



# VISITOR GUIDE

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WHERE RAIL HERITAGE COMES TO LIFE

# WELCOME TO THE NSW RAIL MUSEUM

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The railways revolutionised the lives of ordinary people in NSW – they brought people together, allowed the transport of goods and services across great distances and into new areas, introduced 'railway time' and timetabling, provided individuals with jobs and built communities. Each object on display at the NSW Rail Museum has its own story to tell about the social, economic and technological significance of the railways to the state's history.

The social impact of the coming of the railways was profound. Even though the earliest trains were slow by modern standards, a trip that would once have taken several days by horse and cart could be completed in a matter of hours. This brought about the rise of commuting, as people could now live further away from their place of employment and suburbs grew around railway stations. In Sydney, the suburbs that developed alongside the main lines to Liverpool and Penrith enabled the city to double in size between 1855 and 1880. In regional areas, towns thrived or died depending on whether or not they had a railway station.

Tourism and leisure travel was transformed to a day trip or holiday to the sea or snow, and visiting family in the country became possible for the average person. Large numbers of people could be moved quickly and efficiently for major cultural and sporting events. Leisure activities, such as circuses, were able to travel by rail to regional areas.

Most of the state's farming areas would never have been profitable without the railways. In addition to wheat, produce such as dairy, livestock and fresh fruit and vegetables could now be transported to the lucrative Sydney markets before spoiling. Manufacturers and retailers could move their goods around the state in greater quantities than was possible by horse. Dignitaries could travel in comfort and arrive for public duties refreshed. Information was conveyed across the state to communities large and small in the form of mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogues, books and parcels.

The workshops at Eveleigh were once the largest industrial complex in Australia and for many years the NSW railways was the state's largest employer. The railways brought training, skills and a lifetime of stable employment to the tens of thousands who worked for it, in every type of job from cleaners to commissioners, boilermakers to bartenders, foremen, firemen and fitters, clerks and clock winders, waitresses, signalmen, stationmasters and gatekeepers – there was a job for everyone.

**Thank you for visiting the NSW Rail Museum. We hope your visit is an unforgettable rail heritage experience.**

We welcome photography, but  
**FLASHES ARE NOT PERMITTED**



## THIRLMERE AND THE LOOP LINE

The Loop Line is an historic rail corridor stretching from Sydney's South West to the Southern Highlands.

Originally built in the 1860s, the line extends from Picton through to Mittagong and once formed part of the Great Southern Railway, connecting Sydney and Melbourne.

The station at Thirlmere was opened on the line by Railway Commissioner Charles Goodchap on 1 August 1885. Originally known as Redbank, the station consisted of a stone platform, two fettler's cottages, a small goods shed and a siding.

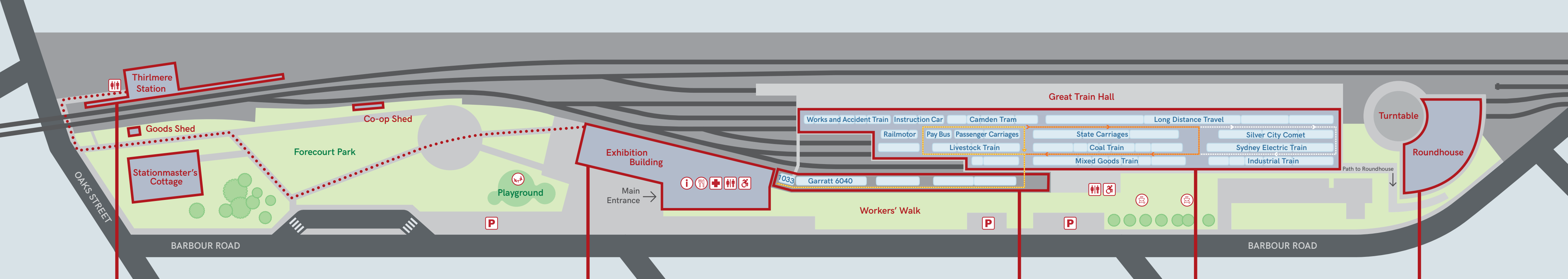
The station was renamed Thirlmere one year later on 1 August 1886. Thirlmere's proximity to Picton meant the village was initially very modest with only a general store and few other businesses present, however the popularity of the Thirlmere

Lakes district as a picnic and tourist destination helped contribute to its growth in the late 1800s.

