

AGENDA

For the Annual General Meeting for 2022

Welcome

Apologies

Minutes of the Previous AGM in 2021

Treasurer's Report

J L N Southern Award

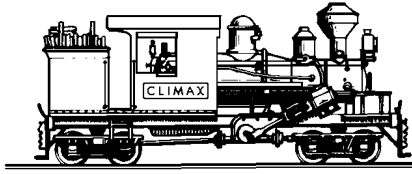
President's Report

Election of the Office-Bearers

General Business

Call for any items of general business relevant to the

AGM Close the AGM 2022



LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Incorporated Association A14384U

ABN 27 859 154 705

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held On: Thursday, 14th October, 2021 AD.

Venue: Conducted in cyberspace via Zoom®

Commenced: 8:05pm AEDST (Melbourne time)

Chairman: W. L. (Bill) Hanks, (President)

Present: 97 members

Apology/ies: .

Minutes of Previous AGM: Minutes of the 2020 AGM, as compiled by the Hon Secretary, P. Rickard, are available for members on the society's web site as previously advised and are taken as read. Moved by P.Rickard, Seconded by P.Evans, that the Minutes be accepted; **Carried.**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report compiled by the Hon Treasurer, Colin Harvey for the Year Ended 30 June 2021, are available for members on the society's web site as previously advised and are taken as read. Includes the Statement of Income and Expenditure, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Cash Flows. Moved by C.Harvey, Seconded by A.Williams that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

JLN Southern Award: The Eighth annual awarding of the J L N Southern Award, to recognise the best article published in *Light Railways* each year, took place. The judging panel, composed of Dr Ruth Kerr, David Whiteford and Roderick Smith declared the winner of the award for the calendar year 2020 to be Peter Evans for his article on the *Copper, Platinum, Gold and Lime - The mines and tramways of Coopers Creek (Vic)* that appeared in *Light Railways* No. 274, August 2020. Peter, greatly surprised, gave a short speech of thanks.

President's Report: Bill Hanks presented his 31st Presidential Report. Some main points being: **Membership numbers** of 705, a very pleasing increase on previous year's 674 – maybe Covid-19 related? As of 1 January we introduced an electronic membership system called 'Wild Apricot' which eliminates an enormous amount of work that was previously done manually. Our thanks to Andrew Hennell for managing the membership records and Messrs Dennis, Stamford, McCarthy and Harvey for their intensive appraisal into the suitability of Wild Apricot. **Light Railways magazine** continues to be well supported, article- and news-wise and is selling well at the newsagents – even better during Covid restrictions! Five of the six issues were 48-pagers, rather than the normal 40 pages. Bill paid tribute to the many people who keep the society going. **During the year**, Chief Editor Richard Warwick has been ably assisted by Frank Stamford, Mike McCarthy and Phil Rickard; Peter Evans looked after Field Reports, Chris Hart was in charge of Industrial Railway News and Andrew Webster looked after Heritage and Tourism news. All have put in another great year's work. The **electronic pdf LR** magazine is proving successful with both Overseas and Australian members– our thanks to John Dennis for his untiring work in this direction. **LR printing costs** are stable in a very competitive market which has helped allow the subscription rate to again stay unchanged. However, postage costs continue to rise

