



Home of The Downs Explorer

July 2026 News Update

Annual General Meeting time of year again



SDSR AGM

Date: Saturday, 29 August 2026

Venue: Warwick Railway Station

Time: 9:30am

The Annual General Meeting is an important opportunity for members to hear about SDSR's activities and achievements over the past year, consider the Association's financial and operational position, elect the incoming Committee and learn more about the plans and priorities ahead.

Committee Nominations

Chairman

Deputy Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Ordinary Committee Members

If you plan to attend the meeting, please RSVP by
Wednesday 19th August to help with catering
admin@downsexplorer.org.au

Members considering nominating are encouraged to speak with the Chairman or Secretary regarding the responsibilities of the available positions and the nomination process.

Guest Speakers

Following the formal AGM proceedings, members will hear from our guest historian speakers:

Dr Gary Bacon

Hilda Maclean

Dr Bacon and Ms Maclean are members of the Queensland Historical Society and will share their knowledge of Cunningham's explorations and the importance of the railway age.

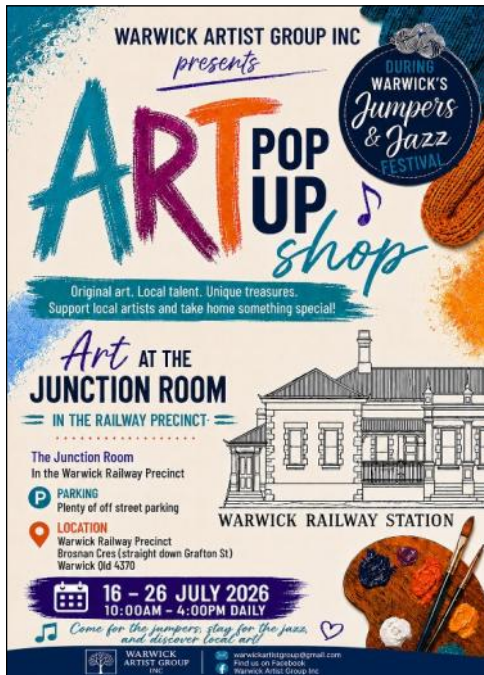
After the meeting please join us for a complimentary BBQ lunch

Southern Downs Steam Railway, preserving our railway heritage



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Jumpers & Jazz in July Warwick's premier annual festival



Our newly renovated station complex served well as a focal point for local artist groups and as a very popular Saturday night dinner dance venue. Playing for us once again were Girl Friday, that lively foursome from Brisbane.



It is exciting to see the old tin being removed from the platform awning. A painstaking task for the team involved with thousands for small fitting to cut off. The framework has to be cleaned and painted then a new bull-nosed heritage roof fitted. Thankfully it's a QR funded project!



Home of The Downs Explorer Rolling Stock Update



Glug, glug, glug, the DH45 gets another feed of expensive liquor. The old girl is apparently running sweetly after major heart surgery saw the motor replaced with a reconditioned unit.

Meanwhile good quality chunks of black gold are loaded into bags ready for use on the next Goondiwindi trip.

This is very generously donated to SDSR by Whitehaven Coal, we just pay for the transport.



Steam loco 971 is running well, here she is having the steam-powered electrical generator tested after servicing.

Don't forget, new volunteers are always welcome to help keep these beasts looking at their best....come and have a chat with the team.





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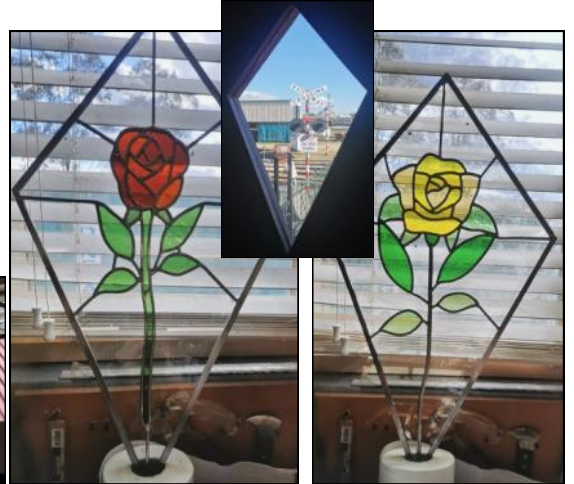


Barista coffee on the go!

The refreshments serving area has been expanded and improved, with extra fridge space and a brand new coffee machine.

Here we see Carolyn honing her skills, with two hangers-on (Ken & Bernie) hoping to test the results.

Warwick volunteer & amateur lead-light glass maker, Garry Watson has produced some superb panels for the carriage that is under restoration. He has now turned his attention to those famous diamond shaped windows in another of our fleet. Impressive work, we are very lucky!



View from the bridge....left: Watco's freight hub based around the heritage sandstone goods shed. Main line North & South
Right: the Railway Institute Complex and in the distance SDSR yard and maintenance facilities.

SDSR communication difficulties

To all our members, volunteers, and supporters—thank you.

Your contribution makes everything we do possible. Together, we continue to grow, adapt, and build something truly special.

We must apologise for ongoing membership renewal and email problems....you not receiving our outgoing notifications and SDSR not getting your emails. Also for some reason, the new, supposedly automatic membership tool on the website has not been up and running since installation, meaning SDSR has had to delay all membership renewals until October.

This has resulted in frustration for all concerned and of course loss of valuable revenue.

Please be patient, are trying to fix things.

Thankyou again.

Volunteers Needed – Train Staff

We are actively seeking members interested in training as footplate crew, a critical and rewarding operational role.

If you, or someone you know may be interested, please get in touch.

SDSR CONTACT DETAILS

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