

ALMOST THERE !

After a frustrating few months for the railway and our customers alike, it seems that we will finally going to see our trusty steam loco working once again.

Here are a couple of photos of the problems we have been dealing with.

The loco had to remain idle for an extended period due to months of hot dry weather, when most of Queensland was under the threat of bushfires.

Coal-fired steam boilers can suffer badly through lack of use. Corrosion becomes an issue as moisture collects inside boiler and superheater tubing.

After sitting in the shed, the first firing revealed leaks in the superheaters. These were replaced at a cost of around \$45,000 and we thought that we were good to go, however the next run found water leaking into the exhaust steam.

This was a great disappointment to all the volunteers, as we had to once again cancel our steam hauled trips and revert again to using the DH45 diesel.



This time the problem was the main steam pipe at the top of the boiler, which required a major strip-down of the front end of the boiler and removal of the rusted pipe and fittings. This has had to be re-fabricated by an engineering company and we are now awaiting delivery of this part so that re-assembly of the loco can be finished.



WDT Engineering, Archerfield Brisbane have the kind of lathe every railway needs and at one time would have had.

When you have to re-profile your wheels this is the kit you want.

A huge thank you to Wickham's Transport Warwick for the use of their truck.



CLIFTON 150

On March 9th we ran a special train to Clifton on the occasion of the township marking a century and a half since the arrival of the railway from Brisbane.

A large crowd turned out many in period dress and even arriving by vintage transport.

Hard to imagine the excitement all those years back when after a lifetime of travel on rutted tracks in a horse drawn buggy, you could now step on board a train and be in the city in one day!

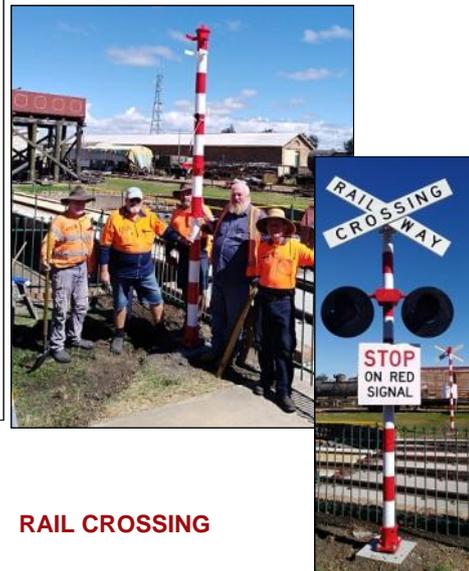


Steele's Bakery
WARWICK



NEWS

MAY 2019

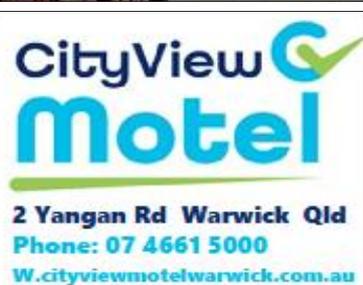


RAIL CROSSING

Just for fun and as an interesting addition to the Precinct, the lads have restored a pair of genuine rail crossing poles complete with flashing lights and signs. Thanks to our pal Noel for his sign writing skills.

POSITIONS VACANT

Opportunities exist for more SDRS members to become carriage attendants. If you enjoy meeting people and would like to help our passengers enjoy their experience, please contact Lindsay Mills for details [07 4661 9788]



FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENT BY RAIL

Birthday Parties & Weddings etc

Contact us on 07 4661 9788



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!

Trev's Shed



The new two story maintenance shed is progressing in between all the other work. Welding guru Trevor Costin has made up an excellent set of stairs and is seen here with volunteer off-sider Trevor [just to make things confusing!]



You can never have too many sheds!



Yet another building is going up next to the engine shed. This one has been sitting as a pile of parts in the old Allora station for many years...luckily all the pieces were numbered and it is now going together well. There's never a dull moment for volunteers down here.



WATCO AUSTRALIA UPDATE

Plans are progressing well for the up-coming partnership between SDSR and freight transport company WATCO.

We are informed that they have been successful in obtaining five 2100 class locos from South Africa that initially will be based here in Warwick .

The locos [shown above in QR livery] will be checked over for mainline use in Queensland and painted in their company colours of black and yellow we have already painted the storage container ready for their use.



FL class locos on Watco Australia's inter-modal containerised grain train to Fremantle WA



Southern Downs Industry Education Association Inc (SDIEA) trainee group with rail track supervisor Steve Herd have started another section of sleeper replacement for SDSR. SDIEA have now completed several projects on-site providing useful skills for the participants and a huge help for the railway.

Youthful energy is a great thing!

Southern Downs Steam Railway

Patron: Hon Lawrence Springborg

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