



Members' newsletter

Official newsletter of the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division) • Editor: Ross Verdich • Issue: **October 2013**

October 2013

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| Tue 1 | RRC open. 2nd hand book sale at Redfern Noon to 4pm |
| Wed 2 | Members' Meeting: Graham Black-Krauss (Jack) Restoration |
| Sat 5 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre Closed |
| Sat 5/Sun 6/Mon 7 | AMRA Model Railway Exhibition at Liverpool |
| Mon 7 | NSW Labour Day Public Holiday. Central Bookshop Closed |
| Tue 8 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Tue 8 | Newcastle Members' Meeting: G Smith Canada & Alaska |
| Sat 12 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Tue 15 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Wed 16 to 20th | 402 Club Rail Motor Tour |
| Sat 19 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Tue 22 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Tue 22/Wed 23 | Railway Luncheon Club — Bathurst Two-day Tour |
| Sat 26 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Tue 29 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |

November 2013

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| Sat 2 | RRC open. 2nd hand book sale at Redfern 10am to 3pm |
| Tue 5 | RRC open. 2nd hand book sale at Redfern Noon to 4pm |
| Wed 6 | Members' Meeting: Bill Phippen - Menangle Bridge History |
| Sat 9 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Sat 9 to 20th | NZ North Island Tour |
| Tue 12 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Tue 12 | Newcastle Members' Meeting: Graham Black-Sandstone Steam Railway (Sth Africa) |
| Sat 16 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Tue 19 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Wed 20 | Railway Luncheon Club—Redfern Station |
| Sat 23 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Tue 26 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |
| Sat 30 | ARHS Railway Resource Centre open |

Forthcoming Tours

Oct 16 to 20: 402 Club Rail Motor Tour

Paterson Broadmeadow Gulgong Dubbo Coonamble Nyngan Cobar Narromine Parkes Stockinbingal Griffith Junee Goulburn Wollongong Sydney Paterson

Oct 22/23: Railway Luncheon Club
Bathurst Region Tour (*Tour fully booked*)

Nov 9 to 20: New Zealand North Island Tour
(*Booking form on page 4*)

Jan 19: Annual Summers Day on the South Coast
with Rail Motor Society's 621/721 railcars
(*Booking form on page 5.*)

Feb 22/23: Winlander to Stanthorpe & Wallan-garra
(*Booking form on page 6*)

For more info call the Tours Hotline on (02) 8394 9019.

Members' Slide Competition

The September subject was 'Crossing Shots'. The winner was Peter Sage with a crossing between 3801+3830 on a tour train with 8165+8184 with a freight train at Robertson on 6 December 1998. Upcoming subjects are:

October—Locomotive Depots by Night

November—Sydney to Melbourne Daylight Passenger Trains

December—Members' slide and DVD night.

(Contestants are to submit digital images at least 24 hours beforehand to Redfern by email: 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.)

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| Sydney meetings: | Members' meetings are held in Sydney on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings commence 6.30pm (seating available from 6pm) | At the 'Mitchell Room', 1st floor, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney (between Park & Bathurst Sts) |
| Newcastle meetings: | Members' meetings are held in Newcastle on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. | At the New Lambton Community Centre, cnr Alma Rd and Cromwell St, New Lambton |
| Bookshop: | Monday to Friday: 9am to 5.30pm Saturday: 9am to 4pm | The bookshop is located at Rail Heritage Central on the Concourse of Sydney Central Station |
| Rail Resource Centre: | Tuesdays: 12pm to 4pm Saturdays: 10am to 3pm | 67 Renwick Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016 (only during advertised opening times) |
| Administration and Mail Order: | Phone: 02 9699 4595 • Fax: 02 9699 1714 Email: mail@arhsnsw.com.au | 67 Renwick Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016 (no general access—by appointment only) |
| Tours: | As advertised Infoline: 02 8394 9019 or 0428 333 443 | www.arhsnsw.com.au |

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB DARLING HARBOUR GOODS LINE

To celebrate our 50th outing on 18 September, we decided to come closer to home and have a look at what remains of the Darling Harbour Goods Line. After a walk through the Devonshire Street pedestrian tunnel to Henry Deane Plaza, our group of about 40 heard about the biography of this not so well known Engineer in Chief of the Construction Branch of the NSW Railways, as well as some history of Devonshire Street.

Life Member John Oakes then took the group to look at what remains of the Darling Harbour branch. We started with the old underpass under Railway Square, part of which dates from 1855 and is the oldest structure remaining on the NSW railway system. We were able to have the gates to this opened, giving a good view of this historic structure, but unfortunately due to safety concerns we could not enter the underpass. The locations of the various sidings which served the industries in this area were pointed out by John, and then we went to the bridge over Ultimo Road. Unfortunately, little can be found of its history and even its date seems to vary from 1874 to 1879. But, none the less, RRC Manager Bill Phippen gave the group an informative presentation of what is known of it.

After lunch at the Great Southern Hotel, about 20 members availed themselves of the opportunity to go with John Oakes to Jones Bay to see the remains of the Darling Harbour branch there. It was a fitting way to celebrate our 50th outing, and thanks go to John, to Bill, and also to those in Sydney Trains who were able to open the gate for us.

Our next outing is our 2-day visit to Bathurst on 22 and 23 October. This is now booked out.

On 20 November, our outing is to Redfern. Meet in the paid area on the overbridge at the top of the stairs to No.1 platform.

