

Members Newsletter



Official newsletter of the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division) • Editor: Paul Scells • Issue: **May 2018**

Members Update

Welcome to the May newsletter and the start of our new financial year. Last financial year was a very busy time for the Society with changes to staff, changes to the Board and changes to the way we manage our operations. We see the new financial year an even more exciting time as we continue to put in place the new growth plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Staff, both past and present for all the dedication over the last 12 months. I would also like to thank all of our wonderful dedicated volunteers. Through your commitment and tireless efforts, it enables the Society to function and offer what we have today.

Membership reminder: memberships are due now and if you have not renewed then I encourage you to have your forms back to us asap or give the office a call and we can process your renewal form over the phone.

We are also endeavouring to advise you well in advance of all the upcoming Tours and Luncheon Club events. This will enable our membership to have the first option to book before the limited spots on most of these are filled. In doing so, we will not be able to include individual booking forms with each newsletter each month, however, we have created a multi tour booking form where you can fill out the tour in which you would like to attend. You can also use this form to book multiple tours at the same time. If for any reason what you are after in regards to Tours is not published, please call the office and we will be able to take your booking, take your payment and secure your spot.

As a valued member, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support, open our doors for you to come and visit us, volunteer in the Society and I welcome your feedback at any time.

Paul Scells
General Manager

Members Meetings - Dates and Speakers

Sydney

May 2 - Stuart Kean - The career of Cornelius Ambrose Cardew
June 6 - David Honer - South African Railways

Newcastle

May 8 - AGM, Photo Competition and Quiz
June 12 - Russell Butterworth - China Rail 1986

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
Railway Resource Centre:	Tuesdays: 12pm to 4pm Saturdays: 10am to 3pm	Email: resources@arhsnsw.com.au Ph 02 9699 2736 Fax: 02 9699 1714	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 April topic was "Poor Working Conditions" and the winner for the month was Neville Pollard. His entry - 1243 + 1709 Vintage Loop line centenary 1967.

Chris Sim took out second place with a photo of flash-butt welding at Sydenham.



Upcoming subjects are:

May - Peak Hour

June - In the Shed

July - Cold Weather

Railway Luncheon Club

The first outing for 10th year of the Luncheon Club unfortunately started a bit wet, and rain it did – quite heavily in fact!! Nonetheless our tour to look at the Long Cove viaduct at Lewisham attracted 38 eager souls who braved the wet to see this historic structure. Led by Bill Phippen, our group was actually shown this and two other bridges close by, all of which have historical significance. But the Long Cove viaduct, including a preserved Whipple truss from earlier days, was the showpiece. Our thanks go to Bill, and also to Bill Laidlaw, John Watsford and John Beckhaus for assistance in managing our large group on the narrow footpaths and road crossings which we had to negotiate.

Our next outing is on 16 May and John Oakes will be showing us the former main line and current deviation at Oatley. We meet at Oatley Station at 10.30am. Lunch will be at the Oatley Hotel. Notes for this are now on the website.

For the future, on 20 June Neville Pollard will be leading our group for a look at some of the heritage remnants of the Lapstone Zig Zag. We will be hiring a bus to take us from Emu Plains Station and return to Emu Plains for lunch at O'Donoghues Hotel. The bus hire will necessitate a booking form.

On August 15 and 16, a 2 day tour, led by Ed Tonks, to look at the reminders of former coal mines and railways beyond Fernleigh to Catherine Hill Bay.

And on 19 September we are organising a tour of the XPT Depot at Meeks Road – more details later.

Gary Hughes
Railway Luncheon Club Manager

ARHSnsw Tours

Below is the long term plan for the upcoming tours with the Society. It is our commitment that the Membership get first option for the Tours before it gets promoted to the wider community, so I would encourage you to book early as they do sell out and we do only have limited positions on each Tour.

Upcoming Tours

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|-----------------------|---|--|
| May 27 | - | Exploring 1 year later, the Construction and Station Sites along the Route of the CBD and South East Light Rail Line - Seats still available |
| June 9-12 | - | A Two State Adventure, Albury and Seymour, a Rail cruise in 621/721 |
| June 20 | - | Lapstone ZIG-ZAG Site outing with the Luncheon Club - Seats still available |
| July 8 | - | A Passenger Train to Rylstone |
| August 15/16 | | Beyond Fernleigh to Catherine Hill Bay with Ed Tonks, ARHS Luncheon Club |
| September 23 | | "The Hawkesbury River Railway Bridges" book launch cruise. Brooklyn to Danger Is then Gosford and Woy Woy |
| October 2 Days | | Date TBA - John Oakes Sydney Suburban Forgotten Sidings Rail Tour |
| November 23-26 | | ARHS 402 Club Central West Tour |

It is important to note, that whilst all booking forms are not included in the newsletter, they are all available from the office. Alternatively, just call the office and we can take your bookings across the phone or we can email you what you require.

