



RTAA Seeks New President by Sandy Bull, RTAA Secretary



It will be difficult to fill his shoes, however our RTAA President of five years has stated that he is most reluctant to continue beyond this term. It expires at the AGM on 25 November 2015. David Bainbridge has shown himself to be a man of great dedication, insight and vision. These are characteristics which are not easy to find today and it is through his leadership at the helm, that the RTAA has managed to take huge strides in its history of over 40 years.

So what does the presidency entail? Primarily it requires the ability to assume the position as figurehead and spokesperson to represent the RTAA. The RTAA has risen to represent the voice of rail infrastructure in Australia. Chairing our AGM's, management meetings, opening the Field Days event, participating in various committees and providing articles to Track & Signal and this e-newsletter, are just some of the duties of the President.

Over the past few years, the RTAA has worked well with its small but strong team comprised of President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer. Each has their assigned duties and together they make all decisions involving the daily running of the association as well as tackling issues regarding major strategic directions. The ability to work within this team is another attribute required of the new President.

David has also led us through the process of identifying our strategic priorities for the future. Expanding our benefits for members around the country has been a core goal, together with striving for diversity, knowledge sharing to the next generation and making the industry a safer place by understanding the need for uniform rail standards. He has initiated the formation of the Joint Rail Organisations Council (JROC) and is passionate in trying to unite the industry. Added to this, he is a strong advocate for having our voice recognised as representing the over 100 corporate members (and 80 personal members) who constitute our membership.

David has taken great pride in presenting our Frank Franklyn Award at the Australasian Rail Industry Award dinner this year. He opened our very successful Field Days event in 2015, was part of *The Business Case for Women in Rail* forum in Sydney and chaired many networking meetings. The next challenge is to change our constitution to reflect the way we currently manage the association. Our present constitution is out-dated and David has been a strong proponent of this change. David also hoped to achieve holding the Field Days event in another state (besides NSW).

In the past, the role of President relied on having the flexibility of company backing to assist with interstate travel to attend meetings. This year, we have formed local committees in most of the capital cities so that the onus does not fall on the President to attend and chair every meeting across the country. The President could reside in any state as long he/she has the flexibility to attend our management committee meetings in Sydney – twice a year as well as the AGM at the AusRAIL Conference.

If you think you have the skills and traits to assume this position and are willing to lead the way into 2016, please contact us for the nomination forms. Or, perhaps you wish to nominate a worthy candidate? Nominations will be considered prior to our AGM which will be held on 25 November 2016 at 7.30am at AusRAIL PLUS in Melbourne.

RTAA is coming to a city near you!

The RTAA has now formed local committees in the following cities:

Perth Local Committee. Michael Sterling, Peter Milton, Steve Balfour and Barry O'Connor met to discuss holding more meetings in 2015 - 2016 with the objective of promoting rail projects and policy in WA as its focus. They hope to achieve three networking meetings in the next year and have proposed new field trips, which should be very popular.

The **Melbourne Local Committee** consisting of Victorian champion, Warwick Kinscher, together with Daniel Cassar, Esther Warren and Christina Young will be planning future events for Victoria. They are eager to achieve or exceed the KPI's of the WA committee.

Hot on their heels is the **Brisbane Local Committee** consisting of Kylie Huth, (Queensland champion), Barry Renaud, Rebecca Delahaye and David Stock.

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PLASSER AUSTRALIA UPGRADES TO PREMIER CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Plasser Australia has committed to a major boost in its support for the RTAA by upgrading to the Premier level of membership.



The first 09-2X Dynamic tamping machine of five (5) tamper/regulator consists goes into operation on Aurizon's heavy haul coal network in Central Queensland.

"We have decided to increase our patronage of the RTAA because it not only represents good value for money but because it is also the only rail industry organisation that is heavily dedicated to rail track and infrastructure on a national scale", says Allan Logan, Plasser Australia's National Sales and Marketing Manager.

"It is the most relevant association for our business focus", says Allan. "The RTAA has been very effective in raising its national profile by reaching out to the industry through, for example, its very successful field days, networking events and the new website".

The RTAA appreciates Plasser's support over many years and looks forward to continuing a strong and lengthy relationship.



RTAA WELCOMES NEW PREMIER CORPORATE MEMBER

The RTAA welcomes its new premier member, Zhuzhou CRRC Times Electric Co. Ltd, which is a subsidiary company of CRRC and was listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange in 2006. Founded in 2012, it was the largest rolling stock propulsion system manufacturer in the world in 2014.

Zhuzhou CRRC Times Electric mainly engages in application and engineering research of electric traction technology, industrial and civilian converter technology. It designs and manufactures electrical control equipment for electric locomotives, diesel locomotives, rapid transit vehicles, passenger cars as well as track machine vehicles. These products are extensively used in the fields of railway, rapid transit, power and so on.

