

NEWSLETTER No 10/2008



Railway Technical Society of Australasia
SA Chapter
Engineering House, Bagot Street
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

October 2008

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting – Thursday 6th November 2008

The next meeting of the RTSA South Australian Chapter will be held on **Thursday 6th November 2008**. This meeting will be held at the:

**Chapman Room, Engineers Australia,
Bagot Street, North Adelaide**
commencing at 5.30pm.

The topic of the meeting will be:

Adelaide Rail Revitalisation

and the presentation will be made by

Tim Warren
Project Director, Rail Revitalisation
DTEI

The South Australian Government has embarked upon a major programme of upgrade and renewal of Adelaide's public transport rail system. The key elements of the upgrade programme include:

- i) Track renewal and infrastructure upgrade
- ii) Station upgrade
- iii) Electrification
- iv) Gauge standardisation
- v) New electric rollingstock
- vi) Upgrade of the existing rollingstock
- vii) Relocation of the Adelaide Railcar Depot to allow the construction of the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Hospital
- viii) Extension of the Tram System to the Entertainment Centre



The program of work involves the largest investment in the Adelaide rail system for at least the past 50 years and will result in a public transport system that will benefit Adelaide for many years to come.

Tim Warren will talk about the varying aspects of this exciting initiative including the various scopes of work, the challenges to be faced in delivering such a vast project and the benefits to be achieved.

Light refreshments will be available before the presentation.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

Engineers Australia members are reminded that attendance at RTSA technical meetings contribute towards CPD requirements. Each RTSA technical meeting generally has a value of 1 CPD point.

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LAST MEETING

The last meeting was a presentation by the George Erdos, Senior Incident Investigator, Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

The topic of George's presentation was "**Derailment of Train 5MB7, Benalla Vic, 2 June 2006**".

The following executive summary provides a brief description of the incident. The full report may be found at the ATSB Website at:

www.atsb.gov.au

The meeting, excellently hosted by the IRSE, was attended by 53 members and visitors and Michael Forbes gave the Vote of Thanks.

Derailment of Train 5MB7, Benalla Vic, 2 June 2006

Executive Summary

At approximately 0644¹ on 2 June 2006, the crew of Interail freight service 5MB7 reported that their train had derailed while traversing the No. 3 points located at the Melbourne end of the Benalla crossing loop. Two locomotives and 19 wagons derailed, 16 wagons sustained major damage. Two track machines stabled in a cripple road² adjacent the crossing loop were heavily damaged. A Victorian Railway Institute Hall near the site also sustained severe structural damage.

There were no serious injuries to the crew of the locomotive or the operators of the track machines. The train drivers were however taken to hospital for observation and treated for shock. There is no evidence to suggest that there were any medical or toxicology

issues that affected the performance of either the driver or the co-driver.

There were no defects identified with the signalling system. The signalling system was regularly maintained in accordance with applicable maintenance standards and there was no history of signalling abnormalities.

As a result of its investigation the ATSB concluded that the factors which contributed to the derailment of train 5MB7 on the 2 June 2006 were:

- The driver was not expecting to cross a train at Benalla and thus assumed that he was being routed through the main line.
- The driver probably failed to correctly interpret and then respond to signal ES6377. As a result he was unable to slow the train to a safe speed for negotiating the facing points.
- The driver responded some 14 seconds beyond the available sighting point of No. 2 Signal. Had he responded earlier he could have slowed the train and potentially reduced the consequences of the derailment.
- Two-driver operation is a primary defence employed by Interail in guarding against unintended driver actions, the failure of the co-driver to look for and then validate/respond to the signal aspect displayed by signal ES6377 and No. 2 Signal was a clear breakdown in this defence and probably a contributing factor in the derailment.
- The driver and co-driver were both probably in a state of degraded arousal/vigilance when they passed signal ES6377 and while approaching No. 2 Signal.

Safety actions recommended include a review of crew resource management strategies, examination of mentoring responsibilities, and improving processes for the regular re-certification of drivers.

Chairman's Chatter – Duncan McLeod

RTSA's National Executive meeting, held in conjunction with the recent CORE conference in Perth, included a number of highlights, and decisions on important strategic directions for the organisation.

- 1 All times throughout this report are Eastern Standard Time (EST). As times from various sources differ marginally, all times have been referenced to the Adelaide CTC event logger then adjusted by 30 minutes to correct for EST.
- 2 Cripple Siding - The short section of track located off the Benalla crossing loop, used for storing disabled trains, rollingstock and track maintenance machines.

