



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

RTSA

Railway Technical Society of Australasia

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
06 SEPTEMBER 2008.**

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL ISSUES DISCUSSED

- STORE2009** A Study Tour on Railway Engineering (STORE) is being organised for members by the New South Wales Chapter. It is proposed to visit railways in South – East Asia in March 2009 and, as details are developed, the information will be promulgated to all members.
- Membership of the RTSA** In response to the receipt of recent queries on the issue, it is confirmed that there is no constitutional requirement for a member of the RTSA to become a member of Engineers Australia. However professional engineers are encouraged to become members of EA.
- Metro Symposium** Good progress has been made with regards to the arrangements for the technical Symposium on Metros that is to be held in the Sydney Customs House on Wednesday 12th November 2008. An assembly of excellent speakers both from overseas and locally has been identified to make presentations at the Symposium and registration has been opened. Interested members are urged to register soon to avoid disappointment.
- Young Members** The Executive Committee is anxious to attract young people to join the RTSA and, in this regard, a number of new initiatives are being considered.
- Succession Planning** Actions continue to be pursued by the Executive to address the important topic of succession planning, both at Executive and Chapter Level. The NSW Chapter in particular has been very successful in attracting several new members to its Chapter Committee all of whom are under the age of thirty five.
- Eminent Speaker Tour** The Eminent Speaker Tour conducted by Mr. Andrew McCusker, the Operations Director of the Hong Kong MTR Corporation, has proven to be an unqualified success and, although Hong Kong may be perceived to be a special case, there are lessons to be learnt by the railways of Australasia from its experience

CORE2008	Although the meeting of the Executive took place just before the opening of CORE2008, it has to be recorded that the Conference was a huge success in every way and the organisers are to be congratulated on the outcome of all their hard work over the past two years.
CORE2010	Arrangements for CORE2010, which will be held in Wellington New Zealand, between 12 th & 14 th September 2010, are moving ahead and progress reports will be made to members from time-to-time.
RTSA Business & Marketing Plans	A draft review of the RTSA Business Plan has been completed and it has been agreed that more work needs to be done to refine the document further before addressing the associated Marketing Plan.
RTSA History Book	The history book "The RTSA – The First Ten Years", authored by Dr. Philip Laird, was published just prior to CORE2008 and copies are available to all members of the RTSA at no cost
Awards	In 2009, awards will be offered in the categories of Railway Engineering Student Thesis, Contact Mechanics, Young Railway Engineer and Individual. Nominations for the first two categories will close on 28 th November 2008 and, for the other two categories, on 27 th February 2009. Consideration is to be given by the members of the Awards Sub-Committee as to the appropriateness of introducing a new category of award for post-graduate work.
Post Graduate Degree Courses	A number of universities now are offering post graduate degree courses in railway topics. The Central Queensland University offers a Signaling and Communication course, the University of Wollongong has a Master of Rolling Stock Engineering program and a Track and Infrastructure course has been introduced by the Queensland University of Technology.
Information Dissemination	The Executive is committed to explore opportunities designed to improve the dissemination of a variety of information to its members. One of the first initiatives will be to establish a template of railway related courses and seminars on the RTSA website