

**OFFICIAL TURNING OF THE FIRST SOD  
THIRLMERE FESTIVAL OF STEAM  
SUNDAY MARCH 1 2009**



The NSW Minister for Transport, the Hon. David Campbell (Member for Illawarra) continues to turn more sods at a photo shot immediately following the formal Commencement Ceremony at the Thirlmere Rail Heritage Centre on Sunday 1 March. He is flanked by two more MPs: on the left, Graham West (in hat), Member for Campbelltown and Minister for Juvenile Justice and for Volunteering and Phil Costa, Member for Wollondilly and Minister for Water and for Regional Development. The RTM's President Peter Berriman is on the right. The official party inspected the impressive start to the Thirlmere upgrade just prior to the formal ceremony with most work centered on the new roundhouse and turntable pit facility. See image below.



The circular concrete footing for the turntable's ring rail has been recently poured. The overhauled 105 foot turntable will be moved here and will present a raised 'stage' for displaying locomotives. The footings for the sector roundhouse are being formed-up on the right. The adjacent Loop Line has been slightly slewed to accommodate the width of the works. *Images by Ross Verdich*

**FORTHCOMING TOURS**

March 15	Inspection of Eveleigh Nth Paint Shop ( <i>Booked out</i> )
April 19	3830 to Maitland Steamfest ( <i>booking form attached</i> )
May 16 to 23	Norfolk Island Heritage Tour ( <i>see below</i> )
May 30	Guided walk by John Oakes Helensburgh to Waterfall (Enquiries: ARHSnsw Bookshop or phone 8394 9019)
June 5 to 8	June Long Weekend CPH Tour - to Brisbane ( <i>booking form att</i> )
Sept 2009	North Queensland Tour - Second Division 1

**POSITION AVAILABLE AT ARHSnsw  
RAILWAY RESOURCE CENTRE**

A casual position with an initial term of 12 months has been created for an archive assistant to work at both the Society's Railway Resource Centre at Redfern and our Alexandria archives facility.

We wish to employ a suitable person with responsibility for cataloguing and managing the archive function for paper-based material (books, magazines, drawings, plans and railway publications) at both locations, including coordinating the efforts of existing volunteer workers engaged in this task. The archive assistant will report to the Resources Manager, Railway Resource Centre, Redfern. ARHSnsw membership and intermediate level computer (PC) skills, (particularly Microsoft Office including "Excel", "Word" and if possible "Access") are essential.

Both experience in team leadership/people management and a good working knowledge of Australian railways are desirable. Previous experience in archiving, cataloguing or working in a library would be well regarded. An hourly rate of salary will be negotiated.

If you are interested in this position, please email the Society's Resources Manager, David Wynter at: [dwynter@arhsnsw.com.au](mailto:dwynter@arhsnsw.com.au) or phone 02 9699 2736.

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB**

The inaugural meeting of the Society's Railway Luncheon Club took place at Revesby on 18th February. It was rated by all the 27 members in attendance as a good day and there was unanimous support to continue the monthly social events. Members learnt the history of the station and inspected the newly opened terminal arrangements. The 1931 platform building is in near original condition and retains its corrugated asbestos roof with terra-cotta ridge capping. Unlike other stations where the external surfaces have been painted, the platform building retains its face brickwork. The new footbridge superstructure is painted in a colour that does not diminish the heritage values of the original platform structure. Several members contributed to the discussion including Ian Brady, John Oakes and Whiskers McCawley. After an interesting inspection of the station, the Club members dined at the nearby Revesby Workers' Club. Members were well impressed by the quality, quantity, range and price of food and the speed of the service. The only negative aspect was the absence of draught beer in the bistro. All future luncheon venues will be measured by the high standard of the Revesby Workers' Club. Tony Bailey volunteered to be Co-ordinator of the Luncheon Club. It was resolved that future events will take place at stations and luncheon venues with full disabled access facilities. Attendees agreed to wear name badges from any other source in order to facilitate inter-personal communication.

**Norfolk Island History and Heritage Tour**

16 to 23 May 2009. 8 Days. \$1995. At the All Seasons Colonial Hotel. Only two places left (one couple). Relaxing scenic half day tours. Free afternoons. Experience a different dining opportunity each evening.

**North Queensland by Rail - Second Division**

Our first tour, run in conjunction with Tony Bailey of Mercury World Travel, from 1 to 16 September 2009 is sold out! A second division of the tour will depart from Sydney on Tuesday 13 October. The all inclusive twin-share cost is \$3895.

- Fly Sydney to Cairns
- 4 Day Savannahlander Tour Cairns to Forsyth and return.
- Full day Charter on the *Gullfander* Normanton to Croydon & return.
- Diesel Tilt Train Cairns to Townsville - overnight Townsville.
- To Mt Isa on the *Inlander*, plus day tour of Mt Isa.
- Coach transfer to Longreach. Visit Stockman's Hall of Fame and Qantas Museum.
- Daylight run on the *Spirit of the Outback* Longreach to Rockhampton. Daylight run to Brisbane on the Electric Tilt Train.
- Option for return flight to Sydney or travel on Daylight XPT Brisbane to Sydney.

We require a non-refundable deposit of \$350 for the second division tour by Monday 4 May.