Zhuzhou CRRC Times Electric has enhanced its professional position in the field of electric drive and control systems, by being an international supplier of choice in these fields.

CRRC Times Electric Australia Pty Ltd is dedicated to providing high-end railway equipment, such as the propulsion system and track machine vehicles for the Australian market.

MEET OUR AWARD WINNER

At the Australasian Rail Industry Awards dinner on 9 July 2015 in Sydney, the RTAA was proud to present our Frank Franklyn Young Rail Specialist Achievement Award to Hassan Boussi, Project Manager, Sydney Trains, Major Works Division. Hassan won for his submission – 'The Granville Bridge Renewal Project'.



Hassan Boussi accepts his Frank Franklyn Award

"My submission detailed my involvement in the successful renewal of an 86-year old, 33-metre long, 4-track railway bridge over one of Sydney's busiest arterial roads - Parramatta Road at Granville.

The Granville Bridge Renewal Project was completed during a 5-day track shutdown from 26-30 December 2014. The Sydney Trains Major Works Civil team replaces around four railway bridges per year. A typical bridge renewal occurs over a 2-day shutdown and replaces two tracks. These are challenging projects and become even more challenging when a bridge spans a major arterial road. There are only a few opportunities each year – at Easter and Christmas - to undertake a major bridge renewal, as they require more than a 2-day shutdown. Bridge renewals undertaken between Christmas and New Year's Eve require precise planning, excellent risk management and a robust methodology as the new bridge must be operational for New Year's Eve when large crowds travel into the city.

With bridge renewals, every minute counts. Pre-work and pre-fabrication are key time-savers. To reduce the risk of late handback of the line, the new bridge is pre-built at a staging site using simulated bridge abutments. Once demolition of the old bridge is completed, thousands of pre-fabricated concrete and steel components are transported to the site, lifted into position by cranes and secured. The weather is also a crucial factor.

My submission detailed the planning, design, scope, methodology and construction program of the Granville Bridge Renewal Project to illustrate my ability to effectively project manage such a large and complex project to achieve a successful outcome.

I would like to especially thank Sydney Trains Project Delivery Manager Civil, Glen Xuereb, who has had a considerable influence on my development. Without Glen's mentoring, trust and encouragement, I would not have applied for this award."

Hasson has won travel costs and attendance to a major overseas rail exhibition / conference worth up to \$10,000 and is intending to travel to Innotrans Berlin in 2016 as part of his prize



Rebecca Want, Howard Collins and Bridgette Byrne on the panel

WOMEN IN RAIL FORUM 2015

The message is clear – including more women in the Australian rail workforce is not just a positive exercise in diversity and inclusion – it is a good business proposition.

With over 170 people attending from across the rail community, the RTAA's Forum – *The Business Case for Women in Rail* – generated a great deal of interest. Held in Sydney on 23 July, attendees included track workers, train guards, managers, senior executives and CEOs.

Downer's Ross Spicer set the scene with an overview of the (less than ideal) state of the rail industry. With an ageing workforce and just 17% participation by women, the current profile is not ideal. He then illustrated the journey Downer is following to increase diversity and inclusion within the organisation and outlined a number of innovative strategies that will be led by the newly appointed Diversity Manager.

Michael Harmer's speech hit the mark with the audience with his personal and compelling account on how valuing women in the workforce results in a win-win situation for both the individual and the company. His experiences in the male dominated legal field can be echoed in the rail industry and Harmer's Workplace Lawyers provided an example to all.

Kathy Kostyrko, Director of Hays, presented attendees with the findings of recent gender diversity research. The results from her report highlighted the often unconscious gender bias found when hiring applicants.

This was followed by a panel consisting of Howard Collins, CEO Sydney Trains, Bridgette Byrne of Asciano Pacific National and Rebecca Want, Director Customer Strategy, North West Rail Link, Transport for NSW. The panel answered questions fired at them by Troy Roderick, Head of Diversity and Inclusion, Telstra, as well as by members of the audience. It became clear that addressing this issue is the responsibility of the whole of the rail industry, beginning at the highest levels.

The RTAA will be distributing a follow-on publication highlighting some of these issues and show-casing women in rail. If you would like to join our mailing list for this publication, please contact secretary@rtaa.org.au

MELBOURNE NETWORKING MEETING

Our RTAA Melbourne networking meeting was one of the best attended yet. We had over 65 participants, which is testament to the high quality speakers and some great local promotion. In our efforts to work collaboratively with other rail organisations, at least six people were from IRSE, another six were from RTSA, and at least seven were women. Rhys Fraser invited colleagues from Young Transport Professionals.

