



# Members' newsletter

Official newsletter of the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division) • Editor: Ross Verdich • Issue: **September 2017**

## September 2017

Sat 2	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 5	Railway Resource Centre open
<b>Wed 6</b>	<b>Members' Meeting: <i>R Mc Killop: Heritage Railways of Australia</i></b>
Sat 9 & Sun 10	Our Town Model Exhibition Broadmeadow
Sat 9	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 12	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 12	<b>Newcastle Members' Meeting: <i>Chris Harding Swiss Rlys</i></b>
Sat 16	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 19	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 19 to Thur 21	Luncheon Club Central West Tour
Sat 23	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 26	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 30	Bookshop & RRC closed (Liverpool Exhibition Long Weekend)

## October 2017

Sun 1	Liverpool Exhibition Long Weekend
Mon 2	Bookshop closed (Liverpool Exhibition Long Weekend)
Tue 3	Railway Resource Centre open
<b>Wed 4</b>	<b>AGM &amp; Members' Meeting: <i>Stuart Kean: C A Cardew</i></b>
Sat 7	Railway Resource Centre open
Sun 8	'General Gordon' Hawkesbury River Cruise
Tue 10	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 10	<b>Newcastle Members' Meeting: <i>Bruce Helmers on Tour</i></b>
Sat 14	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 17	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 21	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 24	Railway Resource Centre open
Sat 28	Railway Resource Centre open
Tue 31	Railway Resource Centre open

## NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 4 October 2017 commencing at 6.30pm

Venue: Mitchell Room, 1st Floor, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney

Calling for Nominations for the ARHSnsw Board

Nominations are called for the position of president and six councillors. The Society's Constitution provides that:

- Nomination forms are available from the Society's Registered Office and must be signed by two financial members of the Society as well as the nominee. If required, a nomination form can be obtained by calling (02) 9699 4595.
- The nomination form must be received by the Secretary at the Society's Registered Office by 5pm Monday 4 September 2017.

Members note that the Annual General Meeting had to be deferred by one month.

Grahame Thurling, Secretary, Australian Railway Historical Society NSW Division

Registered Office: 67 Renwick Street, REDFERN NSW 2016

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

**RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB**

To a railway person today, Newcastle is where “they cut the line back”. This of course is true, and the full effects of this removal have yet to be played out. However, in days gone by, Newcastle presented a very different rail scene, with a large goods yard to the east of the now former station. It was to this area that we turned our attention for our outing on 16 August.

Our local historian and well known ARHS member, Ed Tonks, took the group of around 25 on a journey into the past. Once the site of warehouses, a power station, car sheds and many goods sidings, Newcastle’s east end has been transformed over the past 25 years into a vast parkland. Some of the old buildings remain, particularly the carriage shed which today performs a very different role as a large picnic shelter.

It was an outing which opened our eyes, and our thanks go to Ed for his excellent commentary and conduct of the tour. His knowledge of the Hunter region seems to have no bounds. After all that, it was lunch at the Queens Wharf Hotel overlooking the Port of Newcastle.

Our next outing is our three-day tour to the Central West on 19, 20 and 21 September 2017. There may still be vacancies for this tour, please contact the Redfern office to check on availability. Notes for this tour are now available on the Luncheon Club page of the ARHSnsw website. There is to be no outing in October, and on 15 November it’s an outing which is a bit different – our Luncheon Club regular and tram buff David Taylor will show us the former tram sheds at Rozelle. We meet at Jubilee Park Light Rail Station at 10.30am.

*Gary Hughes, Manager Railway Luncheon Club*



*A view over the Newcastle goods yard as it appeared in the late 1960's. The carriage shed at centre right remains today, utilised as a shelter. The large building at right rear was the Zaara Street Power Station, demolished in the late 1970's. Image Ed Tonks.*



*Part of the Newcastle Goods Yard and the carriage shed as they exist today. Image John Beckhaus*

**Members' Photo Competition#**

The August competition’s title ‘Climbing the grade’ was very successful with 23 entries received from six contestants. Peter Neve won the competition with his 2001 image of a rack train climbing the 1 in 12.5 grade on the Nilgiri rack railway, India. The image is reproduced directly below. Chris Sim was the runner-up with his steamy image of a Standard Goods and a Garratt climbing Hawkmount early one morning in 1965.



Upcoming subjects are:

**September**—The Whitton Era

**October**—Water Tanks

**November**—Fettlers

**December**—Best digital image from the monthly competitions.

**January**—The last train

**February**—Levers, lamps and lavatories

# Contestants are to submit digital images at least 48 hours beforehand to: [mail@arhsnsw.com.au](mailto: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**

**Sept 19/21: Luncheon Club Central West Tour**

*(Tour almost full. Contact office for any availability.)*

**October 8: ‘General Gordon’ Hawkesbury River Cruise**

*(Tour full. Contact office for any availability)*

**November 9/13: 402 Club Cruise to Southern Branch Lines**

*(Tour almost full. Contact office for availability)*

**December 10: Railcars to Moss Vale & Robertson**

*(Moss Vale Station 150-year Anniversary. EndofYear function.)*

**January 21: A Passenger Train to Kandos**

*(Tour booking form on page 4)*

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

## **ARHSnsw Strategy Development – An update for members**

At the March Member's Meeting, an overview of the work your Board is doing on the development of the Society's strategic plan was presented. For those who were not at that meeting, here is a summary of what was presented.

### Introduction

We know that the ARHSnsw:

- Is the oldest railway enthusiast group in Australia.
- Holds the largest private collection of historical documents and photos pertaining to NSW railway history.
- Is well respected and reputable.
- Is supported by dedicated volunteers and employees and passionate members.
- Is distinctly different (and unique in many ways) from other railway interest groups, particularly preservation societies.

A strategic plan is not a one-off exercise: it's a continuous process that guides the Society and its operations and the decisions we make. But to get this process started we need to do some research to understand:

- o What are the characteristics of our members?
- o What do our members want from the Society?
- o Is there anything we should change?
- o What do we need to do to maintain or grow the membership?

### Member and Non-Member Survey

This was the purpose of the survey that you would have seen early in 2017. We received over 300 responses from members and 184 from non-members, which was pleasing. The results indicated:

- We have a generally satisfied membership base.
- The main message is to do more of the same.
- 80% of members are over 55. Some members are unfortunately losing their ability to participate.
- Our core activities (RD, ARH, Bookshop, Tours and RRC) enjoy a good reputation.
- Those who attend meetings are happy, but we are unlikely to grow attendance due to the time, location and format.
- There is not a clear understanding of the benefits of membership (particularly to non-members).
- There was a clear message to improve both our retail location and online presence.

### Proposed Priorities

There are many opportunities for the Society to improve and grow. Amongst the top priorities are:

- Improve marketing and awareness activities primarily through the website and social media channels
- The RRC is a huge and ever-growing repository which is under-utilised. There is an opportunity to capitalise on this; one example would be to place ARHS resources (photos, but also other documents) on line as a pay-per-view facility
- Consider the current location of the ARHS bookshop and RRC and assess the suitability of the site in meeting our strategic goals.

### Conclusion

- Overall the ARHSnsw enjoys a solid reputation. It has the support of its members to stay as it is.
- Changes in our environment pose some threats to the survival of the Society in the medium term. The Board is analysing this to propose a course of action.
- The first step was to evaluate the feelings and beliefs of members and of non-members. We really appreciate your participation in the survey.
- The aim will be to preserve the great things we have and build on that to shore-up our future.
- The Board appreciates your support and welcomes your feedback!

James Dalton, July 2017

