



Members' newsletter

Official newsletter of the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division) • Editor: Ross Verdich • Issue: January 2016

January 2016

Fri 1	New Years Day Bookshop & Resource Centre Closed
Sat 2	Bookshop Open, Railway Resource Centre Closed
Tue 5	Railway Resource Centre open
Wed 6	Members' Meeting: Speaker: Warren Miller 50s film nostalgia
Sat 9	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 12	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 12	Newcastle Members' Meeting: TBA
Sat 16	Railway Resource Centre open
Sun 17	Annual Summer's Day Tour on South Coast (CPHs)
Tue 19	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 23	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 26	Australia Day - Bookshop & Resource Centre Closed
Sat 30	Railway Resource Centre open

February 2016

Tue 2	Railway Resource Centre open
Wed 3	Members' Meeting: Murray Harper NZ Tramways
Sat 6	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 9	Newcastle Members' Meeting: GSB Smith: Trans Siberian
Tue 9	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 13	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 16	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 20	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 23	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 27	Railway Resource Centre open

Computer Software Expert Needed

The Society has 22 computers in its premises, mostly running Windows 7. All are connected to a server. Our specific need is for someone who has very good skills in Microsoft Access as many of our operations require this software to run. Some knowledge of MYOB Accounting and Retail Manager would be beneficial as well. The Redfern bookshop in particular has an urgent need for someone to maintain its databases.

If you can help the Society out please contact Ross Verdich or Grahame Thurling on 9699 4595 or email: mail@arhsnsw.com.au

December Members' Meeting

RRC Manager Bill Phippen OAM gave a lecture titled:

Finding the NSWGR & T Gallipoli Dead

Bill has undertaken extensive research using the records of the State Archives at Kingswood, NSWGR&T Annual Reports and other records in RRC. The railways' memorial boards have been used as well. About 1500 Departmental employees served at Gallipoli, almost all as ordinary soldiers in the trenches and 187 died there or soon after from their wounds.

Member Trevor Edmonds again gave his special monthly update on the railway operating department's activities at Gallipoli as at December 1915.

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	Phone: 02 9699 4595 • Fax: 02 9699 1714 Email: sales@arhsnsw.com.au	67 Renwick Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016
Rail Resource Centre:	Tuesdays: 12pm to 4pm Saturdays: 10am to 3pm	Email: resources@arhsnsw.com.au (Ph 02 9699 2736 and fax: 02 9699 1714, please note requests not taken by phone)	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 8394 9019 or 0428 333 443	www.arhsnsw.com.au

Members' Photo Competition

The subject for December's competition was 'Sydney's CBD Transport as it was up to 12 months prior to closure for 'Light Rail Construction' and the winning entrant was Nicole Buckley with an image of the somewhat hectic scene of George Street just prior to its closing on 25 October.

Upcoming subjects are:

- January**—NSW Railways Snow Scenes
- February**—The Sandstone Heritage of the NSW Railways
- March**—Signal persons at work
- April**—NSW Diesels at Work circa 1960s/1970s
- May**—Sydney's Forgotten Goods Lines (100-year anniversary)

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. No prints will be accepted.

The subject should also be the image's main focus.
 We expect contestants to submit a caption with each digital image and in the case of slides to know when, where and why the photo was taken.

The winning image may be used for publicity purposes in the Society's print and digital media.

December Newsletter's: Where is it?

The image was taken by John Oakes and shows the buffer stop at the west end of East Hill's Platform 1 terminal track.

Despite this the indicator board shows:

Next Train Does Not Stop Please stand clear!

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

Changes to be made to the Luncheon Club outings.

The Luncheon Club is currently in recess, and outings for our eighth year will resume on 17 March 2016 when we are going to have a look at the Railway Institute Building at Devonshire Street Central. Please note that the previously advertised lunch only event at the Great Southern Hotel on 17 February 2016 has been cancelled.

The outings, or tours, as we run them, require a good deal of preparatory work, including at least one prior visit to both the site and the lunch venue. To maintain, and indeed improve, the quality and variety of the tours, together with the organisation and planning that goes into each tour, it has been decided that it will be necessary to reduce the number of outings in 2016 to six for the year, and these will be conducted in the months of March, May, June, August, September and November. In May there will be a tour of Chullora Workshops and this will require the hire of a bus. The booking form for this outing will be in the March 2016 Newsletter. Planning is currently under way for the outings for the remainder of the year, and announcements regarding these outings will be made in due course.

There will not be any outings in the months of January, February, April, July, October and December.

