

## ASCR HISTORY

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- 1978** Bundaberg Tramway Preservation Society founded by 7 members  
(M.Quirk, J.Bailey, C.Antrobus, E.Hovey, R.Driver, G.Driver, S.Heidrich)
- 1979** Constitution and Plans for future formulated.
- 1980** Submission to Bundaberg Sugar to obtain a locomotive.
- 1981** Bundaberg Sugar donated the third Fowler built in Bundaberg (ex Millaquin No 8).
- 1982** Restoration commenced on *No 3 Bundaberg Fowler*
- 1983** March 11 – Society incorporated;  
*Felin Hen* locomotive donated to Society.
- 1984** Commonwealth Employment Programme Grant formulation for grant of \$119,960
- 1985** **Building commenced of rolling stock facility and laying of track in Botanic Gardens.**
- 1986** Retubing and painting of *No3* was completed.
- 1987** Carriages built by Boilermakers at Millaquin Sugar Mill using old sugar cane wagons.
- 1988** Carriages tested and passed by Harry Abdy Machinery Inspector for use as an Amusement Class 1 Device,  
**Official opening November 20 by Geoff Mitchell (Bundaberg Sugar)–**  
Running commenced in Botanic Gardens with fares Adult \$2 Child \$1 Family \$6  
A total 2941 passengers and 14 running days.  
Total passengers to date: 2941
- 1989** Locomotive "*Germany*" donated to Society by East Bundaberg Rotary,  
A total 14,564 passengers and 68 running days.  
Total passengers to date:17,505
- 1990** Restoration of "*Germany*" commenced,  
A total 14,721 passengers and 68 running days.  
Total passengers to date:32,226
- 1991** *Germany* commenced operations in October.  
Permanent station built by City Council.  
A total 14,358 passengers and 68 running days.  
Total passengers to date:46,584

- 1992** No 3 moved to Bundaberg Foundry for a new firebox;  
 Certificate *Guide for Locomotive Drivers* was written and published.  
 Society members (5) trained and passed test to become drivers.  
**50,000<sup>th</sup> passenger at Easter.**  
 A total 11,700 passengers and 68 running days.  
 Total passengers to date:58,284
- 1993** No3 recommenced operations,  
 A total 13,510 passengers and 68 running days.  
 Total passengers to date:71,794
- 1994** Submission completed for *Invicta* locomotive – submission successful - arrived November.  
 A total 14,976 passengers and 68 running days.  
 Total passengers to date:86,770
- 1995** Extension of third bay of rolling stock facility built at a cost of \$26,000  
**100,000<sup>th</sup> paying passenger carried.**  
 A total 15,832 passengers and 68 running days.  
 Total passengers to date:102,602
- 1996** Honorary member Alan Biederman welcomed,  
 Floor concreted in rolling stock facility.  
 Subsidised meals introduced for operations staff,  
 Kitchen and Shower installed,  
 New motor for Navy cart,  
 Compressor and air tools purchased,  
 Steel purchased for stairs in workpits,  
 Sale of wooden trains (built by Woodworkers Guild) sold as souvenirs.  
 Guest at opening of Visitor Information Centre,  
 A total 16,365 passengers and 68 running days.  
 Total passengers to date:118,967
- 1997** Quality Assurance manual prepared by Alan Biederman,  
 Lighting and sump pump installed in work pits,  
 UHF radios introduced between locos and station.  
 Introduction of Charity Running Days.  
 Motorised auger purchased for drilling sleepers,  
 Train rides prior to the evening Carols by candlelight.  
 Totals, 19,436 passengers and 68 running days, 5 weddings.  
 Total passengers to date:138,403
- 1998** Signage for pedestrian crossing installed.  
**150,000<sup>th</sup> paying passenger carried Sun 19 July 1998.**  
 Burgowan Collieries closed – coal now donated by Blair Athol  
 Coal bunker extended to take 25 Ton of coal,  
 Bundaberg Fowler No3 taken to Bundaberg Foundry for retyring and spring attachments, boiler check  
 and general overhaul and returned prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of operations in November,  
 Double header loco's Germany and No3 Bundaberg Fowler,  
 Society loco featured on cover of local phonebook,  
 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary run at \$1 per person for the day  
 Totals, 19,583 passengers and 68 running days.  
 Total passengers to date:157,986

