



## Message from the President – David Bainbridge

Welcome to this edition of EnGauge which shines the spotlight on Women in Rail. In our strategic plan, we highlighted that the rail industry needs to be more inclusive of women, Indigenous peoples and the future generations. As we have seen in the recent announcements in Victoria, NSW and indeed, across the nation, there will be significant spending on rail infrastructure in the next few years. Add to this the prospect of Inland Rail and the other major infrastructure construction projects, and it is easy to see how demand will outstrip supply of competent people. The RTAA is committed to assisting the rail industry in developing and retaining a balanced and diverse workforce to create the future of rail transport in our country.



I hope that the recent changes within the ARA will result in a more collaborative and inclusive style which will acknowledge and promote the work done by the various industry associations who represent the people within rail. We all have a great deal to do to make rail the transport mode of choice for all governments, businesses and the population at large – the best results will come from being aligned in our approach.

Lastly, we are searching for the next President. Is this something you want to do? I have been privileged to hold the post for the past 5 years and, while I remain a great supporter of the work we are doing, it is time to find some new blood to bring new ideas. Please consider whether you could be the next President. I can assure you it is a great role to have. I have found that the greatest rewards come from giving back to the industry that has provided so much to me.

David Bainbridge - RTAA President

### A NEW DOCUMENTARY - *OUTBACK RAILROAD* TO SHOWCASE THE RAIL COMMUNITY – DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

*“Discover the amazing inner workings of Australia’s outback railways and the dedicated train crews who face an everyday battle to keep the nation on track.”* This is the lead-in for an eight part, one-hour television documentary series commissioned by the Discovery Channel in Australia and Europe. It is supported by ScreenWest and produced by the West Australian production company Prospero Complex Productions.

The series aims to go behind the scenes of Australia’s vast rail network to discover the men and women who keep this incredible system running to schedule. From passenger trains to mining and freight, and the rail and train maintenance crews who support them – the documentary will tell the story of the intricate inner workings of a vital Australian industry. Filming will run from 1 June 2015 - 26 October 2015.

Managing Director, Julia Redwood, would like to meet members of the rail community so that she can gain access to our industry and interview its people. In her words:

***We would very much like to continue working with the RTAA throughout the development of Outback Railroad, especially as your current charter of increasing diversity into the rail industry through promotion of young, Indigenous and female rail workers is very much in line with our aim of showcasing a broad range of Australia’s rail workers in the television series that will connect in a positive way with our audience.***

The team will be attending our next meetings in Perth and Sydney and will also be personally contacting our members.

### In this issue:

- RTAA Participates in Documentary Series on Rail ----- 1
- The Business Case for Women In Rail Forum ----- 2
- Focus on Women in Rail ----- 2
- Meet our new corporate members ----- 3
- Save the dates ----- 3
- RTAA Technical Stream AusRAIL PLUS 2015 Update ----- 4
- RTAA Frank Franklyn Young Rail Specialist Award 2015 ----- 4
- Perth Technical Session and Networking Meeting ----- 4
- Joint Rail Organisations Body ----- 4



## FOCUS ON WOMEN IN RAIL

It's not often you meet someone completely and unequivocally passionate about what they do. It is, unfortunately, quite a rare thing. Maybe not so much in rail – granted, it is an industry of passionate people. But how often do you find a young woman, quite simply reeking of enthusiasm for rail?

Meet Karen Honychurch, self-confessed train geek, and one such person. She is unashamedly train-mad. She is a proud, self-confessed train geek and she loves them!

So how did this rather unusual obsession start? According to Karen, she always wanted a train set as a young child however, her dad had other ideas. Super excited, I always wanted a train set growing up and my dad, not being into trains, gave me a car racing set instead. Needless to say, I really envied the boy up the street who had an awesome train set.



*Karen Honychurch –  
Self-confessed train geek  
and proud of it!*

In July 2011, Karen's aspirations turned to reality as she entered the rail sector as a Project Coordinator. Not satisfied with this role, Karen quickly made her intentions (and ambitions) known –

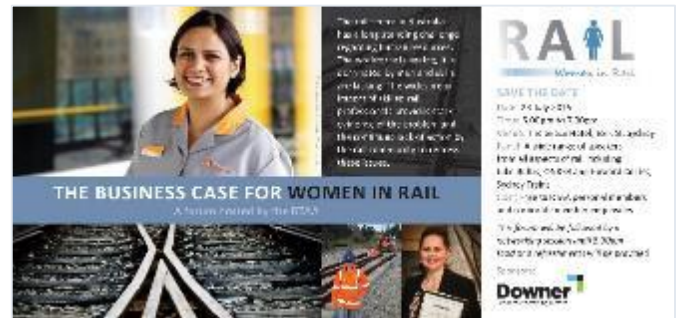
Karen is a Project Manager for Downer Rail at the Maryborough Facility in Queensland. On a day-to-day basis she leads a team of (primarily) men and repairs and maintains rollingstock. One of her proudest achievements is the completion of a challenging task, as her first job in the role, requiring repair of an EMU41. Karen and the team did this on time and under budget, increasing the margin and building very positive relationships with her client representatives.

