



Home of The Downs Explorer

June 2021 News Roundup

On the Labour day weekend SDSR ran our trip to Goondiwindi and Toobeah.

This was well supported with 170 passengers. The first stop was at Inglewood where the local Lions Club supplied the passengers and crew with lunch. Leaving Inglewood the train then slowed down as it passed the colourful Yelarbon silos where plenty of photos were taken, then onward across the cotton fields to Goondiwindi.

On the Sunday the train did morning and afternoon runs to Toobeah mainly for the locals which supported SDSR with a full compliment of passengers on both trips.



Leaving early Monday travelling back to Warwick with a lunch stop at Inglewood again.

The weekend didn't stop there, on the Tuesday the train was cleaned, the locomotive re watered and re-coaled and set off to Wallangarra to pick up a charter on Wednesday to run through to Warwick for lunch, then on to Toowoomba where the passengers detrained and the train bought back to Warwick on Wednesday night. A busy, successful and enjoyable adventure for both passengers and our volunteers..thanks to everyone who joined in!

Peter Gregory



Thanks to Chrissy for the photos.

The group photo shows how many people it takes to make these events happen and this doesn't include the folks who work behind the scenes in maintenance and admin etc.

Graham working like a slave in the café bar, keeping the drinks and snacks coming.

Our shadows for the entire trip "The Two Johns" keeping a look out for sparks that could cause a fire.

Passengers stretch their legs at Inglewood

Silo art at Yelarbon



From the Secretary's Desk

As reported in the last newsletter, our Secretary, Kelvin Hutchinson, took up a position of paid employment with Watco that ended up with him being appointed as General Manager Qld based at Warwick. That position did not leave him much time for SDSR. I stepped up to assist him in the role and that allowed us to get back on top of all the paperwork.

I have since been appointed Secretary, by resolution of the Management Committee.

A lot has been happening since the last newsletter. Peter has been doing a lot of work on logistics with charters for the train as well as the usual tours. During this time, he had two weeks off after receiving his much-awaited new hip. The new Gantry crane has proved a great asset at the loco roundhouse for the engineering team.

There was the very successful three-day tour to Goondiwindi that Peter has commented on, followed by a Scott McGregor charter from Wallangarra to Toowoomba. I would personally like to thank all the operating crew and carriage attendants for their dedication and hard work on that weekend.

On the home front, Gary has manufactured a new steel work bench for the drill, grinders, and vices, thanks to 'young Trevor' for his help in acquiring the steel for that. He has also installed a new bench in Julie's Carriage Café as part of a refurbishment program that is underway to improve safety and make life easier for those working there on tours. That program is due to be finalized very soon.

Work continues on other carriage refurbishment...old timber needs a lot of TLC.

Another program underway is the re-location of the Cottonvale Museum from the present position inside the precinct movement area to the front of the precinct where the front office is located. This portable office will be moved sideways to allow for the museum. This move is also to improve the safety for our museum visitors and to allow us to introduce educational programs for the schools about the great history of the Warwick Railway.

Finally, we are soon to lose a few of our dedicated volunteers at the precinct, as people come and go when they are retired and we can all relate to that. We have also said goodbye to one or two carriage attendants for various reasons.

Which means we are now looking to replace them and expand our band of workers, so if you know of any persons looking for something to do for one or two days a week, please let them know we can give them purpose and friendship in many categories. We have work for all people in whatever activity suits them.

Hoping to see you on a train soon.

Kevin Patterson.



Below:
What can we say?!
Trevor Costin shows super human strength in moving the old boiler, so that he can continue reducing valuable old copper into piles of shavings. Don't ever pick a fight with an ex-boiler maker!



Bookings remain really good as passengers make up for the lack of travel adventures last year.

Above: C17 971 thunders over Quart Pot Creek on Red Bridge, after the lads give her a quick service at Stanthorpe Station.

For those worried about 'Bob The Shunter', he is well again now and back to his old tricks around the yard!



Southern Downs Steam Railway
Home of The Downs Explorer

www.downsexplorer.org.au

for all timetables & bookings

Phone enquires [limited hours only] 07 4661 9788

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TOOWOOMBA WEEKEND

Seats are selling fast for 26 & 27th June

Toowoomba to Wyreema 2hr return trip

9:00am & 1:00pm Saturday & Sunday

\$40 Adults \$20 Children

One way from and to Warwick

Friday 25th & Sunday 27th (see website)

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage