

# MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

## MAY'S GUEST SPEAKER

At the May Members' Meeting, the Office of Rail Heritage's Jim Longworth spoke about his favorite rail subject—railway infrastructure and its heritage. Jim's presentation exhorted members to look further than the "norm" in examining railway artifacts and structures. Rather than merely accepting the presence of an item, question why that item was there and perhaps does it change the known and accepted reasons about its history (or the area's history). A little research can reveal many things and fill in the gaps in the state's rail history. It was a very thought provoking lecture.

George Gettens thanked Jim for his lecture on behalf of the audience.

## RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

On Wednesday 19 May, 35 members were the guests of the Airport Link Company (ALC) at Mascot Station, the major control hub for the Airport Link Railway.

Jessica Lloyd, ALC's Business Development Manager was our host for the visit, and after a short introduction took us on a tour of the station and the Control Room. The Control Room monitors all operations and security for the Airport Link.

The message we all got was that the Company has "turned the corner" from the earlier difficulties of running the line and is now trading profitably, and looks ahead to the future with optimism. Green Square is now being developed as a major residential precinct and this will add to the ALC's business.

It was a most interesting look at this sometimes controversial facility, and our visit was enhanced by the presentation to all attendees of a copy of their book *Breakthrough*—a much appreciated gesture. The group then adjourned to the nearby Holiday Inn for lunch in their appropriately named "Biggles Bar".

For a great morning's activity, our thanks go to the Airport Link Company, and particularly to Jessica, to Shweta and to Jaap in the Control Room. And a special thanks to Tony Bailey for his assistance, and to Stuart Sharp for his informative notes.

The next Luncheon Club visit is to the Ingleburn Infrastructure Depot on the 16 June. We meet at 11am on the western side of the station on the footpath at the bottom of the pedestrian overbridge.

The July tour is to Hamilton. We catch the 8.15am Newcastle train from Central in the front car. We meet on the Newcastle bound platform at Hamilton at 11am.

In August we are going to Cronulla, but more details of this visit in the next Newsletter.

*Gary Hughes*



The signage at Mascot Station, which has been installed in an attempt to remove confusion as to which stations service "Mascot" Airport. Ed Tonks.

## Forthcoming tours

**June 11–14: West & North West Wanderer.** *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.

*Booking form attached.*

**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 attached.*

**November: 621/721 Sydney Suburban tour.**

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

## RRC INTRANET PROJECT

Geoff Lillo continues to expand this important facility, preserving a wide variety of material in electronic form. Recently added is the various operations notices published by RailCorp and ARTC. These require a regular download of files and modification of HTML code to enable the compilation of the indexes to be used on the RRC Intranet. Should Geoff be indisposed for any reason, it is possible for some material to be lost or the compilation compromised. We would like to hear from any member who is prepared to act as a back-up for these procedures. An understanding of HTML code and an interest in Special Train Notices and similar material would be desirable.

Contact Geoff on: [glillico@arhsnsw.com.au](mailto:glillico@arhsnsw.com.au)

## Slide Competition

The slide competition topic for the April meeting was 'Gone but not forgotten NSW branch lines'. The winner was Terry Flynn. Upcoming subjects are:

- ... 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 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](mailto:mail@arhsnsw.com.au).

## CHANGED BOOKSHOP OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5.30pm

Saturday: 9am to 4pm

Open everyday June long-weekend: 9am to 4pm