



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 2022/23 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.

In November 2022, Simon Moorhead conducted the first post-COVID tour to Timboon 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)