4661 1911
Warwick RSL	www.warwickrsl.com.au	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

Steele's Bakery
Fitzroy St Warwick
Feeding hungry volunteers!

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

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

email: info@sdsr.com.au

Phone enquires: 07 4661 9788