



AGENDA

For the Annual General Meeting for 2020

Welcome

Apologies

Minutes of the Previous AGM in 2019

Financial Statements

J L N Southern Award

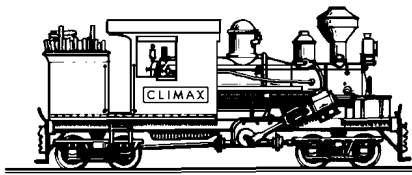
President's Report

Election of the Office-Bearers

General Business

Call for any items of general business relevant to the AGM

Close the AGM 2020



LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Incorporated Association A14384U

ABN 27 859 154 705

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held On: Thursday, 8th August, 2019 AD.

Venue: Ashburton Uniting Church Hall, Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, Victoria

Commenced: 8:23pm **Chairman:** William L. (Bill) Hanks (President)

Present: 19 members **Apologies:** Rod Smith, John Dennis, Andrew Hennell.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the 2018 AGM were read by the Hon Secretary, Phil Rickard. Moved by P.Rickard, Seconded by P.Evans, that the Minutes be accepted; Carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Hon Treasurer, Colin Harvey presented the Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2019, including Statement of Income and Expenditure, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Cash Flows. It was Moved by C.Harvey, Seconded by S.Moorhead that the said report be accepted. Carried.

JLN Southern Award: The Sixth annual awarding of the J L N Southern Award, to recognise the best article published in *Light Railways* each year, took place. The judging panel, composed of Dr Ruth Kerr, Roderick Smith and David Whiteford declared the winner of the award for the calendar year 2018 to be Mike McCarthy for his fascinating two-part article on the original construction of the Torrumbarry Weir in the 1920s, its workforce, tramways and locomotives. Mike, expressing surprise, gave a short speech of thanks.

President's Report: Bill Hanks presented his 29th Presidential Report. The main points being: **Membership numbers** of 663 were slightly down on previous year's 677, highlighting difficult financial times, changing interests and an ageing membership. Conversely, **Light Railways magazine** continues to be well supported, article- and news-wise and is selling well at the newsagents. Bill paid tribute to the many people who keep the society going. **During the year**, Chief Editor Richard Warwick has been ably assisted by Frank Stamford and Mike McCarthy; Peter Evans looked after Field Reports, Stuart Thyer supervised the Research section, Andrew Webster looked after Heritage and Tourism and Chris Hart was in charge of Industrial Railway News. All have put in another good year's work. The electronic pdf LR magazine is proving successful with both Overseas and Australian members— our thanks to John Dennis for his untiring work in this direction. LR printing costs are stable in a very competitive market which has help allow the subscription rate to stay unchanged again, for the 13th year. However, postage costs continue to be a worry – they have just risen again. **In the Online** world we have an e-mail discussion group at Groups IO, though the recently opened Facebook page is now attracting more interest, quickly growing to over 1200 members. A recent half-price campaign to recruit some of those electronic adherents to actual membership was not very successful. On the **Victorian Tour's** front Simon Moorhead continues to find interesting places for us to visit – in November we went to the Stawell district and visited a number of interesting sites and the museum. **The interstate groups** in NSW, Qld and SA continue to be well supported. **Sales Dept;** John Dennis has ably run the Sales Dept, with storage and despatch being done by Bill Hanks, though it has been a quiet year. A pleasing event during the year was the awarding of an OAM to the society's founder Frank Stamford.

Bill finished with a timely observation that the society's future is in doubt – downward membership, ageing membership, less interest in history by a rising generation, difficulty in recruiting committee members, difficulty in recruiting members for various other tasks;

"Perhaps the great interest in railway history in general and light railways in particular has past its zenith."

A full copy of the President's timely and illuminating report and the Treasurer's report will be available for viewing or downloading through the society's website in due course.

It was moved by M.McCarthy, Seconded by D.Mickle, that the President's report be accepted. Carried.

Election of Office Bearers: The President declared all positions vacant and, in his capacity as an Ordinary member, duly advised that there was only one nomination for the position of President and declared W.L. (Bill) Hanks re-elected for another term. Bill re-assumed the position of chairman and read out the nominations for Council positions – Vice-president: Michael McCarthy; Secretary: Phil Rickard; Treasurer: Colin Harvey. As there was only one nomination for each of the three mentioned positions, all were duly declared elected. Committee Persons, nominations: John Dennis, Peter Evans, Richard Warwick, Frank Stamford OAM. As the number of nominations – four – did not exceed the number of vacant committee-person positions – five – the Chairman declared all nominees elected. There is still one vacancy on council.

General Business: The Chairman called for any General Business and received no response from the floor. The Chairman called for any Other Matters arising from the AGM and again received no response.

Meeting Closure : At 8:47pm, there being no other business to be transacted, the Chairman (the President, W L Hanks, declared the meeting closed. The Bi-Monthly Entertainment Meeting then commenced.

President's Report 2019/2020

I am pleased to be able to present my 30th Presidential Report for the Light Railway Research Society of Australia, this one being for the year 2019-2020.

