

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

SCHOFIELDS

It is unusual to find a station which has had three different locations in our lifetime, but on 17 November, about 40 members from Luncheon Club visited one such station—Schofields.

The first station was opened in 1870 on the Down side of the single Blacktown—Richmond line, and, with some additions over time, served the area for just over 100 years. In 1973, the Askin Government promised electrification of the Richmond line, and as part of these works a new station was built for Schofields and opened in 1975. It was still on a single line, but built on the opposite, (Up) side of the line. With the duplication works currently in progress on the Richmond line, a new, and third, station for Schofields, is being built and will be opened in 2011. This new station will be located some 800 metres on the Sydney side of the second station, is of island platform configuration and is primarily built at this site to serve a large, albeit yet-to-be-built, housing development.

The 1975 station is unique in that its platform building utilised the 'Willcroft-Terrapin' prefabricated box building system, utilising 50mm thick Styrofoam clad in a composite fibrous material. Quakers Hill and Marayong received similar buildings in the 1970s electrification project, but these have since been replaced, leaving Schofields as the sole survivor on the railways of this building system. The platform face is believed to be the last instance when the combination of old rail and concrete poured in situ was used for a NSW passenger platform.

With wooden poles supporting the overhead, track made in 1964 fixed to wooden sleepers with dog spikes, and with older style shops and even a produce store nearby, Schofields presents somewhat of an 'old world charm'. But not for much longer.

The next outing for the Railway Luncheon Club, and the last for this year, is to the Petersham Training College. We will meet at the college's reception which is down the stairs and ramp in Trafalgar Street at 11am. In January 2011, for those interested we are organising a 'meet the staff' visit to the ARHS offices at Redfern. More details in the January Newsletter.

Gary Hughes



Schofields Station, looking towards Blacktown. The new, i.e. third, station will be about 800 metres distant. Image: Nev Pollard.

TOUR NEWS & INFO

The 621/721 railcar two-day Sydney tour over the weekend of 20 and 21 November was a great success given the problematic scheduling required to run the tour outside of trackwork possessions. It was a great credit to both the ARHSnsw Tours Officer, Spencer Ross and the Rail Motor Society in their abilities to organise and run such a tour. Even so, late running occurred through no fault of the organisational committee. Space limitations do not allow us to display the proposed timetable and the actual timing sheet is available on the ARHSnsw website.

In Tasmania, over nine days from 12 to 20 March, the Steamfest Tasmanian Railways Tour will be run. Profits raised will go in support of the SteamFest and Tasmanian Association of Tourist Railways. The actual SteamFest site at Redwater Creek near Sheffield has undergone a major refurbishment and so has the little Krauss two-foot gauge steam locomotive which has had its first full overhaul since its composite rebuilding from two separate locomotives in 1972. Further information can be obtained from the Redwater Creek website at: www.redwater.org.

Forthcoming tours

December 15: Luncheon Club:
Petersham Training College

January 19: Luncheon Club: At ARHS Redfern

January 23: CPH Railmotor Tour - Nos. 1, 3 & 7
Another Summer's Day on the South Coast
Booking form attached.

February 21/22: Winelander to Wallangarra
Booking form attached.

February 26: 50 years since closure of Sydney Trams
Booking form attached.

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

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