



*Home of The Downs Explorer*

**April 2022  
News Roundup**

*Greetings to railway fans  
Old and New*

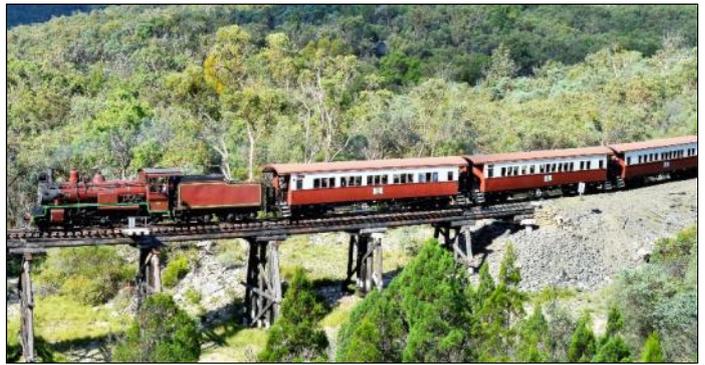


As the year rolls along into Autumn, our operation in Warwick has been very busy and we consider ourselves lucky to have escaped damage from the recent heavy rains that struck so many unfortunate folk in SE Queensland Northern NSW.

C17 Locomotive number 971 has been performing well and took many rail enthusiasts and excited children from Toowoomba to Wyreema on our recent weekend based in the Garden City.



The old girl has also hauled our vintage carriages up and down the mountain to Stanthorpe and Wallangarra, on the monthly tours that must rate as one of the premier heritage rail experiences in the Southern Hemisphere.



*Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage*

# Museum Report

A lot has been happening at the museum since the last report. The portable building has been converted into two office rooms with four computer stations.

The exterior of the building has been painted and looks great thanks to Barry's expertise with a paint brush.

The Cottonvale goods shed has been painted on the interior and a first coat has been applied to the exterior surface. That is still a work in progress, and it is anticipated the goods shed will be ready to become part of the museum display by the end of April.

Jason has joined the team and is doing a great job of cleaning up the display items that need restoration. He also assists Dave with the carriage cleaning following each tour.

A carriage, minus its wheels, has been installed in the front of the precinct and will become a tearoom where visitors will be able to rest and have a cuppa after a visit to the museum.

Grants have been applied for to fit the room with the necessary equipment to provide service to our visitors. It is hoped the facility will be operational before the end of 2022 provided, we are able to comply with the red tape for licensing the unit as a tearoom.



Arranging the display items inside the museum is a work in progress. New larger display items are being created that will be easier to read and will tell the stories of the many photographs. Janelle has joined the museum staff and she brings a lot of good knowledge and ideas and is keen to learn the procedure for conducting museum tours.

The miniature train has finally had the last of the transmission repairs completed and new tubes installed in the rear tyres. There now should be nothing left to chance for the operations in the park during the school holidays and a trouble-free run is expected.

Anyone interested in assisting with the park operations can contact Kevin on 0427 481 850.



We are grateful to the SDRC for approving two grants recently. One for the new carriage shed extension, and one for equipment for the tearoom.

A big thankyou to **Mal Wood Automotive** for helping sort out issues with our miniature train!

One of our vintage signals joins the display out front of the museum



**Southern Downs**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

This project has been assisted by  
Grants to Community funding from the  
Southern Downs Regional Council



**Australian Government**

This project received grant funding from the  
Australian Government

## IMPORTANT COVID INFORMATION

We are governed by present State legislation  
But currently things seem fairly relaxed, but you may wish to check the  
Queensland Health website for the latest rules.

## Around the yard



A huge improvement to the volunteer facilities here at the Precinct since Peter, John and helpers ripped out the old kitchen and modified these units kindly donated by our Vice President.

I'm sure that Dave and Sue were quite attached to their old kitchen, so we will allow them to come and do the washing up at any time!

Here's some rain water harvesting and infrastructure planning for you....our roofs collect a lot of that sky juice, but because of the separation of the buildings, it has been difficult to get the stuff to where its needed, basically the locomotive and it's water tanker.

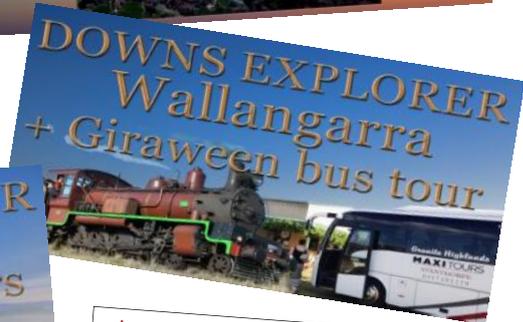
Now most of the large tanks are being connected together so that a new trackside pump can deliver it right to where it's needed.



Treasurer Kelvin asking where all the money went, whilst Terry "knows nothing!"  
The 'Fairmont Flier' inspection car is now pretty much finished and can be heard from several blocks away when she starts up.  
Well done Terry and Garry



# Future tours



Just a sample of our up-coming trips  
Check out our events page on the  
website



Forging ahead with the restoration of carriage BL573

Seats are in, the bar is mostly finished and a generator is being fitted underneath.

This will enable us to run two fridges and provide quality hot refreshments.

Which is especially important on our longer journeys like the three day adventure out west to Goondiwindi.

## Positions Vacant

Southern Downs Steam Railway  
Home of the Downs Explorer

We are currently looking for volunteers with an interest in training to become railway guards.

New people who would like to accompany our passengers as a carriage attendant.

People with DIY skill levels and above to help with mechanical maintenance and fabrication work.

You will be joining a fun team who work at our base in Warwick Wednesdays & Thursdays and/or on-board our heritage trains twice a month at weekends.

Email: [info@sdsr.com.au](mailto:info@sdsr.com.au)

**Thank you** to our financial supporters in the community and to those that just like to help us out, by lending a hand.

It's the only way a volunteer organisation like ours continues to operate.

Rising operating costs like fuel and insurance often threaten community groups as you know, so even a bit of moral support can often make a big difference.

### **We would like to hear from our readers!**

If you have a story to share, particularly travels involving a railway theme, then please get in touch.

Email the newsletter editor: **Chris Freeman** at [info@sdsr.com.au](mailto:info@sdsr.com.au)