"LIGHT RAILWAYS" our flagship publication, saw issues No.268 to No.273 published, containing 272 pages in total. Two issues contained 40 pages and four issues had 48 pages. The additional pages in those four issues were to help clear a backlog of articles sent in by the various authors.

"LIGHT RAILWAYS" Editor Richard Warwick and the editorial team have maintained the very high standard they strive for. To Richard and his Associate Editors Mike McCarthy, Frank Stamford and Phil Rickard, Field Reports Editor Peter Evans, Industrial Railway News Editor Chris Hart, Research Editor Stuart Thyer and Heritage & Tourism Editor Andrew Webster, I thank you all for your efforts throughout the year.

The cover price of "LIGHT RAILWAYS" has again remained unchanged due to low inflation and very competitive printing costs. With four issues containing an extra eight pages, it represents very good value for our members.

At the end of the 2019-2020 financial year we had a total of 663 members, ten more than last year. Our mailing list shows that 693 copies of "LIGHT RAILWAYS" are sent to 662 members, 12 Honorary Members and 19 libraries or exchanges.

The subscription rate for hard copies remains at \$48.00, and \$27.50 for electronic copies. Thank you to Andrew Hennell for managing the membership records.

The former LRRSA Yahoo Discussion Group has evolved into Groups.io, but has largely been superseded by the Light Railways of Australia Facebook page, which currently has 1866 members. Thank you to John Dennis, Mike McCarthy, Frank Stamford and John Browning, the moderators of our Facebook page.

During the year we published two new books, the revamped Rails to Rubicon by Peter Evans and Beneath the Peak of Lyell by Ross Mainwaring. There are currently 17 new books in various stages of production. I thank our Publications Officer Frank Stamford for his efforts during the year as well as the other people who carry out the proof reading, scrutinising and other activities required to publish books.

Book sales for the year was 678 orders valued at \$38200, more than twice the number of last year and nearly three times the value. One reason for this increase was the publication of two new books. Then there was the COVID19 restrictions that came into force on 23 March 2020, which greatly increased the orders for April, May and June.

Thank you to John Dennis for maintaining both the website and the online shop, with Bill Hanks managing the storage of sales stock, packing and dispatch of orders.

The seventh JLN Southern Award for the most outstanding article/s published in LIGHT RAILWAYS during 2019 was again judged by Dr Ruth Kerr, Roderick Smith and David Whiteford. On behalf of the Council I thank them all very much for the time and effort, to complete this task. The winner of the award for 2019 will be announced at the AGM.

Our society at the end of the financial year is again in a financially sound. This situation allows us to continue producing publications well into the future.

I thank our Secretary Phil Rickard for handling the society's correspondence and the ongoing analysis of membership trends.

Thank you to our Treasurer Colin Harvey for managing the many aspect of the society's finances.

Public Liability Insurance has been increased to \$20M, and insurance for all our sales stock is very similar.

During November 2019, Simon Moorhead conducted a tour of the Castlemaine and Maldon area that was well attended. Thank you Simon for your efforts.

Towards the end of 2019 we first heard about The Corona Virus, that arrived in Australia during the first few months of 2020. With the implementation of restrictions, its impact on the LRRSA meant that we could not hold Council meeting or members meetings. Fortunately we soon learnt about Zoom conferencing, which allowed Council meetings to still be held. In June we we able to hold a members Online Zoom meeting for the first, that was attended by 48 members from a wide area of Australia including one for the United Kingdom. This meeting was considered a success and there are plans to hold. Ore in the future.

Thank you to Bob Gough for organising the Southeast Queensland meetings.

Thank you to Jeff Moonie for organising New South Wales Division meetings. also thank you to Ross Mainwaring the Treasurer.

Thank you to Les Howard in South Australia for convening meetings in Adelaide.

In Western Australia thank you to our representative David Whiteford and thank you to Ken Milbourne our representative in Tasmania.

Finally thank you to Mike McCarthy, Phil Rickard, Colin Harvey, Frank Stamford, Richard Warwick, Peter Evans and John Dennis for for all they have contributed to the success of our society through the year.

The impact of COVID19 on the way we all go about our daily lives will effect us all for some months to come, maybe years. During the lockdown periods here in Victoria and varying restrictions in other states, the LRRSA has continued to conduct most of its activities, without too much trouble. Our online shop recently had its best month ever, not just because we published a few new books, but because of the uptake of online shopping in general. I feel that the LRRSA will continue to prosper into the foreseeable future.

Thank you.

W.L.(Bill) Hanks

President LRRSA (October 2020)

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

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
Year ended 30 June 2020

2019		<i>Notes</i>	2020
\$	Income		\$
30,995	Members' Subscriptions		28,215
16,576	Magazine Sales	1	16,309
14,659	Sale of publications		41,355
4,930	Interest		2,127
895	J L N Southern Award Fund revenue		643
0	Tours		100
52	Donations		20
68,107	Total Revenue		88,769
	Expenditure		
34,269	Magazine production		32,531
6,810	Members mailouts		6,763
8,070	Sales	1,2	28,986
2,269	Postage		9,882
2,804	Storage		2,804
1,385	Online shop fees		1,385
600	Advertising		512
449	Insurance of stock		449
15,577			44,018
1,430	Financial charges		1,878
826	Public liability insurance	3	1,234
33	Tours expenses		114
725	Meeting expenses		537
806	Administration costs		588
427	Web site maintenance		391
15	J L N Southern Award Fund expenditure		300
60,918	Total Expenditure		88,354
7,189	Surplus for year		415

1. Includes magazines transferred to sales stock.

2. \$8,569 unsalable stock written off.

