



Home of The Downs Explorer

Christmas 2025 News Update



Emergency Services Response Exercise

SDSR hosted another all services emergency exercise in November. This is always well received by the agencies involved, giving them and us a chance to work on communications and procedures should there ever be real incident.

Thank you to all involved for giving up your time!



2025 Annual General Meeting

A good turnout for our yearly gathering, which was held in the new refurbished station complex.

A tasty lunch and news catch-up was enjoyed by all.

Four of our founder members came up with interesting tales and anecdotes. Bob Bingham, Bill Manwaring, Kate Keogh and John Brady. Thanks everyone.



WARWICK RAILWAY STATION



Downs Steam made a well timed stop on the day!

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage

Southern Downs Steam Railway Association: Chairman's Report

Dear Members and Volunteers,

As we come to the end of another big year for the Southern Downs Steam Railway and the Downs Explorer, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. Your time, skills and goodwill have kept the trains running, the carriages restored, the museum open, and our visitors smiling. Everything we've achieved this year – from our successful tour program and growing passenger numbers, to progress on Warwick Railway Station and our ever-expanding Rail Precinct – has been powered by you.

Looking ahead to the new year, we have plenty to be excited about: more steam operations with C17 971, additional restored Davidson carriages coming online, new tour options (including longer multi-day adventures), and the continued development of Warwick Station as a key arts, culture and tourism hub for the region. Together, we're building something very special for our community and for future generations of rail enthusiasts.

On behalf of the Board and management team, thank you for your dedication, your patience, and your passion. I wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and very Merry Christmas, and I look forward to working with you all again in the New Year.

Warm regards,

Kelvin Hutchinson

Chairman, Southern Downs Steam Railway Assoc Inc / Downs Explorer

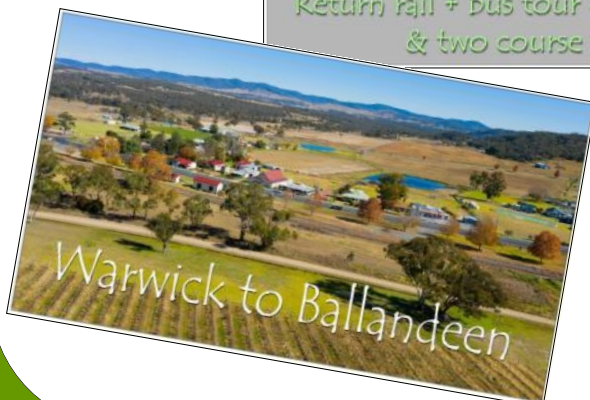
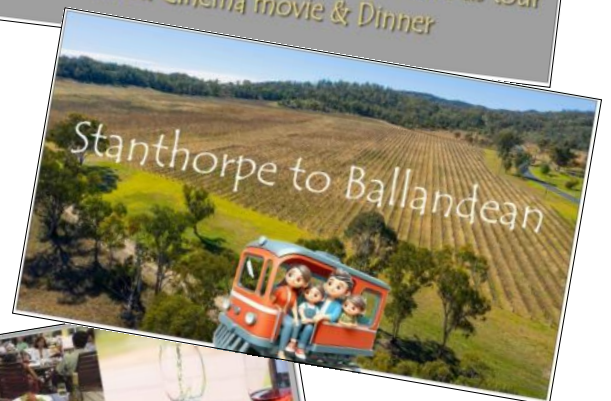


OUR REGULAR TOURS
TO BE FOUND ON THE
WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

DON'T FORGET
OUR EPIC 3 DAY
WEEKEND TO
GOONDIWINDI
IN MAY



2026



TIMETABLES
AND
EASY BOOKING
ON THE
WEBSITE

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage

News from around the yard



Our railway yard has undergone a serious makeover, with dozens of new sleepers laid to upgrade the serviceability and safety of the tracks. All credit goes to the trainees from Energy Skills Queensland and their supervisor Alex Lanham. Thanks also for funding help from them and also from our freight-hauling friends at Watco.



Our faithful DH45 loco is undergoing some improvements with grant aiding from Queensland Rail.

Thanks to them we can upgrade the running gear and also finish checking out a spare motor that Dave Laker managed to source. This will be fitted and the existing one reconditioned as a spare.

C17 loco 971

More steam trials and adjustments to the running gear for increased reliability and safety have been undertaken in the past couple of weeks....so the folks of Warwick will be hearing that good old whistle very soon



More improvements to the children's mini train

The carriages have had their roofs raised making it much easier for adults to accompany their children, without banging their heads! The loco is running well, so a full repaint finishes the job and the train is now ready for the big school holidays ahead.

Kevin Patterson is always grateful for extra help with taking rides around the park. Thanks to Helen Harm Real Estate for her support

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage

Wishing all our supporters & passengers
a very Happy Christmas, from the volunteers at Warwick



A fine end to 2025
Good food & company as the
working volunteers &
partners get together for a
Christmas lunch at the
station.

Thanks to patron Ron
Bellingham for the talk and to
those who prepared the
delicious food.



TIMES GONE BY....

Colorful shadow: Chris Freeman



Just be glad of modern plumbing.
The original station toilets were rather basic and drafty, maybe
that was a good thing' as those little doors gave access to the
buckets....say no more.



Other artifacts to look out for are things
like points and signal levers.
How busy it must have been, when as
many as 30 trains a day, local and
interstate, passed through Warwick.



HOW TO BOOK A HERITAGE TRAIN TOUR

Go to our website at www.downsexplorer.org.au/bookings
Click on a date or Tour Destination to read details on the Tour

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage