



## Message from the President – David Bainbridge

With our sixth Field Days event just over, I am thrilled to welcome our members and supporters to this special edition of EnGauge, dedicated to the event and all those who helped make it spectacular.

Before anything else is said, a very special thank you to Sandy Bull, our Event Manager and all round super-lady! Sandy did the most outstanding job in bringing our celebration of rail together. To her credit, we had more people through the gates than ever before, we exceeded sponsorship expectations and every indoor and outdoor booth was filled! Thanks Sandy!



The event has got 2015 off in fine style and we intend to keep up these standards for the rest of the year. With a networking event following our first Management Committee Meeting in March, we have no intention of becoming complacent. There is much to be done and in our sights are women in rail – that is, encouraging women to consider rail as a career option as one of our high priorities. On that theme, thanks to Julie Bullas from ONSR who gave an impressive presentation at the Field Days event on this very topic. A special ‘Women in Rail’ event is planned for later this year to continue momentum.

We also plan to continue to work with other rail organisations more closely; and a Joint Rail Organisational Committee (working title, JROC) has made the first tentative steps towards greater collaboration, cooperation and most importantly, efficient use of precious rail resources. We will be talking more to our memberships soon. This is also consistent with our strategic priorities.

Other areas of focus for 2015 will be working to encourage the participation of young people in rail – and we had our first group of school students at the Field Days event to help encourage just that. We plan to work closely with others to build on this initial step.

A final personal thanks to all our sponsors, exhibitors, participants and the unflappable enthusiasm of our volunteers and organising committee. I am proud to be part of such a dedicated group.

**David Bainbridge – RTAA President**

## Behind the Scenes – through the eyes of our Event Manager, Sandy Bull

**This special edition of EnGauge is dedicated to the recent Field Days event – the biggest ever.**

With almost double the visitors than in previous years, the 2015 Field days event can be celebrated as a resounding success!

This year produced a wide variety of shiny new machinery freshly shipped or flown out from overseas. Two live demonstration programs ran concurrently, and a fully subscribed Fettler’s Shed program of speakers attracted huge crowds.

Most noticeably were the increased numbers of women attending and enjoying the displays. High school students, invited for the first time, were amazed at the variety of technology to whet their appetite for a possible career in rail.

### In this issue:

President’s Message	1
Behind the Scenes	1
Sponsors and Exhibitors	2
Figures at a Glance	2
Bump-in	2
New in 2015	3
What does it take to hold a Field Days event?	3
Best in show	3
A Diverse Group	4
Fettler’s Shed	4
Feedback	4
Exhibitors	5
Gallery	5



## RTAA FIELD DAYS 2015

### Sponsors and Exhibitors

*Always a challenge – this year RTAA tried some new and creative sponsorship ideas*



As always, attracting sponsorship is a challenge. This year's event saw an even greater challenge with big organisations facing take-overs and workforce shrinkage. Things are tight in the market. We realised we needed to be more creative and think differently. Responding to these conditions and knowing the take up of large sponsorship packages was likely to be less, we established a greater number of small packages and encouraged sponsors to specify how they wanted to be involved. Flexibility was the key – we basically told organisations that they could tell us what their sponsorship package would look like.

Many of our exhibitors from previous events were very eager to sign up again this year. We also attracted a number of new comers such as Kennards Hire Rail (with Rosenqvist Rail from Sweden) who were eager to sponsor a number of packages as well as exhibit. Other newcomers were Vesco Plastics (from South Africa), RKR Engineering, C.A.T.E.R, Inventory Control Systems, Geofabrics, Geomatic Technologies, UGL Rail and UGL Unipart, Burdens Australia, Zoellner Australia and the BST Group.

We were also delighted to have Laing O'Rourke on board once again – welcome back!

One of the most trying and demanding tasks was collating the safety and insurance documents from exhibitors which had to comply (and rightly so) with the scrutiny of a Sydney Trains Safety Professional. Many of our Field Day exhibitor contacts were marketing persons who had considerable trouble completing the forms and complying with the necessary documents.

As a committee it will be something we consider next time and ensuring we make this process as seamless and stress-free as possible.



### Thanks! Our co-host and sponsors:



### Bump-in – a Smooth Ride in 2015

Bump-in went very smoothly this year. This was owing to the careful management of appointments so that the fork-lifts would be available for unloading and to prevent the access way from being blocked by the entry of large equipment. Thanks to David Bull for his hard work on this.

