

# **AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY New South Wales Division**

(ACN 000 538 803)

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017**

### Notice of Annual General Meeting



Notice is given that the 2016-2017 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Railway Historical Society, New South Wales Division, will be held in the Mitchell Room on the 1st floor of the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney, at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4 October 2017.

Business:

1. To receive and adopt the Income Account for the year ended 30 April 2017 and the Balance Sheet at that date.
2. To elect members of the Board for the year 2017-2018.
3. To appoint an auditor for the 2017-2018 financial year.
4. To transact any other business that may be brought forward in accordance with the Constitution.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy (who need not be a member of the Society) to attend and vote in the member's absence. Clause 14 of the Society's Constitution prescribes the form of appointment of a proxy. Such forms may be obtained from the Secretary at the registered office of the Society at 67 Renwick Street, Redfern 2016 and must be lodged with him at that address on or before 30 September 2017.

By order of the Board  
Grahame L Thurling  
Secretary

Sydney, 12 September 2017

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR TO 30 APRIL 2017  
AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION  
ACN 000 538 803  
67 Renwick Street Redfern NSW 2016  
Newcastle Branch: PO Box 432 New Lambton NSW 2305**

THE SOCIETY

The Australian Railway Historical Society had its beginnings in 1933 with the formation of the Railway Circle of Australasia. Since then it has grown to become one of the largest railway societies in the country. Autonomous Divisions exist in each state and the Australian Capital Territory, and there is a branch of the NSW Division in Newcastle. The Society's main objectives are: to promote the association of persons interested in the history and operations of railways for their mutual benefit and enjoyment; to encourage the study of Australian railways and the compilation and maintenance of authentic records; to maintain an archives collection, to produce books, periodicals, etc., of railway interest (including *Australian Railway History* and *Railway Digest*) and to arrange rail tours and excursions.

Meetings of members and their guests are held monthly in Sydney and Newcastle. These meetings usually feature a talk on a topic of railway interest, often accompanied by a program of films, DVDs or photographic slides.

The ARHSnsw Railway Resource Centre houses the ARHS Archives and is located on the ground floor at 67 Renwick Street, Redfern. The bookshop is located on the first floor at the same Redfern address.

OTHER DIVISIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Australian Capital Territory	PO Box 7335, Canberra Business Centre, ACT 2610
Victoria	PO Box 748, Williamstown, Vic. 3016
Queensland	PO Box 682, GPO Brisbane, Qld 4001
South Australia	PO Box 16, Melrose Park, SA 5039
Western Australia	PO Box 363, Bassendean, WA 6934
Tasmania	PO Box 162, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7006

AFFILIATIONS

Australian Electric Traction Association  
Canadian Railway Historical Association  
Irish Railway Record Society  
Light Railway Research Society of Australia  
Light Rail Transit Association (UK)  
Narrow Gauge Railway Society (UK)  
National Railway Historical Society (USA)  
New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society  
The Rail Motor Society  
Railway Correspondence & Travel Society (UK)  
Railway Society of Southern Africa  
Royal Australian Historical Society  
3801 Limited  
Transport Heritage New South Wales Limited

## BOARD

The Society is managed by the Board on an honorary basis. Its members during 2016-2017, and their attendances at council meetings, are set out in a table in the attached Directors' Report.

General Manager Ross Verdich also attended Board meetings. Spencer Ross has been attending Board meetings in the dual role of councillor and representative of the Newcastle Branch.

## NEWCASTLE BRANCH

The Newcastle Branch has a committee that organises local activities, including meetings, tours and outings. One member of the committee attends Board meetings to ensure co-ordination between the branch and the Board.

Committee members are:

Branch Chairman:	Glen Magee
Branch Secretary:	John Barnes
Committee:	Tony Lowther, Matthew Parr, Ray Power, Spencer Ross and Wal Williams

## STAFF

The following people are employed by the Society on a salary or contractual basis:

Full Time:

Ross Verdich	General Manager
Bruce Belbin	<i>Railway Digest</i> Editor
Bill Phippen OAM	Railway Resource Centre Manager
Shane O'Neil	Photo Editor and Bookshop Sales
Robert McKillop	<i>Australian Railway History</i> Editor

Part Time:

John Clifton	Webmaster
Lawrance Ryan	<i>Railway Digest</i> Specialist News Editor
David Campbell	<i>Railway Digest</i> Specialist Signalling and Safe Working News Editor
Darren Tulk	<i>Railway Digest</i> Editorial Assistant

## LIFE MEMBERS

Tony Bailey	John Barnes	John Beckhaus	Terence Boardman OAM	Ian Brady
Kenneth Date	Joseph Davis	George Gettens	Dr John Glastonbury AM	Alex Grunbach
Donald Hagarty	Graham Harper	Murray Harper	John Hoyle	Gary Hughes
William Laidlaw	Geoffrey Lillico	Glen Magee	Barry Millner	Peter Neve
John Newland	John Oakes	Ray Pickard	Neville Pollard	Ray Power
Spencer Ross	Dr Stuart Sharp	Colin Short	Dr Robert Taaffe	Grahame Thurling
Eric Walkley				

## RESOURCE CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members of the Resource Centre Advisory Committee (RAC) met regularly throughout the year.

The RAC members are:

Neville Pollard (Chairman), Ben Lewis (Minute Secretary), Steve Baker, Graeme Bolton, Ian Dixon, Ken Kershaw, Jim Longworth, Neil Munro and John Ward.

# CREDITS & THANKS

The Board would like to acknowledge those listed below for their generous contributions of time and effort made to the Society's various activities from May 2016 to April 2017.

Geoff Allerton	RRC Alexandria & Redfern	Ray Love	ARH
Harry Anneveld	Bookshop, Publications	Jim Longworth	Speaker, ARH, RRC
Fred Appleton	Bookshop	Tony Lowther	Newcastle Branch Committee
Jeff Austin	ARH	Tony McIlwain	RRC, ARH
Steve Baker	RRC	John McNamara	RRC
Alan Bailey	RRC Alexandria	Ewan McLean	Railway Digest
Ben Barnes	ARH, Publications, RD	Glen Magee	Newcastle Branch Committee
John Barnes	Newcastle Branch Sec./Treasurer	Peter Marshall	RRC
John Beckhaus	Publications, Railway Digest	Richard Mathews	RRC
Greg Blackwell	ARH	Warren Miller	Speaker
Graeme Bolton	RRC	Barry Millner	Membership
David Brown	RRC	Kevin Mirah	Bookshop/Railway Digest/Facebook
Gordon Burr	RRC	Frank Mitchell	ARH
Colin Butcher	Photo Competition	Matthew Moore	RRC
Russell Butterworth	Broadmeadow Exhibition	Geoff Moss	RRC
John Brown	ARH	Neil Munro	RRC, ARH
Graham Byrne	RRC	Peter Neve	Railway Digest, ARH
David Campbell	Railway Digest	Kevin Noonan	RRC
Peter Clark	Railway Digest	John Oakes	Publications, Tour Guide
Bob Daniel	Bookshop	Matthew Parr	Newcastle Branch Committee
Ken Date	Railway Digest	Ray Pickard	Financial, RRC
Ian Dixon	RRC	Ray Power	Newcastle Branch Committee
Kevin Dodds	RRC	Mike Quirk	ARH
Trevor Edmonds	ARH, Speaker	Lawrance Ryan	Railway Digest, ARH
Ian Fathers	Bookshop, RRC	John Roberts	RRC
Peter Ferguson	RRC Alexandria	Peter Sellars	ARH
Graham Fry	RRC	Peter Stock	RRC
George Gettens	Bookshop, RRC	Dr Stuart Sharp	RRC, Luncheon Club
Bob Gibson	Railway Digest	Neil Slaven	Bookshop
Col Gilbertson	ARH, Bookshop, Publications	Alan Smith	RRC
Clive Gillam	RRC	Jack Smith	RRC
Phil Griffiths	Photo Competition	Tony Smith	RRC
Alex Grunbach	ARH, Publications	Bob Stack	ARH, Railway Digest, Publications
Don Hagarty	RRC	Leigh Stokes	RRC
Graham Harper	RRC, ARH	Dr Robert Taaffe	ARH, RRC
Bill Harrison	Bookshop	Myrle Tanner	Bookshop
Roy Howarth	Facebook	John Terrey	Finance
John Hoyle	Railway Digest	Michael Thompson	RRC, Bookshop
Gary Hughes	Luncheon Club	Ed Tonks	Tour Guide
Michael James	Railway Digest	Len Truscott	RRC (deceased)
Greg Henson	Bookshop	Darren Tulk	ARH, Railway Digest
Greg Jeanes	Bookshop	Hugo van den Berghe	ARH
Frank Johnson	ARH	Graham Vincent	Railway Digest
Allen Kavanagh	Finance	John Ward	RRC
Ken Kershaw	RRC	Allan Watson	RRC (deceased)
Rick Lawler	RRC	Graham Watson	ARH
Bernie le Breton	RRC	David Whiteford	ARH, Railway Digest
Ben Lewis	RRC	Jack Withford	RRC
Geoff Lillico	RRC	Wal Williams	Newcastle Branch Committee

# PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

## of the year 2016 - 2017

The financial year has produced another surplus for the Society: less than the previous year, but still a strong performance.

Our *Railway Digest* and *Australian Railway History* magazines continue to sell in good numbers, and full credit must go to Bruce Belbin, Shane O'Neil, and Bob McKillop for their ability to keep the magazines fresh and attractive.

Tour income has been strong again this year. A great deal of planning goes into each tour, and thanks go to Spencer Ross for his untiring efforts in coming up with so many successful tours year, after year.

The Railway Luncheon Club continues to be a popular outing under the stewardship of Gary Hughes.

Spencer is also involved in our Newcastle Branch Committee, which meets each month at New Lambton, providing a vital representation for the Society in Newcastle.

Shop sales have been down, and we can attribute this partly to our location, which is not as attractive or accessible as the Central Station bookshop. Internet sales are holding well, mainly due to the efforts of Grahame Thurling, who also puts in sterling work behind the scenes for our shop stalls at the Broadmeadow and Liverpool Model Shows each year.

Railway Resource Centre (RRC) Manager, Bill Phippen, has identified a role for us as a provider of information of a technical manner for rail contractors and operators. This is a potentially lucrative use of the RRC's material; and could not have been done without the efforts of our volunteers in identifying, cataloguing, and scanning the vast number of documents and images under our care.

The Publications Committee, under Chair Harry Anneveld, is working under tough financial constraints assessing a number of manuscripts – some of which should appear in print in the new year. We were successful in securing a grant through Rail Heritage NSW for a forthcoming book authored by Neville Pollard. Neville also represents the Resource Centre Trust on the Society's Board.

During the year, Treasurer Murray Harper resigned suddenly for personal reasons. We have been fortunate to have Col Gilbertson join the Board as an able replacement for Murray. Col has done remarkably well to come up to speed and present the accounts for audit on such short notice.

After many years of service, Ross Verdich and Bill Phippen have announced their intentions to retire before the end of 2017. For my part, I will miss their support, which has always been forthcoming without complaint – often in their own time. More importantly, I will miss their friendship.

Last year, an Extraordinary General Meeting approved important changes to our constitution. This was the result of a huge volume of work by Harry Anneveld who identified corrections to minor errors in the existing constitution, and to bring it into line with the Model Constitution under the Associations Incorporation Act 2016.

Under my term as President the Board has accepted that we must look at the direction the Society is heading, identify areas that need attention, and implement action for change. A sub-committee headed by Board members James Dalton and Craig Mackey, with assistance from Harry Anneveld and General Manager Ross Verdich began with a members' survey to establish a starting point for change. Thank you all for your responses.

It is no surprise to learn that our members are mainly in the 60 years plus age bracket; so the challenge is how to attract younger members, and make the Society relevant in the modern world. There are opportunities for members to help by becoming involved in all aspects of voluntary work – be it in sales, financials, computing, or assisting in the Resource Centre at our Redfern and Alexandria sites.

I am confident that we are in a strong position, and continuing down the right track. We have a good Board represented by a range of experience and strengths. My thanks to each and every one for making my time as President enjoyable and constructive.

I'd also like to formally recognise the efforts of long term volunteers Grahame Thurling and Geoff Lilloco, whose work is vital, yet goes unnoticed by most members.



*Chris Harding*  
President

## MEMBERSHIP

The Division's membership as at 30 April 2017 was 1,267 compared with 1,306 a year ago.

This decrease is not unexpected. Our aging membership averages well over the sixties and we have had quite a few members deceased this year. Additionally, many members contacted us to advise that due to health issues, ie. deteriorating eyesight, they could not continue their subscription.

Also, despite there being no increase in membership and subscription costs this year, many complained that they could not afford the cost as their financial affairs had considerably tightened.

The Society has thirty one Life Members who meet on an annual basis. Twenty-two Life Members met for lunch at the Redfern RSL Club on 4 November.

The new Access-based membership and subscription database is performing well with it now being in place for twelve months. The programing has been subject to several enhancements in line with experience in using the software. The on-line support has been fantastic and the ability to maintain the Register off-site an important capability.

*Ross Verdich*

## RRC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meetings were held in May, October and April. Don Hagarty retired during the year after many years of service to the RRC. The ARHSnsw board strengthened the committee through the appointments of Steve Baker and Neil Munro. Advice was given to the RRC Manager in the following general areas:

- Moving less used archives to off-site storage to create working space at Redfern
- Identification of items more properly archived at State Archives.
- Advice on material to be maintained or discarded, methods of preservation of archives and priorities for scanning images and paper material.
- Refining and expanding the cataloguing system to incorporate archival material at both Redfern and Alexandria.
- Maintaining relations with State Records, Kingwood and other government repositories.
- Maintaining and developing the computer based 'Intranet' within the Redfern facility.
- Selection of topics for volunteers' meetings.
- Encouraging members to archive their image and hard copy collections at RRC.

The committee has appreciated leadership given by Resources Manager Bill Phippen OAM.

*Neville Pollard, Chair*

## FINANCE

This year the net gain for the Society amounted to \$59,352 (down slightly from \$71,241 last year). Having regard to the economic circumstances, this is a not unexpected result. Our shop sales have fallen by 11% on the past year which is attributable to a reduced market share and the fact that there were no new Society-produced publications until a few days before the end of the financial year.

Our two flagship publications, *Railway Digest* and *Australian Railway History* have maintained their contribution to the Society's profitability, although sales through newsagents have fallen slightly.

Special credit is given to our Tours Director, Spencer Ross, for his efforts in producing a net tour income of \$39,178 and this outcome is slightly above the good result achieved in 2015.

The Board has, on advice of a local real estate agent, lifted the market value of the Society's premises by a further \$300,000.

