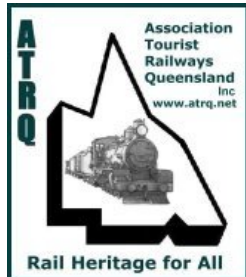


Newsletter  
October 2007

# TRACKS

The ATRQ Inc Newsletter



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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ ATRQ Meeting  
Ipswich  
9 February 2008

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Articles can be  
emailed as word/rtf  
attachments

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## Chat from the Chair

Welcome to the ninth issue of the ATRQ newsletter. With Christmas is just around the corner we all scratch our heads and wonder where 2007 went. We all have these grand plans of things to achieve in our own personal lives and within our railways; we just don't seem to ever get around to them. We don't seem to get the time to do the things we enjoy little lone the things we need to do to ensure our railways continue to operate.

I am finding it hard to believe, whilst being a little embarrassed that we have not produced a newsletter since January. It seems I completely lost track of time and with writing reports for ATHRA and various other bodies, it felt like only yesterday I wrote an article for ATRQ.

I must thank Wendy Driver for producing the newsletter over the last 18 months but Wendy has had to give many things away due to her health. We wish Wendy all the best in recovering and getting back to her bubbly self. Further to this I am delighted that David Mewes has offered to edit and compile the newsletter. Please assist David in every way you can when he requests articles. Remember every little bit counts.

2007 has many more challenges in our sector. The major one for this year is the development of the **Rail Safety Bill**. This is an attempt to nationalise the rules under which we are regulated. In Queensland there has been a fair bit of debate to the finer points of the Bill but we hope that will be resolved shortly. One of the major issues arising from the Bill is the requirement for more **formalised training** and this would mean that each group would have to ensure their training is compliant with the AQTF (Australian Quality Training Framework). In addition to this there is a push to ensure this training is done via a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) which would have an extensive cost associated with it. This has all come about over a spate of rail incidents over the past couple of years including the more recent Ariah Park tragedy. The common element in the findings in almost all these incidents was the lack of formalised training.

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Articles and reports in TRACKS may be reproduced freely  
providing source is acknowledged.

### Chat from the chair *continued*

ATHRA is in the process of challenging the RTO requirements as that would severely affect our business. Whilst we will not be able to escape more stringent requirements for the actual training documents, lesson plans and course delivery (AQTF standards) we can however help ease that burden to some extent. ATHRA has sort seed funding to begin to have these materials produced for the use of our member organisations. David Rumsey and Associates (who specialise in the development of these materials and has done many rail organisations recently) have been contracted to begin to develop these documents. This will provide the framework and the basic competencies for each railway to use and then adapt to their local requirements for various roles people perform. By utilising the material produced, you will then satisfy the requirements. For ATHRA to do this we require all railways to have input into this by supplying us with their training documents and assessments. There may be one small thing that you are doing that no one else is and this may just add to us having a much better set of resources. All information supplied will be kept confidential and only the specific content used. Groups may choose not to assist but it will only be to their detriment in the future if they have not had some input. ATHRA is starting with the more safety critical roles such as drivers, fireman, guards, signallers etc. Eventually any rail safety task will have a set of training even maintenance personnel, track workers etc.

The other component to all of this is the assessment side of things. Once again to avoid either becoming a RTO yourself or going through a RTO, ATHRA is pushing that we use Certificate IV assessors without the need to use a RTO. This would significantly reduce the costs to groups. We don't believe that we will be able to just do the assessments by our

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Delegates at the ATRQ meeting in Warwick pose beside C17 No.917

*Photo: Unknown*

## Chat from the chair *continued*

own unqualified people however ATHRA continues to pursue every angle to ease the burden.

On a more pleasurable note, the **ATRO AGM** at Southern Downs Steam Railway (SDSR) went off without a hitch. Many thanks go to Bob Keogh and his team for supplying the venue and activities for the weekend. The general meeting was held on Saturday morning and the AGM held after lunch. Following the AGM, Julie Bullas, Director Queensland Transport Rail Safety Unit, updated us on the Rail Safety Bill and then held a semi forum regarding training issues. It was agreed that these **Rail Safety Consultative Forums** should be held more often to help resolve some of the issues our sector faces both assisting us to cope with the changes and also for us to voice what impact it will have upon us. It is important that all groups participate in these sessions so we can protect our future.

