

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB GOULBURN

20 & 21 September 2011

Where it all Began.

Goulburn holds a special place in the history of railways in NSW. It was at Goulburn in 1846 where meetings were held that saw the formation of what became the Sydney Railway Company, with local business people such as William Bradley, who owned the local brewery, and William Hovell of explorer fame, being two of the movers, with hopes and plans for a railway connection to Sydney. The railway, by then under government ownership, eventually reached Goulburn in 1869. With this background, and its later development as a major railway centre, Goulburn was an ideal place to explore some of the State's railway history. Led by local identity and well-known railway historian and photographer Leon Oberg, our group of 42 members and friends was treated to a variety of sites of railway heritage significance and were able to visit places where access would not be normally available.

After arrival at Goulburn on the early morning Canberra Xplorer service at around 9.50am, the first day's activities included the former Goulburn Roundhouse, now home to the Goulburn Rail Heritage Centre; the CFCLA Workshops; Goulburn Workers Club, site of the inaugural meeting of what later became the Sydney Railway Company; Mandleson's Hotel, where a number of subsequent meetings of the Company were held, former railway residences and part of the former Crookwell line.

Early on the second day it was off to the station where Stuart Sharp spoke of the history of the station and its buildings. The local press (Goulburn Post) caught up with us on the footbridge for a group photo which was to be published in their next edition. The former workshops, dating from 1877-1881 and now used by a local produce business, was next to receive our attention, its magnificent timber structure being much admired. The 1869 goods shed was next on the list, followed by a drive-by of such diverse places as the Railway Bowling Club, former wool and wheat storage areas, Joppa Junction and more former railway residences and barracks.

It was an experience to see the railway heritage that Goulburn has to offer, and our thanks go to Colin Grose, Secretary of the Goulburn Rail Heritage Centre; Alan Gardner, Manager of the CFCLA Workshops; Steve Ayling, proprietor of Mandleson's; Bernie Maas from the Goulburn Produce Store and Stuart Sharp for his comprehensive notes not only of Goulburn but also of line side features south of Glenlee. And a special thanks to Leon Oberg who put it all together and made it all happen.

The next Railway Luncheon Club outing is to Lidcombe on Wednesday 19 October. We meet on the overhead concourse on the paid side of the barrier at 11am. Lunch will be at Auburn RSL. In November we are going to Thirroul and in December to Sydney Signal Box.

...

Gary Hughes



Our group poses on the southern footbridge at Goulburn. Sections of this footbridge have been constructed from bull head rail believed to be from the original railway built in Goulburn. Image: Goulburn Post



Hallowed ground for railways in NSW. The ballroom at Mandleson's Hotel was in fact the very room where the early meetings were held of what became the Sydney Railway Company. Image: Nev Pollard