The low level of capital expenditure this year, compares with \$36,000 in the previous year. However, recent events have highlighted the urgent need for the Society's computer assets to be upgraded.

The Society's total value is now \$4.036 million.

*Col Gilbertson, Treasurer*

## COMMERCIAL

Members are referred to the Income Account for the year ended 30 April 2017 on page 16 for a description of revenue and expenditure for the year.

Bookshop sales fell over the year. Sales across the counter at Redfern are only a small fraction of total sales which are mainly phone/mail/shopping cart orders. The continued excellent work of all-rounder Grahame Thurling in the Bookshop's overall operations is again recognised.

Members are urged again to use the bookshop's 'put aside' magazine service to reserve their favourite magazines, as we continue to adjust supplies, usually downward, for both local and especially international titles.

Sales of donated second-hand books are still strong and we now have a listing on our website of all second-hand titles. This has been a huge task and thanks go to Harry Anneveld, Greg Henson, Greg Jeanes and Neil Slaven for their efforts.

Wholesale sales of ARHSnsw publications are slightly down on the previous year but revenue is expected to rise as three new ARHSnsw books were published in the last month of the year.

To all our bookshop volunteers goes our gratitude for their rostered attendance and flexibility in assisting staff.

*Ross Verdich*

# RAILWAY RESOURCE CENTRE

A significant achievement in the Railway Resource Centre (RRC) during the year was the scanning of the 'last' image. The RRC had been up to date in the conversion of its slides to digital for some time but the sorting and scanning of 'photos' – prints and negatives of diverse formats – had taken longer. Of course the 'last' scan is an illusion as new donations soon arrived, including a particularly large and valuable one, so the volunteers are now working towards the next 'last' scan. Nevertheless it is a fortunate circumstance where new material will not be stored in shoe boxes indefinitely but begin its journey to becoming a fully catalogued entry in our immense collection of 550,000 images.

Also completed in the year was the final proof reading of our index to the employee listings in the Annual Reports and the Government Gazettes. This index with over 707,000 entries was an immense task which I might not have been game to commence had I realised the time and diligence it would take. Apart from offering some details of personnel who worked before the card system at the NSW State Archives and Records Authority (SARA) commences, or whose card has been lost, the index is a wonderful research tool for those seeking the names of people employed at a particular place, during a specific event such as the Great Strike of 1917, or many other unimagined tasks.

On many other series of documents the work of scanning and indexing continues. The RRC now has a practically complete set of Locomotive Officers' Conference Minutes. The only ones missing from a series of 1094 which began in 1889 are four in the last year, 1982. State Archives and Records doesn't have them either, but they do now have two more than they used to have, due to them being found in the RRC collection and passed to SARA, after scanning of course. Plainly it is one thing to have a shelf full of reports or circulars, but another to be able to go to a particular page in answer to a query. This work is often tedious, but our volunteers work steadily at it.

Eight mm film continues to be digitised, at some expense, for its own archival sake, and with a view to sale as compiled DVDs.

The RRC's relationships with SARA and Sydney Trains continue to be very positive ones. I was well pleased to be invited by SARA to take up an appointment on their Users Advisory Committee, and welcomed their Director, Geoff Hinchcliffe (the grandson of a railwayman), to Redfern for a demonstration of what we do.

The RRC is the 'go to' place for Sydney Trains in their heritage efforts. Their accidental discovery of an important album of construction photographs

of the City Railway during an office clean-out, led to it being scanned by the RRC and its identification by an RRC volunteer as the missing Album 4, from a set of five albums held at SARA. Sydney Trains has featured the find on their website, with due credit to the RRC, and the album has been taken to SARA at Kingswood for permanent preservation. The RRC is planning to work with the two government agencies to make the whole set of 1,500 photos available to researchers and the general rail-fan population.

The RRC continues to supply consultants working for Sydney Trains with important load history information as they assess the capacity of old bridges. The RRC's collection of working timetables, and the ability of its staff to read them, is a probably a unique combination.

The volunteers remain the heart of the operations of the RRC. A lone paid manager could never cope with the volume of work which passes through the place. Another year has seen all of us age, again, and our concerns at the lack of a new generation coming through to replace us grow. Sadly through the year we lost two of our finest workers irrevocably, and others to illness such that it is likely that their future contributions are doubtful.

The RRC needs a new generation of rail enthusiasts to step up. Especially needed are those who can maintain computer systems, but there is ample interesting work for any willing set of hands. The camaraderie is great, everyone loves talking trains, and the chocolate biscuits are available in unlimited quantities.

The generation of enthusiasts which watched the demise of steam is passing, and these days 'down-sizing', and wondering what to do with their collections of photos and documents. Donation to the RRC ensures that the material will be secure and available indefinitely, always with credit to its originator. Once we have scanned images, we will return them, though most people find that a folder of digital files is much more useful for viewing than a Kodak yellow box of slides, or a shoebox of negatives. So many valuable images appear, in poor resolution and for an uncertain endurance, on Facebook and other sites, that I am concerned as to their long term availability. Please consider placing your collection in a public repository.

*Bill Phippen OAM  
Manager*

*Railway Resource Centre*

# TOURS

It is pleasing to report another very successful year of tours for the NSW Division of the Society. Nineteen tours were planned however due to circumstance beyond the control of the Society three tours were cancelled. These tours were Our Annual Summers Day on the South Coast (Trackwork), a joint tour with the Queensland Division to New Zealand (earthquake and bush fires) and the 140th Anniversary of the opening of the Western Line, Blayney to Orange, (Trackwork).

The tours organized covered a variety of local and overseas destinations and interests.

ARHSnsw members participated in two tours with the Queensland Division to the State's south-west/Goondiwindi and the Normanton 125th Anniversary Tour.

Our first tour for the year was in conjunction with the Rail Motor Society at Paterson along the privately owned line to Cessnock in CPHs 1, 3 and 7. This line has not been available for heritage train operations for many years and we thank those responsible for persevering and obtaining permission for us to have access to the line for this tour.

The annual June Queen's Birthday Long Weekend Tour extended over four days for our journey to Dubbo for a three-night stay and then traveling to Coonamble and Cobar. Our first tour to include a visit to a rodeo at Coonamble. We continue to enjoy regular patronage with several of our group travelling on their 16th trip with us. Our special thanks is again given to these faithful patrons for their continuing support. It is also hoped that first time travellers will come along on future tours.

Other Tours with the Rail Motor Society included a trip to Kandos in 621/721, with a bus tour extending to Rylstone and a tour to Port Kembla via Robertson in the CPH's, whilst the 402 Club enjoyed a tour around the State's north-west branch lines.

Thanks go to Greg Anderson and the Newcastle Auchmuty Library for hosting a visit to view a screening of archival photo collections involving railways. This tour also included a cruise around Newcastle Harbour viewing locations where rail activity occurred at the harbourside.

Opulent Journeys provided the opportunity for a group of members to travel on a high speed rail and cultural tour of China for two weeks in late June and early July. A special thanks to their staff for the expertise in the organisation involved in this tour.

There were four tours arranged in conjunction with the Luncheon Club. Two of these involved a visit to Chullora to see the activity involved in the restoration of 3801. Thanks to Craig Mackey for his organisation in making these visits possible.

Other Luncheon Club outings included a visit to Sandgate with Ed Tonks and during November, held a three-day rail/coach tour to "Gunning and Beyond"; exploring a section of the Main South Line.

