

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB FORMER ROZELLE TRAM DEPOT

Wednesday 15 November 2017.

With the construction of what we now call light rail proceeding apace in Sydney and Newcastle, it is interesting to observe that both cities once had extensive tramway systems, Sydney's being one of the largest networks in the world. We then called them simply 'trams'. Change in government policy meant that the old tram networks were to close, and R1 tram 1995 made it into the history books by being the last tram to run in Sydney on the closing of the system in 1961. R1 1995 has been restored to its former glory and now resides as part of a restaurant in the former Rozelle Depot, curiously now situated in the Sydney suburb of Forest Lodge. So it was to see the current use of the old tram depot that the Luncheon Club visited what is now the TRAMSHEDS (current name and spelling) which forms the commercial/retail shopping precinct of the redevelopment of the adjacent and former Harold Park Trotting Paceway. Led by Luncheon Club regular and tram buff David Taylor, we were treated to a potted history of the area and the role the Rozelle Depot played in Sydney's once vast tram network. This was followed by lunch at the nearby Harold Park Hotel.

It was a great experience and thanks to David for his research and presentation to inform our group of around 45.

This was the last outing for this year and the Luncheon Club is now in recess. Outings resume in March next year and on 21 March 2018 Bill Phippen will show us the features of the Long Cove viaduct at Lewisham.

Gary Hughes, Manager Railway Luncheon Club



R1 Tram 1995, fresh from its restoration at the Bendigo Workshops, has a well earned rest as part of the Butcher and Farmer Restaurant in the TRAMSHEDS. Image: John Beckhaus

Australia Post Mailing "Service"

Members and subscribers will be mostly aware that there was a small delay with the October magazines being delivered into letter boxes. But this was eclipsed by an almost two-week delay with the November magazine mailings. These were lodged with Australia Post on Friday 27 October but it took until Friday 10 November for the first deliveries to be recorded by Sydney-based members/subscribers. AP's excuse when it was finally received was: "Our mailing centres were working at full capacity and we apologise for the delay". AP has a monopoly on mail and there is no alternative. The Society's Redfern office received over 300 calls from concerned members/subscribers. We hope that the December mailings return to a resemblance of "service".

Members' Photo Competition

November's competition's title 'Fettlers' received six entries from three contestants. Chris Sim won the contest with his 1988 image of a two-car 620/720 set at Waratah as it heads into Newcastle past track workers. (see image below). Neville Pollard was the runner-up with his image of fettlers working on the line between Stockinbingal and Cootamundra in 2006.



Upcoming subjects are:

December—Best digital image from the monthly competitions.

January—The last train

February—Levers, lamps and lavatories

March—Suburban trains.

Contestants are to submit digital images at least 48 hours beforehand to: mail@arhsnsw.com.au Digital images cannot be submitted on the night. Contestants are to submit a caption with each digital image and to know when and where the photo was taken. The subject should also be the image's main focus. Submissions are limited to **FIVE** digital images only. No prize will be given on the night but the winning image and the runner-up will be entered into a contest at the December Members' Meeting when a winning prize plus a runner-up will be awarded. The winning image may be used for publicity purposes in the Society's print and digital media.

Tour Schedule

December 10: Railcars to NSW Rail Museum Thirlmere
(End of Year function for ARHSnsw volunteers & members.)

January 21: A Passenger Train to Kandos
(Tour booking form on page 4)

February 14: Holdsworthy Army Base & Engineers Museum
(Tour booking form on page 5)

February 25: Heritage Trams at Sydney Tramway Museum
(Heritage Double Decker Bus from Central) (Booking form on p6)

March 16, 17 & 18: Temora Book Launch Tour
(Booking form in next newsletter)

April 7: Newcastle Auchmuty Library & Harbour Cruise on William 4th Paddle Wheeler (NBN Channel 3 Archives)
(Booking form in forthcoming newsletter.)

May 7/20: Northern Japan by Rail for enthusiasts
(Special itinerary for ARHSnsw. Contact office for flyer.)

For more information contact: ARHSnsw Tours on:
02 8394 9019 or 0428333443.