

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB COCKLE CREEK

Whilst it might have seen crowded platforms in days gone by, on 17 July 2013 our group of about 50 was the largest gathering seen at Cockle Creek Station for many years.

It was a bright and sunny day as the Luncheon Club members made their way there for our annual excursion to the Hunter. Ably led by well known local historian and ARHSnsw member Ed Tonks, the group was treated to a wealth of information about the important place this now seemingly innocuous station has played in the development of Newcastle. Its connection with coal mining, local industry and the social fabric of the times, both early and current, were all factors covered by Ed's expert commentary and his informative notes.

In its heyday, Cockle Creek was unique in that it had access to train, tram, bus and ferry services. Today it's a quiet backwater.

After such an enlightening presentation, capped off by a host of modern freight services to enjoy, the group adjourned for lunch at the adjacent Club Macquarie.

Our thanks go to Ed, and also to Stuart Sharp and Peter Neve for their comprehensive notes.

The next Luncheon Club outing is on the 21 August and we are going to Campbelltown. We meet at 11am on platforms 1 and 2 at the Down, i.e. Goulburn, end. Lunch will be at the nearby Court Tavern. Note that this is a Chinese only eatery, but they have a good range of specials for about \$8.50. Notes for Campbelltown are now on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website.

On 18 September it's our 50th outing and we are going to the ARTC Network Control Centre at Broadmeadow. Catch the 8.15am Newcastle service from Central, due to arrive at Broadmeadow at 10.49am. Lunch will be at the Gates Hotel at Adamstown, necessitating a short train journey departing Broadmeadow at 12.17pm. And, as it's a special occasion, we have planned something additional at the lunch.

Our two-day excursion to Bathurst is on 22 and 23 October and the booking form for this is in this Newsletter.

Finally, I am compelled to again say something about safety. It is imperative that all participants on our outings pay strict attention to our safety requirements. In particular, I seem to be forever appealing to people to stay behind the yellow line on the platform. Could I urge you please to observe this and our other simple safety requirements. If you are not prepared to do this, then do not come on our outings.

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Gary Hughes



More products of UGL Broadmeadow - CF4412, resplendent in Black Caviar colours, leads sister units CF 4411 and CF4410 on 4178 freight past the watchful eyes of our group at Cockle Creek Station. Image: Ed Tonks



With its days working the Newcastle suburban services numbered, K Set K1 leaves Cockle Creek Station on a Down local service to Newcastle on the day of our outing there. Image: Peter Neve.

REMINDER NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 4 September 2013 commencing at 6.30pm

Venue: Mitchell Room, 1st Floor, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney

Nominations are called for the position of president and four councillors. The Society's Constitution provides that:

- (a) Nomination forms are available from the Society's Registered Office and must be signed by two financial members of the Society as well as the nominee. If required, a nomination form can be obtained by calling (02) 9699 4595.
- (b) The nomination form must be received by the Secretary at the Society's Registered Office by 5pm Monday 5 August 2013.

Grahame Thurling, Secretary, Australian Railway Historical Society NSW Division. Registered Office: 67 Renwick Street, REDFERN NSW 2016