- 1999**     **Hauled more than 20,000 passengers in 1 year for the first time since operations commenced.**  
 Air compressor purchased and altered for use in track maintenance – air equipment purchased.  
 Some of the original timber sleepers were replaced,  
 Totals, 20,358 passengers and 68 running days  
 Total passengers to date:178,344
- 2000**     First ever fare increase, adult fare \$2 to \$3 and family \$6 to \$8;  
 Volunteer award received by Society.  
 Plastic curtains installed to 2 carriages for wet weather protection,  
 New welder purchased and used on building a new chimney for loco “Germany”,  
 Ch7 “The Great South East” filmed the train on 16th May,  
 Gulliver Productions filmed for project “Bundy” (to be screened Early 2001)  
 Scouts train ride for Easter and World Scout Day  
 Totals, 19,403 passengers and 69 running days,  
 Total passengers to date:197,747
- 2001**     Introduction of extra running days on Wednesdays in School Holidays - very popular,  
 International year of the volunteer,  
 Screening of “Bundy” gave nation wide exposure to the society,  
 Metal toolboxes fitted to maintenance vehicle,  
 Rail maintenance shed built – shared with City Council;  
 Set of points and rail laid to new building.  
**200,000<sup>th</sup> paying passenger carried.**  
 Totals, 18,726 passengers and 69 running days,  
 Total passengers to date:216,473
- 2002**     *Line maintenance shed officially opened by Cr Mary Wilkinson - Bundaberg City Council,*  
*No 1 Bundaberg Fowler acquired from Bundaberg Sugar 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2002,*  
*Felin Hen parts were returned to France where loco operated in WW1.*  
*Planet loco donated to BSTPS by Bundaberg City Council, and placed into operation,*  
 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bundaberg Fowler;  
 No2 locomotive pit covered with removable grates for safety,  
 Gauge Glass mountings upgraded and protectors modified on No3 Bundaberg Fowler,  
 94 timber sleepers replaced and 75 metres of track repacked,  
 Website created thanks to Lynn Zelmer,  
 Totals, 17,876 passengers and 71 running days,  
 Total passengers to date:234,349
- 2003**     14 new members,  
 Firebox repairs,  
 Drawings and patterns for firebars for “No3” and “Germany”  
 Restoration commenced on *Invicta in June (More than \$14000 spent),*  
 Invicta required considerable welding repairs to frame and rear bogie,  
 New bearings cast using Phosphor Bronze,  
 102 Timber sleepers replaced, 100m of track packed,  
 Celebrated 25years of society and 15 years of operation.  
 New logo and trading name changed to Australian Sugar Cane Railway,  
**250,000<sup>th</sup> paying passenger carried**  
 Float with loco and carriage entered in Pageant of Lights parade,  
 Totals, 18,893 passengers and 71 running days,  
 Total passengers to date:253,242

- 2004** New chimney on No3 Bundaberg Fowler,  
Electric start installed to "Planet",  
Coil springs fitted to guards carriage for trial, proved to be a success,  
19<sup>th</sup> Nov "VALDORA" Purchased from Bundaberg Sugar ex Moreton Mill for restoration.  
92 timber sleepers replaced and 150m of track repacked,  
New uniforms introduced in green with gold trim,  
Totals, 19,455 passengers and 70 running days,  
Total passengers to date:272,697
- 2005** All carriages were converted to coil springing and new Willison auto couplings installed,  
Official return to service of *Valdora* by Grant McLean (Bundaberg Sugar C.E.) 3 Sept 2005,  
Channel 7 – Queensland Weekender visited and filmed on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2005,  
Quality Assurance introduced under the guidance of A.Biedermann  
Firebox thickness tested on No3 Bundaberg Fowler,  
Track extension proposed and accepted by council,  
Operations Procedures manual was first issued,  
New business cards, membership cards and free passes printed,  
All new members issued with a membership card,  
Locomotive "Germany" and 1 carriage entered in Bundaberg Pageant of Lights parade and  
acknowledgement of the closure of the Fairymead Mill, carried on a Bundaberg Sugar low loader,  
152 timber sleepers replaced, 148m of track repacked,  
Hosted December meeting of ATRQ & silver spike competition ran,  
Totals, 20,453 passengers and 78 running days,  
Total passengers to date:293,150
- 2006** Plans for 1 km track extension presented to council in February and work commenced after an official  
ceremony by Grant McLean (Bundaberg Sugar C.E.) on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006,  
Boiler and tanks reinstalled on frame of *Invicta*.  
Decision to trial running Valdora on Tuesdays and Fridays during the Christmas school holidays as well  
as steam on Sundays and Wednesdays,  
Carriages sandblasted, refitted and repainted red with slip resistant grey floor,  
Loco storage facility had new gates fitted to accommodate the new track,  
Yard winch removed as Valdora is now used for shunting,  
2<sup>nd</sup> set of stairs to service pit built and installed,  
Rail Safety promotion "Clickety Clack" with Bundaberg Sugar directed at children,  
Purchased ladders with platforms which conform to Australian Standards,  
During 2006 members worked in excess of 16534 hours,  
99 timber sleepers were replaced,  
**300,000<sup>th</sup> paying passenger carried**  
Totals, 20,027 passengers and 75 running days,  
Total passengers to date: 313,177

