

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

RRC MYSTERY

This page, dated 2.9.49, from a past member's notebook is reproduced below. The scribe remains a mystery to the RRC volunteers who are trying to establish the notebook's credentials. Bill Phippen would like to hear from any member who may have a clue whose handwriting it might be.

SYDNEY - MUDGEES					
No. 63 Mudgee Mail					
(a) Sydney - Katoomba					
STATION	DUE		ACTUAL		REMARKS
Central dep.	P	M	P	M	
Strathfield arr.	10	47	10	47	
dep.	11	0	11	1	1 late
Parramatta arr.	11	2	11	3½	1½ late
dep.	11	16	11	17	1 late p.w. slack at Duck CK
Blacktown	11	19	11	18½	½ early
Penrith arr.	11	30	11	30	
dep.	11	47	11	48	1 late
Glenbrook	11	49	11	50½	1½ late
Valley Hts arr.	12	5	12	6½	1½ late
dep.	12	20	12	22	2 late
Linden	12	25	12	26½	1½ late
Lawson	12	40	12	42	2 late
Wentworth Falls	12	55	12	58	3 late
Katoomba arr.	1	6	1	9½	3½ late
	1	17	1	20½	3½ late
LOCO: 3608					
ASST LOCO: 3201 (Valley Hts - Katoomba)					
CARS: 6-1 Van (FL.CX.FR.VAM.TBC.FS.MHO)					
LOAD: 254 tons (28.29.30.40.46.39.42)					

OFFICE OF RAIL HERITAGE 2011 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Marianne Hammerton, Director, Office of Rail Heritage, visited the ARHS Railway Resource Centre, Redfern on Friday, 16 December 2011. Also present from the ORH was Sarah Grosse and Jacqueline Irwin. Ms Hammerton presented the ORH 2011 Volunteer Awards. These annual awards honour those who have given generously of their time and effort during the past year. Winners from the ARHSnsw in 2011 were: Administration award - Ian Dixon. Long Service Award - Gordon Burr. Volunteer Encouragement Award - Rick Lawler.

NZ TOUR CANCELLED

The cancellation of this April 2012 tour disappointed both those who had booked and our Tour Committee who had worked with Darjeeling Tours to present a very good itinerary. Unusually, the root cause of the cancellation was the container ship wreck off the Bay of Plenty which has absorbed funds that had been set aside for North Island tour promotion budgets. The three days of jazz festivities at Tauranga, the port in the Bay of Plenty, was cancelled due to a lack of funds. The festivities included Steam Incorporated's J Class 4-8-2 No. 1271 running excursion trips out of Tauranga. Getting the steam loco to Tauranga also gave an opportunity to travel behind steam on the mainline. Sadly, with all the steam trips cancelled, the itinerary lost its highlights and could not be reworked in the short time available.

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

Over 50 members and friends participated in the Luncheon Club's outing to Sydney Signal Box on Wednesday 21 December 2011. Led by ARHSnsw life member and signal expert Dr Bob Taaffe, the group was treated to a rare look at this facility which controls the signals and points between Erskineville and Milsons Point, including the ESR.

The Sydney Signal Box was opened in 1979 and took over the work of five signal boxes in the region. Although there is now much computer control, the equipment is becoming outdated compared with other signal boxes in the Sydney area, e.g. Homebush. Our thanks go to the staff on duty on the day and especially to Bob Taaffe.

There will be no Luncheon Club outing in February 2012, however on Wednesday 15 February, Stuart Sharp and John Oakes will be having lunch at Whelans Hotel at Strathfield and invite anyone who so wishes to join them from 12 midday. Note that this is an informal social event, is not an ARHS outing.

On 21 March 2012, and we will be going to Central to look at platform level buildings. We meet under the clock on the main assembly platform (near the ARHS Bookshop) at 11am.

In April we are going to Arncliffe and it will be led by well-known railway historian Jim Longworth.

For the future, in May we have arranged a tour of Scenic World and the Scenic Railway at Katoomba. This will require bookings, and a booking form for this outing will be in the March Newsletter.

Gary Hughes