

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

CAMELLIA

Why would we go to a seemingly insignificant place like Camellia? After all in 2012, Wikipedia reported Camellia as being the least used station on the then CityRail network, with a daily average of 50 users. Maybe that's a good reason to go there!! But, of course every station has a story and on Wednesday 19 August, we heard some of Camellia's. It had a place in what had been a large industrial area, it's been the junction of the industrial Sandown line, it was the point where the Parramatta steam tram crossed the Carlingford line, and it had somewhat unique safeworking, and these were all covered in an expert manner by life member John Oakes.

After the opportunity to photograph the station precincts, including its 1980 brick station building, as well as a couple of local train services, the group of around 45 made their way to lunch at the nearby Rosehill Bowling Club. Our thanks go to John not only for his presentation on the day, but also for his informative notes which are now on our website. A special thanks also to Ron Buttrey for his contribution.

The next outing will be on 16 September, and 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 which departs Central at 9.40am. 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. Please assist by bringing the correct change. Lunch will be at the Royal Hotel at Sutherland. Notes for this tour are available on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website.

On 21 October we are going to Emu Plains to walk to both bridges over the Nepean River, where Bill Phippen will talk about their design features. We meet at Emu Plains Station at 10.09am following the arrival of the Down inter-city service which departs Central at 9.09am, with lunch at Nepean Rowing Club. Note that this outing will involve considerable walking. Notes for this outing will be on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website in early September.

Our final outing for the year will be on 18 and 19 November, and it's our two-day tour to Murrurundi. The booking form for this tour is in this newsletter.

Gary Hughes



This image, as printed in John Oakes' Camellia notes, is unfortunately undated, but is certainly pre the 1959 electrification of the Carlingford line. The Grand Avenue level crossing was replaced by an overbridge in the 1980s. The tramway crossing of the railway on the level was immediately beyond the level crossing. ARHSRRC 100681