### Figures at a Glance

Numbers through the gate:	<b>2,240</b>
Exhibitors:	<b>75 – 39 indoor and 36 outdoor</b>
Live Demonstrations:	<b>40</b>
Sponsors:	<b>16</b>
Meals provided:	<b>1,400</b>
Coffees:	<b>3,200</b>
Muffins:	<b>1,000</b>
Spring Water Bottles:	<b>3,100</b>
Fettler's Shed presentations:	<b>16</b>
High School Students:	<b>100</b>

## New in 2015

### **After five previous events we've learnt a thing or two!**

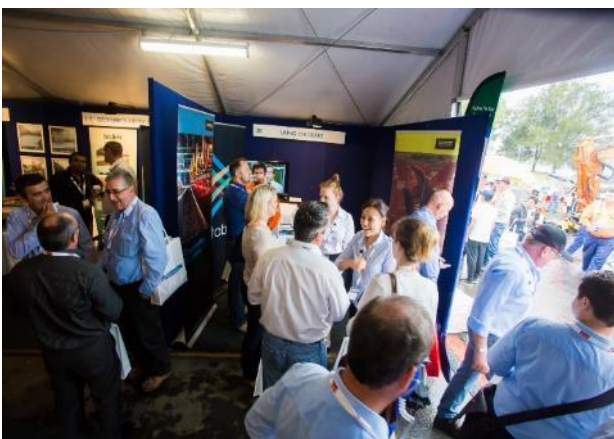
Our challenge for 2015 was to provide a fresh approach. After five previous events we have learned our lessons and one was to provide an area for people to sit and relax. The *Transit Café* was a new indoor area which provided a space for exhibitors to chat with clients and visitors to take an air-conditioned break from the elements. We also re-drew the plan of the inside booths so that every display would have good access, with foot traffic moving through the U-shape format.

As there was very limited parking on the site, this time, parking was restricted to exhibitors and organisers only. This took a great deal of time and management to arrange but, after ironing out some early issues, proved to be very worthwhile with all visitors advised to use the courtesy bus from Auburn Station.

On day one, not even the showers could deter the hundreds of visitors who arrived in their busloads every 10 minutes. Wet weather meant that most visitors congregated around the indoor displays - which suited our exhibitors just fine.

Opening ceremony key-note speaker, Chris Lock, Deputy Director General - Projects, Transport for NSW, was trapped in a gridlock of traffic due to the Harbour Bridge congestion which paralysed the city and was unable to attend. The irony of this was not lost on the group and Rob Mason, CEO NSW Trains, Stewart Mills, Director Maintenance of Sydney Trains and David Bainbridge, RTAA President from Leighton Contractors, got us off to an official start. While Chris' experience provided further proof of the importance of rail to get people around the city.

Day two was kinder to us with the sun shining over our event, encouraging even more people to attend. Visitors spent more time taking in the outdoor exhibits with a wide array of machinery both static and in motion to interest the crowds. Ice cream on a hot day was the most popular enticement from the Encompass Credit Union exhibit, while the purple team of RT Health Fund ladies ran a number of short exercise sessions on the stage.



### **Congratulations! We love your work!**

'Best in Show' was awarded to Speno Rail Maintenance Australia by Bill Killinger AM and Life Member. 'Special Mentions' were given to Key Source Rail and Linmag Australia.

## What does it take to hold a Field Days event?

A year of planning, a dozen keen RTAA volunteers, a generous host and event partner (Sydney Trains has now hosted our event in their Clyde yard for the sixth time), sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, VIPs, an army of people to prepare the site and marshal the equipment into place while also ensuring that everything runs to plan and within safety guidelines. A Field Day Manager to pull the strings and last but definitely not least, Sydney Trains representative, Max Croucher, without whom it would not be possible.

I would like to personally thank:

- Steve Johnson, independent consultant, who cajoled many into sponsoring and exhibiting
- Mark Fulford of Martinus Rail, who prepared the Fettler's Shed program
- Ian Moore of Pandrol Australia, who arranged the catering side of the event
- Pauline Henderson of Encompass Credit Union who assisted with the promotional banners
- Julie Tassone, our Communications Consultant – providing invaluable communications advice
- David Bull, RTAA vice president from Bull Head Services – prepared the bump-in and live demo program
- Greg Burke of Key Source Rail, who monitored the bump-in process
- Paul Armstrong of VAE for his patience and graphic design skills to produce our event program
- Kelli Silove from Bull Head Services who badgered the exhibitors to submit their documents on time
- Jim Mahood of Transfield Services, and Jonathan Barnes who communicated with the schools.

On the day, Rob O'Hanlon of Rhomberg Rail Australia assumed the role of Master of Ceremonies with great panache and President, David Bainbridge, introduced the VIPs and welcomed all guests. My huge thanks goes to Max Croucher and David Bull who managed the technical side of the event – ensuring machines would fit into their allotted space, arranging a time table to bump-in that would not clash, block the entry nor prevent access of other machinery and of course. Cracking his financial whip was Allan Logan, our Treasurer from Plasser Australia, who ensured we stayed within the budget.

## A Diverse Group

**International guests and local school students meant the event was attended by a diverse crowd.**

Visitors came from far and wide. The lack of onsite parking did not deter visitors who made use of the courtesy bus from Auburn Station. Many exhibitors and visitors arrived from interstate as well as from state wide. We also had exhibitors and visitors from USA, Sweden, Germany, South Africa, France, Italy, England and Austria and I discovered two gentlemen who had specially made the trip from Malaysia to attend our event!

The school students were a new addition to the mix. Encouraging a new generation of rail workers is high on our RTAA priority list and we were delighted to have groups of teenagers being escorted by their teachers as well as volunteer guides from the rail industry. They were mesmerised by the live demonstrations and tucked into the food, which was an unexpected bonus.