faster than inflation. **In the Online** world the now well-established Facebook page is attracting great interest, quickly growing to over 2650 members, an increase of over 800 from the previous year and largely supplanting our e-mail discussion group at Groups IO. We continue to seek ways to convert Facebook adherents to actual membership. On the **Victorian Tour's** front Simon Moorhead continues to look for interesting places for us to visit though Covid-19 has resulted in a hiatus for the last year or so. Hopefully, things will improve to allow us to resume this popular activity. **The interstate groups** in NSW, Qld and SA continue to be well supported. **Sales Dept;** John Dennis has ably run the Sales Dept, with storage and despatch being done by Bill Hanks. Business is still brisk in sales due to Covid-19 restrictions and the publication of two **books** – Mike McCarthy's *In the Shadow of the Prom*, and David Fletcher's *Australia's Colourful American Locomotives*. Several more books are in the pipeline thanks to the outstanding efforts of Frank Stamford, our publications officer. During the year the society received a substantial bequest from the estate of Dave Mickle, a much-loved Melbourne member. Bill finished with a re-cap on **Covid19** and its effects on society operations. Council meetings have remained online via Zoom[®] and members' **entertainment meetings** similarly via Zoom[®], a move that has opened up our meetings to many times more members and friends than we used to get in our meeting hall. It was not much fun going out on a cold, rainy winter's night in Melbourne! In Qld, NSW and SA some members meetings have been able to be held and Bill thanked all interstate convenors for their untiring efforts in these difficult times. A **full copy of the President's** timely and illuminating report and the Treasurer's report will be available for viewing or downloading through the society's website in due course. **It was moved by** G. Knight, Seconded by N.Drake, that the President's report be accepted. **Carried.**

Election of Office Bearers: The President declared all positions vacant and, in his capacity as an Ordinary member, duly advised that there was only one nomination for the position of **President** and declared W.L. (Bill) Hanks re-elected for another term. Bill re-assumed the position of chairman and read out the nominations for Council positions – **Vice-president:** Michael McCarthy; **Secretary:** Nick Sheridan; **Treasurer:** Colin Harvey. As there was only one nomination for each of the three mentioned positions, all were duly declared elected. **Committee Persons,** nominations: John Dennis, Peter Evans, Richard Warwick, Frank Stamford OAM, Phil Rickard. As the number of nominations – five – equalled the number of vacant committee-person positions – five – the Chairman declared all nominees elected. The president thanked retiring secretary, Phil Rickard, for his 24 years service. Phil has retired to the council 'backbench' but is now part of the magazine editorial team. Our new secretary is resident in Sydney, showing the benefits of Zoom; opening up council to all members, where ever situated.

General Business: The Chairman called for any General Business and received no response. The Chairman called for any Other Matters arising from the AGM and received no response. The Chairman called for any Other Matters pertaining generally to the society and received no response.

Meeting Closure : At 8:35pm, there being no other business to be transacted, the Chairman (the President, W L Hanks), declared the meeting closed.

The Bi-Monthly **Entertainment Meeting** then commenced where several matters were discussed and finished with an interesting presentation by Peter Knife on "*Eyre Peninsula tramways, Pt 1, and some weird and wonderful items from the South Australian Railways on the peninsula.*", 98 members participating.

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LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA Inc
(A14384U ABN 27 859 154 705)
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
Year ended 30 June 2022

2021	Income	Notes	2022
\$			\$
31,138	Members' Subscriptions		28,766
25,017	Magazine Sales	1	18,085
65,732	Sale of publications		64,436
611	Interest		283
176	J L N Southern Award Fund revenue		114
117	Advertising revenue		0
20,220	Donations & bequests		2
143,011	Total Revenue		111,686
Expenditure			
32,188	Magazine production		33,525
7,427	Members mailouts		6,732
37,614	Sales		
	Cost of goods	1	44,074
9,891	Postage		13,228
3,908	Storage		2,483
1,155	Online shop		1,200
1,128	Advertising		437
449	Insurance of stock		536
54,145			61,958
3,122	Financial charges		2,912
1,268	Public liability insurance		1,242
582	Meeting expenses		180
3,748	Administration costs		2,599
359	Web site maintenance		391
283	J L N Southern Award Fund expenditure		300
684	Other		69
103,806	Total Expenditure		109,908
39,205	Surplus for year		1,778

1. Includes magazines transferred to sales stock.
All values net of GST

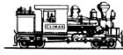
LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA Inc
(A14384U ABN 27 859 154 705)
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
Year ended 30 June 2022