Another regular weekend tour with historian Ed Tonks took place in August, revisiting sites along the South Maitland Railway.

A special thanks to Sydney Trains for providing the heritage single deck suburban set F1 for a short tour to celebrating the 90th anniversary of the opening of Sydney's suburban electrification to

St James, Bankstown, Oatley and The Royal National Park. Also to the Sydney Tramway Museum for their hospitality and providing a great variety of trams to Sutherland and the Royal National Park for our end-of-year function, a spit roast luncheon was provided to celebrate the festive season and to say thanks to all our volunteers for their contribution to the Society throughout 2016.

Our tour year involved activities with main line and museum line operating organizations, Rail Heritage NSW and Sydney Trains, The Rail Motor Society, Paterson and the Sydney Tramway Museum at Loftus. Also to Central Coast Ferries for the "General Gordon" cruise on the Hawkesbury River.

Special thanks must be given to The Rail Motor Society, its crews and volunteers for the continuing excellent service and preparation of the CPH Rail Motors, Rail Cars 621/721 and 402 provided for our tours.

Many thanks also must go to Society Members and friends for supporting our tours and outings.

Also to other volunteer Society members, Grahame Thurling and our General Manager, Ross Verdich for the assistance given in processing tour bookings and making sure all tours went to plan.

Recognition is also given to the input provided by Stuart Sharp, Gary Hughes, Ed Tonks and Bill Phippen for their contributions to the ARHS and Luncheon Club Tours.

Our very special thanks also must be given to Bill Phippen and the volunteers at the Railway Resource Centre for their assistance in the research, preparation and compilation of tour notes for our various tours throughout the year.

ARHSnsw Tours looks forward to continuing to provide a variety of tours and outings in the coming year. Suggestions for tours and outings are always welcome from our members.

If any member is interested in assisting in the preparation of tours, please contact the Tours Director or any member of the Redfern office staff. Your interest will be greatly appreciated. The variety of tours members and their guests have enjoyed taking part in during the year are listed below.

*Spencer Ross, Tours Director*

# RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB

The Railway Luncheon Club has continued to provide a daytime mid-week outing on the third Wednesday of seven months of the year. The outings are to a suitable railway oriented venue, followed by, as the name implies, lunch at a nearby hotel or club. It affords a daytime opportunity for members and their friends to meet and talk with others on aspects of railways, as well as inspect facilities which often are not normally available. Attendance at the outings is open to all ARHSnsw members and their guests. These outings have again been a great success and the convenors and tour leaders, Stuart Sharp and Gary Hughes, have continued to provide a variety of places to visit.

Other than the cost of getting to the venue and purchasing lunch, there is no charge for outings. However should the tour involve entry fees, bus hire, overnight accommodation etc, these are then booked and charged to the participants through the normal ARHSnsw tour booking system.

Our thanks go to John Oakes, Ed Tonks, Neville Pollard, Stephen Baker, Bob Gibson, Graeme Kirkby, Spencer Ross, Craig Mackey, John Clifton, Grahame Thurling, Ross Verdich and posthumously to Len Truscott for assistance with planning and running of the outings and also with administration.

A special thanks is also due to the various officers from Sydney Trains and NSW Trainlink who in many cases make these outings possible.

The Luncheon Club outings enter their 10th

year in 2018 and they fill an important role in the Society's activities. We now run six outings per year, including one multi-day outing.

Stuart Sharp and I have managed the Luncheon Club since its inception and will continue to do so, but the reality is of course that we are getting older and cannot do it for ever. Unless somebody (or bodies) is prepared to step up and take over, the Luncheon Club might well cease beyond 2018. So if you are able to provide assistance in any way then please let us know

During the year (May 2016 to April 2017 inclusive) these outings took in:-

May 2016 - City Circle Walk

June 2016 - Chullora workshops and 3801

July 2016 - Chullora workshops and 3801 (repeated due to popularity)

August 2016 - Sandgate

September 2016 - Artarmon

October 2016 - No outing

November 2015 - Three day tour to the South

December 2016 - No outing

January 2017 - No outing

February 2017 - No outing

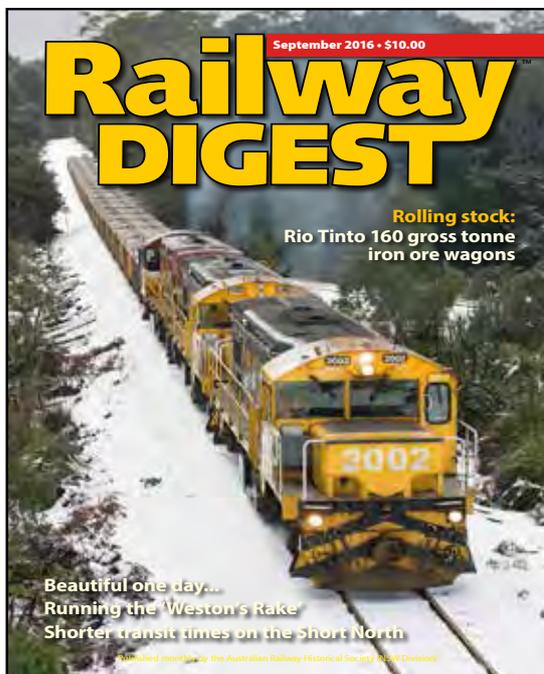
March 2017 - Erskineville and Brandling Street Barracks.

April 2017 - No outing.

*Gary Hughes, Manager Railway Luncheon Club.*



*On 18 May 2016, Life Member John Oakes led a Luncheon Club group on a walking tour to trace the route between St James and Museum Stations. Here he speaks to the group on St James' platform. Image: Shane O'Neil*



While the overall magazine market faced a challenging environment during the 2016-2017 year, *Railway Digest* managed to maintain steady, consistent sales, and continued to provide a broad oversight of the Australian railway scene, covering a wide range of subjects including operations, logistics, economics & politics, locomotives & rolling stock, rail travel, signalling & infrastructure, heritage & tourism and rail industry issues.

Lawrance Ryan continued in the role of National Affairs editor, compiling our well-regarded news section to a consistently high standard. Ken Date's quarterly International News pages continued to provide interesting insights into current railway and light rail developments throughout the world. Bruce Belbin and Shane O'Neil continued in their roles of Editor and Assistant Editor/Photo Editor respectively, while Darren Tulk continued to provide reliable proofreading and invaluable copyediting services, as well as contributing news, photos and the articles from the sunshine state.

In November, *Digest* again participated as a media partner in AusRAIL, the Australian rail industry's flagship event. Held over two days at the Adelaide Convention and Exhibition Centre, with the theme 'Rail - Moving the Economy Forward', AusRAIL 2016 attracted more than 536 rail professionals from Australia and overseas and over 1000 visitors. Editor Bruce Belbin, Locomotive & Rolling Stock Editor Peter Clark and former News Editor John Hoyle flew the flag for *Railway Digest* during what proved to be one of the best AusRAIL events ever, attending various presentations and functions and catching up with some industry identities.

In July, *Railway Digest* participated as sole media partner in the Australasian Rail Industry Awards night. Held this year in Melbourne, in the opulent

Palladium Room at Crown Towers, Southbank, the sold-out Awards Event saw thirteen winners recognised by their peers and awarded with uniquely designed glass pyramid trophies and the title for best in their field, across a broad range of categories. Each winner also received a certificate entitling them to a year's subscription to *Railway Digest*.