The NSW Rail Transport Museum was offered the Thirlmere yard by the NSW Government in the early 1970s. The museum officially opened in its present location in July 1976. On opening, the museum also began running heritage services on the Loop Line, which was still part of the main network at the time.

While the line was bypassed in 1919, regular train services stopped at Thirlmere and continued along the line up until 1978.

Today, the line is used by the NSW Rail Museum to provide regular heritage train experiences, and to allow Transport Heritage NSW's operating heritage fleet to access the broader NSW rail network.



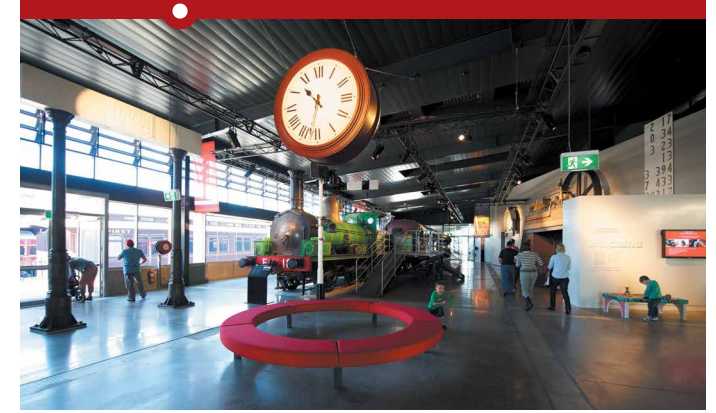
### THIRLMERE STATION

*Loop Line heritage train rides depart here*

The heritage precinct includes Thirlmere Station (1885), Stationmaster's Cottage (1891) and Co-op Shed (1908).

Like many towns, Thirlmere was born with the coming of the Great Southern Railway from 1863 to 1867. The Co-op Shed was established by Estonian poultry farmers and is an important link to this profitable regional industry.

- LEGEND**
- Parking
  - Kiosk
  - Toilets
  - Information
  - First Aid
  - BBQ & Picnic Tables



### EXHIBITION BUILDING

Discover how the railways brought life to town and country, explore inside the mail van, hear the conversation in the prison van, admire the glorious Governor-General's carriage, climb into the cab of locomotive E18 and don't miss the show in the theatrette - one of the signature experiences of a visit to NSW Rail Museum.



### WORKERS' WALK

Tributes to 14 jobs on the NSW Railways. For most of its existence, the NSW Railways was the state's largest employer. Workers' Walk plays tribute to some of the jobs that kept the wheels rolling and the trains moving around the state.



### GREAT TRAIN HALL

The Great Train Hall features an impressive collection of steam, diesel and electric locomotives, as well as many different types of passenger carriages and goods cars. A significant portion of the collection has been restored by the dedicated volunteers of the NSW Rail Museum.



### ROUNDHOUSE

View 'behind the scenes' maintenance and conservation of the heritage fleet. The roundhouse is serviced by a 32-metre (105-foot) turntable from the old Enfield steam depot. It is one of only three in NSW of that impressive size.

# UPGRADE TO AN ANNUAL PASS

## REGULAR VISITOR?

An annual pass for individuals or families is the most cost-effective way to access the NSW Rail Museum all year-round.

Your annual pass gives you unlimited museum entry and train rides\*, discounts at the NSW Rail Museum Store, plus pre-sale opportunities for special events such as *Day Out With Thomas* and other museum events.

**Upgrade to a NSW Rail Museum Annual Pass and we'll deduct the cost of today's tickets — saving 50% off the normal annual pass cost. To claim, visit reception or call 1300 11 55 99.**

\*Excludes Special Event Days



## ENJOY A RAIL HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

We have a calendar of events that span throughout the year, both here at the NSW Rail Museum and out on the main line across Greater Sydney and regional NSW. To learn more, visit [thnsw.com.au/events](http://thnsw.com.au/events).

## GET INVOLVED

### INTERESTED IN WHAT WE DO?

Join a community of passionate heritage supporters and enthusiasts by becoming a member!

### OR WHY NOT VOLUNTEER WITH US?

We're always on the look out for enthusiastic people to join our team!

**Scan the QR code to find out more!**



For more information and upcoming events, visit: [nswrailmuseum.com.au](http://nswrailmuseum.com.au) or call **1300 11 55 99**



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NSW