Guest speaker, Andrew Cole's presentation was very well received. He described how studies are showing that Melbourne's population will double by 2050; that more and more people are looking to the CBD for both work and cultural reasons; and that, to survive, Melbourne's rail network will have to embrace metro principles. The Melbourne Metro Rail Project aims to link the western lines with the south-eastern lines in a metro-style system using two 9 km tunnels running from Kensington Junction, in the north-west of the city, to Yarra Junction in the south-east, past five underground stations and traversing the city from north to south under Swanston Street. Planning has commenced and all necessary approvals are expected by 2017. At this time, tunnel-boring will begin, followed by civil and structural works, track-laying, wiring and signalling. The project expects to be commissioned in 2026 – a major infrastructure project by anyone's standards.

Andrew Bressanutti, the RTAA's Frank Franklyn Award Winner from 2013 followed with a wrap-up of his prize-winning trip to Europe and InnoTrans in 2014. Andrew's unassuming and laid-back style was a hit with everyone attending, and he did a great job promoting the opportunity which this award offers to young rail professionals.

Thanks to our valued sponsors for the evening: Kennards Hire Rail, Aben Technical Services and Finlease



RTAA ESTABLISHES DIVERSITY IN RAIL AWARD FOR 2016

The RTAA has passed a resolution at the last Management Committee Meeting to establish a Diversity in Rail Award in 2016. This followed a proposal to establish a women in rail award being widened to include diversity as a broader perspective and inclusive of gender, culture, Indigenous communities and other groups.

The RTAA is developing the framework for the award and will promote this via the website and other forums soon.



A more connected network of young transport professionals

Young Transport Professionals (YTP) has been established to provide a forum for young people interested in rail and related transport industries. With input from the Australasian Railway Association (ARA), group members represent a diversity of transport-related companies including MTM, Bombardier, Arup, V/Line, PTV and many others.

Members are encouraged to attend forums hosted by the YTP which include guest speakers from across the industry. This includes experienced professionals sharing their insights, through to younger members who wish to present on topics relevant to the group. The YTP also provides fantastic networking opportunities by hosting social events throughout the year.

YTP aims to promote the industry as a great place for young people to develop their careers, while building their networks. YTP encourages its members to make the most of the opportunities available to them and become part of a group dedicated to growth and development.

The YTP has been predominately based in Victoria but is looking to expand and is calling out to young enthusiastic transport professionals to join. They are also looking for representatives from other states.

To join or learn more about the group simply visit the website at www.YoungTransportPro.com

2015 NATIONAL INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT INITIATIVE

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACROSS ALL INDUSTRY



FUNDING GRANTS FOR WOMEN IN THE TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SECTOR

In 2015, Women & Leadership Australia is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across all sectors.

From July 1, the initiative will provide women in the transport and logistics sector with grants for leadership development. More specifically, grant applications are open to women employed in the transport and logistics sector at two levels:

1. **Senior Management** and executive level women leaders can apply for \$12,000 Individual grants to undertake the [Advanced Leadership Program](#).
2. **Women Managers** can apply for \$4,500 Individual grants to undertake the [Accelerated Leadership Performance Program](#).

Expressions of Interest including scholarship grant application forms are on the website. Or, to discuss the initiative in more detail, contact Ian Johnson at the office of the National Industry Scholarship Program, Australian School of Applied Management on 03 9270 9000 or via ijohnson@asam.edu.au

RTAA Networking Meetings in 2015 – Save the dates

Adelaide Networking Meeting: 3 September

All members are welcome to join the IRSE and other rail bodies who have come together for this event.

Newcastle Networking Meeting: 9 September

Our guest speaker will be Graham Oliver - Track Maintenance, Fortescue Metals Group on the topic of *Formula 1 Pitstop – Turnout installations in a busy heavy haul environment*. Thanks to our sponsors for this event:



Brisbane Networking Meeting: 7 October

You are invited to hear Helder Peguicha, MBR Rail Systems Manager speak on the topic of the Moreton Bay Rail Line Project.

Out thanks go to sponsors:



RTAA to participate in the largest rail industry event in Australasia!



Thousands of rail professionals and leaders from government, engineering, manufacturing and operations will gather in Melbourne on 24 – 26 November 2015 for AusRAIL PLUS 2015, the largest event of its kind.

Staged at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre, the rail event will present a comprehensive agenda from 120 senior level speakers and present the latest innovations from over 450 exhibitors.

The RTAA will again be presenting Technical Stream papers over the course of the conference. Peter Milton has the unenviable task as our Chief Technical Reviewer, heading the Review Team consisting of David Bull, Kylie Huth, Jim Mahood, Rebecca Want, David Stump, Julian Sharp, Lachlan Daniel and Duncan McLeod. The Review Team will select 12 for our four sessions of three speakers respectively. The chairpersons of these sessions will be: David Bainbridge, David Bull and Warwick Kinscher. We thank our volunteer team for their efforts

Come and join us at the RTAA technical Stream and our AGM breakfast on 25 November commencing at 7.30am.

