

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB EMU PLAINS STATION

In perfect weather, 40 members and friends made the trek west to Emu Plains on Wed 17 October 2012 to see this unique station. Ably led by life member Nev Pollard, the group received a broad history of the station and nearby railway facilities.

Whilst the railway was opened in 1867 and the current Emu Plains Station was opened on 22 November 1884, it appears to have been the third station provided at Emu Plains, although details of the others are imprecise. The current station was the work of George Cowdery, (Engineer for Existing Lines), and being of three storeys it reflected the importance of the railway entry to the then politically important Blue Mountains region, as Wallerawang, also of three storeys, did in the opposite direction. Originally being what could be termed a "country station", Emu Plains became the western terminus of the metropolitan system with the completion of the Blue Mountains electrification in the 1950s.

Of added interest to our group was the privately operated line to the gravel deposits in the vicinity.

At the conclusion of the tour, the group adjourned for lunch at O'Donoghue's Hotel, itself having a railway interest with part of the body shell of loco 4203 being adapted as a children's playground.

Our thanks go to Nev Pollard, and to fellow life member John Oakes for his input regarding the now disused gravel railway. And a special thanks to life member Dr Stuart Sharp for his comprehensive set of notes which are now on the ARHS website for all to read.

The next outing for the Luncheon Club is to the Electrical Depot at Gosford, on Wednesday 21 November 2012. We meet at Gosford Station in the unpaid area of the overhead concourse at 10.36am, after the arrival of the intercity service which departs Central at 9.15am. Please note that it is a safety requirement that enclosed footwear and long trousers must be worn whilst in the Electrical Depot. Lunch will be at the Gosford Hotel opposite the station. On 19 December we are going to Train Control at Central Station.

Gary Hughes



Emu Plains in the 21st century. Four 82 Class locos power an Up coal train through Emu Plains under the watchful eye of our group. Image: Ed Tonks



The imposing three storey Emu Plains Station building as it appeared on the day of our visit. The bottom storey is below the platform level. Images: Gary Hughes



The Luncheon Club members pose in front of loco 4203 (shortened & very much gutted) at O'Donoghue's Hotel Emu Plains. Image: Nev Pollard