



AGENDA

For the Annual General Meeting for 2023

Welcome

Apologies

Minutes of the Previous AGM in 2022

Treasurer's Report

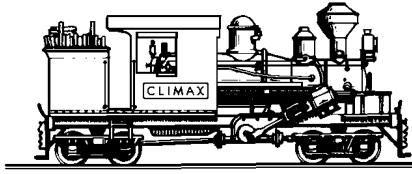
J L N Southern Award

President's Report

Election of the Office-Bearers

General Business

Call for any items of general business relevant to
the AGM Close the AGM 2023



LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Incorporated Association A14384U

ABN 27 859 154 705

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held On: Thursday, 11th August, 2022 AD.

Venue: Conducted in cyberspace via Zoom®

Commenced: 8:07pm AET (Melbourne time)

Chairman: W. L. (Bill) Hanks, (President)

Present: 45 members

Apology/ies: Nick Sheridan, Mike McCarthy.

Minutes of Previous AGM: Minutes of the 2021 AGM, as compiled by the Hon Secretary, P. Rickard, are available for members on the society's web site as previously advised and are taken as read. Moved by P.Rickard, Seconded by P.Evans, that the Minutes be accepted; **Carried.**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report compiled by the Hon Treasurer, Colin Harvey for the Year Ended 30 June 2022, are available for members on the society's web site as previously advised and are taken as read. Includes the Statement of Income and Expenditure, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Cash Flows. Moved by C.Harvey, Seconded by J.Dennis that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

JLN Southern Award: The Ninth 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, David Whiteford and Roderick Smith declared the winner of the award for the calendar year 2021 to be John Browning for 2-part article *The Luggage Point Tramway, Brisbane* that appeared in *Light Railways* No. 276 and 280. John, greatly surprised, gave a short speech of thanks.

President's Report: Bill Hanks presented his 32nd Presidential Report. Some main points being:
Membership numbers of 689, a slight drop on last year's 705. On 1 January 2021 we introduced an electronic membership system called 'Wild Apricot' which eliminated an enormous amount of work that was previously done manually. Our thanks to Andrew Hennell for managing the membership records and Mike McCarthy for his maintenance of Wild Apricot. *Light Railways* magazine continues to be well supported, article- and news-wise and is still selling well at the newsagents – even better during Covid restrictions! All six issues were 48-pagers, rather than the normal 40 pages, effectively giving members an extra magazine for the year. 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, Mike McCarthy and Phil Rickard; Peter Evans looked after Field Reports, Chris Hart was in charge of Industrial Railway News and Andrew Webster looked after Heritage and Tourism news. All have put in another great 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 making this work seamlessly all the time, every time. **LR printing costs** are stable in a very competitive market which has helped allow the subscription rate to again stay unchanged. However, continual postage increases are a

worry, particularly in the parcels area. **In the Online** world the now well-established Facebook page is attracting great interest, quickly growing to over 3800 members, an increase of over 1000 from the previous year and largely supplanting our e-mail discussion group at Groups IO. We continue to seek ways to convert Facebook adherents to actual membership. On the **Victorian Tour's** front Simon Moorhead continues to look for interesting places for us to visit though Covid-19 has resulted in a hiatus for the last year or so. Hopefully, things will improve to allow us to resume this popular activity. **The interstate groups** in NSW, Qld and SA continue to be well supported. In NSW Jeff Moonie retired after 40 years as President, replaced by David Jehan. Thank you Jeff! **Sales Dept;** John Dennis has ably run the Sales Dept, with storage and despatch being done by Bill Hanks. Business is still brisk in sales due to Covid-19 restrictions and the publication of two **books** – David Fletcher's *Australia's Colourful American Locomotives* and David Jehan's *Tramways, Coconuts and Phosphate*. Sales of both are pleasing. Several more books are in the pipeline thanks to the outstanding efforts of Frank Stamford, our publications officer. Bill finished with a re-cap on **Covid19** and its effects on society operations. Council meetings have remained online via Zoom[®] and members' **entertainment meetings** similarly via Zoom[®], a move that has opened up our meetings to many times more members and friends than we used to get in our meeting hall and allowing presenters from across Australia to reach vastly larger audiences. In Qld, NSW and SA some members meetings have been able to be held and Bill thanked all interstate convenors for their untiring efforts in these difficult times. 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 N.Drake, Seconded by G.Maynard, 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:** Nick Sheridan; **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, Phil Rickard. As the number of nominations – five – equalled the number of vacant committee-person positions – five – the Chairman declared all nominees elected. It was noted that our secretary is resident in Sydney, showing the benefits of Zoom; opening up council to all members, where ever situated.

