



# Members' newsletter

Official newsletter of the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division) • Editor: Ross Verdich • Issue: August 2014

## August 2014

Sat 2	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 5	Railway Resource Centre open
<b>Wed 6</b>	<b>Members' Meeting: Warren Miller: South Africa in 1972</b>
Sat 9	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 12	Railway Resource Centre open
<b>Tue 12</b>	<b>Newcastle Members' Meeting: Bruce Helman UK Railways</b>
Sat 16	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 19	Railway Resource Centre open
Wed 20	Luncheon Club — Teralba Station <i>with Ed Tonks</i>
Sat 23	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 23 & Sun 24	Our Town Model Exhibition at Broadmeadow
Tue 26	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 30	Railway Resource Centre open

## September 2014

<b>Wed 3</b>	<b>AGM &amp; Members' Meeting: Alex Grunbach South Africa</b>
Sat 6	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 9	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 9	Newcastle Members' Meeting: <i>Graham Smith</i> <i>Qld Sugar Cane Railways</i>
Sat 13	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 16	Railway Resource Centre open
Wed 17	Railway Luncheon Club — <i>Meadowbank Bridges</i> <i>with Bill Phippen</i>
Sat 20	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 23	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 27	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 27/Sun 28	Ski Tube and Floriade two-day Tour
Tue 30	Railway Resource Centre open

## REMINDER: NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 3 September 2014 commencing at 6.30pm

Venue: Mitchell Room, 1st Floor, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney  
Calling for Nominations for Council

Nominations are called for the position of president and four councillors. The Society's Constitution provides that:

- Nomination forms are available from the Society's Registered Office and must be signed by two financial members of the Society as well as the nominee. If required, a nomination form can be obtained by calling (02) 9699 4595.
- The nomination form must be received by the Secretary at the Society's Registered Office by 5pm Monday 4 August 2013.

Grahame Thurling, Secretary, Australian Railway Historical Society NSW Division  
Registered Office: 67 Renwick Street, REDFERN NSW 2016

Sydney meetings:	Members' meetings are held in Sydney on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings commence 6.30pm (seating available from 6pm)	At the 'Mitchell Room', 1st floor, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney (between Park & Bathurst Sts)
Newcastle meetings:	Members' meetings are held in Newcastle on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.	At the New Lambton Community Centre, cnr Alma Rd and Cromwell St, New Lambton
Redfern Bookshop:	Monday to Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday: 9am to 4pm	67 Renwick Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016
Rail Resource Centre:	Tuesdays: 12pm to 4pm Saturdays: 10am to 3pm	67 Renwick Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016 (only during advertised opening times)
GM, Administration and Mail Order:	Phone: 02 9699 4595 • Fax: 02 9699 1714 Email: mail@arhsnsw.com.au	67 Renwick Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016 (by appointment only)
Tours:	As advertised Infoline: 02 9699 4595 or 0428 333 443	www.arhsnsw.com.au

**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](mailto: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.)

## **SOUTHERN TRAMLINES TOUR**

**Saturday 19 July 2014**

It was green and cream single-deck bus AEC 3197 that I picked up most of the tour group at Sydenham Station. Built about 1960, it was a later version of a tramway replacement bus, an airy one that had two layers of opening windows. The upper layer was to provide air for standing passengers following complaints that the buses were stuffier than the trams.

The tour followed four former tramlines and one trolley bus route. The first was the steam tram line from Arncliffe Station to Bexley. Many of the houses and shops located along the line would have been there when the tram was running. There had been a connection between the tramline and the railway at Arncliffe Station to allow for transfer of trams along the railway. In fact, each of the tramlines followed on the tour had a connection to the railway and there was a connection between the tramline in Lee Street to Sydney Yard so that all the trams could be serviced at Randwick Workshops.

The second line was the one from Rockdale Station to Brighton-le-Sands. It started off as privately owned steam, then privately owned electric and finally government electric. Detailed maps of the lines plus the assistance of Vic Solomons meant that there was little chance of the driver getting lost and we were able to find the site of the electric tram depot. The site is open space and some archaeology remains in the form of brickwork and bitumen on the ground.