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At the associated Annual General Meeting, Martin Baggott succeeded Ravi Ravitharan as Executive Chairman. Our thanks go to Ravi for his tireless efforts during the two years in this role. The results of Ravi's leadership are reflected in the overall health of the organisation, a hugely successful CORE conference, the establishment of a Chapter in New Zealand, and record membership levels.



Photo – New Chairman Martin Baggott congratulates Past Chairman Ravi Ravitharan on his successful term as Chairman



Photo – Some of the newly elected members of the 2009 RTSA National Committee.

From Left: John Syers, Ravi Ravitharan (Past Chairman), John Dring, Martin Baggott (2009 Chairman), Andrew Honan, Robert Schweiger

We offer our support to Martin in taking these achievements forward to new levels.

Highlights from the Executive meeting included:

- Confirmation that professional engineers who are not members of Engineers Australia are encouraged to join.
- Details of a technical symposium on Metros, organised by the RTSA NSW Chapter, to be held in the Sydney Customs House on Wednesday 12 November. An assembly of excellent speakers both from overseas and locally has been arranged. Any interested interstate members are urged to register urgently, to avoid disappointment.
- Arrangements for CORE 2010, which will be held in Wellington New Zealand, from 12 – 14 September 2010, are moving ahead. Progress reports will be made to members from time to time.
- The Executive is committed to explore opportunities designed to improve the dissemination of information to members. One of the first initiatives will be to establish a template of railway related courses and seminars on the RTSA website.
- In 2009, RTSA 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 November 2008 and, for the other two categories, on 27 February 2009.
- An historical record book "RTSA – The First Ten Years", authored by Dr Philip Laird, was published just prior to CORE2008. Copies have been provided to all RTSA members at no cost.
- The Eminent Speaker Tour by Andrew McCusker, Operations Director of the Hong Kong MTR Corporation, was an unqualified success.

As can be seen, the RTSA is flourishing, with much recent and planned activity to benefit members.

- Arrangements for a Study Tour on Railway Engineering (STORE), being organised for RTSA members by the New South Wales Chapter. It is proposed to visit railways in South-East Asia during March 2009. As details are developed, the information will be notified to all members.

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2008 Annual General Meeting

The 2008 AGM will be held on Tuesday 25th November 2008. Formal notification of the meeting may be found below together with various reports.

The highlight of the meeting will be an address by David Marchant, CEO ARTC who will talk about: "Rail Challenges 2010 and Beyond."

The AGM will be held at the Hyde Park Tavern and the cost for the three course meal and drinks is \$39.00 per person.

Included with the Newsletter, please find a flyer for the AGM, the 2008 Office Bearer and Committee Nomination Form and the AGM 2008 Payment Form.

Notice of 2008 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the RTSA South Australian Chapter will be held on Tuesday 25 November 2008, at the Hyde Park Tavern, 187 King William Road, Hyde Park SA 5061, commencing at approximately 8:00pm.

Agenda:

- 1 Attendance
- 2 Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2007
- 3 Chapter Annual Report
- 4 Chapter Treasurer's Report
- 5 Receipt of nominations for, and election of Chapter Chair, Chapter Secretary, Chapter Treasurer, and committee members
- 6 General Business

Daniel Martucci
Secretary

Chairman's Annual Report for 2008

The RTSA SA Chapter is completing another successful year. Chapter meetings have featured quality presentations, with pleasing attendances. Our meeting programme this year comprised:

- 7 February: Site visit to the nearly-completed Port River rail bridge (joint meeting with, and hosted by, Permanent Way Institution).
- 6 March: Tony Simes, Senior Transport Safety Investigator, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, on the subject of ATSB's level crossing accident reduction strategy.
- 3 April: Proposed extension of the suburban Noarlunga line to Seaford, by Gareth Evans, Manager, Public Transport Investment and Planning, Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, Policy and Planning Division.
- 1 May: An address on railcar maintenance activities in Adelaide, presented jointly by Dave Carlton from Bombardier, and Brett Baker from TransAdelaide.
- 5 June: Presentation on the topical subject of the upgrade of TransAdelaide's Noarlunga and Belair lines, presented by Randall Barry (Acting General Manager TransAdelaide), and Charles Irving (Project Director, Rail Track Renewal). Held jointly with, and hosted by the Permanent Way Institution.
- 1 July: Presentation by Kevin Taylor, General Manager of the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB), on his organisation's objectives and business plans.
- 7 August: An innovative joint meeting with the mechanical engineer's SA Joint Technical Committee, and with Permanent Way Institution. The programme featured a presentation on Pacific National's new 92 class AC traction locomotives, by Graham Haywood from United Goninan. It is likely that a combined meeting with our mechanical colleagues will become an annual event.
- 3 September: RTSA's CORE Eminent Speaker, Andrew McCusker, Operations Director, Hong Kong MTR Corporation. Andrew spoke on "Delivering Sustainable City Transport".
- 2 October: Combined with and hosted by the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers, featuring an explanation by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau of their investigations into a serious derailment at Benalla, in which the signalling system

