

Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway Inc

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Newsletter



January 2018

P O Box 150, Herberton Q 4887

Issue 6

The Committee

President: Bob Slater
Vice pres.: Lawrie Leggett
Secretary: Judy Cooper
Assist. Secretary: Peter Harris
Treasurer: Don Lamb
Safety: Robert Howard
Infrastructure: Don Lamb
Rolling Stock: Bill Rowstron
Memberships: Judy Cooper

Management Committee:

Bob Slater
Lawrie Leggett
Don Lamb
Judy Cooper
Peter Harris

Membership

Membership is for the financial year

Family \$80.00;

Single \$50.00;

Junior \$5.00;

Business \$80.00

(half price until end June)

*Pay by cheque, cash
or direct debit. Details are:*
Bank: QCCU, BSB: 654-019,
Account Number: 100077847
Account Name: Athrail.

Big thanks to *Tinlander* crews and Ben who worked over the Christmas, New Year period.

A handful of people gave their time every day from Boxing Day through to New Year's Day as well as the normal Sundays to run the *Tinlander*. They were kept very busy with a large number of visitors coming to the station just to do the train ride as well as the usual visitors from the Village. It has brought in much needed income. They will appreciate the break for maintenance over February.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to 2018 and if our progress this year is as good as 2017 we are in for a very busy year.

Last year our volunteers worked a mighty 13,201 hours, a great effort by our track crew, train crew and everyone involved in the restoration of our locomotive and carriage. We have achieved a lot thus far and can see the light at the end of the tunnel in many areas.

We now have maintenance vehicles spread along the length of our track making it possible to keep the vegetation down and fire breaks maintained, as well as making it easy to keep these sections of track in gauge, making sure that we can traverse all parts safely. We have also now finished replacing bridge 11 with steel culverts, with work on bridge 12 due to commence shortly. We are planning on removing all bridges between Platypus Park Station and Wongabel which will leave only four bridges between Moomin and Herberton. These will eventually have the timber structures replaced with steel.

It is also planned to operate a small train ride between Platypus Park Station and Hastie Rd this year with a new carriage presently being built at the Herberton workshops. Our timber carriage is progressing well along with our loco 1069. Over the Christmas/New Year period we invited all of our train passengers to tour our workshop and see our progress. This proved a huge success with positive comments from our visitors. It also helped raise our profile within the wider community.

We still require more funding to make sure our project does not slow up and need some **urgent** help from our members and supporters. So if you know of any one or business that may contribute to our project please let myself or our Secretary, Judy Cooper know and we will contact them with a proposal. Our last mail out had a positive result so we need to keep talking to people and letting them know about our exciting project.

We will be holding a fundraising dinner in the shed at Herberton on Saturday 21st April 2018 so please keep this evening free, more information will be out and about in the next few weeks.

That's it for this newsletter and I look forward to catching up with you all soon. Bob Slater



ALAN'S QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 23rd February, Herberton Hall for 7.00pm start

Make up a table of six (or less) \$5 per person

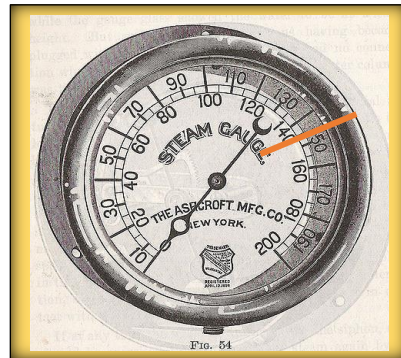
Help raise funds for restoration projects and have some fun too

RESTORATION OF PECKETTS 1069 AND 1174

We still need to raise **\$145 000** to restore our Peckett locomotives. YOU can help breathe steam in to our locos and make this a reality sooner rather than later.

For the cost of a weekly coffee you can make it happen –
Become a regular contributor from \$10 a fortnight for 24 months.

For more information, visit www.athrail.com



To Mrs and Mrs R Rowe of Brisbane for a wonderful donation of \$10 000.00 to help with our restoration projects. Their support is much appreciated.



Jacaranda Day 2017

We would like to thank all members and community organisations for their participation in the day. So many people give their time freely to make it a special. Thank you everyone!

The numbers of visitors were up on last year. It is a wonderful way to celebrate our track's October birthday and increase awareness of what is happening at the railway. We would like to encourage other organisations to join us next year to make it a day for the community.



Tableland Pipe Band, Atherton Tableland Brass band and MAS Choir provided music throughout the day. Many feet were seen tapping in obvious enjoyment of the music.



We are lucky to have renowned bush poet, Veronica Weal as one of our members. She entertained the crowd with a couple of poems.