The new executive was elected and the management committee now consists of the following people:

- Paul Rollason (QPSR, ASSCO and ANGRMS) - President
- Peter Ford (Mackay Heritage) - Vice President
- Peter Hyde (Brisbane Tramway Museum) -- Secretary
- John Parnell (Sunsteam) - Treasurer
- John Newell (Sunsteam) - Committee Member

I would like to personally congratulate these people on putting up their hands (even if it took a little prodding) to stand for the ATRO committee so that they can better serve the membership.

During the day SDSR steamed their C17 971 and it was moved out onto the turntable for the participants to admire. The restoration of this locomotive is very impressive and that was also shown as SDSR won the inaugural ATHRA Award for Locomotive Restoration. Congratulations to SDSR.

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C17 971 stands on the turntable at Warwick on Saturday 8 September during the ATRO AGM meeting hosted by SDSR.

*Photo: Paul Rollason*

### *Chat from the chair continued*

Later that day participants were able to take a bus tour through Warwick and out to the Allora Branch to view SDSR's future operations. Dinner was at the RSL that evening where we could all let our hair down. Sunday was also an opportunity for members to partake in a tour to Wallangarra Station and back via a few wineries. 9 people partook in this tour and all had an excellent time. The lunch at Bassendean Estate Winery and the sampling of their fine wines was unbelievable.

Two days later the Queensland contingent departed to Adelaide for the **ATHRA meeting** and preconference tour. The railways visited included Pichi Richi Railway, YP Rail, St Kilda Tramway and Steam Ranger along with a visit to the National Rail Museum. 11 Queenslanders in total participated in the week events. A full report will be in the ATHRA Newsletter "Cinders and Ashes". I strongly urge you to consider these events as you meet many new friends and see some very different things the public don't normally see. There is quite a core of Queenslanders that now attend these events and they seek to go on each ATHRA trip. The next two ATHRA trips include Canberra on the 14-16<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and Cairns in September 2008 with preconference tours in the week leading up to the meetings. Start planning now.

Have you checked out the ATRQ web site lately? If not go to [www.atrq.net](http://www.atrq.net).

All groups are encouraged to forward this newsletter onto your members or use articles out of this to include in your newsletters.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and friendship. If you have any queries at any stage the please contact me via [president@atrq.net](mailto:president@atrq.net)

Last but not least, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Report by  
Paul Rollason*

### **Editorial**

This issue of *Tracks* is running very late and for this is sincerely apologise. I am not used to working with a template as had been set up with this magazine and made many starts to put the magazine together only to find the template, for some reason, would not allow me to add or delete pages or even, edit certain sections on the existing pages. I would like to express my appreciation to Bob Dow and my son, Raymond, who have been giving me some assistance.

Thank you to those who sent in contributions to this issue. Due to the late publication of this issue some calendar date claimers and news is out of date and has been edited out. There are also some articles which I have not included with this issue and have held them over to the next issue so that I can get this current magazine distributed.

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If you have any news about your rail heritage group, rail safety issues or calendars of forthcoming events then please forward it to me at the e-mail address on the front cover.

I trust that you will all have a Happy and Safe Christmas and may you and your organizations Prosper in the New Year.

*David Mewes*  
*Editor*

### 50 YEARS OF TOURS

The Australian Railway Historical Society (Queensland Division) is currently celebrating their 50th year of operating rail tours. Over 850 excursions operated by steam, diesel and electric hauled trains and rail motors have run to many destinations in Queensland since 1957. The Society's very first tour was run in 1957 from Brisbane to Nambour with the then very shiny brand new prototype rail motors of the 2000 class.

The 50<sup>th</sup> year of tours programme has been a huge success with excellent patronage on all tours. The year commenced with a joint rail motor tour with Trainaway Tours from Rockhampton to Rolleston (the first passenger train on the new coal line) and Springsure. Two fully booked Winelander Tours by diesel hauled air conditioned carriages were operated to the Granite Belt towns of Stanthorpe and Wallangarra in February and August respectively.

