Saturday, November 22, has been set down by the Department of Railways and the people of Lithgow district to celebrate the centenary of the opening on October 18, 1869 of the greatest piece of railway engineering in Australia in its day and one of the most noted in the world.

Our research officer, Mr. W. A. Bayley, has published a booklet, well illustrated with pictures of trains operating, describing the zig zag and comparing it with other zig zag railways which have operated in the world.

At our August meeting he will briefly trace the story of the need for building the railway as a zig zag, mentioning the Little Zig Zag built on Lapstone Hill, and of its subsequent use and abandonment after forty years in operation.

The speaker will then illustrate the story with a wealth of slides, bringing modern colour slides into contrast with those of earlier times showing the development of the former railway route as a breath-taking tourist attraction.

Copies of the booklet, in stock at our museum, will be available for purchase at the meeting. $1.00 per copy.

The usual cup of tea and scones will be available at the close of the meeting.

OTFORD TUNNEL EXCURSION WILL BE SOMETHING NEW:

An innovation will be our society’s excursion to the Otford Railway Tunnel, last used by trains on October 10, 1920, but during the past decade placed back into use for the cultivation of mushrooms, as many former railway tunnels have been.

From the twenties until the Second World War days it was an adventure for tourists to walk through the tunnel, despite the washed out floor which caused many to tumble and lurch into the soot-caked wall, emerging like coal miners black from head to foot.

Our excursionists will take a torch and will be conducted into the tunnel by the manager of the mushroom project. They will be told of the history of the tunnel.

Flat shoes and casual attire should be worn.

EXCURSION ARRANGEMENTS:

Saturday, August 9, for half day. Confined to bus travel.

Fare: Adults $1.50; school children 80c.

Thermos will be taken for afternoon tea which will be enjoyed after the tunnel walk in the grounds of Otford Public School by courtesy of the teacher, Mr. Green.

PICK-UP-POINTS:

Leave crossroads at 1 p.m. and proceed via Crown Street, Kembla and Bourke Streets and Princes Highway to the foot of Bulli Pass, thence by Lawrence Hargrave Drive to the top of Bald Hill and thence by Otford Road.

State pick-up point when booking.