



# RailFest

Saturday &  
Sunday  
27 & 28 July 2024

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## HISTORY OF QUORN RAILWAYS

In the 1870s wheat production soared in South Australia and the Colonial Government authorised the construction of cheap narrow gauge railways to the nearest port. The Port Augusta and Government Gums ( now Farina ) Railway commenced construction in 1877 and services to Quorn, through the Pichi Richi Pass, commenced in 1879. The railway pressed on north, reaching Hawker in 1880, Beltana in 1881, Hergott Springs ( now Marree ) in 1884 and Oodnadatta in 1891. Quorn was connected to Adelaide via Orroroo, Peterborough and Terowie in 1882.

South Australia handed over the Northern Territory to the Federal Government in 1911 and this included the Great Northern Railway. At that time the Federal Government had no Railway Department, so they contracted the South Australian Railways (SAR) to operate the railway until taking over as the Commonwealth Railways in 1926. The railway was extended to Alice Springs in 1929 and by this time the Commonwealth Railways had their own staff, engines and carriages.

With the development of the Leigh Creek coal fields, a new standard gauge railway was built to Marree in 1957 and the old narrow gauge line from Hawker to Marree was pulled up. The last Ghan ran through the Pass in August 1956. The extensive Quorn Railway Workshops closed and maintenance was relocated to Port Augusta. A limited freight service operated to Hawker until 1970, but the Pass was closed in 1968 when the Saltia bridge was damaged.

Passenger trains to Terowie ceased in 1969 and goods services ceased in 1980. The line from Bruce to Peterborough has now been dismantled.

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## THE PICHI RICHI RAILWAY

In 1973 the Government advised that the railway through the Pichi Richi Pass would be pulled up. A group of local people began to lobby for the retention of the line and structures and in July 1973 a meeting approved the formation of the Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society, to preserve the railway and structures. This soon grew into running trains and following the acquisition of locomotives and carriages, the first train ran on 20 July 1974. His Excellency Sir Mark Oliphant, the Governor of South Australia, cut the ribbon to start the first train.

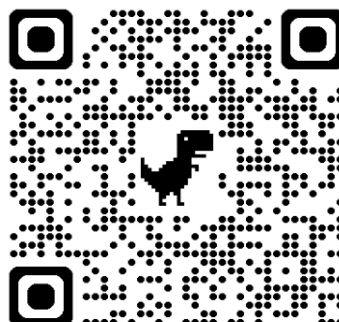
The year 2024 marks 50 years of train operations, with only a short period without trains, when insurance issues after the 9/11 tragedy forced a halt. For over half a century all trains have been operated by Society Volunteers and the Society has trained their own Drivers, Firemen, Guards and operating staff. All maintenance and repairs are done by the Society, with occasional outside help.

Since commencing operations the Society has run over 1000 trains and carried nearly half-a-million passengers.

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[More info -](#)

[www.pichirichirailway.org.au](http://www.pichirichirailway.org.au)



# PICHI RICHI RAILWAY ON DISPLAY

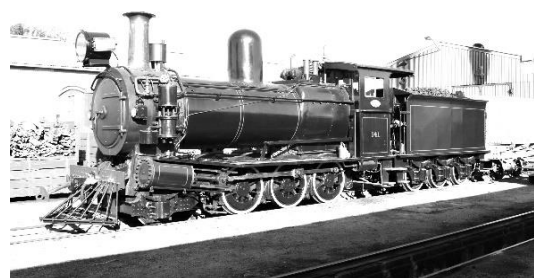
## NM25 OLD GHAN ENGINE

NM25 was built in Victoria in 1925 for the Commonwealth Railways and worked on the Central Australia Railway until 1964. After a period as a stationery boiler, it was placed on static display in Homestead Park, Port Augusta. Rescued by the Pichi Richi Railway in 1990, the engine underwent a major overhaul in Adelaide, before returning to Quorn in 2001. The NM regularly hauls the Afghan Express from Port Augusta to Quorn.



## Yx141 ORIGINAL SAR ENGINE

Yx141 has a fascinating history. Built at Gawler in 1892 it worked on the Great Northern Railway. Involved in a tragic derailment at Brachina in 1911, it was repaired then rebuilt in Adelaide as a Yx in 1923. It then worked at Port Lincoln before being retired to a park. Rescued by Pichi Richi in 1983 it has been fully restored to service as it was in the 1920s.



## SMC1 "THE COFFEE POT"

Steam Motor Coach No1 was built in England for the SAR in 1905, to provide a service between Quorn and Port Augusta. It struggled on the steep grades in the Pass, so was used for a weekly service to Hawker and community runs. Retired in 1930, it was displayed at Alice Springs, before returning to Quorn and restoration in 1984. A great treasure, the only operating one of its type in the world.



