

## MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

### RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB SYDNEY TRAIN CONTROL DEPOT

Setting a new attendance record, over 75 members and friends arrived at Central Station on Wednesday 19 December 2012 for our inspection of the Train Control facility. And what a fascinating and impressive arrangement it is. After gaining access by climbing three levels of a stunning set of recently restored marble stairs (some used the lift), Shift Manager John Tuckerman explained the operations and then showed us this vast hi-tech facility. The size of our assemblage meant that we had to be split into smaller groups and this limited the time that we could spend there, but none the less our group came away with a new insight into how RailCorp manages its operations.

To those of us who might have seen Train Control 50 years ago, it has certainly changed. Gone are the rotary telephone dialing system and the one way radios, but curiously the penciled graphs remain.

Our thanks go to John Tuckerman, the Shift Manager, and his colleague Damian. They were knowledgeable, helpful and courteous. Indeed, they are excellent ambassadors for RailCorp. Every member of our group spoke of the informative and pleasant manner in which they managed us.

Our last outing for 2012 was concluded with lunch at the Great Southern Hotel.

There is no outing in January, and on 20 February, for those interested there is an informal lunch available at Whelans Hotel at Strathfield. Just turn up at 12 noon if you like. Our 2013 tour program commences on 20 March when we are going to Croydon. *Gary Hughes*



*Above: Central Station's multi-level eastern stairway. These impressive marble stairs have been a recent restoration.*

*Left: The Luncheon Club (or part of it) is addressed by the control room's Shift Manager John Tuckerman here seen in the middle background.*

*Both images by Nev Pollard.*

## Grand St Petersburg then on to the Iconic Trans-Siberian Rail Journey

### by Private Train-the Tsaren Gold from Moscow to Beijing

Exclusive for ARHSNSW Members • 03 – 22 September 2013

This is one of the last great rail adventures, the legendary Trans-Siberian Railroad. Join our Private Train and set this dream of a lifetime on track. Experience Russia, Mongolia and China in the most comfortable, safest and pleasurable manner.

**DEPART:** 03 September 2013 from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane with Singapore Airlines, fully escorted and inclusive of all touring, meals and much more.

**PRICE:** from \$11,960 p.p. twin share (Compartment categories on the train range from shared bathroom facilities to private ensuite facilities).



For further information please call Imperial China Tours, Sydney (02) 9221 0266, from elsewhere 1300 303 101 or Email: [tony@imperialchinatours.com](mailto:tony@imperialchinatours.com)