

## **RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB TORONTO**

The line from Fassifern to Toronto closed on 10 March 1990 after a life of 124 years, firstly as a private tramway and after 1910 as a government railway. The platform of the intermediate station, Blackalls Park, remains as does the platform and station building at Toronto, the latter being restored and occupied by the Lake Macquarie and District Historical Society.

On 15 July 2015, our large group of over 60 traced the remains of this line and these facilities, followed by lunch at the Toronto Workers Club.

Good weather and much to see made the outing one to remember and our thanks go to Ed Tonks and Stuart Sharp for their valued commentary on the day and to Spencer Ross for his assistance. Also our thanks to Lake Macquarie and District Historical Society.

The next outing will be to Camellia on 19 August 2015. This outing will be led by John Oakes and we meet at Camellia Station at 10.18am, following the arrival of the down service. Lunch will be at the Rose Hill Bowling Club which is a short walk from the station. Notes for Camellia are available on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website.

For the future, on 16 September 2015, we are going to the Royal National Park Station by tram from Loftus. Meet at Loftus Station at 10.15 am following the arrival of the Down service. There will be a charge for the tram ride of \$5 per head, and this will be payable on the day to the Tram Conductor. Lunch will be at the Royal Hotel at Sutherland. Notes for this tour will be available on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website in early August. On 21 October 2015 we are going to Emu Plains to look at both the bridges over the Nepean River, with lunch at Nepean Rowing Club.

Our final outing for the year will be on 18 and 19 November, and it's our two-day tour to Murrumbidgee. Booking Forms for this tour will be in the September Newsletter.

*Gary Hughes*



*Then: 728/628 at Toronto Station in better days on 8 December 1989.  
Image: Ed Tonks.*

**LATE NEWS:** The former Sydney Central Station Booking Office recently known as Rail Heritage Central and housing the ARHSnsw Bookshop for seven years has finally been offered for lease, together with the former Dining Hall. The respective areas are 566sqm and 678sqm. EOI close by 31/8/15. The bookshop left 18 months ago and RHC was completely gutted soon after.

## **Vale Frank McQuade**

Well known train and tram photographer and enthusiast Frank McQuade passed away on Sunday 5 July after a short illness. Frank grew up in the Lane Cove area where he developed his lifelong love of trams and while still a school boy he also became interested in trains and spent considerable time around Hornsby loco depot and riding the North Shore shunting trip which he sometimes fired and drove.

After finishing school he continued his interest in steam power by training as a boilermaker and spent much of his working life on the tools and as a foreman boilermaker. He was a keen photographer and for a period had his own photographic business.

He was a long-time member of the ARHS and his contribution to the work of the RRC included the scanning of many photographs. He was also a keen member of the Sydney Tramway Museum being involved in its photographic collection. He was also a driver, the officer in charge and for a period its Secretary. Frank will go down in memories as one of the "characters" of Sydney Tramway Museum and for that matter of transport heritage in general. He was a person of often strong opinions which he often pressed very strongly. He made his opinions known far and wide as no doubt the letters editors of the Sydney Morning Herald and the Melbourne Age would attest and he had no love of politicians. He had some wondrous memories to recount and many of these will also be remembered by those of us who knew him.

Vale Frank. May he rest in peace while dreaming of the North Shore shunting trip and the days he rode it.

Sydney Tramway Museum intends to hold a special function to celebrate Frank's life and his contribution to tramway heritage.

*Terry Boardman OAM*



*Now: Toronto Station as a museum with rails still in place on 15 July 2015  
Image: Neville Pollard.*