For further information and Booking Forms please contact: ARHSnsw Tours on 02 8394 9019 or 0428 333 443

Temora Book Launch

Recently "From Crown Land to Closer Settlement" by Neville Pollard, was launched in Temora. The book launch coincided with the unveiling of a bronze statue of "Boofhead", a railway dog that frequented the station and district, and a heritage walk around the Temora station precinct.

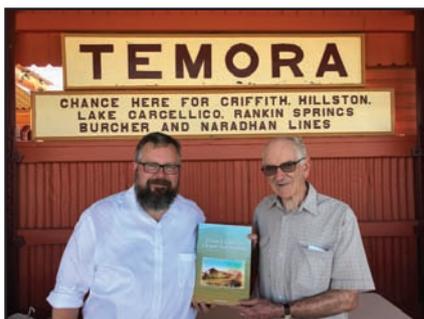
While the event was coordinated by the Temora Shire Council and the Railway Station Museum, ARHSnsw had a prominent role: James Dalton was the MC for the official proceedings opposite the station; Neville's book was heavily featured; and a small group of volunteers, ably led by Col Gilbertson, sold various ARHSnsw books on the station platform.

These were great opportunities to raise our profile and demonstrate our willingness to support local railway history, particularly in regional areas. ARHSnsw is very grateful to all who helped organise and support a very successful day.

Thanks are also due to Spencer Ross. The group of twenty or so from the Society were treated to a range of interesting activities including a tour around the Gundagai station area and twin bridges, and visits to the Temora Rural Museum and Aviation museums. The Rural Museum incorporates the State ambulance museum and is well worth a visit. Bill Spiers is the museum manager and local historian and gave us a very warm welcome. Neville Pollard also pointed out various points of interest significant to the history of railways in the Temora region. Peter Neve joined us on Friday, graciously providing some local knowledge of the remaining railway infrastructure.

NSWTrains also played their part in providing a punctual service to and from Cootamundra.

All round a great weekend!



Youth Focus Group

On Saturday 24 March we conducted a focus session at ARHSnsw Redfern with a select group. We had 7 attendees, age ranging from 15 to 26. The purpose of the session was to discuss the ARHS and what we currently offer to attract younger members.

With a large focus on increasing our membership and setting the Society up for longevity, it is important for us to understand what the younger generations are looking for and how we engage them.

During the 2 hour discussion, we covered many topics

- a) Membership and its perceived value
- b) Resource Centre
- c) Bookshop and Book Publications
- d) Website, Social Media, Digital age
- e) Tours and Events
- f) Members Meetings and Workshops
- g) Volunteering and engagement of younger people
- h) Location of ARHS



The feedback was insightful and will be very important for us as we build our strategy over the coming years. As we also embark on changes to the Society and progress into the digital age, it will be these sessions and younger members who will be key to helping us implement the change.

I would like to thank Amy Keighran, Bradley Jenkins, Zane Maber, Evan Rees, Matthew Wilson, Brett Leahy, Thomas Glastonbury and Sophie Nicolas for giving up their Saturday morning and committing to the session..

Update from the Bookshop

INTERVIEW Bill Phippen

I read in the intro that the Hawkesbury River railway bridges are wonders of engineering; can you tell more about it?

The 1889 bridge was one of the largest in the world at the time, and did have the deepest foundations of any bridge in the world. The fact that it was built in remote Australia after being fabricated in Scotland and assembled by just a few American engineers using local labour was pretty amazing.

The technology for the 1946 bridge was more established, but the fact that it was all done completely 'in-house', during the crisis years of the Second World War while there was every expectation that the old one might cease to be usable at all at any day, made the story of its construction even more amazing.

For both bridges the flotation of the huge steel spans from their place of manufacture on the shoreline to their mid-river destination was civil engineering at its most spectacular.

Was it common at that time to have engineers coming from overseas? Is there any other Australian construction/building that received a similar procedure?

All of the very early engineers who built the NSW railways were overseas trained, as they had to be since there were no local training facilities. Up until the first Hawkesbury River Bridge, large bridges were designed in Sydney, by a team led by John Whitton, who, although an Englishman, worked for the greater part of his career in NSW. The bridge was then made in Europe and shipped to Australia for assembly. The big change for the Hawkesbury Bridge was that the design was made in New York, and that the winning designers had to make the bridge, bring it to Sydney and put it together, all in the one package. Australian engineering capacity grew quickly so that the Sydney Harbour Bridge was partly designed in Sydney and fully fabricated in Australia. English engineers had a big role in its design and erection. The second Hawkesbury Bridge was 100% local, in design, fabrication and erection.