3. Cover increased from \$10M to \$20M

All values net of GST

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
Year ended 30 June 2020

2019		2020
\$	Current Assets	\$
260,155	Cash	244,335
0	Debtors	3,332
40,754	Sales stock	58,901
913	Accrued interest	188
301,822	Total	306,756
	Non-current Assets	
0		0
301,822	Total Assets	306,756
	Current Liabilities	
20,284	Subscriptions in advance	24,015
0	Prepublication book sales	1,230
674	Creditors	232
20,958	Total	25,477
0	Non-current Liabilities	0
20,958	Total Liabilities	25,477
280,864	Net Assets	281,279
273,675	Accumulated Funds at start of year	280,864
7,189	Surplus	415
280,864	Accumulated Funds at end of year	281,279
32,826	J L N Southern Award Fund	33,097
248,038	General accumulated funds	248,182
280,864		281,279

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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended 30 June 2020

		\$
Cash at Start of Year		<u>260,155</u>
Subscriptions	31,947	
Receipts from customers	55,091	
Payments to suppliers	(106,054)	
Interest on investments	2,799	
J L N Southern Award Fund receipts	697	
J L N Southern Award Fund expenditure	(300)	
Nett increase (decrease) in cash held		(15,820)
Cash at End of Year		<u>244,335</u>

All values net of GST

2019 JLN Southern award

Judges Report

The award is now a well-established part of LRRSA's activities. It is timely to remind members of the man, his legacy to the wider hobby, and his legacy to LRRSA.

John Louis Noel Southern (known as JLN Southern in bylines, and Jack to his friends) was born in 1914, and lived in East Kew (Melbourne, Vic.). While still a schoolboy, he developed a lifelong interest in railways, starting with VR and its locomotive engineering (helped by having work experience there during his university years). He graduated in metallurgical engineering from Melbourne University, and went to work with Electrolytic Zinc at Rosebery (Tas.). This broadened his interests to industrial railways. He became a proficient and prolific photographer. In 1938, he took a position with Australian Iron & Steel at Port Kembla (NSW), and remained there until retiring in 1975.

In the early 1960s, he was a regular contributor to ARHS 'Bulletin', mainly letters expanding on steam-loco articles written by others. His early contributions included articles on the Whitfield line, Tullah Tramway and Wogan Valley railway, plus some on steam locos. He continued his interest in industrial and mining railways, and authored many articles and books on the subject, particularly on those in the Illawarra region (NSW). Two such:

- * 'History of iron making in Australia'.

- * A 'Railway history of the Illawarra'.

He joined LRRSA shortly after its formation, and wrote occasional letters, expanding on articles by others. As his health deteriorated, he passed his collection of books and photographs to LRRSA, with the proceeds of sale to be applied to the establishment of an award for authors of industrial-railway history.

Council established the JLN Southern Award, with the following criteria:

Primary (1500 word minimum is essential):

- * Research is substantially original which makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge of light or industrial railways.

- * Material is well presented and appropriately referenced.

- * Work is of a high standard and readability and interest to the audience.

- * An examination, if relevant, of the broader context of where, when and why the railway operated.

Secondary:

- * The use of maps and diagrams.

- * The use of photographs and other illustrative material.

The Judges reported:

It is an honour to be selected as part of the judging panel of three, but it is also a big responsibility. Panellists have been selected to cover a diverse range of research, publishing and statistical skills: we complement each other. To be independent, we can't be article contributors ourselves. Way before

Covid19 hit our way of life, panellists have come together from different states and regions via email.

This year (published or completed in 2019) has been yet another good one for the quality of articles, the diverse range of topics, and the publishing standards of 'Light Railways'. All articles have been rewarded already by having the editor include them. All have offered valuable insights into light-railway history, and to wider Australian history. All have helped 'LR' stand high in the world of Australian history resources, bringing our hobby to a wider audience.

In the founding years of VLRRS, 'LR' was based on VR narrow gauge (timber and mining/industrial), plus horse and cable tramways. The scope widened with the 1968 change to LRRSA; 'LR' has grown to cover a diverse range of light-railway uses across Australia (and occasionally nearby islands): timber, sugar, mining plus many other industrial applications, plus the technology supporting them. Production and research standards have risen continuously. Along the way, many philosophies have become important: the railway serves an economic role, and was established to serve a purpose, and was operated in the context of an era, by people who were part of that era. Covering the industry and the era are just as important as the 'nuts & bolts'. The criteria for the award are based on those principles. We do read all articles, then narrow to a shortlist, then refine that to the award winner. That can often require several rounds of consultation, as the major articles are usually very close when rated.