The bus returned to Rockdale Station via Tramway Arcade for a morning tea stop. At least one passer-by recognised the bus as the type he went to school on!

We followed the trolley bus route from Rockdale to Kogarah, then the steam tram and trolley bus route to Sans Souci. The waters of the Georges River and Botany Bay were choppy as had been forecast and no-one seemed keen to open the windows on the bus to try the "air conditioning".

Sutherland was reached via Tom Ugly's Bridge and the bus squeezed into a very short bus zone near the station overbridge so patrons could visit the old steam tram waiting shed and office. We then followed the steam tram route to the site of the terminal loop in Shelly Park at Cronulla. The bus waited at Cronulla Station while various cafés were patronised for lunch.

When the bus arrived at the Sydney Tramway Museum, concreting was taking place near the entrance gate. The museum makes good use of any spare concrete left over in the trucks following other concreting jobs. Exhibits include a trolley bus that once operated between Rockdale Station and Sans Souci. We rode to National Park on LP 154 that had operated on the line from Rockdale to Brighton-le-Sands. A bonus was a ride on an H class tram from Adelaide. The museum made us welcome and opened the bookshop and kiosk for our benefit.

Many thanks to Spencer Ross for organising the tour (and driving the vintage bus) and to Vic Solomons for acting as guide and providing a commentary. As usual, the Tram Museum made its visitors very welcome.

*Report by John Oakes*

## **VOLUNTEER CALL**

We are seeking voluntary assistance from Sydney-based members.

**Firstly**, the upkeep of the Railway Resource Centre's Intranet is quite an onerous task for our existing volunteers. We are seeking volunteers to assist and provide back-up as required. Some experience in HTML code would be an advantage.

**Secondly**, volunteers who would like to assist with retail sales at the Society's Redfern bookshop. Assistance with selling on Monday to Fridays is urgently needed. The bookshop's hours on these days are 10am to 5pm. You can work either a full day or alternatively, a split shift from 10am to 2pm or 12 noon to 5pm. Regular attendance one day per week is essential to enable rosters to be workable. Some computer knowledge is required but good customer service skills are desirable.

If you would like to assist please call Ross Verdich or Grahame Thurling on 9699 4595. Email to: [mail@arhsnsw.com.au](mailto:mail@arhsnsw.com.au).

## **VALE BOB RITCHIE**

On Saturday 19 July, former ARHSnsw Tours Officer Bob Ritchie passed away peacefully in Brisbane following a long illness. He was aged 82 years.

Bob joined the Society in December 1973 and for several years performed with distinction the duties of Tours Officer. Bob's uncanny ability to plan and execute tours both within and outside NSW with service rolling stock will long be remembered by those members who were fortunate to experience his tours.

He was awarded life membership at the Annual General Meeting held in September 2012 and he was presented with his life member's badge by George Gettens and Spencer Ross in Brisbane on 6 October 2012. A celebration of Bob's life was held at Pinnaroo Crematorium Chapel, Bridgeman Downs in Brisbane on 24 July.

### **Forthcoming Tours**

**September 27/28: Ski Tube and Floriade two-day Tour**  
(Booking Form on Page 4)

**October 25: Rookwood Railway Walk**  
(Booking Form on Page 5)

**November 4/9: The Great Tablelander Tour to Cairns & Mareeba**  
(Booking Form on Page 6)

**November 8: Mullet Creek Revisited**

**November : 402 Club Tour**

**December 14: End of year function (TBA)**

An event in Sydney to celebrate 90 years of service for the remaining operational CPH Rail Motors is to be arranged when a suitable date is known.

*For more information ARHSnsw Tours @ Redfern 02 8394 9019*

## **2014 Annual Report**

In accordance with our previously announced policy, the 2014 Annual Report can be viewed from 12 August at the Society's web site: [www.arhsnsw.com.au](http://www.arhsnsw.com.au). Members who require a paper copy are requested to contact the Secretary by telephone at 02 9699 4595.





