

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

On 21 April, the Club visited Denistone Railway Station. Approximately 35 members heard details and the history of this seemingly insignificant station.

Denistone takes its name from a nearby home of c.1855, which is now in the grounds of Ryde Hospital. The station was opened on 26 September 1937 following lobbying by the Denistone Station League, which secured the support of the local MLA, E S Spooner, who was also the Secretary for Public works. It always had four platforms, but the Down and Up relief lines did not finally come into being until 1989. Denistone was the last station opened on the Short North until the coming of the Epping — Chatswood line 72 years later, and was also one of the few stations built on existing lines during the 1930s.

The platform buildings are of face brick construction and of the Interwar Functionalist architecture. They have been little altered over the years. The overhead booking office is of timber and it too has seen little change.

The overbridge servicing Gordon Crescent was originally timber, but in the early 1950's was rebuilt as a concrete and steel structure.

The tour was lead by Gary Hughes and Stuart Sharp, with additional comments from Stephen Halgren and Ron Buttery. Ed Tonks gave some details of one of the numerous freight trains which were to pass whilst we were there. His strong advice to the group? If you see an NR with a name on it, then photograph it. It won't be there much longer. Thanks were also due to Anthony Horter, the CityRail CSA, who gave the group a look inside the overhead booking office.

The next outing is to Mascot Station on 19 May 2010. There we will hear from Tim Anderson, the CEO of the Airport Link Railway, and inspect the station and the line's control facilities. We meet at the platform exit of the Down platform at 11.00am. Station access fees will be waived for us on this occasion, but a valid ticket will be required for travel on this line.

A forward reminder also that on 14 and 15 September we are going to Lithgow. The booking form for this will be included in the June Newsletter.

Gary Hughes



The Railway Luncheon Club group inspect the building on the Down platform at Denistone. The overhead bridge is in the background. Denistone is in the middle of a mile-long grade of 1 in 40. Image: Ed Tonks

Forthcoming tours

May 16: Lovedale Long Lunch/Maitland with 3801 Ltd
Booking form attached.

June 11–14: West & North West Wanderer Tour by CPHs.
Sorry but this tour is now fully booked.

June 26: Tour of Newcastle's Closed Tram Routes.
It has been 60 years since the last of Newcastle's trams ran and this tour will revisit most of those lines in a vintage bus. Preserved Mo: 1275 will be used and is of a type that once served the bus routes of Newcastle. *Booking form attached.*

July 24/25: Ed Tonks' Mines and Lines Weekend Tour.
Saturday: Mines of Lake Macquarie.
Sunday: Hexham to Richmond Main.
Booking form attached.

August 8: 621/721 Newcastle Suburban tour. Morrisset/
Dungog/Maitland/Scone/Newcastle

September 10/11/12: Three-day visit to Dorrigo Steam
Museum. Travel by XPT and Coach.

September 14/15: Railway Luncheon Club to Lithgow.
Booking form in June newsletter.

November: 621/721 Sydney Suburban tour.

For more information call our Tours Hotline on **02 8394 9019**

Slide Competition

The slide competition topic for the April meeting was 'Southern Aurora' and it was very well supported. The eventual winner was Tony McIlwain with his interior shot of the executive suite of the Aurora's DAM car. Upcoming subjects are:

May—Gone but not forgotten NSW branch lines
June—XPTs in the landscape
July—Rails at state borders especially dual-gauge
August—Single deck suburban electrics pre-1980
September—Just Garratts
October—Bridges Down Under

Contestants are encouraged to submit digital images but submissions need to be in at least 24 hours beforehand. Images submitted via CD are to be sent to our Redfern office and images via email to: **mail@arhsnsw.com.au.**