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became a specific focus of attention. The presentation was made by Chapter member George Erdos.

6 November: A presentation on the South Australian rail revitalisation programme, by Tim Warren, Project Director. Rail revitalisation covers a new railcar maintenance depot, infrastructure upgrading, and electrification.

Our annual dinner meeting on Tuesday 25 November features as keynote speaker David Marchant, CEO of the Australian Rail Track Corporation.

My thanks once again go to the Chapter Committee – the success of this year's programme is largely due to their efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge the award during the year of the Medal of the Order of Australia to John Adams. Award of the medal provides thoroughly deserved recognition of professional and wide ranging contributions to the railway engineering industry over many years.

On a sadder note, we also record the passing this year of enthusiastic Chapter member Ian Domleo. Ian's experience and wise counsel is greatly missed.

Duncan McLeod
SA Chapter Chairman

Request for Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are requested and are most welcome.

The exchange of the views by members of the issues that they see affecting the rail industry and the promotion of the achievements made both generally within the industry and by its members is to be encouraged. This requires your involvement.

There is plenty happening in the rail industry in South Australia. What are your views as to the proposed direction the industry is heading.

Please write your letters to the following address:

SAEditor@RTSA.com.au

Letters to the Editor

The Editor
RTSA SA Chapter

Over the years South Australia has built its own rolling stock for STA and SAR/VR. They made the "Red Hens",

"Bluebirds", the 2000 (Jumbo) Class by Comeng here in SA, the 3000 Class by Clyde Engineering was also assembled in SA. For those saying that Kilburn-Islington Railway Workshops can't build railcars today is totally incorrect. Transport SA – New trains can be built at Islington by private companies like Bluebird Rail, under license.

When you enquire around the world, you find just about every country is upgrading their public transport rolling stock and systems. Yet, Transport SA and TransAdelaide have not as yet made a submission to the Public Works Committee for new trains. This means that new trains for the Adelaide Network are at least 5 to 10 years away and that's using international companies.

The travelling public is screaming loud and clear about their discomforts. They are not happy and neither are some TransAdelaide drivers.

I remember that Ms Dianne Laidlaw, SA's Minister for Transport 2001/2002, wanted 31 trailing railcars to add to the 3000 Class railcars making them fixed three car sets. That proposal got shelved by the Government but if these cars had been made, it would have increased the seated passengers from 340 to 520 including room for 4 PMV wheelchairs or scooters, two at each end.

Ms Laidlaw also wanted to increase the 3000 Class fleet and that proposal was also shelved. If one asks if the above plans are available, the answer is NO. So I frankly have doubts that we will see new trains by 2012.

Yes, TransAdelaide is fixing the track and some stations. That's a start, but no toilets or ticket offices at Interchange Stations, I question that. We need these ticket offices in peak periods. At interchange stations like Smithfield and Gawler Central, toilets and ticket offices are either non-existent or they are permanently closed.

As I see it, our public transport systems are in tatters and have been for many years. If we don't do something about the situation within the next two years, and that requires a contract put in place immediately to refurbish and upgrade the existing railcars and build new trains, then I see services suspended for long periods of time as the rolling stock grinds to a stop.

We need mechanical ramps in our trains, the same as on the TransPerth trains. TransPerth also have conductors on board all trains and I strongly suggest that TransAdelaide should consider that option. Also TransAdelaide should consider upgrading and leveling platforms. PSA's are becoming rarer and never seen when required.

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Seeing that our public transport systems are at a bad state of repair, I suggest that the State Government should be consulting those private engineering companies at Islington such as Bluebird Rail Engineering. Leaving this matter to the last minute won't solve the problem.