**With no hint of irony, Karen says “My boss said I’m a bit passionate about trains and he’s quite correct. I do love them and I treat each one as if it was mine, it deserves the best and I ensure it gets it. No shortcuts, it’s done properly by the book and I’m very passionate about that”. (We would never have guessed!)**

Karen is currently studying engineering (in her words – “it’s an amazing field!”) and, when asked how she would advise other women considering a career in rail, Karen replies “Rail is more than what it is at face value. The people in rail also love trains so if you love those things you’ll never want to leave”.

She does however put her success down to her own perseverance and passion – “I’m passionate about my work, each project I undertake I want it to be the best that’s ever been done and I want my team to shine. It’s not just about me as the leader or manager of the project it’s about ‘us’ and unity. I like to think that my passion in my projects has somewhere made a small difference to someone”.

We have no doubt it does – each and every day! RTAA wishes Karen every success in her studies and future career.



### The Business Case for Women in Rail

**As you are no doubt aware, the Australian rail sector suffers from a lack of new and diverse skills. This includes an inability to attract and retain young people, women and Indigenous people. The result has been skills shortages across the sector and the need to ‘import’ talent from overseas. It is a situation that has been discussed and research for a number of years in Australia and continues as an ongoing challenge for all rail organisations.**

Recognising these issues, the RTAA has placed the promotion of rail careers to these groups at the forefront of our strategic priorities. As part of this, the Business Case for Women in Rail event is an important initiative to support this agenda.

**The RTAA is proud to be hosting this forum which will be held in Sydney on 23 July 2015 at the Grace Hotel. The agenda will include three presentations and a panel.**



A big thank you to Downer Rail who is our platinum sponsor. The RTAA's Executive wishes to personally acknowledge the significant financial contribution of the organisation to this event in these challenging economic times.

We have invited a diverse range of guest speakers and panelists to our forum. They bring with them many years of experience from a number of different fields. From a historical perspective, to a passionate young point of view, this forum will offer the audience the opportunity to hear from industries that have succeeded in creating a gender equal environment to their financial advantage. Our speakers/panelists include:

**Julie Bullas:** Executive Director, Policy, Communications and Planning, ONRSR

**Howard Collins:** Chief Executive Sydney Trains

**Michael Harmer:** founding partner, Chairman and Senior Team Leader of Harmers Workplace Lawyers. When it comes to gender equality and valuing both the contribution and potential of its female staff, Harmers is an example of a firm which has attempted to practice what it preaches. The firm's staff demographic is 70% female, with a corresponding 70% female representation at the senior management level. Michael Harmer, will facilitate this discussion, drawing from over 30 years of experience

**Kathy Kostyrko:** Director, Public Sector, Hays Specialist Recruitment.

**The RTAA is seeking more sponsors for this significant event.** Please contact Sandy Bull [secretary@rtaa.org.au](mailto:secretary@rtaa.org.au)

**Meet our new corporate members:**



*Dirk Van Doesberg – Strukton Rail Australia*

**Strukton Rail is proud to announce that its Perth-based Australian subsidiary Strukton Rail Australia Pty Ltd officially opened for business on 1 January, 2015.**

Dirk van Doesburg, Managing Director, Strukton Rail is a maintenance, project and business unit manager with over 10 years' experience in innovative maintenance solutions and complex infrastructural projects in the railway industry and high standard rolling stock (plant) upgrades.

Dirk is responsible for bringing all these innovations to the Australian market, based on the best practices that Strukton developed through almost a century of rail construction involvement, maintenance expertise and technological development in Europe.

Strukton Rail Australia Pty Ltd will serve as a gateway to Strukton Rail, one of Europe's largest railway contractors, boasting more than 90 years of experience and accumulated know-how in construction and maintenance. In addition, the Antea Group, provides consultancy services on matters of safety, the environment, and data management.

