

# MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

## RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB OTFORD

The Luncheon Club's 40th outing was held on 19 September and on this occasion Life Member John Oakes led the group to visit Otford. Otford conjures up thoughts of the infamous Otford Tunnel, but as this is now virtually inaccessible, the group inspected the station and its associated features.

Located in a picturesque position on the Illawarra Escarpment, Otford was opened with the opening of the single line in 1888, and duplication followed in 1915. The original timber station building survived until 1986 when it was replaced by the current brick building, utilising bricks which were intended to be graffiti and vandal resistant. Although it seemed to be regarded as at the bottom of the importance chain, Otford had no less than seven railway residences, as well as a railway dam on the nearby Hacking River. The seven residences served the Station Master, Night Officer, the four attendants for the extraction fans system for the tunnel, and lastly the operator of the water pump on the dam, and all except one survive.

The necessities of train travel kept the visit to a fairly tight time, and a short train trip to Sutherland for lunch at the Royal Hotel completed an enlightening day.

Our thanks go to John Oakes for the day, and also to John and Stuart Sharp for the informative notes, which are now on the ARHSnsw website for all to see.

The next outing is to Emu Plains on Wed 17 Oct 2012. We meet on the Down platform at 11.03am, after the arrival of the down intercity service which departs Central at 10.09am. Nev Pollard will be leading this tour. Stuart Sharp's notes for Emu Plains are now available on the ARHSnsw website.

In November we are going to Gosford to inspect the Electrical Depot, and in December we are hopeful of visiting Sydney Train Control.

*Gary Hughes*



Four-car OSCAR Set H13 departs Otford at 1020 hours (four minutes late) on Run 438D, 0837 Kiama to Bondi Junction. Photo is taken from walkway exiting from Down platform "up the hill".  
Image: Peter Neve



The former railway dam at Otford is inspected by the members.  
Image: Peter Neve

### Forthcoming tours

**Oct 17:** Railway Luncheon Club, Emu Plains Station

**October 20:** Kandos celebrate 4501's 50th year  
(Booking form attached.)

**October 27/28:** Cooma with Rail Motor Society  
(Booking form attached.)

**November 21:** Railway Luncheon Club, Gosford  
Electrical Depot

**November 25:** From Goulburn with 3016  
(Booking form attached.)

**December 2:** Members' and Volunteers' Xmas Outing  
at Lake Macquarie Live Steam Toronto

*More information required?*

*Call the Tours Hotline number (02) 8394 9019.*

### OUR SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE

will be held only on one day each in  
**October and November.**

**On Saturday 6 October (10am to 3pm)**

**On Tuesday 6 November (Noon to 4pm)**

**Upstairs @ REDFERN**

**Australian & Overseas Books**

**from \$1 TO \$999!**

**PERSONAL SHOPPERS ONLY**