

# Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway Inc

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



## Newsletter



April 2020

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Issue 11

Dear members & friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe & well.

As you would all know by now, we have ceased all rail operations and scaled back our workshop and restoration programmes back to basically care and maintenance activities. We have a couple of members attending our Herberton workshop on most days carrying out small maintenance jobs and keeping the place secure. The same is happening at Platypus Park, the boys are keeping a strong presence around the general area in an effort to keep our assets secure and maintaining our social distances at all times. On both sites there is plenty of mowing and ground maintenance to be done as well as keeping the gardens in shape. As our meeting for April had to be cancelled and our next scheduled June meeting looking doubtful, your management committee will be meeting via e-mail putting together a short report on our current situation. Our finances will be taking a fairly big hit as our income has dried up but our public liability and volunteer insurances along with rates and power all still must be paid. We are in contact with the Federal Government exploring any avenues open to us for financial relief and if we are not eligible for support then we will have to find a way to support ourselves.

Enjoy reading this newsletter and keep safe and well, we are going to need everyone back on deck once it is safe to do so.

Bob Slater  
President

Checking injector No 6



Steam always puts a smile on everyone's face.



Before COVID-19 restrictions came in we were able to get a crew together to do some steam trials on Peckett 1069.

All steam leaks were fixed, safety valves set and eccentrics reset and now it is ready for a steam compressor to be fitted. We are still looking for a suitable compressor and are negotiating with some companies in NSW to have one made.

We believe this is the first time 1069 has been in steam for 70 years.

There is always plenty of advice



Steve fitting out the cab

With the help of Queensland Government and Tablelands Regional Council we received a RAFD grant for Jannie Smit to produce a documentary on our railway. You can view this on Youtube Atherton Herberton Historic Railway Documentary.

Thanks Jannie for showcasing our railway it has certainly put it out there to the broader community. Don't forget to leave a comment and share it to your friends.



Bridge 16 is here somewhere



Social Distancing



Rob checking the track gauge near tunnel No 1, the highest tunnel in Queensland built by QR



Hastie Road crossing

Our small but dedicated crew Chris, Paul and Rob working from Platypus Park to the top of the range.



BL769

BL769 carriage is all but finished, and waiting for a new roof. BL759 has been stripped bare and will be lifted off its bogies and set on support stands to one side of the track and the bogies will be stripped down for inspection and repair and possibly retired subject to detailed inspections of all parts.



BL759



M Series cover almost completed. Waiting for gutters and concrete footpaths. It will add to our museum complex.



Mel and Dave undercoating ready for the mural.



Another great addition to our museum complex is the Sleeper Cutters Shed. Thanks to Mt Emerald Wind Farm and Australia Post for supplying funding for the project.

It is now being undercoated for local artist Terrie Tanner to cover it in a mural. Frank has already been working on an amazing display of sleeper cutter artifacts and memorabilia for the interior.



We are still planning having Jacaranda Day on October 18<sup>th</sup> subject to government regulations. We are being optimistic as this will be 110 year since the railway arrived at Herberton on October 20<sup>th</sup> 1910.



Grandpa has been overhauling the Mancar, reco compressor, air controls and general service during the break.



*Station Café at Platypus Park and the Little Caboose Art Gallery*  
**A great place for a quiet coffee and something to eat. (Closed at present)**