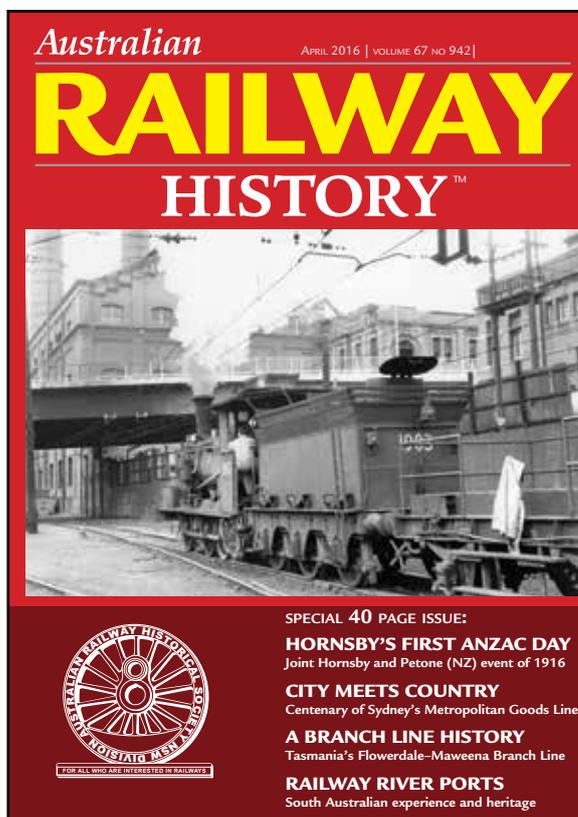
Kevin Mirah continued to skilfully manage *Digest's* popular Facebook page (which now boasts over 2000 'Followers') maintaining a positive online presence for the magazine and a strong, interactive and ongoing connection with its readers, particularly in the under-35 demographic. With postage costs steadily increasing, the digital version of *Digest* continued to steadily grow in popularity, proving particularly useful for overseas subscribers.

As in previous years, *Railway Digest* was the beneficiary of a steady stream of quality contributions from a wide range of supporters. Notable among these this year were: Tony Bailey, Dugald Black, David Campbell, James Chuang, Peter Clark, Graham Crichton, Phil Cross, Ken Date, Robert Driver, Wayne Eade, Dominik Giemza, Malcolm Holdsworth, John Hoyle, Philip Laird, Ewan McLean, Max Michell, Rod Milne, Anjum Naweed, Neville Pollard, John Scott, Rob Shaw, Les Shepherd, Malcolm Simister, Graham Vincent, Philip Vergison, Chris Walters and David Whiteford, though many others also provided valuable material. For that, we sincerely thank them all, for without their support there would be no *Railway Digest*.

Throughout the year, David Campbell and Graham Vincent maintained the high standard of their quarterly 'Signalling & Infrastructure' (S&T) pages, while John Beckhaus and Peter Clark continued to produce the magazine's well-regarded quarterly 'Rolling Stock Contracts & Deliveries' section, providing a comprehensive record of recent orders and deliveries, as well as extensive background information on locomotive, rolling stock and light rail developments. Featured subjects in S&I included frangible gates in Victoria, and the new arrangements at Burren Junction in NSW. Subjects profiled in RSC&D included the ROBEL Aurizon track laying train, Rio Tinto 160 gross tonne iron ore wagons, the Aurizon Loram Model RGS Rail Grinder, and the Swietelsky CPB Rail MFC-45 ballast spoil wagons. The 'Remember When' section featured a diverse range of titles, including The Last 57, Coffs Harbour Jetty and Swan Hill Memories, 1982 to 1992.

Finally, a sincere thank you to the Society's Board, management and staff for their ongoing encouragement and assistance, and to the magazine's contributors, volunteers and readers for their continuing loyalty and support of *Railway Digest*.

Bruce Belbin, Editor



In the year to April 2017, *Australian Railway History* has published a wide range of articles covering Australian railway themes in each state, although coverage of Victorian themes was limited.

Articles covering national themes 'Defence, Railways and Federation' by Scott Martin and Philip Laird, which explored the contribution of the 1889 Edwards Report on the impact of different railway gauges on the ability of the colonies to respond to military threats and the two part article by Geoff Lillico and Ray Pickard on the 1934 Royal Tour by Prince Henry, the Duke of Gloucester. This involved royal trains in Western Australia, the Trans-Australian Line, South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and south-east Queensland.

Part 2 of Neville Pollard's article on the construction and evolution of Sydney's Metropolitan Goods Lines concluded in the May 2016 issue, while Graham Harper provided a follow-up article on the signalling and safe working aspects of the Metropolitan Goods Lines in the October 2016 issue. On the theme of safe working, Mike Quirk continued his documentation of accidents on the Queensland Government Railways with coverage of the Gillens Siding Accident on May 2016 and the 1939 Bundamba Accident in the November 2016 issue.

The careers of prominent railway officials and contractors have been well represented this year. Part 2 of John King's career as documented by Phil Buckley was presented in the July 2016

magazine, while Part I of Alan Parkinson's career in the Mechanical Branch of the NSW Railways commenced on the June 2016 issue, with Part 2 in the November 2016 issue and Part 3 in the March 2017 issue.

A new contributor, Tony Firth, contributed the fascinating story of his great grandfather Thomas Rhodes Firth, who arrived in New South Wales as an engineer for Peto, Brassey & Betts in January 1859, transferring to the NSW Government Railways in 1862 as a resident engineer. He rose through the ranks to become Engineer-in-Chief for Existing Lines as documented in a two-part article in the February and April 2017 issues.

The editor contributed a two-part article on the notable railway contractor William Watkins, who built the bulk of the Great Western Line across the Blue Mountains and then undertook contracts on the western plains in his later years in the September and November 2016 issue of *ARH*. His son, Richard G Watkins, who completed railway construction contracts in New South Wales and an arbitrator Queensland before taking up a position of resident engineer at Coolgardie in Western Australia in March 1897, was published in the January 2017 issue. A follow-up article on Daniel Williams in the March 2017 issue summarises material on his remarkable career published in the book *Furnace, Fire & Forge*.

To the writers' knowledge, railway surveys have only been covered in passing in the *ARHS Bulletin* and *Australian Railway History*. This was initially addressed in the September 2016 issue of *ARH* with the article 'Surveying the Railway Way' by Glenn A Rose, while Tony Firth also covered Thomas Firth's survey work in detail in his article.

A three-part article by Ken Williams on 'Parcels and Small Consignment Traffic on the NSWGR' commenced in the July 2016 issue, with Part 2 in October and it wrapped-up in the December 2016 issue with coverage of the SRA Trackfast era. This series explores the various railway parcels stamps, franked and cash register parcel labels, the Blue Spot parcel labels and the various Trackfast parcels labels, together with analysis of the rolling stock used for the services over the years.

A particularly popular article was Jim Stokes' account of the changes that occurred in the Tasmanian Government Railways in the 1960s (*ARH*, September 2016), while Jim Longworth's 'Sleeping in Concrete' in October 2016 explores the use of pre-cast concrete for railway houses and barracks from 1917 (*ARH* October 2016). For the 90th Anniversary of the opening of the City Circle Railway from Central to St James, Frank Johnson offered a well-researched and presented article on the construction, testing and early operation of this important railway initiative.

