

# MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

## RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB SCENIC WORLD KATOOMBA

In a departure from our normal style of outings, 47 members and friends made the journey to Katoomba on 16 May 2012 to visit Scenic World. As well as being the home of the world's steepest railway, the famous Scenic Railway, Scenic World also boasts the Skyway and Cableway, both giving magnificent views of the Jamison Valley.

In spectacular weather (for a change!!), on arrival at Katoomba Station the group was conveyed to Scenic World by one of the local double deck buses. Unfortunately Phil Hammon from Scenic World was not able to be present, but none the less we were then given a conducted tour of the various features at Scenic World, including rides on all three of the services. We were then treated to lunch in the famous Revolving Restaurant. In a well received gesture, Scenic World presented each participant with a copy of their book "The Burning Mists of Time", which documents the history of this region.

Upon our return to Katoomba Station, again by double deck bus, Stuart Sharp gave a lively presentation of the history of this well known Blue Mountains railway station.

Our thanks go to the staff at Scenic World who went out of their way to enhance our visit, and to Spencer Ross for his assistance.

The next outing for the Luncheon Club is to Strathfield on Wed 20 June. We meet at the Sydney end of Platforms 3/4. Lunch will be at the nearby Whelan's Hotel. On 17 and 18 July it's our two-day Hunter Tour, and the booking form for this tour is in this newsletter.

In August we are going to Eastwood.

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*Gary Hughes*



The Luncheon Club group at Katoomba Station. The enamel station sign dates from the opening of the present station building in 1891. Image: Peter Neve

## MAY MEMBERS'S MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

ARHSnsw member and ARH author Trevor Edmonds presented a lecture titled 'The Future of Our Past'. Trevor had noted in recent travels within NSW and across Australia that heritage objects, memorials and some museums had shown evidence of neglect when they were supposed to be an permanent memory. He gave the following examples:

- An officially sanctioned and funded mining museum had closed in Western Australia due to its location and a lack of visitors. It was gradually deteriorating as the elements were allowed to take over with no one occupying the site. When it was open it suffered from poor display panels and a lack of meaningful exhibits.
- The commemorative marker for the 1917 joining of the rails near Ooldea on the Trans-Australia Railway had collapsed into a ruinous heap following the introduction of mobile fettlers' camps. (Refer to page 29 in May 2012 *Australian Railway History* for a recent image.)
- The war memorial to those fallen in the Great War mounted on the lower wall of Goulburn's Platform 1 is obscured by a inappropriately placed CountryLink seat.

Other examples of neglect were given but these were the most significant in Trevor's lecture. An aging populace can and does cause unintentional neglect though there being no-one around who can look after the memorials (or even remember what they were erected for!). Funding will always be an issue too. He welcomed questions and suggestions on what can be done from the audience.

George Gettens thanked Trevor for a thought provoking lecture to conclude the evening.

## NEW ARHSNSW MEMBERS

5012	David RUDELL
5013	John CRONSHAW
5014	Chris FEGAN
5015	Graeme COX
5016	Roderick ARNOLD
5017	Harry BELL
5018	Kevin VICKERS
5019	Benjamin SUMMERS
5020	Darryl MOLONEY
5021	Zachary STOKES
5022	Christopher SECCOMBE
5023	Ronald WEBB
5024	John O'BRIEN
5025	Barry SKELTON
5026	Raymond SULLIVAN
5027	Bruce HELMAN
5028	Victor WALKER
5029	Allen KAVANAGH
5030	Bob CLUTTERBUCK
5031	Neil O'CONNOR
5032	Jonathon DRUCE
5033	Andrew BROWN
5034	Garry JONES