



Home of The Downs Explorer

June 2024 News Update



Termites take-over SDSR office

.....BUT FAIL TO DO ANY OF THE WORK!



The Admin staff have had to move house, whilst the little munchers are evicted and the Hexagon Office is rebuilt internally.

The museum café carriage is the temporary location. As you can see, Karen and Co are suffering terribly in the spartan conditions, with only one cappuccino machine between them.

May Goondiwindi weekend a great success

Report from Lindsay Carlier Events Co-ordinator

The tour departed Warwick on time and headed to Inglewood where we stopped for lunch supplied by the Lions Club of Inglewood.

Heading off to Goondiwindi after lunch, when reaching Yelarbon the train slowed to allow passengers to photograph the silos from carriage verandas. These silos are part of the Art Silo Trail which extends all around Australia.



There were a few issues with our guest's motels, but the volunteers stayed at the Railway Hotel and from reports I received the accommodation was good and meals were ample, in fact many of them reported the meals were too big. The hotel also supplied breakfast, lunch on station, and dinner during the tour.

On the Saturday there were many options to be enjoyed.

Trip to Thallon: This tour backed onto the Scott McGregor 'Railway Adventures' tour bus.

Morning or Afternoon Tour to Toobeah – On the morning tour we had approximately 50 guests and the afternoon had approximately 20+ guests, most of whom were locals.

In the evening guests were collected from their motels and taken to Queenslander hotel where a buffet style dinner awaited.

On Sunday after breakfast and a quick bus ride, here we said farewell to John Wilson from Crisps bus lines, who was an absolute asset on this tour. then we had another delightful journey across the Darling Downs in our heritage carriages.

Thank you to all involved on the tour and behind the scenes.

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage

Chairman's update by Kelvin Hutchinson

Winter is certainly upon us and so is the flu season. Many of us have endured the local Warwick flu already. Regarding C17 971 we are advised that the axle boxes should be ready about now. The engineering shop undertaking the work made a mistake and at least one of the axle boxes had to go back down to Brisbane for spray welding and re-heating again. So frustrating! During this 971-servicing period (over 2 years now) our mechanical team has been sending parts out for servicing or repair. Important parts were sent to QR Ipswich, and some have not been returned. Missing parts! QR can't find them... It's the new on-going delay issue now!



Still hoping for steam by October this year. Right in the middle of our fire season!! Not having steam is of course really affecting our cash flow and a few of our clients are expressing disappointment.

There is some reputational damage to SDSR occurring but everyone our end is doing their best.

The Stanthorpe to Wallangarra line closure.

The following is happening behind the scenes:

- Both Southern Downs Regional Council and Tenterfield Councils are lobbying the QLD state government... who are ignoring them of course. We are working with both councils on this matter.
- SDSR is appealing to the Executive Director or QR, Regional Manager (QR) and the minister who are also ignoring us. Letters, emails, and meetings all with a no answer so far.
- We have asked the LNP to make it a policy to reinstate the line if they get into government. We have a meeting with David Crisafulli MP, Leader of the Opposition, in August to discuss this matter. James Lister MP is assisting in this regard. James has been pushing hard also with the relevant labour government ministers (who all say NO!).
- We have an independent quote for the bridges and burnt sleepers coming from Martinus Rail, we hope soon, which we are aiming to use as leverage.

As advised previously, the lease has been signed with QR for use of the Warwick Railway Station by SDSR, Over the past month we have:

- Undertaken a survey of the water, power and other infrastructure related matters;
- Undertaken a meeting with the new Mayor on this project;
- Held a meeting with the new councillor for Tourism and the Visitor Information Centre, Sheryl Windle;
- Met with council officers responsible for the Visitor Information Centre, marketing and tourism
- Remained in contact with the council planning department Director on matters pertaining to the above.

The self contained RV friendly park awaits a council approval, the process has now taken over 6 months and its still ongoing.

The Warwick Railway Station platform has been upgraded recently with an array of plants and museum pieces. It looks great!



Jumpers and Jazz is almost upon us and as always, we will be operating over the two J&J weekends.

We traditionally have a free sausage sizzle on the platform for our guests and members. If you can help on those days, please let us know when the request for assistance goes out shortly by email.

The ongoing volunteer/new member sourcing campaign has been a great success so far with 3-4 a month signing up. Please help us by making new members feel welcome. Reminders about memberships being due are now going out

by email .

This \$30 payment is for 2 people. If you have joined since April, you will not have to pay again until mid 2025 and won't receive a reminder.

Membership covers insurances and your ability to participate in free events and activities SDSR have/hold throughout the year. Please, if you can go to our website at www.downsexplorer.org.au and make payment online that would be very helpful from an administrative point of view.

Thank you again for everything you do for the association. It is greatly appreciated. Enjoy the journey!

