

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB STRATHFIELD

On 20 June, 38 members visited Strathfield Station. While the station looks very pretty, its origin is different. Much of the station is recycled from the previous station, which opened in 1900. The Edwardian style of the platform canopies are 20 years past their time period and this oddity is explained by the re-use of parts of the platform awnings at the previous station.

The station has some unusual aspects, one being that, when the overhead wiring structures needed replacing about 15 years ago, the bottom half of the original portal structures were not renewed. Instead, the stanchions were cut off above the roof line and new top sections were welded to the original bottom halves, thus retaining the 1920s steelwork visible on the platforms.

Another interesting aspect of the station is the memorial plaque located on the external wall of the Station Manager's office on platform No. 3. This plaque commemorates the death of the then Station Master in 1972, Frank Thompson, who was stabbed and died while on duty. The sad death occurred when Mr. Thompson endeavoured to stop a person without a ticket.

Perhaps the outstanding event of the day was meeting the long-time Special-Class Station Manager, Neville Roff, who impressed the members of the group with his enthusiasm and extensive knowledge. He went out of his way to escort the group around the station and arranged for the covers to be removed from the now redundant roll-over indicator boards in the concourse. Members voted it one of the best visits in recent



The Luncheon Club group at Strathfield on 20 June. Image: David Taylor

years and were most appreciative of his courtesy and help.

Our next outing is on 17 and 18 July, and will be our two day experience in the Hunter, taking in Dungog, Paterson, Maitland and as far out as Singleton. Ed Tonks will be our guide. The notes for this tour should be available from the bookshop in early July, but it would be wise to check first. Bookings for this tour are essential and a booking form is included in the newsletter.

In August the outing is to Eastwood. To make life easier, the notes for this outing will be posted on the ARHSnsw website from early August. In September John Oakes is going to show us the delights of Otford and in October Nev Pollard is doing likewise for Emu Plains.

Stuart Sharp

Forthcoming tours

July 17/18: Luncheon Club two-day tour to Hunter Valley
(Booking form attached.)

July 28/29: Winter Winelander to Wallangarra ARHS Qld

August 11: Hawkesbury River Bridge Cruise
(Booking form attached.)

Note: No tour is scheduled for September

NEW ARHSNSW MEMBERS

173	Donald FRASER	Burra (Rejoining NSW)
2500	John COOPER	Kurrajong (Rejoining)
5035	Allan J SIMPSON	Alexandria
5036	Matthew KELLY	Annandale
5037	Stephen GREY	Belconnen. ACT
5038	Robert SCRYMGEOUR	Mudgee
5039	Kristian MILLER	University of NSW
5040	Todd BAKER	Dora Creek
5041	Duncan MacAUSLAN	Rozelle
5042	Stephen QUOYLE	Killara
5043	Richard CANNAN	Warilla
5044	John DARE	Syndal. Vic
5045	Brian BERE-STREETER	Robertson. Qld
5046	Colin BROWN	Hill Top
5047	Colin BRIDGE	Aranda. ACT
5048	Ian WRIGHT	West Ryde
5049	Ian BARNES	Marulan
5050	Paul AITKEN	Freshwater

JUNE MEMBERS' MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

ARHSnsw RRC volunteer Allan Baird presented the second part of his late steam era Illawarra line DVD. This part covered steam passenger and goods services between Bomaderry and Sydney and included scenes of the now extinct Thirroul Loco. Again featuring still images 'coming alive' with steam and smoke exhaust visible. An authentic sound track complimented the scenes, whether they were moving or still.

The DVD presentation was a significant treat for members as he has no plans to release the two-hour DVD commercially.

'FAIR TO RARE'
OUR SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE
is now held every month
on the 1st SATURDAY & 1st TUESDAY
(Next on Tuesday 3 July 12pm to 4pm
& Saturday 7 July 10am to 3pm)
Upstairs @ REDFERN
Australian & Overseas Books
from \$1 TO \$999!
PERSONAL SHOPPERS ONLY