

# *Hills Model Railway Society Inc.*

*PO Box 555  
Castle Hill NSW 1765*

## *Hills Rail Time*

**DECEMBER 2021**

**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.

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Would you like to go for a nice easy walk?

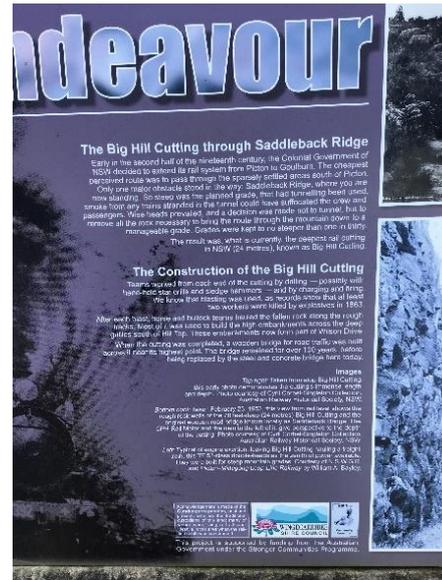
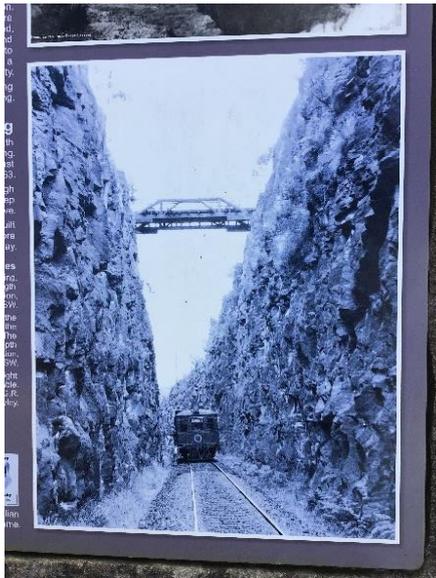
I recommend this one as its all-flat walking.

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.

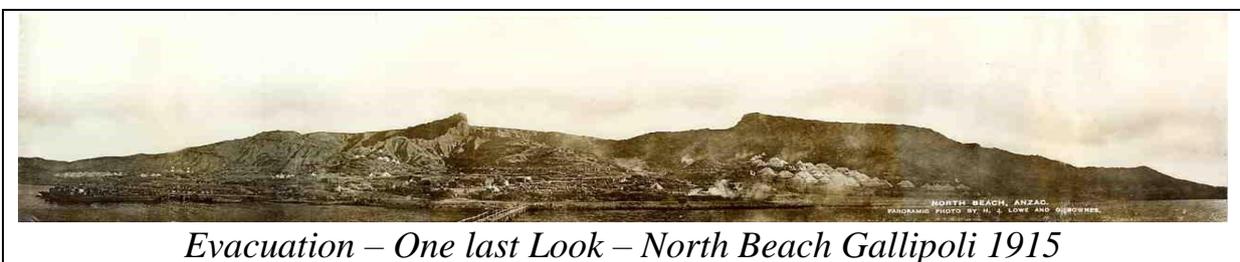
Well, it's Christmas Time and here is a Christmas Poem.

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, 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



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