*Bob McKillop, Editor ARH*

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee had a busy year dealing with twelve manuscripts. Of these, three progressed through to publication during the year. These included:

- *To the Fertile Plains Beyond*, written in 1969 by CC Singleton but not published until 2016, after complete transcription of manuscript and incorporation of Singleton's hand drawn maps and photographs from his era. A reprint of the book incorporating minor corrections and a supplement of additional photographs was released in late April 2017.
- *Sydney's Forgotten Sidings* by John Oakes. This being the latest of John's renowned series, consisting of a considerable amount of work by John in a larger A4 format than the earlier parts of his series.
- *Tracing Tracks Through Newcastle* by Jim Longworth and Grant Flemming. Jim, a long-time contributor turned part time archaeologist with a railway bias for his latest contribution.

The Committee were faced with two additional challenges during the year. Firstly, to explore alternatives to the traditional hard copy publishing, namely "eBooks". The issues of format and security of the copyright remain a challenge. Secondly, because of the cost of publishing and the management of author's expectations, the processes of dealing with authors and their manuscripts and the justification of recommendations to the Society's Board to publish were formalised.

The members of the Committee (Alex Grunbach, John Beckhaus, Bruce Belbin, Col Gilbertson, Chris Harding, Bob McKillop, Bill Phippen, Ross Verdich) are to be congratulated on their work during the year.

*Harry Anneveld, Chair Publications Committee*

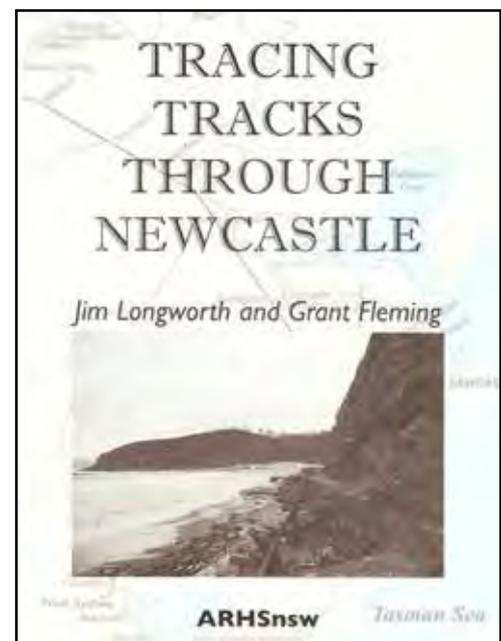
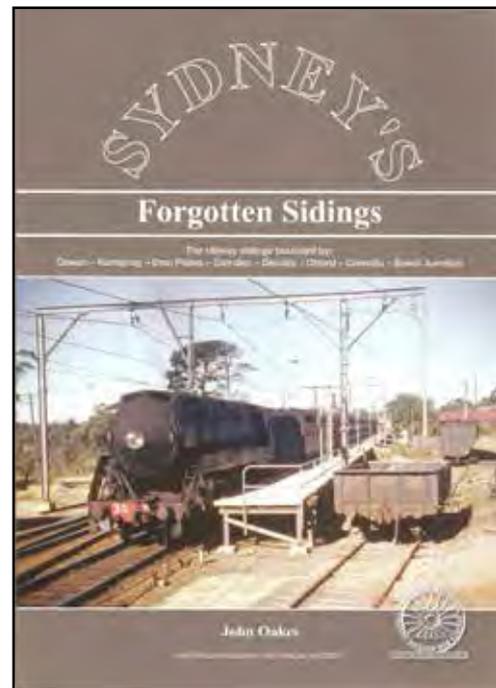
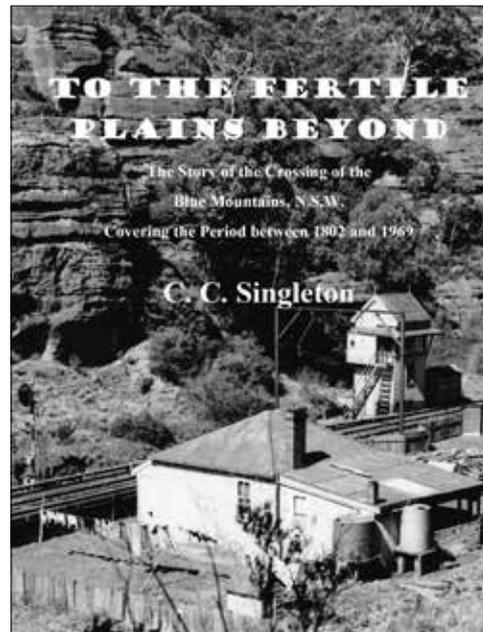
## NEWCASTLE BRANCH

Attendances at our Entertainment Meetings were down compared to the previous year, but were still considered satisfactory. During the year, all but three of the guest speakers were drawn from among our own members and visitors, but regrettably on one occasion the digital equipment refused to co-operate, so the programmed entertainment could not proceed - fortunately a brave volunteer from the assembly gave an impromptu talk to fill in.

Again, members of the Branch assisted at the Division's display and sales stand at the Our Town Model Show at the Newcastle Jockey Club.

Glen Magee and Spencer Ross are delegates to Heritage Hunter, the local umbrella group for organisations like ours, and Glen is a member of their committee.

*John Barnes, Branch Secretary*



## 2016-2017 SYDNEY MEMBERS' MEETINGS SPEAKERS

May	Frank Johnson	Circular Quay 60th Anniversary
June	Bill Phippen OAM	Old NSW Railway Bridges
July	Craig Mackey	NSW Turntables
August	Bill Phippen OAM	Images from the RRC Archives
September	Gary Hughes	<i>I Am Work</i> - a review of the life of the the late Essington Lewis
October	John Beckhaus	Railways of Slovenia
November	Warren Miller	Great Railway Stations
December	Trevor Edmonds	6th Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company
January	Tracey Pallas	NSW Stockyards
February	Bill Phippen	1st Hawkesbury River Bridge Photo Album
March	James Dalton	ARHSnsw Strategy
April	Jim Longworth	NSWR Railway Housing

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## 2016-2017 NEWCASTLE MEMBERS' MEETINGS SPEAKERS

May	Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Photographic competition and Quiz	
June	Dave Rollins	Images from an Iberian holiday in the 1960s
July	Ed Tonks	Videos by the late Bruce Paterson
August	Gary Hughes	<i>I Am Work</i> - a review of the life of the the late Essington Lewis
September	Spencer Ross	Warren Miller's <i>50s Steam Nostalgia</i>
October	Ed Tonks	Further videos by the late Bruce Paterson
November	Impromptu talk by David Campbell on the Hydraulic Power House at Carrington	
December	Members' images and videos	
January	Spencer Ross	Screened <i>The Titfield Thunderbolt</i>
February	John Beckhaus	Images from a Slovenian visit in 2013
March	Bill Phippen OAM	<i>The Rail Resource Centre's Collection</i>
April	John Ward	<i>Transport Around Newcastle</i>

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## 2016-2017 TOURS PROGRAM

May 21st	CPHs to Cessnock
May 23-27	QLD Div The Great Sth by SW Tour to Brookstead & Thallon
June 11-14	A Western Rail Cruise to Dubbo, Coonamble & Cobar
June 15	Luncheon Club Chullora Division 1
June 25 - July 7	China High Speed Rail
July 7	Luncheon Club Chullora Division 2
July 22-25	402 Club A Rail Cruise Around the North West Branch Lines
August 13 -14	A Look at the Life & Times Along the South Maitland Railways
August 20-28	ARHS QLD Div Normanton 125 Div 2 Tour
August 24	Luncheon Club Sandgate Tour
September 10	A Passenger Train to Rylstone (Almost)
October 15	Newcastle Harbour & Auchmuty Library Tour
November 8 -10	Luncheon Club Gunning & Beyond Tour
November 19	Port Kembla & Metropolitan Colliery Tour
December 11	End of Year Function 90th Anniversary of National Park Line
January 22	A Summer's Day on the South Coast (cancelled)
February 26	Hawkesbury River Wake of the General Gordon Tour
March 25	NSW/QLD Div NZ Tour (cancelled)
April 21-23	Blayney/Orange 140th Anniversary (cancelled)

# AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New South Wales Division

ACN 000 538 803

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your Board submits this report on the Society for the financial year ended 30 April 2017.

