



Home of The Downs Explorer

October 2023 News Roundup

SOUTHERN DOWNS STEAM RAILWAY
OPEN DAY SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER

9:00am - 2:00pm

Full site tours

SDSR MUSEUM
Learn all about the
history and operation of
our heritage railway

Climb aboard & see how
our locomotives work



Children's train rides



Food stalls and
Refreshments



FIND US ON THE
CORNER OF FITZROY
& HAMILTON STREETS



CLASSIC CARS &
MOTORCYCLES
WORKING STEAM



See our carriage &
locomotive restoration
projects

Souvenirs &
Shop



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SEE YOU ON THE 2ND!



Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage

Chairman's Report

Our volunteer members have been very busy. At the Rail Precinct we have carriage BL572 and Loco C17 802 being renovated, C17 971 and its tender under extensive repair and renovation, the lunchroom & WC area being upgraded, the carriage graveyard being tidied up and readied for the new self-contained RV and camping site, all other carriages going through an extensive repair and repaint program and in-between all this carriages need cleaning, Locos and carriages need maintenance and made ready for operation, museums and the Institute Complex managed, the Precinct maintained and the children's mini train run off its little wheels and now needing quite extensive maintenance.

Operationally, out on the rails our drivers, fireman, guards and carriage attendant crews have had a busy year so far and, in most cases, we have been heading out full of passengers who all report... 'having a great time.'

The administrative team have also been busy managing volunteers, preparing for and undertaking numerous audits by QR & ONRSR (the Federal Regulator) facilitating training for all operational members, planning tours and administering the finances, accounts, safety procedures and planning for the future.

As you can gather it takes a lot of work, and money to run SDSR and it's the dedicated team of volunteer members that show up every week, 52 weeks a year that make what is definitely one of the regions best tourist attractions the success that it is.

The main priorities of the board of SDSR are our volunteer's safety, finding new members and keeping the business viable. These are all a challenge!

We would love to see you at our Open Day on the 2nd December.
Everyone that visits us is shocked at what we have all achieved in recent years. Come on down.

If you have time to come along and assist, please do so... we do have fun and lots of laughs together.
There are various roles for both men and women, young and old.

Thank you again for your support and dedication to this wonderful institution.

Kelvin Hutchinson



'Davidson' carriage 574
The last of our present fleet
to have re-paint



About 3 months into the
restoration of
'Davidson' carriage 572



Miles 'Back to the Bush' Festival

8 - 10 September 2023



Passengers & crew seen at Chinchilla.

Because of the Bush Festival at Miles, everyone had overnight accommodation provided here in the town.



This was the inaugural tour on the western line.

Leaving Toowoomba with 79 passengers the train departed for Chinchilla for our overnight accommodation stopping on the way at Dalby for lunch.

Another 59 passengers joined the train at Chinchilla to travel to Miles. The greeting by the town of Miles was fantastic with the train meeting a sea of faces waving flags as it entered the platform with a band playing.

The day at Miles was enjoyed by all, including the crew, and the shuttle buses provided by SDSR assisted in the transfer of passengers between the station and the festival site.

Our little childrens train, the fire patrol car, and the SDSR Tarago bus were part of the grand parade along the main street to the festival site and the during the festival the little train was extremely well patronised

The tour also included a tour of the Chinchilla Historical Museum, which all passengers enjoyed by either reliving their past experiences or learning about how things were done in the early days

I would like to thank the following who helped to make this tour such a success:-

Carriage cleaning crew, Café car stockists, Engineering department, Steam crews, Diesel crews, Carriage Attendants, and café car attendants.

Lindsay Carlier Events Co-ordinator

SDSR would like to thank Whitehaven Coal for their generous donations of fuel for our boiler!!



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C17 locomotive number 971 update



Well it's been a long time since our loco last pulled a train. The main hold-up has been with the axle box refurbishment, the units have been sent from one engineering works to another involving endless delays at every stage. Meanwhile many jobs have been undertaken in our yard, including the complete re-paint seen above. As you probably know, sister locomotive number 974 has been hauling our trips over the past few months. 974 is now returning home to the Queensland Rail Heritage depot at Ipswich, where it will be undergoing a major service itself. The fire season looks like being pretty bad this year, so we would almost certainly have been prevented from running steam between now and Christmas anyway. Here's hoping our own fully restored loco will be back on the rails for the start of 2024!

THE OPEN DAY ON THE 2nd DECEMBER IS LOOKING LIKE BEING A BIG EVENT

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING VEHICLE OR PEICE OF VINTAGE MACHINERY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXHIBIT, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL TO ARRANGE A PLACE



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