- 2007** Carriages pinstriped and numbered,  
Safety gates fitted to work pit No1,  
Commenced preparation of the Quality System in September,  
All assets were listed and numbered,  
Special running days for Aged care facilities, schools, kindergartens, Scouts 100 years and World scout day were amongst numerous others,  
Invicta recommissioned 17<sup>th</sup> November 2007 after 4 years of restoration: Over 300 people attended,  
For it's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday "Invicta" took pride of place on Bundaberg Sugar's low loader for the Pageant of lights parade,  
Totals, 21,431 passengers and 94 running days,  
Total passengers to date: 334,608
- 2008** BCC certificate for "Community event of the year" for the recommissioning of "Invicta" received on Australia day  
Invicta won the Australian Tourist Heritage Railways Association award for the best locomotive restoration project for 2008.  
Valdora engine refurbished and installed  
Pedestrian crossings repainted,  
Risk assessment sheets introduced as part of the Quality Procedures,  
30 years for the Society and 20 years operation in the Gardens,  
150m of track laid on the new line,  
19 sleepers replaced on original line,  
Totals, 21,776 passengers and 94 running days,  
Total passengers to date: 356,384
- 2009** Track extension to be completed  
Germany ash pan repaired,  
Valdora engine removed and reconditioned,  
9 timber sleepers and some fish plate bolts replaced,  
Public Address system for station,  
Welding screens constructed,  
Data projector purchased,  
New curtains on station windows,  
Australia day triple header,  
Locomotive "No3 Bundaberg Fowler" and 1 carriage entered in Bundaberg Pageant of Lights parade carried on a Bundaberg Sugar low loader,  
Totals, 24,706 passengers and 95 running days,  
Total passengers to date: 381,090
- 2010** **Extensive Flood Damage**  
400,000<sup>th</sup> paying passenger carried  
Data projector purchased for use in meetings and training,  
Training room completed,  
60 timber sleepers replaced,  
**27<sup>th</sup> December, Heavy rain forced the cancellation of running at 14:00hrs and the rest of the year's operations were cancelled due to flooding,**  
**Tallon and Burnett bridges were closed by the authorities and the Burnett river peaked at 7.92m at 10:00hrs on 30<sup>th</sup> December. The highest flood peak since 1942.**  
Totals, 21,643 passengers and 85 running days,  
Total passengers to date: 402,733