There are no outings in December or January, but our usual informal lunch only affair will be on 19 February 2014 at the Great Southern Hotel in George St, near Central Station.

Gary Hughes



An O Class tram passing under the Ultimo Road overbridge, thought to be c.1950. Ted Skiller photo, held by the RRC. Published in ARH Nov. 2009



At the entrance to the Railway Square underpass. Image: David Taylor



The underpass at Railway Square. The original 1855 structure is beyond the steelwork near the centre of the underpass. The double track was gauntleted following electrification of the line. Image: David Taylor

SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

Member and author Jim Longworth spoke about what is remaining around Sydney in tramway archaeology. While little evidence of tramlines can still be seen (apart from when they are uncovered whenever roads are resurfaced) the actual routes and infrastructure can still be plainly observed in many instances, particularly in Sydney's Eastern Lines.

Jim used a then and now approach to his presentation when appropriate yesteryear images were found. The replacement of tram services by motor buses was not all encompassing. For example, tram stop shelters were sensibly turned into bus stop shelters with little modification. Tram stop shelters were built to a standard design or followed the architectural design of nearby buildings. There are many ex tram stop shelters still 'in service'.

Jim's lecture was a sampler to the release of his book on Sydney's tramway archaeology (look for it in bookshop later this year). When it is released and you know of something tramway related not mentioned in the book, let Jim know.

George Gettens thanked Jim on behalf of the members for his enlightening presentation.

RESEARCH APPEAL

Jim Longworth is researching amusement railways in NSW. Would anyone with memories, rumours, written material, leads, photographs, etc., please contact Jim by e-mail jimlongw1952@gmail.com

POSITION VACANT MAGAZINE EDITOR/DESIGNER

The Australian Railway Historical Society NSW Division publishes magazines and books on Australian Railways.

Based in Redfern on the fringe of the Sydney CBD, the Editor will be part of a small dedicated team producing the Society's monthly magazine-style publications.

This position requires in-depth knowledge and experience of editorial and book/magazine production processes. The successful candidate will:

- have a highly developed eye for detail (essential)
- be organised and meet strict deadlines
- have excellent communication skills
- be interested in railway operations and in particular its history
- be experienced in the use of Adobe InDesign or similar publishing/graphic design software

Duties include:

- Gathering information and reviewing articles from contributors on rail history
- Page layout design
- Proofreading
- Copywriting
- Planning article publication program

Initial 12-month appointment. Salary approx. \$50K but commensurate with skills and experience.

Applications close 18 October 2013. Email CV to:
rossverdi@arhsnsw.com.au

O SCALE THREE-RAIL LAYOUT

The Society has been asked to arrange for the disposal of a compact O Scale three-rail layout with about 65 meters of track with a double track mainline and goods siding accommodation. The layout will be carefully disassembled into manageable pieces for removal and reconstruction as desired.

The track and point work is custom made and is a very good representation of railway track. No rolling stock is for sale. The sale price is on a best offer basis and the funds raised will go specifically to the Society's Rail Resource Centre at Redfern. If you are interested and want further info please call or email Ross Verdich.

9699 4595 / rossverdi@arhsnsw.com.au



MULLET CREEK TOUR REPORT

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2013

A bright sunny day greeted the 55 Society Members and Guests at Brooklyn for a unique visit cruising along Mullet Creek to inspect the section of the Short North Railway line between the Hawkesbury River Bridge and a point south of the Woy Woy Tunnel.

For a short period prior to the opening of the first railway bridge Mullet Creek railway station was located. Then, passengers transferred to the Paddle Wheeler "The General Gordon" for the trip to Brooklyn to rejoin a train to Sydney.

A high tide was the necessary requirement for our shallow draft ferry to negotiate the waterway. A brisk trip from the Brooklyn Ferry Wharf to the site followed by a leisurely return viewing Wondabyne and activity along the line, checking out the location of the quarry that provided the sandstone for the piers of the first bridge and the original cutting for the approach to the northern end of the first bridge along the foreshore. Bill Phippen was on board to provide his extensive knowledge of the bridges and their construction. Three trips were required to cater for the group, each being followed by a very enjoyable fish and chips with salad lunch provided by Lifeboat Seafoods.

Thanks to Tom and Sheree Cosgrove for their hospitality with the provision of the Ferry "Princess Ruth" (and soon to be renamed "The General Gordon") and accompanying lunch.

Spencer Ross



Princess Ruth departing Brooklyn for Mullet Creek on Saturday 7 September. Image: Spencer Ross

AUSRAIL PLUS 2013

VOLUNTEER GUIDES WANTED

**SYDNEY EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE CENTRE
26-28 NOVEMBER 2013**

The combined AusRAIL PLUS 2013 and World Congress on Railway Research will create the biggest ever rail conference and exhibition hosted in the Southern Hemisphere with over 400 exhibiting companies. This is going to be the biggest AusRAIL yet and there will be many people visiting from both overseas and Australia.

To assist delegates with directions, the organisers would like to have guides situated around the conference centre at Darling Harbour. They would be delighted if any Sydney-based ARHS members would be interested in volunteering.

They would be fully briefed by ARA staff prior to and during the conference. The guides will be provided with free access to the exhibition area, meals during the day and a distinctive outfit to make them easily recognisable by delegates. Reimbursement of public transport travel costs between home and the convention centre will be available if receipts are provided.

If you are interested in being a volunteer guide for this exciting event please contact Ross Verdich or Graham Thurling at Redfern on 9699 4595 / mail@arhsnsw.com.au

