

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

GRAHAME THURLING

ORH 2010 VOLUNTEER AWARDS FINALIST

The Society is pleased to announce that its Secretary, Grahame Thurling, was an Office of Rail Heritage finalist in its 2010 Volunteer Awards. Grahame and other finalists in the NSW rail heritage arena received their awards at an evening function at the Powerhouse Museum on Monday 26 July.

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

VISITS HAMILTON STATION

On Wednesday 21 July, over 40 members made their way north for what has become the Luncheon Club's annual pilgrimage to the Hunter region. On this occasion the venue being Hamilton Station. On arrival of the main group from Sydney, the local showers cleared and the group was treated to a welcome by the Station Manager, Paul Casey, something reminiscent of bygone days. Our thanks to Paul and his staff for their time, and for the nice gesture of the provision of a welcome 'cuppa', which was much appreciated.

Tour leaders Stuart Sharp and Ed Tonks took the group through the fascinating history of this once very important station which was truly the 'Gateway to Newcastle' and was pivotal in the movement of not only passengers, but also the region's coal and other freight.

Of particular significance was the now locked up ticket office on No. 2 Platform, which was opened for us, dates from 1898 and is the only one from this period still in existence, albeit no longer in use. Other station buildings had their own history, and Hamilton also had an association with the Australian Agricultural Co. (AA Co.), and the local coal mining infrastructure. There still remains some evidence of this.

Our Luncheon Club tours don't just happen; they are the result of a lot of work by a number of people. On this occasion special thanks must go to our tour leaders Stuart Sharp and Ed Tonks. Stuart not only has his inimitable style of presentation, but penned very informative and comprehensive notes. Ed prepared additional notes and his presentation covered not only the AA Co history but the history and significance of the station in relation to the local community and coal mining industry.

After the tour, the group adjourned to the adjacent Sydney Junction Hotel for lunch. Here, Ed Tonks informed the group of the history of this well known local pub.

The next outing is to Cronulla on Wednesday 18 August, 2010. We meet at the dead end of the platform after the arrival of the service from the City due at Cronulla at 10.46am.

On 13 & 14 September it's our two-day trip to Lithgow - this tour is limited to 40 people and is (almost) fully booked. Please call 0428 333 443 to ascertain availability. *Gary Hughes*

CHANGED BOOKSHOP OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5.30pm

Saturday: 9am to 4pm

JULY GUEST SPEAKERS

John A'Beckett and Kevin Dodds spoke at the July members' meeting about the Powerhouse museum's steam collection - large and small.

John presented a video he made of the restoration of the Powerhouse's P Class steam locomotive 3265. Despite a technical problem at the venue resulting in no sound to accompany the video, members were treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the restoration of the P Class. John was on the spot to record some the multitude of tasks involved in the decade-long restoration.

Kevin spoke about the museum's models at Castle Hill with emphasis on the role played by the old museum in collecting the models and its relevance to education. Images from the magnificent A A Stewart collection were shown plus ferries and an O Class tram model used in a court case.

Murray Harper, the chairman for the night, thanked John and Kevin for their informative lectures on behalf of the audience.

Slide Competition

The winner of the July slide competition was Chris Sim with his image of a VR S Class & Commonwealth Railways GM Class at Albury Station with a 44 Class in the loop.

Upcoming subjects are:

- August—Single deck suburban electrics pre-1980
- September—Just Garratts
- October—Bridges Down Under
- November—Tasmanian Government Railways
- December—Members' Slide & Video night

Contestants are encouraged to submit digital images 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

Forthcoming tours

September 10/11/12:

Three-day visit to Dorrigo Steam Museum.
Travel by XPT & Coach. *Booking form attached.*

September 14/15:

Railway Luncheon Club to Lithgow.
Tour (almost) fully booked. Call for availability.

October 24:

Lake Macquarie Light Rail. A visit to a private 2-foot gauge railway at Toronto.
Booking form attached.

November:

621/721 Sydney Suburban tour.
Booking form attached.

For more info call our Tours Hotline on **02 8394 9019.**