As well as the usual Saturday steam tours originating from Brisbane and running to Suburban, North Coast region or Toowoomba two long distance tours were undertaken. Our main event for the year was the 9 day tour to Quilpie in April tour and an enormous success. As well as the 70 passengers that travelled on the 9 day tour a further 700 school children joined the train for short excursions to experience travel from a bygone era. Steam locomotive AC 16 221A performed magnificently on this tour.

The second major event for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year was in July and it was the 2000 class rail motor's turn for a long tour. RMs 2034/2036 headed off in July to Cairns with 50 passengers on a very successful 5 day daylight rail motor tour. A return journey was made with an Interstate group over a six day period. The rail motors performed faultlessly and by the way they were running they were ready to head off again on another great adventure.

As if there had not been enough on the rail enthusiast this year, a three day excursion from Brisbane to Rockhampton via the Monto Loop by special rail motor booked out very quickly in August. The Monto Loop tour turned out very wet on the first day with flooding in the near North Coast region providing some spectacular photography.

Again the Spring steam tour programme was well booked out and full capacity trains were run to Laidley for the Spring Festival and of course Toowoomba for the Carnival of Flowers. The 2000 class rail motors went for another jaunt to Toowoomba in September also for the Carnival of Flowers.

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October 20<sup>th</sup> was our "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour" to the very day that the Australian Railway Historical Society Qld Division commenced tours and to celebrate the event one of the brand new 160 series IMU electric trains was chartered for a run to Pomona and return. This was tour number 858.

The year is not over of course, the November tour to Cleveland by boat and return by steam train is already booking well as is the Santa tour to Shorncliffe and Iron Road Restaurant tour in December.

To finish of what has already been a huge year for Sunshine Express Rail Tours a Xmas New Year tour by Tilt Train and Special Rail Motor to the Collinsville area in North Queensland has booked out within 7 days of the brochure being released in September.

The tours operations of course would not be possible without the great assistance and support that is received from the various areas of QR. The variety of tours that the Society operate to so many different areas of the state would not be possible without the co operation of so many QR staff - management, workshops, operational staff and train controllers to mention just a few that the ARHS Qld Division is very grateful to for the support given for the 858 tours run so far.

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ARHS Qld Division.

Ray Edser

### ARHS CALENDAR - 2008

#### JANUARY 2008

Sunday 27 *Rosewood Railway Museum - Running Day*  
Steam Trains depart Cabanda hourly from 10.15am - 3.15pm

#### FEBRUARY 2008

Saturday 23-24 *TOUR - Winelander* to Stanthorpe  
Sunday 24 *Rosewood Railway Museum - Running Day*  
Steam Trains depart Cabanda hourly from 10.15am - 3.15pm

#### MARCH 2008

Saturday 01 *TOUR - Steam to Palmwoods*  
Sunday 30 *Rosewood Railway Museum - Running Day*  
Steam Trains depart Cabanda hourly from 10.15am - 3.15pm

#### APRIL 2008

Friday 11 to Monday 21 *TOUR - Perth & the South West*  
Sunday 27 *Rosewood Railway Museum - Running Day*  
Steam Trains depart Cabanda hourly from 10.15am - 3.15pm

#### MAY 2008

Saturday 17 to Thursday-22 *TOUR - MONTO STEAM via GYMPIE*  
Sunday 25 *Rosewood Railway Museum - Running Day*  
Steam Trains depart Cabanda hourly from 10.15am - 3.15pm

All inquiries see [www.arhs-qld.org.au](http://www.arhs-qld.org.au) or phone 07 3252 1759

## Chuff Awards - May 2007

Leanne Bartlett

The May 2007 ATRQ Chuff Awards winners were announced at the ATRQ meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2007.

At the meeting it was announced that the winners of the May 2007 ATRQ Chuff Awards were volunteers Merv Volker and Albert Austin.

