



Home of The Downs Explorer

August 2022 News Roundup



Jumpers & Jazz 2022

Warwick put on another great show for this year's event. It's always a good time for our railway, as the town is full of visitors from far and wide looking for new experiences. Thanks to all our volunteers for putting in the long hours and to 'Girl Friday' for the jazz on the platform.



Volunteer John Goonan & wife Heather made a great effort in dressing for the occasion....nice to see him on the train for once, rather than chasing it in the fire spotter truck!



Our little children's train was busy once again taking the young ones for rides around the park. Thank you to Tony Gleeson for making the splendid ticket office entrance.

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage

Museum and administration etc



The Precinct Café.....work is continuing on the interior fit out.

Exterior seats and tables are planned, plus a sunshade roof for the building and for visitors enjoying their cappuccinos.

It is rumoured that steam for the coffee machine will be provided by our C17 locomotive, so please allow at least 4 hours for lighting up and getting the boiler up to pressure!

Visitations to the museum have been steady over the past month. Work is progressing on painting the front where Barry has almost completed the exterior of the two buildings.

The Cottonvale Goods Shed is almost ready for occupancy. It is intended it will house exhibits of fettle equipment and tools. Some of the rolling stock items have been relocated to make it easier for visitors to view.

One of the "Evans" cars (BU1262) is being turned into sleeping accommodation for volunteer crews on "light up" so they can stay overnight rather than having to travel in the early hours of the morning to fire up the steam loco. (See photos page 3)

The mini train for the children had a great day at Jumpers and Jazz with almost 300 passengers in 5 ½ hours. Our thanks to Tony Gleeson for making the great "ticket" sign. Our thanks also go to Kevin, Graeme, Peter and Sid for their efforts in making the day such a great success.

The tearoom painting is almost finished inside. The walls in the kitchen area are done and the seating area walls are ready for paint. The ceiling will be completed next. The plumbing has been connected and the electrics are on the drawing board.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the AGM on August 27th.

Kevin Pattison



As regular passengers will know, we have a café bar on board our train providing refreshments and souvenirs.

The problem comes when we need to use the EFTPOS terminal out in the bush.

So a big thankyou to Telstra for sponsoring the trial use of a GO Mobile repeater, which will hopefully help in boosting the signal.



The museum has recently acquired a new A3 color ink jet printer and dedicated lap top computer

New display posters are being produced to enable museum visitors to more easily learn of the history of Queensland rail in Warwick. *SDSR greatly appreciates the assistance of the Southern Downs Regional Councils Grants to Community Fund for enabling the purchases.*



Hard at work behind the scenes - Lorraine Holloway & Lynda Vernal. Lorraine takes care of our online booking system, so she is the soothing voice when you ring with phone enquires. Please remember to look for all options on our website before calling, because our volunteers like to have a life outside the railway too.

Lynda recently joined us here and is busy getting to grips with the mountains of paperwork.



Kevin in his lair. Master of the Museum, organiser of the Kid's Train and recently a wizard in getting hold of grant money. Not bad for a young fella.

Money matters and future plans

As members, don't forget to secure your 10% discount on an exciting new 2 day tour from Toowoomba or Warwick to the Granite belt country 29/30 October with lots of food, entertainment, accommodation in Stanthorpe and bus transfers are included. Go to the Downs Explorer Bookings page on our website for details.

SDSR needs your assistance. If you are willing or you know someone that could, we are in need of volunteers to assist with various projects and activities on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week and on the weekend trips twice a month. Without volunteers we find it difficult to operate...can you assist us?

The 2023 timetable is about to be released.... Keep an eye on our Facebook page or website for a heritage rail tour that might suit you and your family. Book early so that you are not disappointed.

The AGM is being held on the 27th August, 9.30am for morning tea 10.00am start followed by a BBQ. There will be a guest speaker.

If you have matters you would like included in the agenda please let us know ASAP. Nominations are open for committee positions... if you have the business skills necessary, please consider becoming a committee member.

Plans are underway to service and retrofit the C17 steam loco during November and December this year. It's a major project but needed to keep our elderly machinery healthy and safe. Our aim is to have it ready to operate again in time for the end of January Wallangarra tour.

SDSR just had the best operating year since we started in 2008. Whilst the income was encouraging the expenses associated with carriage renovations, diesel and steam locomotive maintenance and QR fees and charges also increased. Our Federal Regulator is happy with our operations but regulatory paperwork has increased also exponentially creating challenges for the administrative team.

Be great to see you at the AGM if you can make it.

Regards

Kelvin Hutchinson, SDSR Treasurer.



'Evans car' BU 1262 undergoing renovation. The old girl has mechanical issues and doesn't fit so well with our walk-through train layout. So, in a new lease of life it will have sleeping accommodation for our crew who often have to be on site at 4:00am



Not just vintage trains in our yard, this is Murray's beautifully restored 1920s Model T Ford. Murray was saying that those lovely wheels were crafted by a local bloke in Allora. It certainly seems to be a big hit with the young ladies!

Nuts and bolts and stuff



Brenton, Dave, Brad, Kevin, Gary and the gang are busy as usual keeping up with maintaining the aging fleet. Steam loco 971 is having bushings replaced in the main driving rods.

A brand new generator can be seen under the newly converted café car ready to power the fridges and coffee machine etc.

Ancient C17 survivor number 802, built in the UK in the 1920s is now sitting in the shed, safely out of the weather. Now we just need a million or so to get her restored.



COMING SOON
TOOWOOMBA
CARNIVAL
of FLOWERS

On the weekend of 17/18 September we shall be basing our train in the Garden City. With twice daily trips out to Wyreema. These short rides are a big hit with our younger passengers. Why not come to town for the festival and take a heritage train trip too!

Check out our events page on the website

**SOUTHERN DOWNS
STEAM RAILWAY**



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AUGUST 27th 2022**



A big thank you to our friends at QR Maintenance. The use of their specialist equipment has allowed our volunteers to gain valuable experience. Obviously training with the correct tools creates a safer and more professional outcome.

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage