



Members' newsletter

Official newsletter of the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division) • Editor: Ross Verdich • Issue: June 2015

June 2015

Tue 2	Railway Resource Centre open
Wed 3	Members' Meeting: <i>Laurence Atkin Farewell Sydney MonoRail</i>
Sat 6	Railway Resource Centre Closed/Bookshop open
Sat 6 to Tue 9	Griffith Tour with RMS Railcars 621/721
Mon 8	Public Holiday: Railway Resource Centre & Bookshop closed
Tue 9	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 9	Newcastle Members' Meeting: <i>Graham Black Sandstone Steam</i>
Sat 13	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 16	Railway Resource Centre open
Wed 17	Luncheon Club: Lawson
Sat 20	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 23	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 27	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 30	Railway Resource Centre open

July 2015

Wed 1	Members' Meeting: <i>Shane O'Neil Siri Lanka Steam Trip 2015</i>
Sat 4	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 7	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 11	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 14	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 14	Newcastle Members' Meeting: <i>Warren Miller Indian NG DVD</i>
Wed 15	Luncheon Club: Exploring the old Toronto Line
Sat 18	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 21	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 25	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 28	Railway Resource Centre open

Tour Schedule

- June 6 to 9:** June Long Weekend Tour to Griffith area with 621/721.
- June 17:** Luncheon Club tour to Lawson.
- July 15:** Luncheon Club tour to Toronto. (*Booking form on P4*)
- August 1/20:** 21-day Trans-Siberian journey from Beijing to St Petersburg plus cultural & railway museums. (**Tour is now confirmed - bookings still open. See page 2 for contact details/brochure**)
- August 29:** The Great '01' Tour with heritage diesel-electric locomotives 42101, 4401 & 4501 to Orange. (*To be confirmed*) (*Booking form next month*)
- October 17/30:** NZ South Island Tour featuring Ab608. (*Fully booked. Waiting list only.*)
- November 18/19:** Luncheon Club 2-day tour to Murrurundi.
- For more info contact ARHSnsw Tours 02 8394 9019 or 0428333443.*

Members' Photo Competition

The subject for May's competition was '60 Class Garratts'. The winner was Chris Sim with his slide of double headed sixties 6029 and 6042 on Fassifern Bank on the Short North in 1971. Upcoming subjects are:

June—Sugar Cane Railways

July—Railway Yards

August—Remembering Newcastle Station

September—S10 *The Flying Nun or Comeng S (W) Sets*

October—Industrial Railways

Contestants are to submit digital images at least 24 hours beforehand to: 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. The winning image may be used for publicity purposes in the Society's print and digital media.

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
Redfern Bookshop:	Monday to Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday: 9am to 4pm	Phone: 02 9699 4595 • Fax: 02 9699 1714 Email: sales@arhsnsw.com.au	67 Renwick Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016
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 (by appointment only)
Tours:	As advertised	Infoline: 02 8394 9019 or 0428 333 443	www.arhsnsw.com.au

Public Lecture

**RESTORATION OF STEAM LOCOMOTIVE
NSWGR BEYER-GARRATT 6029**

Monday 22 June 2015

5.30pm for 6.00pm

Engineers Auditorium,

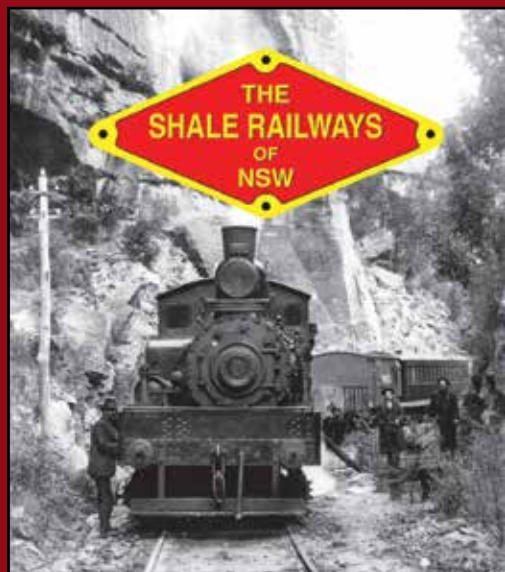
8 Thomas Street, Chatswood

Speaker: Alan Gardner, ARHS ACT Division

The huge Beyer-Garratt type steam locomotive NSW No.6029 (4-8-4+4-8-4) was built by Beyer-Peacock & Co. in the UK in 1953 and served on coal haulage in the Hunter Valley until 1972. Although condemned in 1981 after an initial restoration, it was restored to working order by the ACT division of the Australian Railway Historical Society. The locomotive was upgraded to full running standards and forms part of the Canberra Railway Museum. Alan Gardner is project head for the restoration. Turn right when exiting Chatswood Station turnstiles. Admission free. All welcome.

New 2015 edition now available at the bookshop!

The Shale Railways of New South Wales



New 2015 A4-sized edition of 256 pages. The original text has been corrected where necessary and a simple biography has been included. There are many additional images including a colour gallery.

RRP \$62*

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB
LEPPINGTON STATION**

On Wednesday 20 May the Luncheon Club rode on the recently opened Leppington Rail Link. The many modern features of the line were noted, with the only thing which seemed to be missing was a residential precinct for the line to serve. We then returned to the East Hills Hotel for lunch.

The next outing is on Wednesday 17 June when we are going to visit the Satellite Network Depot at Lawson. We meet at Lawson Station at 10.58am, following arrival of the Down intercity service which departs Central at 9.18am. Lunch will be in the Lawson Bowling Club, which is situated in the former railway concrete water tank. Note that the Club only serves Chinese food, and, similar to what we did at Campbelltown a couple of years ago, the Club will provide a range of 4 or 5 dishes which will be served alternately. The lunch cost is \$10 per person, payable to the Club. There will not be any notes for this outing.

On 15 July we are going to Toronto. This will require the hire of a bus, and a booking form for this are in this Newsletter. Lunch will be at the Toronto Workers Club, and not the Toronto Hotel as originally contemplated. Notes for Toronto will be on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website at the end of May.

Gary Hughes

May Meeting Speaker

Newly appointed ARHSnsw Councillor Craig Mackey presented selected slides of the late John Stormont. Craig has a special interest in the steam era and the slides viewed reflected his interest in the various classes still running in the early to late fifties. John Stormont particularly liked round top 36 Class and there were many viewed. Coloured 38 Class featured as well in a big way but the sudden change from green to black livery was a somber warning of dieselisation. Nevertheless Craig presented some blue and green 40 Class slides. The presentation was well received by the attentive audience.

The Iconic Trans Siberian Rail Journey & Grand St Petersburg

by Private Train – the Tsaren Gold from Beijing to Moscow

Exclusive for ARHSNSW Members • 01 – 20 August 2015

This is one of the last great rail adventures, the legendary Trans-Siberian Railroad. Join our Private Train and set this dream of a lifetime on track. Experience Russia, Mongolia and China in the most comfortable, safest and pleasurable manner.

DEPART: 01 August 2015 from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane with Singapore Airlines, fully escorted and inclusive of all touring, meals and much more.

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*This tour is happening!
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For further information please call Imperial China Tours, Sydney (02) 9221 0266, from elsewhere 1300 303 101 or Email: tony@imperialchinatours.com

The William Pearce Plaque Presentation at Thornton Station

In the August 2012 issue of *Australian Railway History* author Trevor Edmonds wrote an extensive article on locomotive boiler explosions. On page 20 of that issue he detailed the heroic action of fireman William (Bill) Pearce at Thornton on 4 December 1905 for which he was subsequently awarded the Albert Medal.

A plaque funded by ARHSnsw, commemorating his action, was presented by members of the Pearce family to NSW Trains at Thornton Station on Saturday 16 May 2015.

It was a cold and wet day attended by 55 people, including descendants of Bill Pearce, consisting of two great granddaughters, a great grandson and a great great granddaughter. Spencer Ross was in charge of the event on behalf of the Society, and Trevor Edmonds provided a full history of Bill's heroism and details of

the four medals he was awarded, as well as recollections of his later life.

Also in attendance, was a member of the Royal Humane Society of NSW, who spoke on their behalf, and former RailCorp employee and Mason, Glen Green, who spoke on the Mason's behalf, as Bill Pearce was a Mason. Ed Tonks, who assisted Trevor in his research, spoke on the importance of maintaining primary source documents in aiding the correct recording of history.

A number of Newcastle members of the society, including Glen Magee, John Barnes, Ray Power and Graham Smith attended, along with many interested locals and three NSW Trains representatives. The regular flow of coal and passenger trains provided the only interruption to proceedings.

Shane O'Neil



Spencer Ross speaking at the William Pearce plaque unveiling at Thornton Station. In the foreground from left to right from Trevor Edmonds then: Vicki Prins, Fran Day, Jan Halls and Garry Pearce, all direct descendants of Pearce.

Image: Shane O'Neil



The brass plaque, funded by ARHSnsw. Image: Ross Verdich



Left to Right: Spencer Ross, Garry Pearce, Jan Halls, Fran Day, Vicki Prins and Trevor Edmonds at Thornton just after unveiling the Pearce plaque.

Image: Shane O'Neil



A reproduction First Class Albert Medal identical to the one presented to William Pearce for his heroic act on Monday 4 December 1905.

Image: Shane O'Neil

