



LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA Inc.

President's Report 2002/2003

As President of the Light Railway Research Society of Australia, it again gives me great pleasure to present for the year 2002/2003, my twelfth annual report.

The society continues to be well recognized as a producer of a high quality magazine and other major works. The Council's continually seeks to bring new and better publications to our members and the public in general.

There have now been 33 editions of the new format "LIGHT RAILWAYS" and healthy sales continue on newsstands. "LIGHT RAILWAYS", receives many compliments but your council and editors continue in their quest both maintain quality and improve our magazine. Last year a reader's questionnaire was distributed. The information gleaned from this survey has been both pleasing and informative. Thank-you to all respondents, the information you have given us is of much value.

The number of people contributing articles and other information for publishing in "LIGHT RAILWAYS" is very pleasing, but the editors will always welcome more, well-researched articles. Thank-you very much, to the people who contribute their work for publishing, also many thanks to the Editorial team of Bruce Belbin, Bob McKillop and John Browning who continually set a high standard.

Membership numbers have risen this past year reaching 727, a record, before renewal notices were sent out. We also reached 500 new members since the publishing of the new style "LIGHT RAILWAYS". This year we have had raise our membership subscription rate again in line with inflation to maintain viability of our society. Thank-you again to our Membership Officer, Andrew Hennel for maintaining the membership records.

During the past year the Society published two important books, Built by Baldwin by Craig Wilson and The Aramac Tramway by Peter Bell and John Kerr. Both books have received flattering reviews in various journals and the respective authors are to be congratulated. The minutes of the Council meetings currently list twelve publishing projects in various stages. The current major project is called Furnace, Fire & Forge, forecast for release mid-2004. Frank Stamford our Publications Officer has performed an outstanding job of managing the production of new publications. Thank-you Frank for your efforts.

The Sales Department has had another very good year with regard to both quantity sold and revenue. This revenue will be used to produce new publications. Whilst the core items for sale are our own publications, they are supplemented with other publications from both within Australia and overseas. Many of the books are not normally available through retail outlets and are made available to members at a generous price. Frank Stamford has operated the Sales Department and we thank him very much for his efforts. For this high level of service to continue, we desperately need to find another person to operate the Sales Department to relieve Frank of an unfair burden.

The production costs of LIGHT RAILWAYS have been kept within reason but we remain ever vigilant to ensure they remain within acceptable limits. The society is in sound financial position, but is being constantly and diligently monitored. Thanks to our treasurer, Colin Harvey and Mike McCarthy for producing cash flow forecasts, which allow us to plan for the production of new publications.

Like many other volunteer groups and tourist operations, we also felt the impact of both the rising costs of public liability insurance and the difficulty of just trying to obtain cover. The threat of litigation being somewhat akin to legalized terrorism. Fortunately Council managed to obtain cover at a higher cost than reality would suggest, unfortunately we had to cancel all public meetings and postpone planned tours until cover was in place.

During the past year our New South Wales and Southeast Queensland groups conducted tours, to sites of light railway significance. From the reports, they were well attended, successful tours. Unfortunately there were no tours organized in Victoria.

The Southeast Queensland group organized by Bob Dow, continues to attract many people to each meeting and the interest in the L.R.R.S.A. and its activities continues to grow in Queensland. Research into light railways in Queensland is very vibrant.

In June, I had the pleasure of attending both the Adelaide entertainment and the Sydney AGM meetings of LRRSA, to present Life Memberships to Arnold Lockyer and Jeff Moonie in recognition of their services to the society over many years. It was also a great pleasure to meet with members of those two groups and to thank them for their interest and involvement in the LRRSA.

It was with much sadness that we recorded the deaths two active society members, Lee Rodda from South Australia and Paul Simpson from Sydney. In Melbourne Gloria Stebbing who had provided the suppers at our meetings for many years, also sadly passed away.

In the coming year we hope to see the formation of a Tasmanian group, that will promote discussion, research and publication of articles and books on that state's wealth of light railway history. Tasmania may be our smallest state, but it has a big history.

Melbourne entertainment meetings have been well attended attracting on average about 30 people. Thank-you to all the presenters for their efforts, plus others who brought along slides for special presentations. Thank-you to Peter Evans for supplying the audio-visual equipment and the people who helped with the suppers.

Thank-you very much to our NSW counterparts and other officer's interstate for their efforts throughout the year in promoting the society.

Finally thank-you to Mike McCarthy, Phil Rickard, Colin Harvey, Frank Stamford, Peter Evans, Hugh Markwick, Richard Warwick and Malcolm Dow for the support, assistance and efforts, they have given me throughout the year. We again look forward to the coming year, as it will no doubt be busy, prosperous and challenging for the society.

Thank-you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.L. Hanks', written on a light-colored background.

W.L. (Bill) Hanks - President L.R.R.S.A. (August 2003)

LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA Inc
(A14384U ABN 27 859 154 705)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
Year ended 30 June 2003

	<i>Notes</i>	
Income		
Members Subscriptions		27,268
Magazine Sales	1	16,900
Advertising space	2	1,780
Sale of publications		57,222
Interest		58
Tour receipts		658
J L N Southern Award Fund revenue		8,121
Other		3
Total Revenue		112,010
Expenditure		
Magazine production		42,442
Members mailouts		5,683
Sales		
Cost of goods sold	1	27,957
Future publications		22
Postage		5,814
Storage		2,657
Advertising	2	1,898
Insurance of stock		181
		38,529
Bank fees and taxes		1,514
Public liability insurance		4,140
Tours expenses		522
Meeting expenses		520
Administration costs		798
Depreciation of office equipment		0
TACL group expenses		46
Miscellaneous Advertising		553
J L N Southern Award Fund expenses		179
Bad debts written off		0
Other		174
Total Expenditure		95,100
Surplus for year		16,910

1. Includes \$795 value of magazines transferred to sales stock.
2. Includes \$1500 of LRRSA advertising.

Disclosure of Interest

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In accordance with the requirements of Section 29B of the Associations Incorporation Act, I, Frank Edward Stamford, Committee Member of the Light Railway Research Society of Australia Inc. advise that I am the sole director and shareholder of Brunei Gooch Information Systems Pty Ltd. During the year ended 30 June 2003 Brunei Gooch Information Systems Pty Ltd provided desktop publishing, CD-ROM publishing and internet publishing services to the LRRSA

(signed) F.Stamford
14 August 2003

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Year ended 30 June 2003

Current Assets	
Cash	26,598
Term Deposit	11,501
Debtors	5,631
Sales stock	79,738
Productions in progress	195
<u>Total</u>	<u>123,663</u>
Non-current Assets	0
Total Assets	123,663
Current Liabilities	
Subscriptions in advance	8,136
Creditors	0
<u>Total</u>	<u>8,136</u>
Non-current Liabilities	0
Total Liabilities	8,136
Net Assets	115,527
Accumulated Funds 30 June 2002	98,617
Surplus	16,910
<u>Accumulated Funds 30 June 2003</u>	115,527
TACL Fund	70
Research Fund	473
J L N Southern Award Fund	14,704
General accumulated funds	100,280
115,527	