

CHILDERS 7-3-09



Old Number 4, the former Isis Central Sugar Mill steam locomotive will be the centre of attraction at the Historical Village on Saturday morning.

Unveiling of Old Number 4 loco

The steam locomotive, affectionately known as "Old Number 4", marks its 113th birthday this year but careful hands have ensured the old girl looks as good today as the day she was built.

Those "careful hands" have mainly been the members of the Isis District Historical Society who, on Saturday, will host the official Open Day to relaunch a refurbished Old Number 4".

Historical Society Secretary Arthur Smith said community members and invited guests will witness the unveiling of the 0-6-0T steam locomotive which was purchased with the assistance of \$22,000 from the Australian Government accessed through the National Cultural Heritage Account.

The locomotive was built in England in 1896

by John Fowler and commenced work at the Isis Mill in 1933 after initially being utilised by the Childers Sugar Mill.

The locomotive was taken out of service in 1962 and donated to the Isis Kindergarten around 1965. It was later sold in the 70's to a private collector. The government grant prevented Old Number 4 being sold to overseas interests.

Childers Rotary members and their helpers,

Bundaberg Regional Council via its Community Grants program and Isis Central Sugar Mill were all instrumental in providing critical assistance to ensure the locomotive remained in the Childers district.

The unveiling will be held on Saturday at 9am at the Historical Village with Member for Hinkler Paul Neville and Bundaberg Regional Council Deputy Mayor Tony Ricciardi officiating.



Amazing what a bit of sandblasting and a coat of paint can do. Old Number 4 being prepared for a repaint during a Rotary working bee.