

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB  
REGENTS PARK**

With some notable exceptions, Luncheon Club outings are usually blessed with good weather. Not so on Wednesday 15 October 2014 when the aftermath of a classic violent springtime storm resulted in frequent showers and delayed trains. None the less, some 30 souls braved these conditions to visit Regents Park Station to hear of its place in the provision of rail services to the numerous industries which once occupied the area, as well as the branch line to Potts Hill Reservoir.

Life Member Nev Pollard, a childhood resident of the suburb, explained the location of these industrial railways, and also gave a vivid description of the shunting procedures used at the time.

Despite the problems of the day we still managed lunch at the Royal Oak Hotel at Lidcombe.

Our thanks go to Nev for his research and expert commentary, and also to Peter Ferguson for his assistance.

The next outing, and the last for this year, is to Moss Vale on Wednesday 19 November. We meet in the central forecourt at Moss Vale Station at 10.13 am following the arrival of the service which departs Campbelltown at 8.53am. Lunch will be at the nearby Moss Vale Hotel. This outing will be led by Life Member Stuart Sharp. The notes for Moss Vale are now available on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website.

*Report by Gary Hughes*



*The Down loop and sidings servicing the industrial area of Regents Park c.1975, looking towards Lidcombe. This photo was taken by KT Groves and published in Bulletin No.520, February 1981.*

*The image below shows the same view today. Image: David Taylor.*



**The Ski Tube & Floriade Tour  
27 & 28 September 2014**

Twenty five Members and friends departed Central on time at 6.57am on the Explorer service to Canberra on a fine spring morning on Saturday 27 September. Our train was diverted to run via the Main South due to track work on the East Hills line. It was noted that the usual Saturday Griffith cars were not attached for this trip. Morning tea was served as we proceeded through the Southern Highlands to arrive 12 minutes late at Goulburn. This was reduced to a six minute deficit on arrival at Canberra. Monaro Coaches arrived with friendly driver Mal Risby in command and after loading our luggage, departed south at 11.30am for Bullock Flat, stopping for our packet lunch at the park in Cooma.

Arriving at the Ski Tube, we were met by Greg Isele who introduced our tour guide Bill Moxom for the inspection of the control room, workshop facilities and stabling yard for the Ski Tube rail cars.

As the extension from Perisher to Mt Blue Cow had closed the previous Wednesday, we were only able to travel to Perisher, in the now almost 30-year old carriages. Most took the advantage of checking out the tunnel and the rack rail from the front car as we climbed the grade to Perisher.

On arrival at Perisher, an inspection of the station and the interchange to Mt Blue Cow was provided. All took the time between trains to check out the remaining snow at the chair lifts before re-joining for the service for the slower downhill return trip to Bullock Flat. Our coach returned us to Canberra for the overnight stay at the Diplomat Hotel in Griffith located almost opposite the Canberra Railway Station.

A fine buffet dinner was enjoyed as was our breakfast on Sunday morning. Departure was at 9.00am on Sunday for Floriade and the alternate destination, The Australian War Memorial preceded by a short tour via Anzac Avenue and a quick look at All Saints Anglican Church, Ainslie, the former No.1 Mortuary Station building at Rookwood. This unique building was taken down stone by stone, re-erected and then dedicated as the Church in November 1959. Those in the group who elected to visit The Australian War Memorial alighted and then it was off to Commonwealth Park on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

The Floriade display was in full bloom with very colourful display themes. This was accompanied by musical items from the sound stage and travelling street theatre events.

At 2.30pm our coach transferred us to the ARHS ACT Division Museum at Kingston for a very welcome afternoon tea prepared by the Museum Manager and his wife. Following a look through the public exhibits, Museum Manager Andrew Simpson conducted a behind the scenes tour of the museum. All rejoined the coach at 4.30pm for the short run to Canberra Railway Station.

Our return to Sydney departed on time at 5.20pm. An evening meal was provided from the Buffet, with on time running to Campbelltown where an operational delay saw our late return to Sydney Central at 9.55pm. Thanks to all who made the trip the success it was.

*Spencer Ross. Tours Director*

**RAILWAY TIE WANTED**

Member Ben Barnes is looking to acquire a NSWGR tie. The tie concerned is in navy blue with yellow tracks and the crest of the NSW railways embroidered onto it. The ties were sold originally by the Railway Shop at Central. Ben is willing to pay a reasonable price to acquire one of these ties and he can be contacted at [nswgr44@gmail.com](mailto:nswgr44@gmail.com) or on 0433 016 352.