

# The Railway Luncheon Club 16 December 2009

In a specially arranged visit through the luncheon club's connections, we visited the Strathfield/Homebush Control Centre on Wednesday 16 December. This modern centre houses the now 30-year old Strathfield Control and the new Homebush Control. Long-time Society stalwart Noel Reed, retired signals engineer, spoke about the signalling history and how the facilities were once operated. Then life member Ian Brady gave a short spiel on the history of Homebush Station including the new terminating road on Platform 7. (Platform 1 is not used as it on the goods line and is fenced off.) The luncheon club members were then taken inside the facility and, once cleared through security, were treated to display of how modern-day signallers perform their duty using the most up-to-date facilities imaginable for the Homebush Control Centre. By contrast the adjacent 30-year old Strathfield Control showed the gap in technology but was of great interest as its area of control was much more extensive. Special thanks to Stuart Sharp and John Brown for organising the visit and to centre's manager Jim Porter. The inspection was indeed a very special privilege.

On Tuesday 9 January 2010 luncheon club members are invited to a morning tea served in the Railway Resource Centre (RRC) at 11.00am at 67 Renwick Street, Redfern. Members will be taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Society premises and will meet the staff on duty and see where and how *Railway Digest* and *Australian Railway History* are compiled and edited. It is a great opportunity to see the daily doings of the Society's paid and volunteer workforce. Also, members will be given a peep behind the counter of the RRC and will see the nature and extent of the collection and learn first-hand about the strategies adopted to facilitate greater use of the resource material. At noon, the RRC opens for business and everyone will be encouraged to stay and use the facility.



Top: Noel Reed begins the formalities by speaking to the luncheon club members about the history of signalling in the Homebush area.

Left: The still existant Homebush Signal Box.

Above: The contrasting brand new Strathfield/Homebush Control Centre.

Ross Verdich images.

## Winelander Tour to Stanthorpe and Wallangarra: 2 Days Departing BRISBANE on Saturday 20 February 2010

The Queensland Division of the ARHS has offered us a carriage on this train at \$425.00 per person, all inclusive meals with double/twin share motel accommodation at Stanthorpe on Saturday night. You may wish to leave the train at Stanthorpe to join the Wineries Tour or continue to the rarely visited border railway station at Wallangarra. See the station museum and what is left of the extensive change-of-gauge facilities that once existed here. Dinner at the Felsberg Winery, Glen Aplin on Saturday Night. You will need to make your own arrangements to get to Brisbane and return.

To Book on this tour please supply your details below.



Name .....  
Address .....  
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Telephone ..... Mobile .....  
Name of accompanying person .....  
Preferred payment by Cheque/Money Order/Cash for \$ .....  
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No. ....  
Expiry ..... / .....