



Autumn up-date from the yard

SDSR is progressing on a number of fronts with projects such as the potential freehold ownership of the SDSR leased land and adjoining land to the east of the precinct, the acquisition of two additional passenger carriages, and the Work for Dole teams renovating two QLX carriages. Other activities include the recent completion and registration of one QLX and one Davidson carriage now able to be used on the rail network.

A Joint Venture with 'Workskills Traineeship' leading to the development of an accommodation facility to sleep 4, the complete renovation of 'Cottonvale' station building and the completion of the café car carriage, is about to commence.

The July to December rail trip program is now available (see attached) in a new easy to read format. We are constantly open to ideas on how to improve the layout of our publications, so we welcome your feedback.



The SDSR committee are starting to consider the site master-plan as the process of applying for a number of substantial grants and this is now underway.

A grant application is also underway for a Hi-Rail twin cab truck with fire fighting equipment onboard designed to follow the loco during fire season. We are also hoping to get hold of a crew cab road vehicle for local towing and delivery jobs plus easing the demand put on our volunteers using their own cars for running to and from destinations such as Stanthorpe.

So as usual it's all go down here at the precinct. Come down and see us some time...visitors are always welcome.

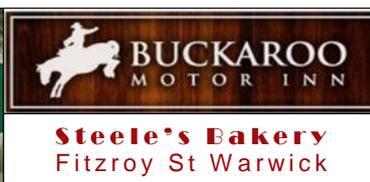
Kelvin Hutchinson
Secretary



As our only female volunteer on site at the precinct Julie Adams has her hands full keeping the blokes in check....we know we should be buttering those buns that Steele's Bakery kindly provide, but Julie is SO MUCH better at it!



Chris from **Samurai Signs**, Warwick, kindly donated the graphics for our restored QLX goods wagon



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We are located in the old railway precinct near Warwick station at the corner of Fitzroy & Hamilton Streets.

A not-for-profit, volunteer-run project, for rail enthusiasts of all ages.

Working days are Wed & Thurs every week. Visitors welcome!

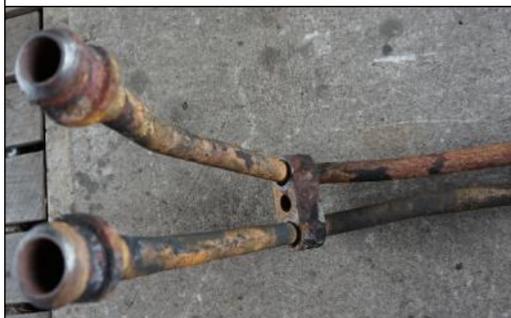
Troublesome Tubes

The last couple of weeks has seen some frantic activity in the loco shed. C17 loco number 971 was found to have steam leaks in the super-heater tubes. This involves stripping down a fair amount of gear at the smoke-box [front] of the loco. The pipes then have to be pulled out and repaired where necessary. To get around this recurring problem - usually caused by poor steel, we are having a completely new set manufactured as spares.



Just to recap on what these units actually do, hidden away there in the boiler. Basic steam engines use what is known as 'saturated steam', that is steam created directly from heat, as in a kettle but under pressure.

What the super-heater tubes do is return this steam back into the large pipes as can be seen above. This raises the temperature and removes much of the moisture creating a very powerful energy source.



As you can imagine, the inside of the firebox and tubing is a very hostile environment for steel with heat, pressure, acids and sulphur from the coal attacking it from all sides.

Stainless steel has been considered, but is prohibitively expensive and it's thermal qualities are an unknown, which could lead to unexpected problems down the track.

Anyway, it looks like 971 will be up and running again soon thanks to the volunteers who all pitched in to get it fixed.

One of the regulars, retired boiler-maker and general all round craftsman, Trevor Costin at work in the shed.



The heat of summer is finally leaving us and making working conditions at the SDSR precinct a lot more comfortable for us all.

Working volunteer numbers are fairly good at present, although if you are a keen DIY person there is always room for another pair of helping hands.

As you can see, first and second class carriage CL774 is now fully restored and along with the QLX wagon is awaiting registration for use on the QR mainline, due any day soon.



Passenger numbers for the first three months of the year have been slightly down, but coming up on the long weekend in May [5-7] is our trip to Goondiwindi which is already attracting a lot of interest, with 45 people booked through to Diranbandi on the Sunday.

Look forward to seeing you on-board on our autumn & winter trips.

Regards,
Peter Gregory
SDSR President

Fixing up the interior of the QLX goods wagon has been very hot work, but Dave and Jason seem to be taking it all in good humour.

These general freight wagons were used extensively on QR trains and we were lucky enough to inherit some.

This one will be a very useful addition to long journeys when we need to carry extra coal and equipment.



Safety Access Rail Corridors [SARC] Training

Notice to those rail crew and helpers who are booked to undertake this course. Please be advised that the first training day will be held on 26th April in the precinct at 1:30pm. Contact Adam Cole or Peter Gregory for details.

Southern Downs Steam Railway

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