



Members' newsletter

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

December 2013

Sun 1	Members' and Volunteers' Xmas Function @ SPER
Tue 3	RRC open. 2nd hand book sale at Redfern Noon to 4pm
Wed 4	Members' Meeting: Members' Slide and DVD Night
Sat 7	RRC open. 2nd hand book sale at Redfern 10am to 3pm
Tue 10	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 10	Newcastle Members' Meeting: Members' Slide & Images
Sat 14	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 17	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 21	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 24	ARHS Railway Resource Centre CLOSED
Wed 25	Xmas Public Holiday Bookshop CLOSED
Thur 25	Boxing Day Public Holiday Bookshop CLOSED
Sat 28	ARHS Railway Resource Centre CLOSED
Tue 31	ARHS Railway Resource Centre CLOSED

January 2014

Wed 1	New Year's Day Public Holiday Bookshop CLOSED
Sat 4	RRC open. 2nd hand book sale at Redfern 10am to 3pm
Tue 7	RRC open. 2nd hand book sale at Redfern Noon to 4pm
Wed 8	Members' Meeting: Graham Black <i>Sandstone Steam Railway Update</i>
Sat 11	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 14	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 14	Newcastle Members' Meeting: TBA
Sat 18	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 21	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 25	ARHS Railway Resource Centre CLOSED
Mon 27	Australia Day Public Holiday Bookshop CLOSED
Tue 28	ARHS Railway Resource Centre open

ARHS CENTRAL BOOKSHOP TO MOVE

Rail Heritage Central (RHC), the former Sydney Booking Office (SBO), which the ARHSnsw bookshop once shared with the Office of Rail Heritage, the ORH museum/gallery and the NSW Rail Transport Museum, will need to be vacated in the next few months, maybe even sooner, to allow the gutting of RHC for the Transport for NSW redevelopment of the site into a transport ticketing and information centre. RHC has only lasted seven years since its multi-million dollar refurbishment from the SBO was begun in 2006. The demise of ORH has had little to do with the forlorn future now facing RHC as the management of the Central Station redevelopment have decided on a new look for the Main Concourse and the old SBO itself. The new schematic has yet to be finalised but the funding is in place for its initial phase, a situation which requires the vacating of RHC as soon as possible. No formal notice has been received but discussions are underway with TfNSW about alternative Central Station-based accommodation but there are not many options. The Society cannot afford commercial rental premises but we feel a Central Station location is still the best option if that can be achieved. This will help to ensure that we can continue to fund the operations of the Rail Resource Centre.

Members who may have comments on this matter should address them to the General Manager and NOT Transport for NSW.

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 Phone: 02 9379 6633 • Fax: 02 9379 4745 Email: sbo@arhsnsw.com.au	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 Email: resources@arhsnsw.com.au (Ph 02 9699 2736 and fax: 02 9699 1714, please note requests not taken by phone)	67 Renwick Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016 (only during advertised opening times)
GM, 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

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB
REDFERN**

After Sydney's bout of wet weather, Wednesday 20 November was a brilliant day as our group of about 35 gathered at Redfern to have a look at what can be seen in and from Wilson Street.

As we walked along this thoroughfare, life member Stuart Sharp pointed out each of the buildings and their significance. Aply assisted by fellow life member Peter Neve, Stuart gave the history of these intriguing buildings, interspersed with his lively wit regarding the political situation of the days gone by.

Former buildings such as the CME's Office, Scientific Building, Fire Station, Carriage Works, residences and the Foundry all got some coverage.

Our fifth year of Luncheon Club outing was concluded with lunch at the nearby Club Redfern.

There will not be any outings in December or January. On 19 February 2014, as is the custom, we will be having a lunch only event at The Great Southern Hotel in George Street, Sydney. Normal outings resume on 18 and 19 March 2014 when we will be doing our postponed two-day tour to the Bathurst Region. Some cancelled bookings may be available for this tour and if you require a place on this tour you should contact the ARHSnsw Tours Director, Spencer Ross.

Gary Hughes

Forthcoming Tours

Jan 19: Annual Summers Day on the South Coast with Rail Motor Society's 621/721 railcars
(Booking form on page 3)

Feb 22/23: Winelander to Stanthorpe & Wallan-garra
(Booking form on page 4)

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

Members' Slide Competition

November's subject was 'Sydney to Melbourne Daylight Passenger Trains'. Chris Sim's shot of a Down XPT in original livery at Yass in 1991 was judged to be the best.

Upcoming subjects are:

December—Members' slide and DVD night.

January—My best railway photo of 2013.

February—Railway Work Gangs.

March—NSWR Sidings.

April—NSWR Riverina Branches.

(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.)

**RRC VOLUNTEERS' MEETING AT
STATE RECORDS KINGSWOOD**

On Monday 11 November, the RRC volunteers' workshop, held a couple of times each year to discuss matters pertaining to the smooth running of the RRC, was held at State Records Kingswood. It was a very successful day for the 30 attendees – the highlight being a behind-the-scenes tour of the SR's extensive archives, of which about 5% are of NSW Railways material. The SR's John Cann, Rhonda Campbell and Susan Charlton made us very welcome and the promise of greater future co-operation between SR and the RRC is now very likely through efforts of Bill Phippen in harmonising the relationship with SR. Interestingly, the SR had an exhibition titled *Romance & Industry* running which included posters and images relating to the Railways of NSW. It was noted the captions to each exhibit were spot on for accuracy and readability! Special thanks goes to Bernie Le Breton for organising the best sandwiches and fruit platters for lunch.



Some of the RRC volunteers pose for the camera in the foyer of State Records at Kingswood. Note the Romance & Industry banner advertising the SR's railway-themed exhibition. Image Shane O'Neil.

**NOVEMBER MEMBERS' MEETING
GUEST SPEAKER**

At short notice, Bill Phippen stepped in to speak about his favourite subject - bridges particularly railway bridges. This time he delivered a lecture themed around the 150 year-old Menangle Railway Bridge on the Main Southern line of the NSW Railways. Bill wrote about this bridge in his nine-page article in the July 2013 *Australian Railway History*. An ability of Bill is to explain technical details of bridge design to his audiences in an easy to understand manner, sometimes using objects to show design features. This time he had wooden models to show how the strength is developed in plate flanged and box framed iron spans. That the Menangle Bridge's iron box frames are still in service is a testament to their sound Whitton design, albeit strengthened to cope with higher train weights and axle loads. Bill also bought along an 11 metre-long plan, scaled at ¼ inch to the foot, which was produced by Whitton after the bridge was built at the request of his superiors, as the original bridge plan was prematurely destroyed.

The chairman for the meeting, Nev Pollard, thanked Bill for his most interesting lecture.