General Business: The Chairman called for any General Business and received no response. The Chairman called for any Other Matters arising from the AGM and received no response. The Chairman called for any Other Matters pertaining generally to the society and received no response.

Meeting Closure : At 8:32pm, 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 where several matters were discussed and finished with an interesting presentation by Tony Weston on "*Rail haulage in Australian underground metal mines.*", 56 members participating.

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LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA Inc
(A14384U ABN 27 859 154 705)
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
Year ended 30 June 2023

2022	Income	Notes	2023
\$			\$
28,766	Members' Subscriptions		26,678
18,085	Magazine Sales	1	20,677
64,436	Sale of publications		52,616
283	Interest		1,721
114	J L N Southern Award Fund		402
2	Donations		83
111,686	Total Revenue		102,177
Expenditure			
33,525	Magazine production		35,883
6,732	Members mailouts		7,222
44,074	Sales	1	33,211
13,228	Cost of goods		9,562
2,483	Postage		4,714
1,200	Storage		1,404
437	Online shop		1,298
536	Advertising		531
61,958	Insurance of stock		50,720
2,912	Financial charges		1,895
1,242	Public liability insurance		1,347
180	Meeting expenses		460
2,599	Administration costs		3,285
391	Web site maintenance		418
300	J L N Southern Award Fund		300
69	Other		91
109,908	Total Expenditure		101,621
1,778	Surplus for year		556

1. Includes magazines transferred to sales stock.
All values net of GST

LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA Inc
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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
Year ended 30 June 2023

2022		2023
\$	Current Assets	\$
279,095	Cash	282,951
142	Debtors	36
5,729	Prepayments	2,836
48,364	Sales stock	54,334
8,045	Publication in preparation	0
0	Software	929
188	Accrued interest	1,511
341,563	Total	342,597
	Non-current Assets	
3,368	Software	1,510
344,931	Total Assets	344,107
	Current Liabilities	
22,430	Subscriptions in advance	21,289
239	Creditors	0
22,669	Total	21,289
	Non-current Liabilities	
0		0
22,669	Total Liabilities	21,289
322,262	Net Assets	322,818
320,484	Accumulated Funds at start of year	322,262
1,778	Surplus	556
322,262	Accumulated Funds at end of year	322,818
32,754	J L N Southern Award Fund	32,856
289,508	General accumulated funds	289,962
322,262		322,818

LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC

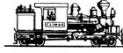
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended 30 June 2023

	\$
Cash at Start of Year	<u>279,095</u>
Subscriptions	25537
Receipts from customers	72743
Payments to suppliers	(94,925)
Interest on investments	719
J L N Southern Award Fund receipts	82
J L N Southern Award Fund expenditure	(300)
Nett increase in cash held	3,856
Cash at End of Year	<u>282,951</u>

All values net of GST



President's Report 2022/2023

I am pleased to present my 33rd Presidential Report for the Light Railway Research Society of Australia, this one being for the year 2022-2023.

“LIGHT RAILWAYS” magazine, saw issues No.286 to No.292 published, all of which contained 48 pages. In total 288 pages of light railway history. Again, all the additional pages have been necessary to enable submitted articles to be published in a timely manner. I thank all authors for submitting their excellent articles for publication in LIGHT RAILWAYS.

