

## MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

### RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB CENTRAL STATION

Around 40 members and friends joined together on 21 March for the first outing of the Railway Luncheon Club for 2012, and on this occasion it was to look at some of the surface features of Sydney's Central Station.

Able lead by Stuart Sharp, the group learnt of the architecture and orientation of the building. The three entrances to Platform 1 were noted as well as some of the lesser known memorial tablets and other historical features.

The tour concluded with a look at the \$13m upgrade of the concourse above Platforms 24 and 25.

Lunch was had at the nearby Evening Star Hotel.

The next outing for the Luncheon Club is to Arncliffe on 18 April. This tour will be led by well known railway historian and ARHSnsw member Jim Longworth. We meet on the overhead bridge on the unpaid side at 11am.

On 16 May we are going to Scenic World at Katoomba and a few places are still available. The booking form for this outing is in this Newsletter.

The Luncheon Club's annual two-day tour is set for the 17 & 18 July with Dungog and Singleton and places in between on the agenda. A booking form will be in the May Newsletter.

Gary Hughes



RRC Volunteer Len Truscott, a registered surveyor, inspects the surveyor's peg for kilometre 0 00 at Central's Platform 1.

### MARCH'S GUEST SPEAKER

ARHSnsw President George Gettens ran a DVD show on his tour to Switzerland which encompassed many kilometres of the delightful Swiss railways where trains run on time and are clean and tidy. The Swiss rack railways were well covered too including some special steam workings. George's Swiss DVD showed what is capable of being recorded and presented with the technology of today.

### SPECIAL EVENT @ TRAINWORKS "INNOVATION By ACCIDENT"

Members who also subscribe to Railway Digest should note the advertisement on page 2 of the April issue for the special event and exhibition at Trainworks Thirlmere. The Society has been invited by the NSWRTM and Trainworks to help stage the exhibition which will run from 14 April to 12 July 2012.

The temporary exhibition will feature various innovations by the NSW Railways in response to accidents or as required by its operations. Six separate displays will supplement those already at Trainworks for the duration of the four-month exhibition. One will be the on the 'new' Hawkesbury Railway Bridge which probably represents the zenith of the Railways' design and building abilities.

On the special day of lectures on Sunday 22 April, Bill Phippen will speak on this marvellous achievement by the Railways, while Garratt steam locomotive operation enhancements will be spoken about by Craig Mackey, and Warwick Allison will discuss how signalling has developed from innovation by accident to safety by design. Members are encouraged to pre-register for the special day of lectures on the 22nd, as seating is limited, by calling Trainworks on 4681 8001. ARHSnsw members have been granted discounted admittance to Trainworks for the term of the exhibition for only \$5 per day.

The Society will be running a special coach from Newcastle to Trainworks and return on the 22 April. A booking form is attached and the cost includes admittance to Trainworks and a reservation to the three lectures.

### SIGNIFICANT NEW BOOK SOUTHERN AURORA

The 50th Anniversary of the *Southern Aurora* will be celebrated on Monday 16 April in three ways:

- A new exhibition titled *The Glamour and the Gauge* will be formally opened for invited guests at Rail Heritage Central by RailCorp CEO, Mr Rob Mason.
- Mr Mason will also formally launch the Society's all-new history of the *Southern Aurora*, written by Victorian Chris Banger who has had a long-term interest in the train and has travelled on it many times, including the later iteration the *Sydney Express & Melbourne Express*. The book has 216 full-colour pages, hard covered with dust jacket and is crammed with photos of the train, exterior/interior views and images of the objects associated with the service such as menus, posters etc. Printed in Sydney, the book will retail for \$80, less 10% discount for members. However, a pre-publishing price of \$66 applies to over-the-counter sales up until Saturday 14 April. Mail order or internet sales will need to allow domestic P&H of \$8.50. Pre-paid books will be available from Monday 16 April.
- The third event on the 16th will be the official evening launch of the 50th Anniversary Southern Aurora by Heritage Express on an extended 10-day tour charter tour.

Additionally, the April 2012 edition of *Australian Railway History* magazine is dedicated to the significant events around the opening of the standard-gauge railway line all the way from Sydney to Melbourne. Col Gilbertson writes about the events that happened at the time and in the 50 years since. Chris Banger studies the interesting relief express trains that the new standard gauge line enabled.