*Gary Hughes,
 Manager, Railway Luncheon Club.*

Tour Schedule

- January 17:** Annual Summer's Day on South Coast (CPHs)
(Booking form on Page 5)
 - March 5:** Centenary of the Sydney Goods Lines (CPHs)
(Booking form on Page 6)
- For more info contact ARHSnsw Tours 02 8394 9019 or 0428333443.*

China Experience by High Speed Train

Travel in China by Modern High Speed Trains
 Exclusive for ARHSNSW Members, fully escorted from Australia
 Dates: 25 June-07 July 2016
 Price: \$3,995 per person twin share fully inclusive
 The Chinese high-speed railway system is a true marvel of 21st century. This tour covers many of the must-see places in China linked by fast train. You will gain a glimpse of China's historical capital Beijing, modern Shanghai, Xian's famous Terracotta Warriors, Chengdu's Pandas and much more.



Central Asia & Great Silk Road

by Private Train from Ashgabat to Almaty
 Exclusive for ARHSNSW Members, fully escorted from Australia
 Dates: 16 October-03 November 2016
 Price: from \$9,985 per person twin share fully inclusive
 Experience the fascination of the diverse cultures along the Central Asia's Silk Road and discover the ancient towns of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan by comfortable, private train on this incredible Silk Road journey.
 (Compartment categories on the train range from shared bathroom facilities to private ensuite facilities).



For more information on these tours please call **1300 219 885**
 email: tony@opulentjourneys.com.au visit: opulentjourneys.com.au



NZ South Island Tour Report 17-30 October 2015

In October a contingent from ARHSnsw joined the Steam Incorporated AB608 Centennial Rail Tour of the South Island of NZ. Some had travelled via Auckland, others via Wellington. After experiencing the steam operations at Silverstream in the morning of Sunday the 18th, they crossed over the Cook Strait with the Interislander Ferry service. The apprehension of the ferry crossing was unfounded with glorious sunshine and a brisk wind assisting our passage. The scenic Queen Charlotte Sound was a bonus.

In Picton on the following day, we commenced the journey all the way to Invercargill and beyond to Bluff. The steam locomotive, AB608 *Passchendaele* returned to active service in mid-2014, following an extensive overhaul at Steam Incorporated's Paekakariki depot. The locomotive is a mobile memorial for railway workers who served in the First World War. It was built a century ago and performed remarkably well. A diesel accompanied part of the way to Christchurch and through some tunnels on the approach to Dunedin. Besides attending to watering at the main stations, fire engines were used as well. Naturally, coal refuelling was a necessity too.

A highlight for the photographers were the opportunity of organised photo-stops, as well as those available at stations along the route. Elevated sites necessitated more than the usual exertion to access and select a spot from which to capture billowing steam and smoke as well as the sound. Extra delight were the high viaducts across which the train steamed. Several spots were situated beside cascading streams or with background scenic views, including bays, peninsulas and light houses. Tunnels provided another perspective of the steam loco emerging with billowing smoke about.

Enthusiasts were able to experience the views from the platforms between the carriages. Safety concerns were uppermost, so access to the platforms were restricted in the long tunnels. Often the train tarried, awaiting approval to proceed.

The rugged coastline with expanses of beach, rocky outcrops and resistant strata, made for great scenery, enhanced by crashing waves. At Ohau Point North of Kaikoura, a special opportunity was provided for closer view of the New Zealand fur seals disporting among the rocks and surging waves, as well as the strands of kelp.

In contrast was the expanses of undulating terrain clothed in green, with a predominance of grazing sheep on the lush pastures. Most adult ewes were accompanied by gambolling or importuning lambs, often in pairs. Other stock seen included dairy herds, beef

cattle and occasional deer or llamas/alpacas. As the topography grew steeper and the track winding, the pace slowed as the loco was more challenged. Steep slopes with the curving track, following streams that carved out the gorges, with side gullies along the way. Great scenery and temptations for the photographer. Extensive expanses of wetlands, such as at Waihole, with flocks of birds, were another source of natural wonder, as were distant views of snow covered mountains.

At Oamaru, a ride on the shortline to Quarry Station from Harbourside, behind a small diesel loco, preceded our departure to Dunedin. Several ceremonies were conducted on stations, commemorating the occasion, with costumed dignitaries and accompanied by a bagpiper, such as at Dunedin and Invercargill. Beyond Invercargill, at Bluff, was a very cold experience for the photographers. Here the locomotive was run-around the carriages while the photographers froze in the cold, as they captured the moment on their cameras. The line between Bluff and Invercargill was restricted to 20kph so it took almost an hour each way. On return to Dunedin, there were more photostops at Edendale, Mataura and Balclutha.

