



LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA Inc

Change is afoot! Please read!

From 1 January, 2021 the LRRSA will be introducing a new membership system. This system will make use of Wild Apricot Membership Software and will be web based. The Wild Apricot system is the most widely used and highest rated web-based system for organisations of our size in the world. To place this within a context, our current system is card based but supplemented by spreadsheet recording where needed. It has served us well in varying forms since the establishment of the Society in 1961. However, it is labour intensive, not easily transferred to others and involves duplicate records

The advantages that our new system offers us include:

- Being web-based it will be accessible by members and administrators anywhere.
- Improved efficiency in record keeping with most duplication eliminated
- Improved means of membership communication through email
- The potential to integrate services with our web page soon and, possibly, our shop further down the track, offering efficiencies and cost savings
- Cost and labour savings in a reduced need to include paper notices in mailouts
- An ability to incorporate bookings management for Society tours and other activities

But perhaps the most significant advantage and opportunity lies in the fact that it will reduce the need to anchor the Society in one location. It will be possible to manage this most important aspect of our operation from anywhere, not just Melbourne, as has been the case in the past. This will help to 'future-proof' our Society.

We need your help!

In the past the ability to contact a member by email was something 'nice to have' but not essential to manage the Society's affairs. Letters and mailouts supplied the principal forms of contact. Now, with many members opting for *Light Railways* pdf-only memberships, things have become more complicated. Notices and sales lists are downloaded with the magazine and contact by email is becoming more common. In the future, this trend will continue and, in fact, your login for the new system will make use of your email address.

Don't have an email address and have no intention of getting one? Don't despair and do not worry!

For those who fit this category we will continue to service you in the same manner as in the past. This, of course, will mean more work for those managing the Society and we would hope that you would change your mind, but if you do have an aversion to email then so be it. We will look after you as we always have.

For those willing to help us make this change we have begun a process to collect and correct email addresses, and the first important step has already been taken.

- If you received an email from the Society over the past week or so, you need to do absolutely nothing. If you received the email, this means that we have your email address and it worked! We will know if it didn't!
- If you haven't received an email from us, this means that either the email address we have was incorrect or we don't have an email address for you.

If the second category fits your situation then we ask you, over the next week or so, to email the Society at membership@lrrsa.org.au providing your email address, name and address details and best contact telephone number.

Note: All data collected will be treated per the Society's privacy policy, available at lrrsa.org.au/privacy.pdf