

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

NEW EDITOR APPOINTED

We warmly welcome Bruce Belbin into the role of *Railway Digest* Editor. He will be the principal designer of the magazine but will share general editorial responsibilities with Shane O'Neil.

Bruce is well-known in railway circles for being the long-serving editor of the LRRSA's bi-monthly magazine *Light Railways*. Of course, the Belbin name is also well-known through the artistic talents of his father Phil (deceased) and younger brother Graeme's railway videos/DVDS. The Belbin brothers share a passion for narrow gauge steam and both own ex-sugar cane steam locomotives.

Bruce will formally take over the reins of *Railway Digest* Editor from Chris Walters in mid-April.

Railway Digest will continue to be the quality rail magazine for well-balanced Australia-wide news, image and article content.

Chris has advised that he will continue to actively contribute articles and images to *Railway Digest* as he follows his new, less-hetic, career path. A profound thankyou is due to Chris for his enthusiasm and dedication in his tenure as RD's editor.

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

On 17 March, approximately 30 luncheon club members visited Canterbury Station. Aply led by Stuart Sharp, the group was informed of the history of Canterbury Station and the origins of the name which came from the UK.

Canterbury Station was opened on 1 February 1895 with the completion of the line to Belmore. Belmore and Marrickville Stations were opened at the same time. The line to Belmore was the first to be opened in Sydney as a double track for its entire length. These three station buildings represented the most magnificent platform structures built since the the first line was opened to Parramatta in 1855. These three stations were also:-

- the first major use of an island platform
- last major use of Victorian influence in station architecture on the system
- Canterbury also marked the first full scale introduction of a linear floor pattern in building design, and represented the epitome of political interference, especially with the rail access to the adjacent racecourse.

After the inspection of the station and its architecture, the group went to the former signal box (now closed and not accessible) and observed an old lamp box which is believed had a former life as a ship's fresh water tank. These became numerous around NSW, and were utilised as a storage place for kerosene and kerosene lamps. They are now rare in Sydney.

The next outing is on Wed 21 April to Denistone. We meet on the Newcastle end of the Down platform at 11am. Future outings are planned to Mascot on 19 May, and Ingleburn Infrastructure Camp on 16 June. We are also now planning to go to Lithgow on 14 and 15 of September.

Gary Hughes

Forthcoming tours

April 30 Visit to PHM Castle Hill Repository: *Visit to Store H (Model Collection) Bookings filling fast.*

May 16 Lovedale Long Lunch/Maitland with 3801Ltd. *Booking form attached.*

June 4/5/6/7 West & North West Wanderer Tour by CPHs. Due to ARTC Nth Coast track work closure the proposed Brisbane tour is postponed. The long-weekend tour using The RMS's CPHs1 and 7 (and maybe CPH3) will now travel from Broadmeadow, Muswellbrook, Ulan, Merrygoen, Dubbo, Binnaway, Werris Creek, Narrabri, Tamworth, Armidale to Telarah. *Booking form attached.*

July 24/25 Ed Tonks' Mines and Lines Weekend Tour. Sat: Mines of Lake Macquarie. Sun: Hexham to Richmond Main *Booking form attached.*

August: 621/721 Sydney Suburban tour

September: Three Day visit to Dorrigo Steam Museum, travel by XPT and Coach.

For more information call our Tours Hotline on 02 8394 9019

Slide Competition

The slide competition topic for the March meeting was 'South Maitland Railways' and it was very well supported. The eventual winner was Terry Flynn with a nicely composed shot of SMR No.23 at East Greta Junction. Upcoming subjects are:

- April . . . Southern Aurora
- May . . . Gone but not forgotten—NSW branch lines
- June . . . XPTs in the landscape
- July . . . Rails at the state borders especially dual gauge.

Contestants are encouraged to submit digital images but submissions need to be in at least 24 hours beforehand. Images submitted via CD are to be sent to our Redfern office and images via email to: mail@arhsnsw.com.au