

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB  
BATHURST AREA TOUR**

On 18 and 19 March, 48 members and guests visited the Bathurst district. The landscape was spectacular after recent rain. Fun was a key objective of the tour. The fun began on the XPT service where the staff were friendly and helpful. The staff were puzzled why so many people wanted to detrain at Rydal. They were told the tour group did it for fun.

Spencer Ross displayed his usual high level of care by the presence of a bus virtually on the platform. The participants were introduced to local member, Len Truscott, who was the tour leader. Len excelled in his conveyance of local knowledge and tour organisation. The group stopped for a squiz at Tarana Station before a slow journey up the hill to Oberon. On the way, bridges, pump houses and station sites were all observed.

The Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway site at Oberon was visited. A number of volunteers escorted the tour group around the site, showing them the two 73 Class locomotives, four-wheeled goods wagons and the two open-end American suburban carriages. One of the most interesting features of the station precinct is the Cc2 type off-platform, male toilet. It is the only intact, extant Cc2 toilet in NSW and, more importantly, its layout is significantly different to the department standard drawing. There was much excitement about this discovery and the Society members could hardly believe they could have so much fun in one day.

Onwards to Bathurst, the group inspected Raglan Station and all the other interesting railway tidbits in the area. Passing Bathurst Station, the group noticed a bunch of workers in high-visibility vests. They had just completed the very last installation of the Opal card readers, Bathurst being the last of 308 stations so fitted. History was being made while the Society was present.

On the second day, participants inspected the Bathurst Rail Fabrication Centre. Rails were butt-welded with a grand display of sparks and point components were milled. All this was done just for the tour participants. The experience was another big fun thing.

We also swished our way out to Georges Plains and took in the splendour of the station from a distant hill. The bus even took a quick lap around the Mount Panorama racing car circuit.

Everyone had a great time thanks to Len Truscott, Colin Millard, Ed Tonks and Spencer Ross. Is it possible that so much fun can be achieved again? Come to the next outing and see.

The next Luncheon Club outing is on Wednesday, 16 April. The destination is the railway infrastructure that surrounds Sydenham Station. Meet outside the paid area at 1100.

*Report by Stuart Sharp*

*Photos by Ed Tonks*



*Above: The Luncheon Club group at Rydal Station at the tour's beginning.  
Below: Oberon Station is now looked after by the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. The two 73 Class will eventually be used on the branch line.*



*Above: The roadside entry to Bathurst Station.  
Below: Georges Plains Station looks still to be reasonable condition.*