Kelvin

WARWICK
RAILWAY STATION

- Novel & unique location
- Spring, Autumn and Summer Venue Options
- Train in station and Train tour options for your guests
- Full table service or finger food options

Affordable Weddings and Functions

Email us at
info@sdsr.com.au
for a wedding info pack

Around the Yard



It can be quite busy at times in our yard and so to regulate both SDRS and Watco traffic movement in a safe way, a new Red Board system has been adopted.

Keys and documentation are kept in a rather quaint little 'Shunter's Shed'.

Only the designated track[s] can be opened at one time.

Talking of tracks, some sleepers are being replaced over the winter months.



Work continues in the carriage shed.



There has been some discussion about making this one a "lounge car" with groups of sofa style seating, rather than the regular layout in the rest of our fleet.

Let us know what you think!

"Retired engineer" [haha] Garry Smith has been rapidly running out of machining space, so a new concrete slab has been laid to expand the floor area for his lathes.



Lots going on with the model railway group.

We need them to scale up their operations and rebuild those trestles on the Wallangarra line!

Group meets on Wednesday evenings at the Railway Institute buildings, Hamilton Street, Warwick.

President Brad Gibson

email: info@sdsr.com.au

Coming trips



Downs Explorer Heritage Rail Experience

Southern Downs Steam Railway will be running our very popular trains in conjunction with the annual Jumpers & Jazz in July festival Sat 20th & Sun 21st July and Sat 27th. These will be short runs to Wheatvale in the morning and Hendon in the afternoon. Trains will leave Warwick Station at 9.30am and 2.00pm. Adult \$45 Children 5-14 \$20.

Bookings 24/7 on our website www.downsexplorer.org.au



Jazz on the Platform Includes Sausage Sizzle

Girl Friday Jazz & Blues Band : Saturday 20th July 11:30 - 2:00



Girl Friday

Girl Friday, a popular part of the jazz scene throughout South East Queensland, has been gathering an army of loyal fans who have been coming out to listen to their smooth standards and cool originals.