How long did it take you to write the book?

I first became interested in 2010, when I took up the job of RRC manager and found five albums of construction photos of the second bridge. Until then I didn't know much about the bridge. The discovery of the 1889 photograph albums in Washington in 2014 really made the thought of publishing them quite attractive. With all the material assembled writing the book didn't take too long once I got started as there is so much information – enough to fill a book twice the size.

Writing a book is a big task, and I see you received plenty of support both locally and internationally. Who are the people who helped you putting this book together?

There is so much information about the bridges spread across the world. The Railway Resource Centre in Sydney probably has enough to write a pretty good book, but once I found the photo albums in the Library of Congress, the engineer's scrapbook in Kansas City, the works diary in Hornsby Library, and boxes of papers at NSW State Archives the book was just going to get better and better. The staffs at all those places have been most helpful.

What made you evolve from engineer/railway enthusiast to writer? What made you decide to sit down and actually start something?

As I worked as manager of the Railway Resource Centre I saw so much that was interesting and I wanted to share it with other enthusiasts and engineers. I could see that applying my engineering eye to pictures and plans I could explain to non-engineers how it all worked. So many collections of photos are so haphazard. Put into some sort of order they make a lot more sense.

What was your previous book? When did it come out?

I have written several articles for Australian Railway History but never had a book published before. I have been working on a manuscript for a long time, about the history of Technical Aid to the Disabled, a charity I have been involved with for many years.

Are you going to keep writing? Any hint on the next book?

While the Hawkesbury Book was underway a comprehensive collection of photographs of building the railway under Sydney in the 1920s came to light, so that has been developed into a book. It is expected to be published in September.

You have an amazing career one must say. What is it that you are the most proud of?

Limiting the question to matters outside my family, I suppose being part of Technical Aid to the Disabled for more than 40 years, watching it grow from nothing and being asked to be its President for 16 years must be my proudest achievement. More than 400 blood donations is also a quiet and private contribution about which I feel very good.

A book like Hawkesbury River, however, is such a concrete thing, something which will sit on shelves in libraries for a long time is a pretty good achievement too.

Sophie Nicolas

ARHSnsw Tours Overview**EXPLORING 1 YEAR LATER, THE CONSTRUCTION and STATION SITES ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE
CBD and SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL LINE TOUR****SUNDAY 27th MAY 2018**

Come and join us on a special tour one year later exploring the light rail construction and viewing the station locations along the CBD and South East Light Rail Line route. Bring your camera to record images of the locations of station sites, associated road works and track formation together with other infrastructure construction to compare with your previous images. Also view the location of the former Sydney Sports Ground, Cricket Ground and Showground tramway sidings, the Royal Randwick Racecourse tramway branch and the construction of the Light Rail Depot adjacent to the Racecourse. To fill in the day we will follow a number of former Sydney Tram Routes in the Eastern Suburbs area including Bondi Junction, Bronte and Watsons Bay lines. View the site of the former Rushcutters Bay Depot along the old tram route.

The Tour will commence at Central departing from the Lee Street Bus Interchange at the City bound Bus Stop at 0930hrs and with an expected return at 1630hrs. There will be some walking to construction sights in some areas. Please wear appropriate footwear.

Tour notes will be distributed on board the Bus. We are limited to 40 passengers on the vintage bus, so please book early.

A TWO STATE ADVENTURE - ALBURY and SEYMOUR - A RAIL CRUISE in 621/721**June Long Weekend 9/10/11/12th June 2018**

Take this opportunity to travel on our annual June long weekend Rail Cruise in The Rail Motor Society's 621 / 721 restored rail cars on a unique 4 day trip to Albury and Seymour. Departing Sydney on Saturday morning at about 7.00am our train will travel via the Main South to Goulburn. A light snack will be provided as we proceed south from Campbelltown through Picton, Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale for a short stop to stretch the legs before continuing on through Goulburn, Yass Junction, Harden, Cootamundra and Junee for lunch in the iconic Station Refreshment Room. Continue on through Wagga Wagga, The Rock, Henty, Table Top and Culcairn to our destination, Albury. Transfer by coach to our accommodation at the Paddle Steamer Motel for the next 3 nights. Enjoy a Happy Hour drink in the Bar before Dinner in the Dining Room.

