

NATIONAL RAILWAY HERITAGE CONFERENCE
to be held in Tamworth, NSW, Australia
1-3 October 2005

The Heritage Futures Research Centre of the University of New England is organising a major conference about the past, present and future of Australian railways.

Themed, 'Thinking Rail: Lessons from the Past, the Way of the Future — The Past, Present and Future of Australian Railways', the conference will be forward-looking as well as historical and commemorative. It will concentrate on the important role railways have played, and ought to play, in the social and economic development of the nation. The ultimate objective of the conference will be to set up an ongoing research project and national research network to help build the future of railways. Two topics, future strategic planning and regional sustainability, will be major issues to be addressed by the conference and further research.

Speakers include: Colin Divall, Professor of Railway Studies at the University of York and Head of the Institute of Railway Studies and Transport History, run jointly by the University and the British National Railway Museum. Professor Divall's research embraces railway and transport history, the social history of engineering and technology in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the public history of transport and technology.

The event will attract a diverse range of delegates from the railway industry, professionals and academics to policymakers and those in the wider community with an interest in railway heritage and a continuing railway presence. The conference is allied with the 150th anniversary of the beginning of Railways in NSW and will precede the celebrations associated with the official opening of the Australian Railway Monument (ARM) and Railway Museum at Werris Creek, NSW — 1-3 October, 2005. The conference patron is the Hon. Mr. Tim Fischer, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and an enthusiastic advocate of railways.

Topics for conference sessions should be sent by email to Dr Andrew Piper, Heritage Futures Research Centre, University of New England, <HFRC@une.edu.au> by 1 February 2005 with an abstract. The organising committee will then call for papers in these sessions, with a deadline for abstracts of 1 May 2005.

To learn more about the conference, please visit:

<http://www.une.edu.au/campus/confco/nrhc2005/>