2021		2022
		\$
\$	Current Assets	
275,501	Cash	279,095
61	Debtors	142
0	Prepayments	5,729
91,969	Sales stock	48,364
0	Publication in preparation	8,045
168	Accrued interest	188
367,699	Total	341,563
	Non-current Assets	
0	Software	3,368
367,699	Total Assets	344,931
	Current Liabilities	
23,404	Subscriptions in advance	22,430
13,548	Prepublication book sales	0
263	Creditors	239
37,215	Total	22,669
	Non-current Liabilities	
0		0
37,215	Total Liabilities	22,669
330,484	Net Assets	322,262
281,279	Accumulated Funds at start of year	320,484
39,205	Surplus	1,778
320,484	Accumulated Funds at end of year	322,262
32,940	J L N Southern Award Fund	32,754
287,544	General accumulated funds	289,508
320,484		322,262

LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC
(A14384U ABN 27 859 154 705)
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Year ended 30 June 2022

	\$
Cash at Start of Year	<u>275,501</u>
Subscriptions	27791
Receipts from customers	68371
Payments to suppliers	(92,644)
Interest on investments	294
J L N Southern Award Fund receipts	82
J L N Southern Award Fund expenditure	(300)
Nett increase in cash held	3,594
Cash at End of Year	<u>279,095</u>

All values net of GST



President's Report 2021/2022

I am pleased to present my 32nd Presidential Report for the Light Railway Research Society of Australia, this one being for the year 2021-2022.

“LIGHT RAILWAYS” magazine, saw issues No.280 to No.285 published, all of which contained 48 pages. In total 288 pages of light railway history. Again, all the additional pages have been necessary to enable submitted articles to be published in a timely manner. I thank all authors for submitting their excellent articles for publication in LIGHT RAILWAYS.

“LIGHT RAILWAYS” Editor Richard Warwick and the editorial team have maintained a very high standard that is appreciated by all readers. To Richard and his Associate Editors Mike McCarthy, Frank Stamford and Phil Rickard, Field Report's Editor Peter Evans, Industrial Railway News Editor Chris Hart, Research Editor Stuart Thyer and Heritage & Tourism Editor Andrew Webster, thank you for your efforts throughout the year. Thanks also to Bruce Belbin for laying out LIGHT RAILWAYS for printing.

The cover price of “LIGHT RAILWAYS” again remains as it has been for the last decade, mainly due to the competitive nature of the publishing business

At the end of the 2021-2022 financial year we had a total of 689 members, 16 fewer than at the same time last year.

Our mailing list shows that 711 copies of “LIGHT RAILWAYS” are sent to our members in both print and electronic versions, with some members taking both versions. “LIGHT RAILWAYS” remains available on the newsstands and other outlets and is also sent to a number of libraries and historical societies. The subscription rate for hard copies remains at \$48.00 and \$27.50 for electronic copies.

Our electronic membership system “Wild Apricot” has functioned well during this past year, with some amendments to improve its performance and reporting, is proving to be a valuable management tool. Thank you to Mike McCarthy for his maintenance of the system. Thank you also to Andrew Hennell for managing membership matters and his use of the electronic system

The Light Railways of Australia Facebook Group, member numbers continues to grow and will shortly go past 4000. It is a useful tool for communicating with a large number of people, particularly when we are about to release a new publication and other notifications. Postings by members can also provide useful information to researchers. Thank you to John Dennis, Mike McCarthy, Frank Stamford and John Browning the moderators of our Facebook Group.

During the 2021/22 year we published two new books. I incorrectly mentioned “Australia’s Colourful American Locomotives” by David Fletcher, in my last report, but regardless of that, it has sold very well and now with less than 50 copies remaining, has proven the wisdom of the LRRSA to publish this kind of book. Also published this past year was “Tramways, Coconuts & Phosphate by David Jehan, which is selling well.

I thank our Publications Officer Frank Stamford for his efforts during the year as well as the people who carry out all the activities required to publish a book. Thank you, Bruce Belbin for producing the final layouts for printing. I also thank Gaye Belbin, who has produced the layout for several of our books.