On Sunday after a hearty country breakfast we transfer to Albury Station to join our train to continue across the Murray River into Victoria passing Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla and Euroa to Seymour. On arrival we will inspect the restored Refreshment Room before joining our local bus for a town tour. Our Destination will be the Seymour Railway Heritage Centre where we can inspect the exhibits and enjoy lunch in their former broad gauge Spirit of Progress VR Dining Car and the Norman Parlour Car. Rejoin our train for a spirited return run to Albury and transfer to our Motel. Happy hour again before Dinner in the Dining Room. On Monday, again following Breakfast, join our coaches for a day following the closed Victorian Branch Line to Wahgunyah. Departing at 9.00am travel via Wodonga to Springhurst where the branch left the main line travelling through Lilliput Rutherglen and Wahgunyah to Corowa for lunch at the Corowa Chocolate and Whisky Factory. On the way we will stop at Campbell's Winery and the Rutherglen Brewery for tastings and purchases if you wish to do so. Check out the Railway scene at Corowa before returning to Albury via the Murray Valley Highway through Howlong. Dinner tonight will be a Smorgasbord at the Albury Commercial Club, our coaches will transfer us for this event.

On Tuesday, say farewell to our Motel and transfer to Albury Station for our return journey to Sydney stopping for lunch at Harden. Continue on to Sydney with a leg stretch at Goulburn to expected arrival at 7.00pm.

Accommodation in Albury for 3 nights at the Paddle Steamer Motel will be on a twin share, dinner, and bed and breakfast arrangement. Single supplement will be available upon request. Hunter Region patrons may join the train en route to Sydney on Friday 8th June 2018 on application.

Tour cost is all inclusive and covers rail travel, 3 nights Dinner Bed and Breakfast accommodation, lunches, a day tour by luxury coach to the Rutherglen Wine Region of North East Victoria, entry to venues with morning and afternoon teas whilst travelling on the train.

Tour Notes will be distributed on departure from Sydney.

ARHS Railway Luncheon Club - LAPSTONE ZIG-ZAG Site Outing**Wednesday 20 June 2018**

The Railway Luncheon Club invites members and guests to explore some of the archaeological remains of the Lapstone Zig Zag at the foot of the Blue Mountains, on Wednesday 20th June 2018. Opened with the line to Weatherboard (now Wentworth Falls) in 1867, this is probably the first example of a Zig Zag railway in NSW and carried trains to and from the west until it was replaced by the notorious Glenbrook Tunnel in 1892. Our chartered coach will leave Emu Plains Station after the arrival of the inter city service which leaves Central at 9.18am and due at Emu Plains 10.09am. After our arrival at the Knapsack Viaduct Car Park, we will inspect this viaduct and then walk to the top points of the Zig Zag. We then return to the coach for the trip back to O'Donoghue's Hotel at Emu Plains for lunch.

This tour will be led by Neville Pollard, and will be restricted to 45 people. Note that train travel to and from Emu Plains Station and lunch at O'Donoghue's are NOT included in the tour cost and are your own responsibility.

Be sure to wear suitable clothing and footwear as there will be considerable walking and stair climbing on this outing in winter weather.

A PASSENGER TRAIN TO RYLSTONE**Sunday 8th July 2018**

The Rail Motor Society and ARHS NSW Division are now able to run a heritage train to Rylstone Station with the line now opened by the Country Rail operator John Holland. Come and join us and be among the first to travel along the recently opened extension from Kandos to Rylstone on the truncated Mudgee line. On Sunday 8th July 2018 our train will consist of the 3 CPH Rail Motors Nos. 1, 3 and 7 from the Rail Motor Society at Paterson. A departure from Sydney Central is expected around 7.40am. Enjoy a Devonshire Morning Tea served at your seat while you admire the winter scenery as the train crosses the Great Dividing Range through the Blue Mountains. At Wallerawang we take the branch line through Piper's Flat, Portland, Cullen Bullen, Ben Bullen and onwards through the magnificent Capertee Valley. Continue passing Clandulla, Charbon and Kandos to our destination at Rylstone. Following a short stay our train will return to Kandos for lunch expected around 1.00pm, there will be a short walk to the Kandos Hotel where a typical Country Pub lunch will be served. There is the option also to bring your own picnic lunch or make your own arrangements. After lunch, take a walk along the Main Street taking in the life of what is now a quiet country town before returning to the Station. Re-join the train for a 3.00pm departure that is due to return to Sydney Central by 8.30pm. Afternoon tea will be served as we return through the afternoon glow so spectacular in the Capertee Valley. The train will pick up and set down at Strathfield, Parramatta, Blacktown and Penrith.

Tour Notes will be available on departure from Sydney.