Merv Volker is a volunteer of the The Workshops Rail Museum (TWRM) in Ipswich. In the Chuff Award nomination received, Merv was described as "a highly valued member of the volunteer team at The Workshops Rail Museum, working tirelessly... over the past two years, contributing over 2000 hours of work".

Albert Austin is a member of Maryborough City Whistle Stop in Maryborough. The nomination received for Albert stated that "Albert is a wealth of information... and makes an incredible Tour Guide and Historian." Albert's extensive career and involvement in the rail industry is the basis for the knowledge he shares with others.

Merv and Albert were recognised by their respective ATRQ member organizations at special award presentations at Ipswich and Maryborough respectively.

The judges were impressed with the standard of the nominations received and wished to recognise other of the nominees with 'Special Mention' certificates.

Those awarded 'Special Mention' certificates were:

Jim Walker of the Mary Valley Heritage Railway in Gympie,  
Anne and Peter Lloyd of the Bally Hooley Steam Railway in Port Douglas,  
Ray Edser of the Australian Railway Historical Society Queensland Division in Brisbane and  
Pat Lourigan of the Mary Valley Heritage Railway in Gympie.

ATRQ would like to congratulate our winner's and acknowledge the efforts of all who serve rail heritage in Queensland.

ATRQ wishes to thank our valued sponsors for their generous support in 2007:

Australian Railway Historical Society  
Bundaberg Railway Historical Society  
Cairns Kuranda Steam

## Safety Alerts

Safety Alerts are issued from time to time by ATHRA. Representatives of all groups should be receiving these by e-mail. If you do not currently receive them please contact me and I will have you added to the circulation. THEY ARE IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ THEM and make comment or take action if it is required.

## SAVANNAHLANDER gets an Award

Mike Lee

On Saturday 13 October, Savannahlander staff attended the black-tie Tourism Tropical; Queensland Awards night. We had nominated the *Savannahlander* in the Transport Operators Category. At the *Savannahlander*, we think we put on a fairly good sort of show and this is backed up by quite a lot of positive feedback we receive from our passengers. We attempted to capture and portray this in the submission that was presented to the Award Judges.

This was our first attempt at entering the *Savannahlander* into the mainstream Tropical North Queensland Tourism Awards. We consider that we did pretty well as the runner-up in our category. We noted that this year's winner was last year's runner-up - and this happened in some other categories - giving us hope for next year.

In addition to recognition as a finalist, we managed to come away with an award for "Highly Commended Entry", in the form of an attractively framed certificate, and we may now make use of a "Finalist" graphic on our marketing and sales material.

45% of full score was for an on-site inspection - ie a pair of observers travelled on the train; 45% of total score was for the written submission and 10% was for an interview by a panel of judges.



Mike Lee (second from right), Savannahlander Staff and their partners enjoy the occasion at the North Queensland Tourism Awards  
*Photo: Unknown*

## Torimba Festival

The Ravenshoe Railway Co Ltd participates in the Torimba (Tourists & Timber) Festival each year. It is held over two weeks every October. There are many activities that take place and perhaps you might consider joining us for next year's event.

The accompanying photograph shows some of our "activities".



## Thomas is coming to visit his Friends at The Workshops Rail Museum

They're back! Thomas the Tank Engine and "Sir Topham Hatt, the Fat Controller" return for The Workshops Rail Museum's annual signature event. Make sure you're part of all the BIG LOUD FUN as they enjoy their summertime holidays at The Workshops Rail Museum.

Admission is FREE after the general Museum entry. Adults \$17.50, Concessions \$14.50, Children (under 3) FREE, Children 3 to 16 \$10.00, Family (2 Adults and up to 4 Children) \$50.00

## The Back Page



ANGRMS track workers putting the finishing touches to the recently constructed passing loop at Woodford Station

## WebWatch

The ATRQ web site may be found at [www.atrq.net](http://www.atrq.net). Information, rules of the association, links to members' web sites, and a member's only area which includes a discussion forum, may be found. All members can participate in the forum. If you are a member of an organisation that is a member of ATRQ and do not have access, email our webmaster at [ozbob@ozbob.net](mailto:ozbob@ozbob.net) to request access.