## W934 PICHI RICHI WORKHORSE

The West Australian Railways purchased 60 W class engines from England in 1951. Pichi Richi Railway purchased four of these engines in 1974 and 933 and 934 have provided the mainstay of the railways services over the last 50 years. W934 hauled the opening train with His Excellency Sir Mark Oliphant, the Governor of South Australia, in July 1974.



## W22 SILVERTON TRAMWAY

In 1951 the Silverton Tramway Company in Broken Hill ordered four W class engines. The Silverton engines were mechanically the same as the WA engines, but had Westinghouse air brakes and skyline cowling. W22 is actually a replica of the original, which is stored at Quorn currently in non-operational condition.

W22 often hauls the Pichi Richi Explorer from Quorn to Woolshed Flat.



# PICHI RICHI RAILWAY ON DISPLAY

## NSU 52 DIESEL - ELECTRIC

The Commonwealth Railways purchased 14x 850hp diesel-electric NSU class engines from England in 1954 and they took over most of the operations on the Central Australia Railway. NSUs hauled the Ghan through the Pichi Richi Pass in 1954-56 and worked to Hawker until 1959. All of the NSUs have survived and Pichi Richi Railway also has 51 and 54 as spares.



## NT 76 DIESEL - ELECTRIC

As traffic on the Alice Springs line increased, bigger engines were required and 13x NT class 1300hp diesel-electrics were built by Tulloch in NSW 1965-68. They operated on the Central and Northern Australia Railways until 1980, then on the Quorn and Wilmington lines. The Society purchased NT76 in 1989 and it is the only surviving NT.



## RM106 BRILL RAILCAR

Brill Railcars were introduced in the 1920s across regional SA on both broad and narrow Gauge SAR. 106 entered service in 1928 and completed 2.2 Million kilometres in service to 1970, including the service from Terowie to Quorn. The Society also has the matching trailer, number 305. The Brill operates the popular Sundowner Explorer and also many Charter Specials.



## MIC 126

Motor Inspection Car 126 is a modified 1938 Morris Car on railway wheels. The MIC was used by SAR Railway Officers for inspection and also the Railway Paymaster. Based at Peterborough, it travelled on the Quorn line. The MIC can be hired for runs through the Pass.



## TRACKWORK

Track maintenance and inspection are essential activities on the Pichi Richi Railway. The Society has a working collection of vintage trollies and a range of maintenance machinery for this important role. A selection are on display.



## Saturday 27th July 2024

(T) Ticket required

All day	Booleroo Steam Traction Preservation Society exhibit open - free entry
9:15am	<b>Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia arrives at Quorn Railway Station</b>
9:30am	Welcome to Country, Official Speeches, Her Excellency relaunches passenger carriage Car 470 at Quorn Railway Station - free entry
10:00am	Pichi Richi Explorer train departs Quorn Railway Station for Woolshed Flat with Her Excellency and other VIPs onboard (T)
10:30am	Afghan Express train departs Port Augusta Station with The Honourable Claire Scriven MLC, and VIP's onboard (T)
10:50-11:25am	Explorer and Afghan trains arrive at Woolshed Flat (T)
~12:15pm	The now double-header (combined Afghan and Explorer) train departs Woolshed Flat for Quorn with approximately 300 passengers onboard (T)
~1:30pm	Combined Afghan and Explorer double-header train arrives into Quorn
After sunset	<b>Film Tracks</b> historic rail flicks under the stars, Quorn Silos in Railway Station precinct - free

## Sunday 28th July 2024

from 6am	"Light up" of steam locomotive in Quorn Station Yard, near water tank - free entry
All day	Booleroo Steam Traction Preservation Society exhibit open - free entry
All day	Pichi Richi Railway rolling stock exhibits in the Quorn Railway Station yard
9:00am	Quornies vintage cars on display in Quorn Station Yard - free entry
9:00am	Buckaringa displays open - free entry
From 9:30am	Mainline shuttles depart Quorn for Dog Crossing and return to Quorn (T)
From 10am	Locomotive Workshop Shuttles depart Quorn and return to Quorn (T)
From 10:30am	Devonshire Teas in the CWA Hut at Quorn Railway Station - various times (T)
From 10:45am	<b>The Honourable Claire Scriven MLC and other VIPs visit RailFest exhibits in Buckaringa building, and at the Quorn Railway Station - free entry</b>
12:45pm	At Quorn Railway Station "Into The Pass" Pichi Richi Railway book launch, meet editor Rodney Barrington & book signing - free entry
From 12:45pm	<b>Official Ceremony to mark 50th Anniversary of Society's inaugural train. Welcome to Country, the Honourable Claire Scriven MLC and other VIPs at Quorn Railway Station - free entry</b>
1:30pm	<b>SPECIAL re-enactment train departs from Quorn for Summit &amp; return (T)</b>
To Follow	<b>Showcasing our Fleet - a spectacular finale!! - free entry</b>
After sunset	<b>Film Tracks</b> historic rail flicks under the stars, Quorn Silos in Railway Station precinct - free.