

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB
STANWELL PARK**

The Illawarra and South Coast Line was opened in various stages between 1884 and 1893, with the section between Waterfall and Coalcliff opening on 3 October 1888. This section included the notorious Otford Tunnel and the old Stanwell Park Station. These were replaced by the current deviation on 2 August 1920. Since then, the tunnel has seen use for mushroom growing, but today it lays abandoned. In 1942, the army destroyed a short section near the south portal to determine if this could be effective in blocking the tunnel to possible invasion. Later, one of the mushroom growers partially removed this blockage and did some repairs to the tunnel roof, effectively clearing the tunnel.

Against this background, Luncheon Club members visited these sites on Wednesday 16 August 2014. Aply lead by life member John Oakes, the group of 46 used a bus to simplify access to both the south portal of the tunnel and the old station site, the latter now part of the route of Lawrence Hargrave Drive. The bus then took us to the Royal Hotel at Sutherland for lunch, with a deviation via the Sea Cliff Bridge. This spectacular bridge, one of only seven off-shore parallel to coast bridges in the world, was opened on 11 December 2005 and replaced a section of the coast road which was frequently damaged by rock falls.

It was a great day and our thanks go to John Oakes for his expert and informative commentary and notes.

The next outing is on Wednesday 20 August and Ed Tonks is going to show us some of the history around Teralba Station. Participants should catch the 8.45am Newcastle service from Central, due at Teralba at 11.14am. Lunch will be at the Club Macquarie at Cockle Creek. Notes for this outing are now on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website.

On 17 September Bill Phippen will be presenting to us some of the features of both the old and new Meadowbank Bridges. Notes for this should be available on the website in early August.

For the future, on 15 October Nev Pollard will be leading us through the history of Regents Park and on 19 November, the last outing for the year will be to Moss Vale.

Report by Gary Hughes



Above: The southern portal of Otford Tunnel as it appears today. The limited clearing out of the blockage done by the army in 1942, has resulted in the tunnel floor being partially filled. Image: David Taylor



A spectacular aerial view of the Seacliff Bridge. Image:- VisitNSW Website, accessed 19/7/2014.

June Members' Meeting

Entertainment at the July meeting was by Gary Hughes with a talk on his favourite subject — Broken Hill. This time the lecture dealt specifically with its railway and tramway routes.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Gary showed old and modern images of the rail transport systems in and around Broken Hill, including the transfer yards between the standard and narrow gauges and the official residences of government railway/tramway officers.

Somewhat amusingly, but not for the affected residents, the street tramway routes have resurfaced with the old timber sleepers reappearing as corrugations in some of the roads where they ran. The rails only were taken up upon operations ceasing!

The audience found Gary's lecture interesting yet again for his thorough research and informative presentation on this fascinating far-west NSW city.

Members' Photo Competition

July's subject was 'NSW Clyde/GM 422 Class' and the winner was Ian Fathers with his image of 42220 being turned on the turntable at Albury. The newly rebuilt "Super Series" locomotive was undergoing trials after-out shopping by Clyde in 1980. Upcoming subjects are:

- August**—Freights in the Blue Mountains
- September**—Streamlined 38 Class in Service
- October**—NSWR Buildings gone but not forgotten

(Contestants are to submit digital images at least 24 hours beforehand to: mail@arhsnsw.com.au Digital images cannot be submitted on the night. Submissions are limited to **FIVE** slides or digital images only. The subject should also be the image's main focus. Contestants must know when and where slide/image was taken and mark the slide accordingly otherwise image will be ineligible to win.)