Brooweena Historical Village – Steam Train

While we are unsure of the exact age of the train, the railway came to Brooweena in 1889. This train would have travelled from Maryborough out to Gayndah in the west, and back. The train was most probably made at Walkers in Maryborough in Queensland.

The wooden shutters that you can see were used to keep the sun out of the carriage, however, the glass windows would have always been there as well. When they would put the shutters up and down, they had to be very careful not to jam their fingers.

The guard had his own carriage, which is the one you are in right now. It would have been at the rear of the train originally, and while the train was travelling, the guard would have been sorting mail and parcels. The parcels would have been sorted into the order of when they would be taken off the train. As you can see, he had his own toilet and space to sit. He would remain on the train, in this carriage, unless they stopped at a station that he was able to get off and have a cup of tea.

The meat safe that is in the carriage was used to hold food for the fettlers on the line. They used this to bring their food along with them. The tray on the bottom was used to put water in, so that the ants didn't get into their food.

At the front of the guard's carriage, there is an area that you can see in the following picture. This area was used to transport coffins between the towns.

Written By: Alex Bafico, Year 6

Brooweena State School

Information received through interview with Gail Gauld, President of the Brooweena Historical Village, on 17/03/2021