

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

RAILWAY INSTITUTE INSPECTION

The Railway Institute at Devonshire Street, adjacent to Central Station, opened on 14 March 1891, and was extended in 1899. So to mark the 125th anniversary of the original building, the Luncheon Club commenced our 8th year of outings with a visit there on Wednesday 16 March 2016. Our group of about 45 was augmented by several representatives from the Heritage Unit of Sydney Trains, as well as Bob Ritchie, the current General Manager of the Institute (in its current form) and two of his staff. With cooperation of the current occupiers of the building we were able look and admire features of the 125 year old architecture and appreciate the role played by the Institute in days gone by.

Our thanks to John Vagenas and Dean Wall from Metallurgical Systems, occupiers of the 1899 building; and Aidan Mullan, Isabelle Tan and Paulina from Interface, occupiers of the 1891 building, for their help in making our inspection possible, and also thanks to Bob Ritchie and the many members of our group who had “tales to tell” of days gone by.

The next Luncheon Club outing is on 18 May. Life member John Oakes will lead us on an exploration of the route of the City Railway as seen from above ground in Hyde Park. We meet on the large area between the two platforms at St James Station at 10.30am. As we will be returning to Central as part of our tour, lunch will again be in the Royal Exhibition Hotel opposite the Railway Institute in Chalmers Street

On 15 June we are going to Chullora Workshops to inspect the work on 3801. This will require hire of a bus which will pick us up from Lidcombe Station at 10.00am and drop us in Bankstown for lunch after the tour. A booking form for this tour is in this Newsletter.

Gary Hughes, Manager, Railway Luncheon Club.