1. The and details of the Board members in office during the year and to the date of this report, together with their areas of responsibility, year of original appointment/election and attendance at Board meetings held during the year to 30 April 2017, are:

**Harry P Anneveld.** Age 68 years. Retired. Director since 11 February 2015.

**Nicole Buckley.** Age 52 years. Catering Aide. Director since September 2011.

**James Dalton.** BE(Mech), MBA. Age 46 years. Engineer and Business Consultant. Director since February 2016.

**Colin B. Gilbertson.** RFD, B.Bus., Grad. Dip (Tax). Age 67 years. Accountant and Tax Agent. Retired Air Force Officer. Director since April 2017, Treasurer.

**Christopher Harding.** Age 68 years. Retired bookshop manager and bank officer. Director since 2013. Vice President September 2014 to 2016. President since September 2016.

**Murray C Harper.** B.Comm., CPA. Age 77 years. Accountant. Director since 1994, Treasurer since 1996. Vice President 2009 to 2014. President September 2014 to 2016. Resigned 11 April 2017.

**Allen AF Kavanagh.** Age 75 years. Retired. Director since 11 February 2015.

**Craig R Mackey.** BE BSc Age 51 years. Engineer. Director since 11 February 2015.

**Michael J Nicholls.** Age 59 years. Railway employee. Director since September 2008.

**Neville J Pollard.** JP BA MEd. Dip. Theol. Teach. Cert. Age 71 years, Retired High School Principal. Education Consultant. Director since 2007.

**Spencer C Ross.** C.T.M., FCIT. Age 76 years. Bus industry consultant. Director since 2001. Previous Councillor 1968–1971.

**Grahame L Thurling.** Age 70 years. Retired bank officer. Director since 1996. Secretary since November 2004.

### **Directors' Board Meeting Attendance:**

	<u>Number Eligible to Attend</u>	<u>Attended</u>
<b>H Anneveld</b>	6	5
<b>N Buckley</b>	6	6
<b>J Dalton</b>	6	6
<b>C Harding</b>	6	4
<b>MC Harper</b>	5	5
<b>AAF Kavanagh</b>	6	6
<b>CR Mackey</b>	6	6
<b>MJ Nicholls</b>	6	6
<b>NJ Pollard</b>	6	6
<b>SC Ross</b>	6	6
<b>GL Thurling</b>	6	6

# AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New South Wales Division

ACN 000 538 803

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued)

2. The principal activities of the Society during the financial year were publication of books and magazines recording railway history, the collection of records of interest to railway historians, the operation of a railway bookshop and the operation of railway tours. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

3. The net surplus of the Society for the financial year amounted to \$59,352.

4. No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year that significantly affect or may significantly affect the operations of the Society in subsequent years.

5. The Society expects to maintain the present status and level of operations and hence there are no likely developments in the operations in future financial years.

6. The Society's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

7. The Society has paid premiums to insure each of the Directors against liabilities for costs and expenses incurred by them in defending any legal proceedings arising out of their conduct while acting in the capacity of a Director of the Society, other than conduct involving a wilful breach of duty in relation to the Society.

8. No person has applied for leave of the Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Society or to intervene in any proceedings to which the Society is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Society for all or part of those proceedings. The Society was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

9. Short term objectives of the Society. The ARHSnsw is the only organisation of its type in NSW, holding the largest private repository of railway related documents, photos, records and publications. Its short-term objectives are to provide access to these resources to members, to the public and to organisations who have a commercial need to research a topic relating to railways in NSW. The Society also aims to provide a range of opportunities for supporting and encouraging railway enthusiasts including the publication of two regular magazines, arranging railway tours, organising railway-related events and operating a specialist bookshop.

The short term objectives are to generate sufficient revenue to maintain these operations and to be seen as the leading authority on railway history in NSW and its significant role in the development of the state.

10. Long term objectives of the Society. The Society has a long history and its aim has always been to support, encourage and facilitate the interests of those who are interested in Australian railways of the past and present. The Society faces a number of challenges which it will address in the medium to long term:

- An ageing and declining membership.
- Changes in the operating environment for bookshops, archives and libraries.
- Changes in the operating environment for railway tours and events.
- A generalised threat to volunteer organisations in maintaining the interest and contribution of volunteers to give their time to the level required.
- A change in the role of railways in society both as an employer and a service provider driven by profound social and technological changes.

However, the same forces also create opportunities for the Society. Therefore, the Society's long term objectives aim to address these threats and capitalise on the opportunities through:

- Increased membership and revenue by providing access to some of the Society's resources online.
- The expanded use of digital marketing tools to attract new and younger members and to retain existing members.
- Improve our facility, systems and processes to ensure our resources are available beyond living memory.
- Continue to grow, preserve and publicise the collection so that we become widely known as THE source of information pertaining to railways, and the authority on matters of railway history particularly in NSW.
- Develop links to related societies, government agencies and educational institutions to secure our reputation for historical research.

Dated this 12th day of September 2017. Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board.

  
C Harding  
(President)

  
GL Thurling  
(Director)

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION  
ACN 000 538 803  
INCOME ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017

	\$ <u>2017</u>	\$ <u>2016</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Sales Books	379,274	425,252
Sales Railway Digest	397,234	405,324
Sales Australian Railway History	182,411	183,215
Member Subscriptions	44,715	40,534
Advertising Revenue	14,659	12,616
Archive Activities	29,688	21,941
Tour Income (Net)	39,178	28,798
Interest Received	21,843	13,654
Donations	1,500	21
Grant Received	8,000	3,000
Other Income	5,432	4,864
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,123,936</b>	<b>1,139,219</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Accounting & Audit	5,076	9,260
Purchases & Selling Costs	254,108	265,596
Digest Publication Costs	257,489	252,193
ARH Publication Costs	137,795	125,419
Depreciation	9,804	11,366
Insurance	19,024	18,880
Premises Cost	41,041	42,809
Telephone	6,296	7,997
Donations Made	-	1,364
Salaried Staff	237,453	222,587
General Administration	96,495	110,507
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,064,584</b>	<b>1,067,978</b>
<b>Net Income for Year</b>	<b>59,352</b>	<b>71,241</b>



AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION  
ACN 000 538 803  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 APRIL 2017

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2017</u> \$	<u>2016</u> \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3	1,094,134	1,066,985
Receivables/Prepayments	4	89,759	88,880
Inventories	5	91,061	92,415
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		1,274,954	1,248,280
<b>Investments</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	3,201,680	2,909,080
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		3,201,680	2,909,080
<b>Total Assets</b>		4,476,634	4,157,360
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	7	233,450	262,904
Income in Advance	8	206,838	217,462
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		440,288	480,366
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		440,288	480,366
<b>Net Assets</b>		4,036,346	3,676,994
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Reserves		2,630,009	2,330,009
Retained Earnings		1,406,337	1,346,985
<b>Total Members Funds</b>		4,036,346	3,676,994