**We also welcome these new members in 2015:**

**Premier Corporate Members:** CSR Times Electric Australia Pty Ltd and SNP Security

**Select Corporate Members:** Metro Trains Melbourne

**Classic Corporate Members:** Finlease, Geomatic Technologies, Inventory Control Systems, Laing O'Rourke and RKR Engineering Pty Ltd



*Prof. Philip Laird and Rebecca Delahaye at the RTAA Sydney Networking Meeting – 11 March 2015*

**Save the Dates**

**31 May to 5 June 2015**

International Convention IRSE – Brisbane to Rockhampton

**19 June 2015**

PWI winter dinner

**25 June 2015**

IRSE and PWI – Sydney Capacity and Growth of Sydney

**9 July 2015**

Sydney -Australasian Rail Industry Awards Dinner  
Frank Franklyn Young Rail Specialist Achievement Award Presentation

**23 July 2015**

SydneyForum – The Business Case for Women in Rail

**8 September 2015**

Newcastle – Technical Session and Networking Meeting

**New networking meeting dates will be announced soon for Melbourne and Brisbane.**

## Networking Meeting – Perth

The RTAA, together with the RTSA, invited its members to join them for a joint technical session and networking meeting on 27 May 2015 at the Rydges Hotel, Perth hosted by Michael Sterling (Fluor) and Peter Milton.



Wayside Manager for Roy Hill, Mark Fletcher was invited as our guest speaker. Mark leads a multi-skilled team of professionals in the inspection and maintenance of the Roy Hill rail network, which includes Track & Civil infrastructure, Signalling & Communications systems and specialised rail bound plant. The topic of his presentation was *Track Inspection and Maintenance Planning using Automated Inspection Systems for Condition Monitoring*.

We are appreciative of the support of our sponsors for this event:



## RTAA Joins Forces with other Peak Rail Bodies to form Joint Rail Organisations' Council (JROC)

On 29 January 2015, representatives from IRSE, PWI NSW, RTAA and RTSA met for the first time to discuss forming a new rail industry representative body. JROC was born.

This initiative is also consistent with RTAA's strategic priorities that include working in a more collaborative way and on a national basis.

The aim of this meeting was to consider the benefits of working more cooperatively. The areas of operation, priorities and key activities of each organisation were all discussed, including areas where there were opportunities for collaboration.

Agreed areas where members of JROC can work together include calendar of events and event planning / organisation, award programs, sponsorships, working on rail standards, engaging young people and promoting diversity, communication and the development of people in the industry.

Meetings have been scheduled for 2015 and JROC will meet quarterly to pursue other areas of cooperation.

While there is a strong focus on collaboration, the group is sensitive and cognisant of each organisation's unique identity.

A second meeting was held on 24 April to continue discussions on how we can collaborate.

## RTAA TECHNICAL STREAM AT AUSRAIL PLUS 2015, MELBOURNE

Now that the 'call for papers' has officially closed, the RTAA technical stream committee has the unenviable task of reviewing all submissions.

This year, Peter Milton has once more agreed to lead the team as our Chief Technical Reviewer. The review team will also include David Bull, Kylie Huth, Lachlan Daniel, Jim Mahood, David Stump, Rebecca Want, Julian Sharp and Duncan McLeod. The RTAA's selected papers will make up four sessions of three papers for our stream.

## Who will win the RTAA Frank Franklyn Young Rail Specialist Award 2015?

Selecting a worthy winner for this year's award will be the task of our recently appointed independent panel.

For the first time, the RTAA will participate in the ARA's Australasian Rail Industry Awards. In doing so, the RTAA has retained its commitment to maintaining high standards and strict criteria. Judging and the presentation of the award remain with the RTAA.



The 2015 prize for the RTAA Frank Franklyn Young Rail Specialist Achievement Award winner will be attendance at Innotrans Berlin 2016. The winner will be hosted by various members of the RTAA who will also attend the event.

The prize includes conference / exhibition entry fees, travel, accommodation and expenses totalling an amount up to \$10,000. The winner will also be invited to join the RTAA Management Committee for a period of twelve months.

The aim of this role is to foster involvement by young people in rail, and engagement with industry groups such as the RTAA.

Winners will be announced at the Australasian Rail Industry Awards Dinner to be held on 9 July 2015 in Sydney.

This year, David Bull again leads the judging team as our Award Champion, with the judges being Kylie Huth, Allan Logan, Jim Mahood, David Stump, Rebecca Want and Julian Sharp. The judges are currently marking nine (9) very credible submissions from Young Rail personnel representing Sydney Trains (3), Metro Trains Melbourne (2), John Holland Rail, Vossloh Cogifer Australia, NovoRail and ARTC.

2014 Frank Franklyn Award Winner, Thomas Kerr (Sydney Trains) with Howard Collins, CEO Sydney Trains at the Sydney Networking Meeting, where Howard was our guest speaker.



Join the RTAA LinkedIn Group

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/RTAA-4370409>