- 2011** Facilities were effected by flooding and required cleanup,  
 Permanent way damaged by fast flowing floodwaters,  
 No3 Bundaberg Fowler removed from service for its 10 yearly overhaul,  
 20 timber sleepers replaced,  
 Track sleepers numbered to assist with records,  
 "Kids Off Trains" is a joint program with Bundaberg Sugar visited local schools & advertised on TV,  
 Totals, 21,531 passengers and 78 running days,  
 Total passengers to date: 424,264
- 2012** Queensland Transport accreditation,  
 Diamond Jubilee (60<sup>th</sup> B<sup>day</sup>) Bundaberg Foundry Co locomotives.  
 Internal audits commenced January 2012,  
 Slab laid for new office,  
 Steam Locomotive Drivers manual produced,  
 "Kids Off Trains" is a joint program with Bundaberg Sugar visited local schools & advertised on TV,  
 20<sup>th</sup> August saw the book launch "*Built by Bundaberg Foundry*" by John Browning and Brian Webber  
 launched in Café 1928,  
 Totals, 24,147 passengers and 87 running days,  
 Total passengers to date: 448,411
- 2013** **January: Due to Ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald the Greater Bundaberg Region received relentless rains, causing the worst ever flood Bundaberg has recorded, and classed as a 1 in 100 year event.**  
**The Burnett River peaked at 9.525m at 15:00hrs on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013, the highest flood level recorded since 1875.**  
**During February and March our members worked every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to clean up and it took a total of 6 months for cleaning and repairs of any salvageable items from in and around the workshops and buildings before we were able to operate the trains again, A total of 5726 hours on site recorded for the recovery (after a new sign on book was purchased) until the first train ran on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013,**  
**The estimated cost of damage was in excess of \$250,000**  
 Construction of a new office was completed 5<sup>th</sup> March,  
 3 members gained their steam competency, the first since 1992,  
 Fare increase for adult fare \$3 to \$4 and family \$8 to \$10,  
 25 years of ASCR operations was on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov & an official gathering held on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov with more than 100 people.  
 Museums Australia Award  
 Monthly general meetings were held at U3A until December,  
 Totals, 14,154 passengers and 48 running days,  
 Total passengers to date: 462,565
- 2014** Remote controlled roller doors installed,  
 Main line through Locomotive Workshop removed and upgraded prior to running on the new Fairymead section  
 Arrival of our first 100 concrete sleepers and Pandrol clips donated by Isis Central Mill,  
 No.3 Bundaberg Fowler locomotive restoration completed in October and recommissioned on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov at official ceremony by Ray Hatt (Bundaberg Sugar CEO),  
 Previous record for passengers carried in 1 year broken  
 Totals, 25,707 passengers and 97 running days,  
 Total passengers to date: 488,272

- 2015** Track extension opening 24<sup>th</sup> January by Grant Maclean (retired CEO Bundaberg Sugar).  
**500,000th passenger carried in May**  
Coal storage bunker upgraded & gates installed,  
Concrete wash/work area installed at East side of Loco workshop,  
New alloy wheelchair ramp,  
Joined Bundaberg North Burnett Tourism  
Created a Facebook page  
Previous record for passengers carried (2014) was broken,  
Totals, 31,996 passengers and 122 running days,  
Total passengers to date: 520,268
- 2016** Almost 200 timber sleepers replaced with concrete sleepers donated by Isis sugar mill,  
New track tamper machine ordered early in the year, arrived 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and commissioned 19<sup>th</sup> Nov by Keith Pitt (Federal MP)  
Ultrasonic thickness testing completed on the boilers of loco's "Invicta" and "Germany"  
151 sleepers were replaced, 133 concrete and 18 timber,  
Previous record for passengers carried (2015) was broken,  
Totals, 32,909 passengers and 114 running days,  
Total passengers to date: 553,177
- 2017** Sleeper replacement program: 133 timber sleepers replaced with concrete sleepers  
Finished tube expansions "Germany", fitted Smoke box, wheels and bearings.  
New brake shoes installed "Invicta",  
Photo copier purchased.  
June - defibrillator fitted to guard's carriage.  
Oct - Nov concrete & culverts completed in the section washed away due to localised flooding,  
December - Aerial shots taken of Valdora and BFC No3, Previous record for passengers carried (2016) was broken,  
170 sleepers were replaced, 101 concrete, 24 timber and 45 steel,  
Totals, 33,191 passengers and 112 running days,  
Total passengers to date: 586,368
- 2018** Queens Baton Relay in March,  
**600,000th passenger carried in June**  
Finished tube expansions "INVICTA"  
Set of new points constructed and awaiting installation on Shed Line 5  
The Bundaberg Steam Tramway Preservation society celebrates 40 years of the organisation & 30 years of operations in the Botanic Gardens.