The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION  
ACN 000 538 803

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2017</u> \$	<u>2016</u> \$
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from Customers		1,101,214	1,592,340
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(1,093,504)	(1,504,697)
Interest Received		21,843	13,654
<b>Net Cash provided by Operating Activities</b>	10	<u>29,553</u>	<u>101,297</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Purchases of Plant and Equipment & Property		(2,404)	(5,971)
Repayment of Investment		0	3,000
<b>Net Cash used in Investing Activities</b>		<u>(2,404)</u>	<u>(2,971)</u>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held</b>		27,149	98,326
<b>Cash at Beginning of Financial Year</b>		1,066,985	968,659
<b>Cash at End of Financial Year</b>	2	<u>1,094,134</u>	<u>1,066,985</u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017**

	<u>New Building Fund</u>	<u>Retained Profits</u>	<u>Capital Revaluation Reserve</u>	<u>Bequest Reserve</u>	<u>Revenue Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance 1 May 2016</b>	303,871	1,346,985	1,729,375	31,544	265,219	3,676,994
Surplus attributed to Members	-	59,352	-	-	-	59,352
Revaluation transfer	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
<b>Balance 30 April 2017</b>	<u>303,871</u>	<u>1,406,337</u>	<u>2,029,375</u>	<u>31,544</u>	<u>265,219</u>	<u>4,036,346</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017

### NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The financial report is for the Australian Railway Historical Society New South Wales Division as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and *the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012* and the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

- AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements;
- AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements;
- AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors;
- AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date;
- AASB 1004: Contributions;
- AASB 1031: Materiality; and
- AASB 1048: Interpretation and Application of Standards.

No other Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

#### **Reporting Basis and Conversions**

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs. It does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the entity in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

#### **Accounting Policies**

##### **a. Revenue**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised upon the delivery of goods to customers.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

##### **b. Inventories**

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Costs are assigned on first in first out basis and include expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventory and bringing it to its existing condition and location.

##### **c. Property, Plant and Equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair values are indicated, less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

#### **Property**

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are credited to a revaluation reserve in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same class of asset are charged against fair value reserves directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the income statement.

The directors' perform periodic revaluations for freehold land and building and in the directors' opinion the buildings are well maintained thus maintaining their value. Accordingly the directors' have chosen not to apply depreciation against buildings.

#### **Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

#### **Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over the asset's useful life to the economic entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<i>Class of Fixed Asset</i>	<i>Depreciation Rate</i>
Plant and equipment	33.3%
Buildings	0%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

d. ***Impairment of Assets***

At each reporting date, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Income Statement.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon on the assets ability to generate net cash inflows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of a class of asset, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

e. ***Employee Benefits***

Provision is made for the entity's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to Balance Sheet date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages, salaries and annual leave which may be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled plus related on costs.

Contributions are made by the entity to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

f. ***Cash and cash equivalents***

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

g. ***Goods and Services Tax (GST)***

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

h. ***Income Tax***

No provision for income tax has been raised, as the entity is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

i. ***Provisions***

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions previously recorded in the accounts have been transferred to Reserves as required by Accounting Standards.

j. ***Comparative Figures***

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

k. ***Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments***

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the group.

***Key estimates – Impairment***

The entity assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the entity that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use or current replacement cost calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

The financial report was authorised for issue on 12 September 2017 by the Board of Directors.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017**

Cash flows (used in),/provided by operating activities

NOTE 2: PROFIT

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$
Surplus for the year	59,352	71,241
After charging the following as an expense:		
Depreciation and Amortisation	9,804	11,366
Remuneration of auditor	5,000	5,000

NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	1,092,934	1,065,785
Cash on hand	1,200	1,200
	<u>1,094,134</u>	<u>1,066,985</u>

NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	86,759	85,880
Prepayments	3,000	3,000
	<u>89,759</u>	<u>88,880</u>

NOTE 5: INVENTORIES

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$
CURRENT (at cost)		
Stock – Retail Publications	67,519	68,826
– Society Book Publications	23,542	23,589
	<u>91,061</u>	<u>92,415</u>

NOTE 6: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$
PROPERTY		
Freehold Land and Buildings		
- Redfern – at directors' valuation	2,350,000	2,100,000
- Alexandria – at directors' valuation	850,000	800,000
	<u>3,200,000</u>	<u>2,900,000</u>
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment – at cost	161,808	159,404
Less accumulated depreciation	(160,128)	(150,324)
	<u>1,680</u>	<u>9,080</u>
Total plant and equipment – at cost	1,680	9,080
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>3,201,680</u>	<u>2,909,080</u>

NOTE 7: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	167,443	202,113
Employee benefits	60,507	50,291
Audit Fees	5,500	10,500
	<u>233,450</u>	<u>262,904</u>

NOTE 8: INCOME IN ADVANCE

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$
Subscriptions Prepaid	<u>206,838</u>	<u>217,462</u>

These notes form part of the financial statements

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017

### NOTE 9: INCOME TAX

The Board of the Society is of the opinion that the Society is exempt from income tax under Section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Tax effect accounting has not been adopted.

### NOTE 10: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with operating surplus after income tax	\$	\$
Surplus after income tax	59,352	71,241
Donation received plus interest	0	0
Non cash flows in profit		
Depreciation and amortisation	9,804	11,386
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables/prepayments	(959)	23,165
Increase/(Decrease) in subscriptions prepaid	(10,624)	(7,664)
(Increase)/Decrease in inventories	1,354	(5,993)
Decrease/(Increase) in provisions	0	0
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(29,374)	9,162
Cash flows (used in),/provided by operating activities	29,553	101,297

### NOTE 12: CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Management control of the capital of the entity is to ensure that adequate cash flows are generated to fund its services and to ensure returns are maximised.

### NOTE 13: ENTITY DETAILS

The registered office of the company and principal place of business is:

Australian Railway Historical Society New South Wales Division  
67 Renwick Street REDFERN NSW 2016

### NOTE 14: MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The entity is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$2 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 30 April 2017, the number of members was 1,267.

## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies prescribed in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

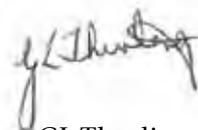
1. The financial statements and notes are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*:
  - (a) comply with Accounting Standards described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Corporations Regulations; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 April 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Dated this 12th day of September 2017



C Harding  
(President)



GL Thurling  
(Director)





## AUDITOR'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

To the directors of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division

In relation to our audit of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division for the year ended 30 April 2017, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, there have been:

- (a) no contravention of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) no contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division.

**SCS Audit & Corporate Services Pty Ltd**

Brian Robert Taylor  
Registered Company Auditor

Sydney

12 September, 2017

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



**AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION**

**ABN 96 000 538 803**

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**

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**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

We have audited the financial report of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division, which comprises the statement of Financial Position as at 30 April 2017, the statement of income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the period 1 May 2016 to 30 June 2017 then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the financial report of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division, has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 April 2017 and of its financial performance for the period then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Responsibility of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division for the Financial Report**

Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division is responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entity's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material

uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the responsible entity regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**SCS AUDIT & CORPORATE SERVICES PTY LTD**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Taylor', is written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is stylized and extends upwards and to the right.

Brian Taylor

Registered Company Auditor

Sydney

Date: 12 September, 2017