The final stage for us was the very scenic rail journey from Dunedin to Middlemarch, through the Taieri Gorge. Once again there was diesel assistance for the initial climb to the gorge. Besides the scenic winding gorge, the attractive Wingatui Viaduct and photostops along the way kept the cameras in action. A crossing of another tourist train took place at Hindon.

From Middlemarch the tour continued by coach to Queenstown, then over Haast Pass to Greymouth. Our favourable weather changed there. At Wanaka the impressive 'Toy and Transport Museum' kept us enthralled, while earlier at Invercargill, an option was available to preview the 'Bill Richardson Transport World'. In contrast to the massive Thunder falls was the tranquil Ship Beach Reserve. A vigorous walk later followed to view the distant Fox Glacier from Sentinel Rock. On the way to Westport, the excellent interpretation and significance of the coal transport at Denniston Incline was a highlight, together with the hospitality extended being much appreciated as well.

Christchurch has adjusted to the disastrous quakes, with restoration and reconstruction progressing. The shopping centre of freight containers is innovative and a testimony to the peoples' resilience. The poignant 185 Empty White Chairs Earthquake Memorial symbolising the number of fatalities, was surrounded by empty blocks of land. Trams are operating, taking tourists around the centre with its damage and reconstruction. An unusual experience for us had been dinner on board the Tramway Restaurant, as it circulated along the track.

For many, the experience of travelling behind a vintage steam locomotive for such a long distance with period carriages was delightful, enhanced with the smoke and steam drifting past. For some riding the platforms, the experience was full of sound, smoke and occasional risk of cinders. This contrasted to the coach travel back to Christchurch from the West Coast. A most successful tour with many thanks to the organisers and others involved, especially Spencer Ross.

Tour report by Boris Sokoloff

Left: AB608 steams south to Christchurch.

(More images on next page.)

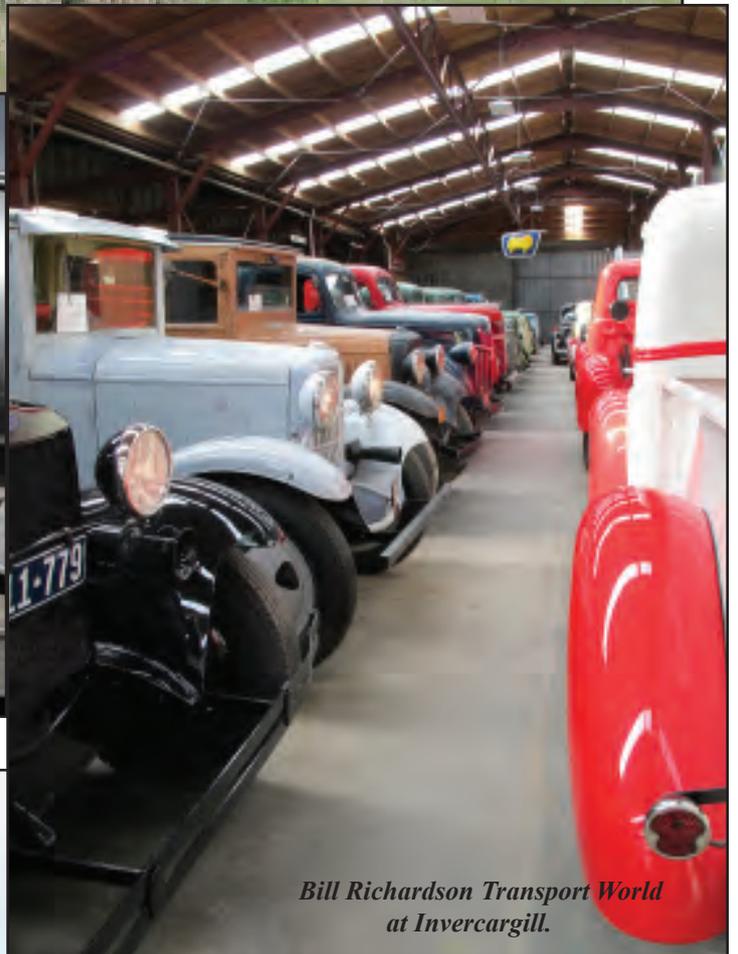


IMAGES OF NZ SOUTH ISLAND TOUR WITH AB608

A photostop underway just after leaving Timaru southbound.



The Passchendaele nameplate attached to AB608.



Bill Richardson Transport World at Invercargill.

A photostop at The Reefs in the Taiari Gorge



At artistic Oamaru-big blowfly on SteampunkHQ!