“LIGHT RAILWAYS” Editor Richard Warwick and the editorial team have maintained a very high standard that is appreciated by all readers. To Richard and his Associate Editors Mike McCarthy, Frank Stamford and Phil Rickard, Field Report's Editor Peter Evans, Industrial Railway News Editor Chris Hart, Research Editor Stuart Thyer and Heritage & Tourism Editor Andrew Webster, thank you for your efforts throughout the year. Thanks also to Bruce Belbin for laying out LIGHT RAILWAYS for printing.

The cover price of “LIGHT RAILWAYS” again remains as it has been for the last decade, mainly due to the competitive nature of the publishing business

At the end of the 2022-2023 financial year we had a total of 674 members, 15 less than at the same time last year.

Our mailing list shows that 694 copies of “LIGHT RAILWAYS” are sent to our members in both print and electronic versions, with some members taking both versions. “LIGHT RAILWAYS” remains available on the newsstands and other outlets and is also sent to a number of libraries and historical societies. The subscription rate for hard copies remains at \$48.00 and \$27.50 for electronic copies.

Our electronic membership system “Wild Apricot” has functioned well during this past year. Thank you to Mike McCarthy for his maintenance of the system. Thank you also to Andrew Hennell for managing membership matters and his use of the electronic system

The Light Railways of Australia Facebook Group, member numbers continue to grow with around 5400 members. Thank you to John Dennis, Mike McCarthy, Frank Stamford and John Browning the moderators of our Facebook Group.

During the 2022/23 year we published one new book, Wooden Rails & Green Gold by Peter Evans.

I thank our Publications Officer Frank Stamford as well as all the people who carry out the various activities needed to publish a book.

Sales orders for the year was 612 orders compared to the previous years end total of 542. The total value of sales was \$43,951 compared to \$40,283 the previous year, which is a moderate improvement on the previous year, as the economy crawls out the period of the Covid epidemic.

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 eighth JLN Southern Award for the most outstanding article/s published in LIGHT RAILWAYS during 2022 was awarded to John Browning for his two-part article about the Luggage Point Tramway of Brisbane/

The 10th JLN Southern Award was again judged by Dr Ruth Kerr, Roderick Smith and David Whiteford. On behalf of the Council, thank very much for the time and effort, you have devoted to this task. The winner of the award for 2022 will be announced during this AGM.

Our society at the end of the 2021/22 financial year is again in a very sound position. Whilst membership subscriptions cover the cost of producing LIGHT RAILWAYS and mail outs, our financial reserves are there to publish more books. The time will come when the services needed to publish our books that are currently performed by volunteers will have to be outsourced and that is when our cash reserves will need to be draw on.

I thank Colin Harvey our Treasurer, for managing the society's finances. Colin has held this position for well over thirty years.

Online Member's Entertainment Meeting have again been hugely successful. With presenters scheduled more than twelve months in advance of a meeting. Thank you to Mike McCarthy for arranging these Zoom meetings and scheduling presenters.

During November 2021, Simon Moorhead with the assistance of Peter Evans. Thank you, Simon and Peter.

Throughout 2022/2023, all Council meetings have been conducted using Zoom online conferencing. Society business has been conducted reliably this way.

The Southeast Queensland meetings due to a lack of attendees, unfortunately had to cease.

The New South Wales Division Sydney meetings, have been organised by David Jehan. Thank you very much David for the effort you put in organising the Sydney meetings and other activities. I also thank Ross Mainwaring, the Treasurer of the NSW Division

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

In Western Australia thank you to our representative David Whiteford.

It was with much sadness that learnt of the passing of Ken Milbourne, who for many years had been our representative in Tasmania.

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

For some time now those of us on the Council have recognised that we are all getting on in years and most of us are retirees. Whilst we enjoy our various roles, it may not be too long before some of us will decide to retire from Council. Unless we can recruit other members to replace us, to continue the publication of LIGHT RAILWAYS and other books, your society may not last much beyond 2030.

Thank you.

W.L.(Bill) Hanks
President LRRSA (August 2023)