Downs Explorer – Tour Timetable - July 2024 to December 2024

Month	Day	Date	Time	Tour - Destination/Return & Activity	Hours	Adult	Child
JULY	Saturday	6th	8:00am	Option #1 Warwick – Stanthorpe for a regional Winery Tour & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$220.00	\$150.00
				Option #2 Warwick – Stanthorpe – Girraween National Park & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$200.00	\$110.00
	Saturday	20th	9:30am	Train to Stanthorpe, for morning tea. Bus trip through the Granite Belt hills	2hrs	\$45.00	\$20.00
			2:00pm	Warwick – Wheatvale, + sausage sizzle & JAZZ BAND Warwick station (Jumpers & Jazz)	2hrs	\$45.00	\$20.00
	Sunday	21st	9:30am	Warwick – Wheatvale, + sausage sizzle at Warwick station (Jumpers & Jazz)	2hrs	\$45.00	\$20.00
AUG	Saturday	27th	9:30am	Warwick – Wheatvale, + sausage sizzle at Warwick station (Jumpers & Jazz)	2hrs	\$45.00	\$20.00
			2:00pm	Warwick – Hendon, + sausage sizzle at Warwick station (Jumpers & Jazz)	2hrs	\$45.00	\$20.00
	Saturday	10th	8:00am	Option #1 Warwick – Stanthorpe for a regional Winery Tour & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$220.00	\$150.00
				Option #2 Warwick – Stanthorpe – Girraween National Park & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$200.00	\$110.00
	Wednesday	14th	7:30am	Warwick (or Clifton) – Toowoomba Special, in conjunction with Cobb & Co Museum. We then move to the Cobb & Co Museum to join in with their 100th year celebrations and enjoy a special lunch. Period costume is very much encouraged!	10hrs	\$180.00	\$100.00
SEPT	Saturday	24th	9:00am	Children's Special, Warwick – Wheatvale 1.5hr fun trip with onboard activities	1.5hrs	\$20.00	\$10.00
			11:30am	Children's Special, Warwick – Toowoomba 1.5hr fun trip with onboard activities	1.5hrs	\$20.00	\$10.00
	Saturday	7th	8:30am	Warwick – Clifton – Nobby. Morning tea at Clifton Station & short walk around town. Two course lunch at the famous (Dad & Dave) Rudd's Pub at Nobby.	7hrs	\$145.00	\$110.00
	Saturday	14th	9:00am	Children's Special, Warwick – Wheatvale 1.5hr fun trip with onboard activities	1.5hrs	\$20.00	\$10.00
	Friday	20th	11:30am	Children's Special, Warwick – Toowoomba 1.5hr fun trip with onboard activities	1.5hrs	\$20.00	\$10.00
OCT	Saturday	21st	8:00am	Warwick – Toowoomba CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS (one way train journey only)	3hrs	\$45.00	\$15.00
			8:00am	Toowoomba – Wyreema, CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS - short trips ideal for younger members of the family	2hrs	\$50.00	\$25.00
			3:00pm	Toowoomba – Warwick (one way train journey only)	3hrs	\$45.00	\$15.00
	Saturday	5th	8:00am	Option #1 Warwick – Stanthorpe for a regional Winery Tour & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$220.00	\$150.00
				Option #2 Warwick – Stanthorpe – Girraween National Park & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$200.00	\$110.00
NOV	Saturday	19th	9:00am	Train to Stanthorpe, for morning tea. Bus trip through the Granite Belt hills	3hrs	\$70.00	\$40.00
			12:00pm	Warwick – Clifton – Warwick with 2 course lunch at local pub COUNTRY WEEK	5hrs	\$100.00	\$55.00
			11:30am	Clifton – Greenmount return, ideal trip for younger members of the family	2hrs	\$30.00	\$15.00
	Saturday	26th	9:00am	Children's Special, Warwick – Wheatvale 1.5hr fun trip with onboard activities	1.5hrs	\$20.00	\$10.00
			11:30am	Children's Special, Warwick – Toowoomba 1.5hr fun trip with onboard activities	1.5hrs	\$20.00	\$10.00
DEC	Saturday	2nd	8:30am	Warwick – Clifton – Nobby. Morning tea at Clifton Station & short walk around town. Two course lunch at the famous (Dad & Dave) Rudd's Pub at Nobby.	7hrs	\$145.00	\$110.00
	Saturday	16th	8:00am	Option #1 Warwick – Stanthorpe for a regional Winery Tour & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$220.00	\$150.00
				Option #2 Warwick – Stanthorpe – Girraween National Park & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$200.00	\$110.00
	Saturday	30th	9:00am	Train to Stanthorpe, for morning tea. Bus trip through the Granite Belt hills	1.5hrs	\$20.00	\$10.00
			11:30am	Children's Special, Warwick – Toowoomba 1.5hr fun trip with onboard activities	1.5hrs	\$20.00	\$10.00
JAN	Saturday	7th	8:00am	Option #1 Warwick – Stanthorpe for a regional Winery Tour & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$220.00	\$150.00
				Option #2 Warwick – Stanthorpe – Girraween National Park & 2 course lunch	10hrs	\$200.00	\$110.00
	Saturday	14th	9:00am	Train to Stanthorpe, for morning tea. Bus trip through the Granite Belt hills	3hrs	\$70.00	\$40.00
			11:30am	Warwick – Clifton (travel only)	5hrs	\$70.00	\$40.00
	Saturday	21st	10:00am	Warwick – Clifton SANTA SPECIAL with lunch	5hrs	\$100.00	\$55.00

Accommodation Suggestions in Warwick	These organisations support SDSR
Country Rose Motel	booking@countryrosewarwick.com 07 4661 7700
Jackie Howe Motel	www.jackiehowemotel.au 07 4661 2111
Abbey Boutique Hotel	www.abbeyboutiquehotel.com.au 07 4661 9777
Where to Eat	These organisations support SDSR
Club Warwick, RSL	www.warwickrsl.com.au 07 4661 1229
Condamine Sports Club	www.condaminesportsclub.com.au 07 4661 1911

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TOOWOOMBA Cobb & Co. 100 year celebration



DOWNSEXPLORER HERITAGE TRAIN TRIP

Warwick to Clifton for morning tea, then on to Cobb & Co Museum, followed by lunch.

Come & join us for this unique once in a lifetime opportunity.

Visit the Cobb and Co Museum and see the stage coaches and restoration works of these icons of travel from bygone days.

Hear the stories behind Cobb & Co stage coaches in Queensland, view the historical displays, and watch repair work of carriages after enjoying a two course buffet lunch.

Snacks and a wide range of beverages, including wine and spirits are available on our train in our newly refurbished Café car.

Wed, 14 Aug 2024 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Inclusive price \$180, child \$100
Full details and 24/7 booking on our website www.downsexplorer.org.au

FULL DETAILS & 24/7 BOOKINGS ON www.downsexplorer.org.au

Museum Update

Funds are now available for commencing relocation of the original Warwick Station named Mill Hill, currently languishing besides the track behind the large flour silos.

Foundations are about to be laid in our museum area adjacent to the Tea Room carriage.

Expansion of the static displays is about to commence along the road-side fence, including the ballast wagon, plus mine & sheep wagons. People who are interested in history and in helping with restoration are always welcome....please drop in any Wednesday or Thursday.

Thanks, *Kev Patterson*



SDSR CONTACT DETAILS
www.downsexplorer.org.au
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0400 594 711 (Wed & Thurs)

Newsletter contributions to....
membership@downsexplorer.org.au

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



Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage