

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB THE SYDNEY MONORAIL

*The Sydney Monorail at
Harbourside on 5 April 2012.
Image: Chris Walters*



The builder and original operators of the Sydney Harbour-Link Monorail, transport company TNT, described their TNT Harbour-Link Monorail, as ‘moving Sydney into the 21st Century’. The reality was that the Monorail was completed before the re-development of Darling Harbour was finished and didn’t ‘link with Sydney Harbour’ as its promotional brochure predicted.

It was designed by Swiss company Von Roll, who also built the cars, and constructed by TNT. At 3.6km long, it was opened in July 1988. The Monorail gained a reputation as a ‘railway to nowhere’. Much maligned over its almost 25 year history, the Government announced on 23 March 2012 that it had purchased the Monorail and on 21 June 2012 it announced that the Monorail would be put it out of its misery and it would close on 30 June 2013.

Against this background, the Luncheon Club decided that it was worth a final ride, and on 15 May 2013, our group of members and friends made their last ride on it. Following this bit of nostalgia, the group adjourned to the nearby Great Southern Hotel for lunch.

Our next outing is on Wednesday 19 June and we are going to Kiama. Catch the 9.27am Kiama intercity service from Central, arriving at Kiama at 11.51am. Lunch is expected to be at the Kiama Bowling Club, but this will be confirmed on the day. On 17 July, it is our annual outing to the Hunter, and on this occasion, Ed Tonks is to show us the delights of Cockle Creek.

Gary Hughes