



Light Railway Research Society of Australia Inc.

President's Report 1999-2000

As President of the Light Railway Research Society of Australia, it gives me great pleasure to present for the year 1999-2000, this, my ninth annual report.

This past year has again seen our society continue improve its reputation as a provider of a high quality magazine and other major works. The reasons for this are similar to last year with the Council and Light Railways editors continually striving to bring new and better publications to our members and the public in general.

The new "LIGHT RAILWAYS" is now over two years old, 15 editions to be precise. The sales of "LIGHT RAILWAYS", continues to improve and again the print run has been increased to allow our distributors, Gordon & Gotch to expand sales into previously unexplored regions. Marketing strategies are being worked on continually and new outlets are always being sought. Sales and returns figures regularly sent to us from our distributor help us to make adjustments where necessary to our marketing strategies. For pursuing these strategies the council is again greatly indebted to Frank Stamford. The increased print run was also required to cater for an increase in membership figures.

One indication of the high regard that "LIGHT RAILWAYS" is held in, is the quality and volume of articles received from both existing and new contributors. The editors now have a substantial amount of material on hand for future editions. Thank-you very much to all those people who contribute their work for publishing. The Editorial team of Bruce Belbin, Bob McKillop and John Browning continually strive to improve our first class magazine that continues to set a standard that others still try achieve.

A measure of the success of our strategies, is the number of new members attracted each year. One year after publication of the first new "LIGHT RAILWAYS", we had a substantial increase. Last year membership rose by another substantial amount to 663. Whilst a final figure is not yet available for this year, it will be in excess of 700. Thank-you again to our Membership Officer, Andrew Hennel for administering the membership records.

The Sales Department has again been very busy generally; the revenue generated being used to produce new publications. Advertisements placed in "LIGHT RAILWAYS", and on our Internet

Pages have both attracted many orders. Whilst the core item 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 the usual retail outlets and are made available to members at a generous price. Frank Stamford has held the reins of the Sales Department for the last year and has done an admirable job. Thank-you Frank.

During the past year the Society unfortunately did not publish any new major works of its own. But that is not saying that work is not being carried out on new books. We currently list fourteen publishing projects in the minutes of the Council meetings, three of which are programmed to be in the next six months. The others books are also being worked upon as time permits. Frank Stamford, who is also our Publications Officer, has again been doing an admirable job of managing the production of new publications. Thank-you once again Frank for your efforts and for hosting the mail outs.

Strategies implemented over the past three years are starting to prove the wisdom of our decisions, which to date have been very pleasing. The production of "LIGHT RAILWAYS" had initially dented our financial reserves is now not far from reaching the breakeven point, The substantial increase in sales generated by the new "LIGHT RAILWAYS" and other strategies has more than offset the its production costs. We find the society in sound financial position, which is being constantly and diligently, monitored, thanks to our treasurer, Colin Harvey. Mike McCarthy has produced and regularly updated a set of cash flow forecasts, which allow us to program the production of new publications.

We have been preparing for some time for the introduction of the G.S.T. Whilst we can make some informed predictions of its affect on our activities, only after a period of time doing business with the new tax regime, will we have an accurate picture of our position.

During the past year two tours were conducted to sites of light railway significance. The first was to the Acheron Valley over the 6th & 7th of November 1999. It was organised and led by Peter Evans. The second tour was a day tour to the Warburton area being organised by Mike McCarthy and led by Phil Rickard Many thanks to Peter, Mike and Phil for their efforts and enduring the many leeches encountered. Planning of future tours is already underway.

The Southeast Queensland group has been attracting up to eighteen people to each meeting, this in turn has generated much interest in the LRRSA and its activities. Apart from the regular entertainment meetings, they have also conducted tours to sites of light railway interest. This group has now prompted research into some light railways in Queensland that had previously received very little

attention. The success to date of this group has prompted council to investigate the possible establishment of other group elsewhere in the country.

Melbourne entertainment meetings have been well attended attracting on average about 30 people. A big thankyou to Frank Stamford, Bill Hanks, Phil Rickard for their presentations plus others who brought along slides for special presentations. Thank-you to Peter Evans for supplying the audio-visual equipment. Also thank-you to Gloria and Allan Stebbing and occasionally Mal Dow, for providing 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, out of sight, but not forgotten.

Finally thank-you to Mike McCarthy, Phil Rickard, Colin Harvey, Frank Stamford, Peter Evans, Hugh Markwick, Malcolm Dow and Simon Moorhead who was co-opted to council during the year, for the support, assistance and efforts, they have given me and the society throughout the year. This next year is shaping up to be another busy one and again a very promising one for the society, with new publications and tours. Many of the present council members have been in office for many years, to ensure that the LRRSA remains strong and healthy, we will need new people coming on board to assist with the management of the society over the next few years.

Thank-you.

W.L. (Bill) Hanks - President L.R.R.S.A. (August 2000)

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

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
Year ended 30 June 2000

1999		2000
	Current Assets	
23,916	Cash	26,408
27,388	Term Deposit	27,388
4,852	Debtors	4,703
41,391	Sales stock	44,906
0	Publications in production	2,077
97,547	Total	105,482
	Non-current Assets	
449	Office equipment	449
177 272	less accumulated depreciation	267 182
97,819	Total Assets	105,664
	Current Liabilities	
15,087	Subscriptions in advance	11,384
0	GST	1,093
1,136	Creditors	1,965
16,223	Total	14,442
	Non-current Liabilities	
0		0
16,223	Total Liabilities	14,442
81,596	Net Assets	91,222
82,750	Accumulated Funds at start of year	81,596
(1,154)	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	9,626
81,596	Accumulated Funds at end of year	91,222
 Distribution of funds		
849	TACL Fund	699
473	Research Fund	473
80,274	General accumulated funds	90,050
81,596		91,222

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STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
Year ended 30 June 2000

1999		<i>Notes</i>	2000
	Income		
19,506	Members Subscriptions		24,317
18,066	Magazine Sales	1	18,496
500	Advertising space	2	1,800
52,629	Sale of publications		38,423
18,088	Increase in inventory	3	5,592
1,356	Interest		587
95	Tour receipts		53
0	Other		191
110,240	Total Revenue		89,459
	Expenditure		
41,313	Magazine production		44,561
4,374	Members mailouts		4,617
18,929	Sales		
	Stock purchase	1	17,072
35,614	New & reprinted publications		2,077
3,724	Postage		4,614
1,398	Advertising	2	2,062
182	Insurance of stock		197
2,264	Other		0
62,111	Bank fees and taxes		1,057
1,160	Public liability insurance		366
342	Tours expenses		59
35	Meeting expenses		790
514	Administration costs		764
805	Depreciation of office equipment		90
90	TACL group expenses		150
49	Miscellaneous Advertising		477
475	Publications to electronic storage		822
0	Other		58
90	Research assistance		0
36			
111,394	Total Expenditure		79,833
(1,154)	Surplus/(Deficit) for year		9,626

1. Includes \$4284 value of magazines transferred to sales stock.
2. Includes \$1550 of LRRSA advertising.
3. Includes value of productions in progress

Disclosure of Interest

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 Brunel Gooch Information Systems Pty Ltd. During the year ended 30 June 2000 Brunel Gooch Information Systems Pty Ltd provided desktop publishing, CD-ROM publishing and internet publishing services to the LRRSA

(signed) F.Stamford
7 August 2000