

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB
TERALBA STATION**

To many who take the train journey north, Teralba appears to be one of those places with perhaps an unknown history. To explore just what that history might have been, our group of around 40 made the journey there on Wednesday 20 August. Led by our noted Newcastle based historian and member Ed Tonks, we learned of Teralba's unique place in the history of the Hunter region.

Opened on 15 August 1887, Teralba has been the home of two collieries - Great Northern Colliery, opened in 1887 and renamed Pacific Colliery in 1914, and Gartlee Colliery, opened 1890 and renamed Northern Extended Colliery in 1902. It also supported two hotels, the Lake Macquarie and the Great Northern, with the latter, adjacent to the station, surviving today. A large goods yard on the Up side once served the needs of the mines and the community. Today Teralba is a quiet suburb in the Lake Macquarie City. The station was extensively rebuilt for the electrification in 1982 and more recently the main building was demolished and replaced by an awning structure in 2010. Once a busy place Teralba Station now sees little activity.

Our thanks go to Ed for his usual expert and informative commentary, and also to Glen Magee for his contribution.

The next Luncheon Club outing is on Wednesday 17 September and RRC Manager Bill Phippen is going to show us some of the features of both Meadowbank Bridges. We meet at the entrance to the Up platform at Meadowbank Station at 11.00am. Lunch will be at the West Ryde Hotel at West Ryde, necessitating a short train journey, leaving Meadowbank at 12.10pm. And on 15 October life member Nev Pollard is going to take us through the history of Regents Park Station and the Potts Hill Branch. Notes for both of these outings are now on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website.

For the future, on 19 November, Stuart Sharp will be returning and will show us some history of railway buildings at Moss Vale. This will be the last outing for this year.

Report by Gary Hughes



Teralba Station in 1899. The platforms and signal box on the left have now gone, and the Down platform on the right now forms part of an island platform with the 1982 Down main to its right. The Station Master's residence on the far right rear remains to this day.

Ralph Snowball photograph, Ed Tonks Collection



Our group at Teralba listens to Ed Tonks (on the landing and partly obscured by the overhead light) relates the history of the area. The 1982 Down platform is evident on the right as is the Station Master's residence at the right rear. The platform buildings in view were erected in 2010.

Image: John Beckhaus

Forthcoming Tours

September 27/28: Ski Tube and Floriade two-day Tour
(Booking Form on Page 4)

October 25: Rookwood Railway Walk *(Tour fully booked)*

November 4/9: The Great Tablelander Tour to Cairns & Mareeba
(Booking Form on Page 6)

November 29: Richmond Line 150th Celebration
(Booking Form on Page 5)

November 12 to 16: 402 Club Tour to Albury/Benalla/Boree Creek/Cootamundra/West Wyalong/Naradhan
(Expressions of interest)

**December 14: Members' and volunteers' day—
Lake Macquarie Light Rail, Toronto**

*For more information ARHSnsw Tours @ Redfern 02 8394 9019 or
Spencer Ross on 0428 333 443.*

Members' Photo Competition

August's subject was 'Freights in the Blue Mountains' and the only entrant was Chris Sim with five images. His winning image of an 82 Class on an empty coal travelling through Eskbank was judged to be the best.

Upcoming subjects are:

September—Streamlined 38 Class in Service*

October—NSWR Buildings gone but not forgotten*

November—Sydney's Central Station*

December—Members' Annual Slide and DVD night*

January—NSW Steam Tours to Remember*

(Contestants are to submit digital images at least 24 hours beforehand to: mail@arhsnsw.com.au Digital images cannot be submitted on the night. *Submissions are limited to **FIVE** slides or digital images only. The subject should also be the image's main focus. Contestants must know when and where slide/image was taken and mark the slide accordingly otherwise image will be ineligible to win.)