Book sales for the year was 541 orders compared to the previous years end total of 805. This may seem like a significant fall in sales per annum, but is similar to year prior to the Covid pandemic lockdowns. The total value of sales was \$40,378 compared to \$67,620 the previous year, which is a substantial decrease but not unexpected.

In my last report I noted that "In the Shadow of the Prom" by Mike McCarthy, had been shortlisted for the 2021 Victorian Community History Awards sponsored by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Public Record Office Victoria. We were very pleased for Mike when his book was announced the winner and we were proud that it was published by our society.

Thank you to John Dennis for maintaining both the website and the online shop, with Bill Hanks managing the storage of sales stock, packing and dispatch of orders.

The eighth JLN Southern Award for the most outstanding article/s published in LIGHT RAILWAYS during 2020 was awarded to Peter Evans for his article “Copper, Platinum, Gold and Lime” (the mines and tramways of Coopers Creek, Victoria.)

The ninth JLN Southern Award for 2021 has again judged by Dr Ruth Kerr, Roderick Smith and David Whiteford. On behalf of the Council, I thank them all very much for the time and effort, to complete this task. The winner of the award for 2021 will be announced during this AGM.

Our society at the end of the 2020/21 financial year is again in a very sound position. Whilst membership subscriptions cover the cost of producing LIGHT RAILWAYS and mail outs, our financial reserves are there to publish more books. It is envisaged that in the future as volunteer input wanes, the services needed to publish our books will have to be outsourced. This is where having a war-chest of cash will enable the society to continue to publish more books for our members.

Online Member’s Entertainment Meeting have proven to be a huge success, as we now reach many more members, than we ever could when holding entertainment meetings at fixed venues. Presenters are currently scheduled twelve months in advance of a meeting. To date comments from attendees have been very gratify. Thank you to Mike McCarthy for arranging these Zoom meetings and scheduling presenters.

At the last Annual General Meeting, Nick Sheridan who lives in Sydney, New South Wales was elected to Council in the position of Secretary. With the assistance of modern technologies such as Zoom for Council meetings, emails and the online sharing and storage facility of Dropbox. Nick has been able perform all the duties expected of him.

I thank Colin Harvey our Treasurer, for managing the society’s finances. Colin has held this position for well over thirty years.

During November 2021, Simon Moorhead again tried to organise tours but has been thwarted by Covid restrictions. Thank you, Simon for again trying.

Throughout 2021/2022, all Council meetings have been conducted using Zoom online conferencing. With the Secretary now located away from Melbourne in Sydney, has proven that society business can be conducted anywhere. In recent times when Council members have been on holiday, they have still been able to perform their respective duties, in particular our Sales Officer who is currently on a holiday.

Thank you to Bob Gough for organising the Southeast Queensland meetings when possible.

After forty years as President of the New South Wales Division, Jeff Moonie has retired. Thank you very much Jeff for the effort you put in organising the Sydney meetings and other activities. In his place we welcome David Jehan and thank him for putting his hand up. Also thank you to Ross Mainwaring the Treasurer.

Thank you to Les Howard in South Australia for convening meetings in Adelaide.

In Western Australia thank you to our representative David Whiteford and thank you to Ken Milbourne, our representative in Tasmania.

Finally thank you to Mike McCarthy, Nick Sheridan, Phil Rickard, Colin Harvey, Frank Stamford, Richard Warwick, Peter Evans and John Dennis for all they have contributed to our society throughout the year.

Many current society officers have been on Council for more years than we can remember. The time will come when each of us would like to hand over the reins of the LRRSA, to other members. With the ability for people to meet online, new council members could be living anywhere in Australia. In my last report I said I was confident that the LRRSA will continue into the immediate future, but beyond that I am not that confident. I hope there will other members prepared to continue on this rewarding work.

Thank you.

W.L.(Bill) Hanks
President LRRSA (August 2022)