

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB
MOSS VALE**

Outing to Moss Vale, Wednesday 19 November 2014.

Moss Vale Station was opened as Sutton Forest on 2 December 1867 with the opening of the railway. The name was changed to Moss Vale ten years later. There are extant reminders of the privileges of Vice-Regal office enjoyed by the colonial and state governors. The existence of a Vice-Regal waiting room and the Up dock platform are obvious features. Some of our group were able to view part of the waiting room, but unfortunately the limited time we had, plus the size of our group (around 60), restricted this.

The provision of the Railway Refreshment Room at Moss Vale in 1891 gave a big boost to Moss Vale as a railway town, but at the expense of the closure of the RRR at Mittagong. The Moss Vale building survives, as do the two SM residences, one carrying a plaque dating it 1869 and the other, a unique Jc3 concrete structure, was built to replace it in 1917. The Moss Vale RRR closed in the mid 1960's, although there was a café operating on the Down platform until about 2002 in part of the former RRR.

Our thanks go to Stuart Sharp for his expert commentary on the day and also for his informative notes which are available on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website. And a special thank you also to the friendly Moss Vale Station staff for their assistance on the day.

After lunch at the nearby Moss Vale Hotel, which has its own history, our tour program for 2014 was concluded.

The next outing will be on Wednesday 18 March 2015 when we will be going to Windsor and Richmond. More details will be provided in due course. Also on Wednesday 18 February 2015 our usual lunch only event will be at the Great Southern Hotel in George Street Sydney.

Report by Gary Hughes

Top image: Stuart Sharp, refreshed after his holiday, explains some features of Moss Vale Station to our group.

Lower image: The group on the overhead footbridge as Stuart Sharp points out the dock platform provided for the State Governor's special carriage.

Both images: Ed Tonks.



**November Members' Meeting
Speaker: Peter Sage**

The subject of Peter's talk was 'world railway bridges'. Using his own slides, Peter naturally focused on the distinctive and well-known railway (and tramway) bridges both in Australia and overseas including our own Sydney Harbour Bridge. Its look-a-like in New York, Brunel's The Royal Albert Bridge spanning the river Tamar at Saltash, the Forth Bridge over the Firth of Forth near Edinburgh and the Swiss Landwasser Viaduct near Filisur were some notables examined in detail. It was a significantly different railway subject but a very interesting talk.

President Murray Harper thanked Peter for his presentation.

Vale Ray Edser (Qld Division)

We are sad to report the sudden death of ARHS Qld Tours Officer Ray Edser on Sunday 9 November. Many NSW Members knew of Ray through his close liaison with NSW Tours Officer Spencer Ross in providing several outstanding tours of Queensland, particularly the recent Lander and TableLander tours. It was during the night prior to the return journey of the TableLander tour in Cairns that Ray died, apparently of a heart attack. Ray was looking forward to the running of the Qld Division's 1,000 tour in December.

Ray had the ability to extract the maximum experience and enjoyment in his tour planning. He will be sorely missed by those who had the pleasure of his tours and our friends in the Qld Division.

Members' Photo Competition

November's subject was 'Sydney's Central Station'. You would think such a subject would have hundreds of entries but not many shots were received. Chris Sim's slide of a 42 Class hauled *Southern Highlands Express* was very good but Terry Flynn's nicely composed digital image of the 'CENTRAL' signs in line across multiple platforms was judged the best on the night. His image is reproduced directly below:



Upcoming subjects are:

- December**—Members' Annual Slide/DVD night*
- January**—NSW Steam Tours to Remember*
- February**—Freights over the Blue Mountains*
- March**—Railway Accidents*
- April**—Railway Sunsets*

(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.)