

# MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

## RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB HUNTER REGION TOUR

What has turned into two annual Luncheon Club events – a two-day outing and going to the Hunter, were combined on the 17 and 18 July when 38 members and friends arrived at Dungog on a sunny Tuesday 17 July to spend two days looking at some of what the Hunter Region has to offer those with an interest in railways.

Able lead by our experts Stuart Sharp and Ed Tonks, with our skilled coach driver and ARHSnsw Tours Director Spencer Ross, the group was treated to a suite of experiences of Hunter railways. This included Dungog, Paterson, Maitland and places in between on the first day, then to Singleton via Lochinvar, Greta and Branxton on the second day. Intermingled with all of this was the heritage of the railway buildings, some dating from the 1860s, and an ample supply of modern train workings.

Some of the highlights were-

- The view from Hospital Hill at Dungog.
- The pelicans of Paterson. (go and have a look!!)
- Mindaribba and Wallarobba stations in all their small glory.
- The ballast train at Martins Creek (see image).
- Maitland.
- Breakfast on the second day.
- Vast ARTC track/civil works between Lochinvar & Branxton.
- Numerous opportunities to see and photograph the extensive train workings of the Hunter Region.

It was a superb two days and our thanks must go to Ed, Stuart and Spencer for their efforts.

The next outing for the Luncheon Club is to Eastwood on 15 August. We meet on the Down platform (3/4) at the northern (Hornsby) end at 11.00am. Lunch will be at the Eastwood Hotel opposite the station. The notes for Eastwood are now available on the ARHSnsw website, or can be viewed at the ARHS at Redfern. In September we are going to Otford and, in October, to Emu Plains.

*Gary Hughes*



*Some of the group on Wallarobba platform. Has this platform ever seen so many people? Image by David Taylor*



*8204 top and tailing with 8224 leaving Martins Creek with a load of ballast just as we arrived. The station was recently rebuilt for easy access. Image by Ed Tonks*



*Singleton Station as it appeared on our visit. Image by Peter Ferguson.*

## Railway Luncheon Club Page on Website

The ARHSnsw website now has a page devoted to the activities of the Railway Luncheon Club. The group has now been operating for three and a half years.

The new page shows details of upcoming outings and contains a list of past events together with links to a report on the outing and, where available, the notes provided for that event. At present only a small number of notes are available but these will be added to the website progressively. The Railway Luncheon Club page may be accessed at [arhsnsw.com.au/lunchclub.htm](http://arhsnsw.com.au/lunchclub.htm) or via links on the Membership or What's New pages.

Just a reminder that members of the Australian Railway Historical Society and guests are welcome to attend the Railway Luncheon Club outings. Details of future events are published on the website and in this newsletter each month. The outings are an informal affair and there is no need to book for day outings, just turn up. However bookings are essential on overnight visits which are usually limited in numbers due to accommodation requirements.