The Herberton CWA, Herberton Lionesses, Herberton Fire Brigade and the RFDS Near and Far Auxiliary stalls gave the day its festive air. The Lionesses had their lavender coloured cream on their scones. The CWA had pastry trains on the tops of the apple pies for sale.



Add this date to your calendar

Jacaranda Festival – Sunday 7th October 2018

Members and supporters helping out on Jacaranda Day



Val Marlow, Brisbane selling raffle tickets.



Murray & Lyndal Fairholm



Train Crew Adrian & Annelin



Darryl Cooper
blacksmith

The BBQ cooks Mark and Lawrie with sausages and jacket spuds.



Del showing off the lavender cream on the Lionesses' scones.



Frank and the Sleeper Cutter display



Ross watering the jacaranda trees for sale.

It was very sad to hear of the passing on 15th December of Don Walker, a great supporter of the railway. He was aged 90.

Don understood the vision to have the railway operating once more, and his very generous donations to AHHR will help realise that vision.

His name will live on at the railway when Peckett 1069 bearing his name is on the track.

Rest in peace Don.



Flash Back...

From the

**Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser
Friday 28 February 1908**

RAILWAY TO HERBERTON

On February 14, Mr Thallon, Commissioner for Railways, accompanied by Mr Fraser (District Engineer), Mr Stringer (who is at present on the final survey of the railway), and two officers of the Railway Department visited Herberton (says the *Wild River Times*) for the purpose of selecting a site for the station and transacting other business in connection therewith. The visitors were met on arrival by Mr Woods M.L.A. and after finally deciding on a site near the Oddfellows Hall, were entertained at a wine party at Smyths Hotel given by the Shire Council and Chamber of Commerce. Responding to the toast of his health, Mr Thallon stated that when he was here two years ago he had his doubts as to whether his report would be favourable or not, but after further reports and information coming to hand, and from careful perusal of same, he was satisfied that the railway would prove payable from the start. He was pleased to be able to inform the people of Herberton that all plans, reports, surveys, etc. had been prepared and were now in the hands of the Minister, and his report also, approving the construction of the line. All that was necessary now was the approval of the plans and the voting of the money for its construction.

**Major fundraiser to add to your calendar. Bookings and payment will be essential.
Black Tie Dinner in the Workshop on Saturday 21st April 2018**

Look how different the line between Atherton and Herberton looked in the early years with many stations and sidings.

- **Atherton**
- **Tumbare** (Aboriginal name for spear) – namepost only serving an adjacent dairy farm
- **Wirpoo** (Aboriginal name for Tea tree) – serving Mr Thomas' sawmill and a shelter shed
- **Nyleta** (Aboriginal name for wild honey) opposite the wetland swamp. Logs were shipped out from this siding. The shelter shed was removed in 1960 and station closed 1972.
- **Wongabel** (Aboriginal name for wood pigeon) – important log loading point for timber for the local timber cutters.
- **Ballast siding** – Used to load material from adjacent cutting faces.
- **Carrington Falls** with its weir and standpipe. It was used to top up the steam engines with water for the long haul up the range. When diesels took over in 1966, the standpipe was no longer needed.
- **Moomin** (Aboriginal name for native bees or honey) – logging traffic from there ceased about 1958.
- **G.N. Tin Mines Siding** – it served the Great Northern Tin Mining battery on the banks of the Wild River. Many tons of tin concentrates left for Cairns from the siding.
- **Herberton**

Progress in the workshop



The carriage has a beautiful bright white ceiling. One side has most of its lower cladding. Steps on both ends make for easier access. It is easy now to see what it will look like when it is finished.



Bryan is building Carriage C in the workshop. It is destined to be used on the line between Platypus Park Station and Hastie Road.



Dave spraying the fiddly bits on Peckett 1069.

Lawrie on the lathe machining a right-hand steam cylinder cover



Bryan is leading a small group of our members in the clean out of one of the carriages at Platypus Park Station. They are going to install a model train setup. This will also bring in an income as it will be set up to run on a gold coin donation.

The display has just been given a boost with a generous donation from Jan Barns of Cairns. It is part of her late husband's collection and will certainly enhance the display in the carriage. **THANKS JAN!**

If you would like to help out talk to the Station Café staff.

Buy one of our Peckett bags and beat the plastic bag ban.

\$5.00



*Hungry?... Call in to **The Station Café** at Platypus Park, Atherton*

Homemade pies and cakes with great coffee

Open Wednesday & Thursday 8.30am-2.30pm-Friday, Saturday & Sunday 7am to 5pm