



# 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<sup>®</sup> and members' **entertainment meetings** similarly via Zoom<sup>®</sup>, 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.

**Light Railway Research Society of Australia Inc, PO Box 21 Surrey Hills, Vic 3127, Australia**  
e-mail [lrrsa@lrrsa.org.au](mailto:lrrsa@lrrsa.org.au) Internet [www.lrrsa.org.au](http://www.lrrsa.org.au)