Andy Munns, a teacher at Holroyd High School provided us with the following welcome feedback:

*“Took Year 11 + 12 Engineering students to RTAA days at Clyde on Wednesday. Great day. While primarily an industry day, RTAA also invited schools. No cost. Free 10 minute shuttle bus from Auburn station. Morning tea and lunch provided. My students had a great day. They saw presentations from major suppliers to railways and presenters understood that students were possible future engineers and spent a lot of time with them. “*

*“The day was basically ‘speed dating’ with practical railways engineering examples - fundamentals, products, brakes, civil and transport (obviously), plus telecoms. Students also watched demonstrations of Thermit welding, hydraulics, track maintenance trains and equipment. Also new polymer sleepers and many other recent technologies were on show.”*

*“Mostly, students were impacted by the diversity, creativity and imagination in engineering.”*

*“Thanks to our guide for the day Sydney Trains engineer, Jonathan Barnes for taking our group through the displays and for providing such an engaging day.”*

And another:

*“Thank you for inviting our students to the RTAA expo. It was great. The kids loved it and learnt a lot. The event was organised, people were friendly.”*

Ellie Apostolopoulos, Careers Adviser



## Fettlers' Shed

In the Fettlers' Shed, Julie Bullas from the ONRSR, our key note speaker, gave a personal account of the challenges women experience in a male dominated industry. Keeping it very upbeat, yet highlighting the areas where changes were most needed, Julie's presentation was very well received.

Included in the speakers was another *rail woman*, Kathryn Crestani (Sydney Trains) who engaged the audience with her enthusiastic presentation on her second place winning submission to the Frank Franklyn Award 2014. Charismatic, Frank Franklyn Young Rail Specialist Award winner 2013, Andrew Bressanutti (MTM) provided his exhausting itinerary of his prize trip to Innotrans and around Europe in 2014.

Twelve other papers on technical rail topics were presented over the two days. I would also like to thank our Frank Franklyn Award Winner, Thomas Kerr of Sydney Trains (2014) and Runner Up, Ian Maydew of ARTC (2013) for their presentations.



## Don't take my word for it – here's what attendees thought!

*“Hi Sandy and David, congratulations to yourselves and the RTAA committee for another hugely successful field day. As sponsors we were very impressed. Please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone involved for all their hard work. We look forward to working with you all in 2015”, Rebecca, Alison, Cassie and all the team at RT Health Fund.*

From John Lazaro of Progress Rail Services:

*“Dear Sandy, David and Max. All praise is certainly due to the RTAA committee members for their un-tiring efforts with the field-day arrangements.”*

*“Our thanks and appreciation in particular goes to yourself, Max and Sandy for the all-round eleventh hour assistance accorded us to achieve the desired results. “*

*“The Progress Rail team is pleased with the successful exposure and interest from various networks on the In-bearer system and the Kershaw Ballast Regulator machine demonstrations (all linked to the prime position you provided us).”*

From Enrico Croce, Marketing Director, Colmar Technik Srl, Italy:

*“Good Morning Dear David. Thank you very much for the excellent organisation of the RTAA.”*

## List of Field Days Event 2015 Exhibitors

- Alcoa Fastening Systems
- Anric Developments Pty Ltd
- Asciano - Pacific National
- BST Group
- Bull Head Services and The Dawn Alliance
- Burdens Australia
- C.A.T.E.R., Cold Forged Products
- D&D Traffic Management
- Delkor Rail Pty Ltd
- DPW Plant Hire Pty Ltd
- Earthmoving Equipment Australia Pty Ltd
- Echo Barrier Australia Pty Ltd
- Encompass Credit Union
- Gemco Rail Pty Ltd
- Geofabrics Australasia Pty Ltd
- Geomatic Technologies
- Global Synthetics Pty Ltd
- Hetricon Australia
- Inventory Control Systems Pty Ltd
- Kennards Hire-Rail
- Key Source Rail
- KH1 Pty Ltd
- Kinshofer Australia Pty Ltd
- Laing O'Rourke Australia
- Legend Power Systems
- Leighton Contractors
- Linmag Australia Pty Ltd
- Martinus Rail
- Melville Equipment Corporation Pty Ltd
- Nitto - Kohki Australia
- Pandrol Australia
- Plasser Australia Pty Ltd
- Progress Rail Services
- Rhomberg Rail Australia Pty Ltd
- RKR Engineering Pty Ltd
- Rosenqvist
- RT Health Fund
- Semco Equipment Sales
- Specialised Force Pty Ltd
- Speno Rail Maintenance Australia Pty Ltd
- Sydney Trains
- 1300 Temp Fence
- Thermit Australia Pty Ltd
- UGL Ltd / UGL Unipart Rail Services Pty Ltd
- Unipart Rail
- Voestalpine VAE Railway Systems
- Vesco Plastics Sales
- Vossloh Cogifer Australia Pty Ltd-/Vossloh Fastening Systems and Zoellner Australia Pty Ltd.

## Field Days 2015 Photo Gallery

Please visit our website to see more photos

