

Hills Model Railway Society Inc.

*PO Box 555
Castle Hill NSW 1765*

Hills Rail Time

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PUBLICATION OF THE HMRS INC.

This is not an official newsletter; they will start again in 2022.

Do you remember where we are?



We are all very familiar with what's going on with Covid etc etc and we have been very fortunate that we can open the rooms again.

From today's news, it appears that QR Codes are back in force, please continue using the QR Code at the society rooms.

To enable us to continue and to help in the assistance of all our ageing members health, our committee have decided that we will continue with wearing of face masks while inside our society rooms for the short term, until at least after the school holidays have finished, February 2022 when we will revisit the situation and the regulations.

Our society has reopened, and the doors are also open for visitors, some have become new members, while others have expressed an interest in joining our society so, please make yourself known to these visitors as with their enthusiasm and model railway background experiences we all will benefit.

Would you like to go for a nice easy walk?

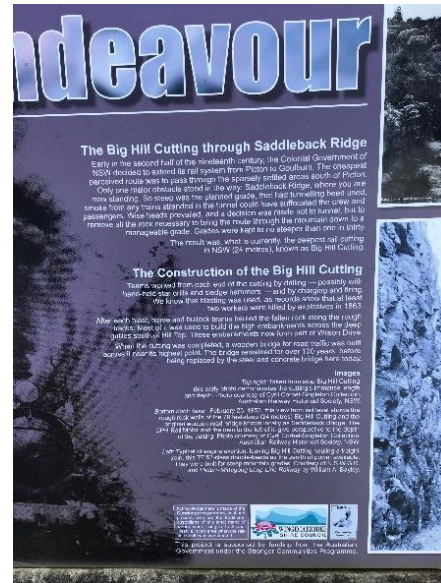
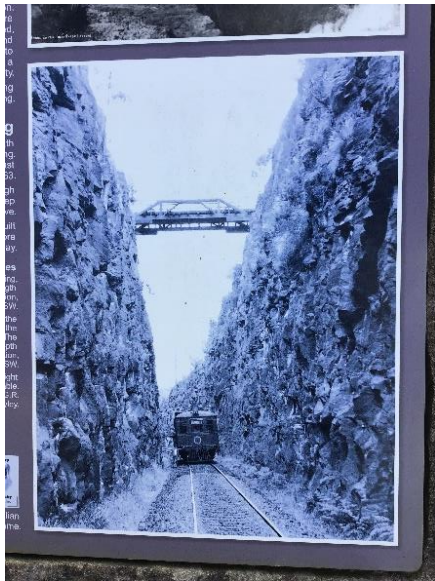
I recommend this one as its all-flat walking.

This walk is one to be carried out ASAP but do it in winter when the heat disappears. Make sure you take plenty of water and walk safely.

Why ASAP you might ask, finance has been allocated by the NSW Government to carry out restoration work on the track and once that happens, I can see that nobody will be able to walk the track again.

You will find Big Hill Cutting, the deepest rail cutting in NSW, on Wilson Drive, Hill Top (1 hr 10 min south from Kellyville, 110km via M7) turn right off the M7 at the Colo Vale and Hill Top flyover. (it's just before Mittagong)





As this is just a short note to all our members, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and New Year and to finish off, I would like to share this with you all.

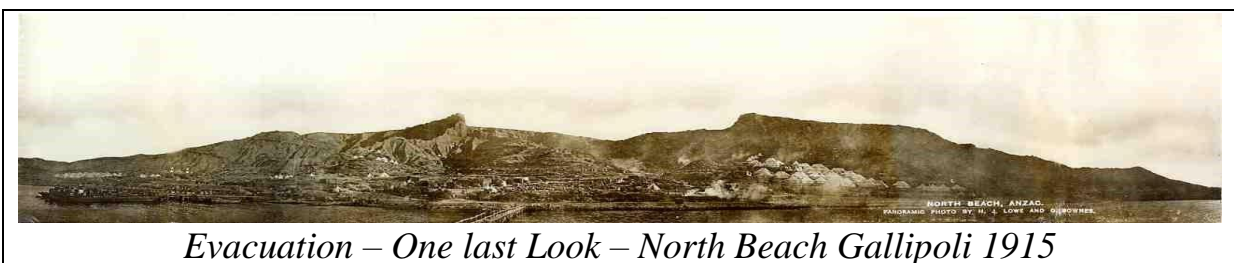
Well, it's Christmas Time and here is a Christmas Poem.

It is an honour to have permission to use it when and wherever I wish.

It was written on the night of 19/20 December 1915, 106 years ago.

How easy do we have it now?

The following poem was written by one of the young Australian AIF boy veterans, Private George Charles Alexander Reed, 26th Battalion, Service No. 1686.



It was written after the evacuation of Gallipoli somewhere in the Mediterranean Sea on the night of 19–20 December 1915 after the last Anzac troops were evacuated from Anzac. The evacuation of these positions over the preceding two weeks had taken place virtually without casualties.

Christmas 1915.

1

Standing on watch in the trenches
Watching for prowling Huns
Deafened by bursting shrapnel
And the ceaseless roar of the guns
Standing knee deep in a snow drift
Watching for break of day
Frozen to death or almost
Is how we spent Christmas Day.

3

Hoping we're home for the next one
Praying the war will be done
Longing to see our sweethearts
And join in the Christmas fun
Praying a shell may not get us
Dodging the bullets all day
Hoping to be relieved soon
Is how we spent Christmas Day

2

Hoping to get a letter
From the ones we love at home
Or hoping to get a blighty
Or a knock that will send us home
Ducking our heads from the bullets
Standing on guard in our bay
Hoping to get relieved soon
Is how we spent Christmas Day.

4

Hoping the war will soon finish
Wishing the day would come
Watching our heads in the dug out
Drinking our issue of rum
Cursing our luck and out post
Wondering what they would say
If they knew under what conditions
We boys spent Christmas Day.

Any short stories out there that you might like to share with us?
Just send them to the secretary@hmrs.org.au



Happy Modelling, keep on Track and have a great Christmas and New year. Ed