Action speaks louder than words.

Regards

Colin Campbell
Smithfield Plains

RTSA NEW WEBSITE

The RTSA has launched its new website. The new website covers all of the RTSA Chapters and provides an improved layout highlighting future meetings and reports from past meetings.

It is well worth a look at and may be found at:

www.rtsa.com.au

MEETINGS FOR 2008

Future Speakers/Dates/Topics				
Date	Speaker	Organisation	Topic	Venue
6/11/2008	Tim Warren	DTEI	Adelaide Rail Revitalisation	Chapman Hall, ENG AUST, Bagot St North Adelaide
25/11/2008	David Marchant	ARTC	AGM with speaker topic - Rail Challenges 2010 and Beyond	Hyde Park Tavern
1-2/12/2008		ARA	AusRail	Melbourne

Note: Meeting topics and venues are subject to change. Please refer to future Newsletters for confirmation.

KEY RTSA CHAPTER COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman	Duncan McLeod	08 8338 7919
Treasurer	Michael Forbes	08 8217 4127
Secretary	Daniel Martucci	08 8204 8213
N/L Despatch	Steve Torok	08 8264 2552
N/L Editor	Stephen Townsend	0400 135 481

Articles or editorial comment for Newsletter are very welcome. We have over 100 members locally some of whom will have stories, events or developments of interest that could be reported in Newsletter.

Part of the function of RTSA is to keep members in touch with what is going on in the industry and with each other and to that end we are only too happy to publish items of interest.

Disclaimer

This Newsletter is a publication of the South Australian Chapter of the RTSA. The opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of the Chapter, Society or Editor.

Send copy to the Editor, Stephen Townsend at
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or fax to 08 8297 0992.

Electronic despatch of Newsletter is undertaken by Steve Torok – contact Steve on storok@tge.com.au if you have any problems receiving Newsletter electronically or in hard copy. Note that electronic subscribers will get their Newsletters and flyers as soon as the editorial work is done, while the hard copy mail will of course be some days slower.

For all other matters relating to RTSA SA Chapter contact Duncan McLeod (Chairman) at e-mail dmcLeod@aapt.net.au, or by phone on 08 8338 7919.

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RTSA South Australian Chapter 2007 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

- 1 **Open:** ~8:30pm
Apologies: M Shuard

2 **Chairman's report**

D McLeod's previously-circulated report was tabled. D Martucci moved that it be accepted, seconded by J Dring; motion carried.

3 **Treasurer's report**

M Forbes' previously-circulated report was tabled. M Forbes moved that it be accepted, seconded by G Erdos; motion carried.

4 **Nominations for 2008 Chapter Committee**

R Wyatt presided as Returning Officer over the nominations for the 2008 Chapter Committee. The following individuals were nominated for the relevant positions:

- **Chapter Chairman** - Duncan McLeod
- **Chapter Secretary** - Daniel Martucci
- **Chapter Treasurer** - Michael Forbes
- **Chapter Committee Members** - Tim Calver, John Dring, Bill Edmonds, Steve Torok, Rob Schweiger, Stephen Townsend

G Erdos moved that these nominations were accepted, seconded by D McLeod; R Wyatt pronounced the individuals duly elected.

5 **Release of 2008 General Meeting Program**

D McLeod discussed the proposed 2008 program, as abridged below:

Date	Topic
7/2/08(joint)	<i>Port River Development Project(including tour)</i>
6/3/08	Level Crossing Accident Strategy
3/4/08(joint)	<i>Seaford Extension</i>
1/5/08	<i>Bombardier Maintenance Activities in Adelaide</i>
5/6/08(joint)	<i>Upgrade of Noarlunga & Belair Lines</i>
3/7/08	<i>Relocation of Railcar Depot a/c new hospital</i>
12/8/07(joint)	<i>92 Class Locomotive</i>
2/10/08(joint)	<i>Benalla Signalling</i>

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	<i>Accident</i>
6/11/08	<i>South East Railway Upgrade Project</i>

6 **Close:** ~8:40pm

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RTSA - SA CHAPTER

Treasurer's Report to AGM November 2008

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

Income

2007 Annual Dinner income	\$4,189
2007-08 Chapter meeting funding	<u>\$2,000</u>
TOTAL Funds Available	<u>\$6,189</u>

Expenditure

2007 Annual Dinner expenditure	\$3,894
Chapter meetings	\$1,989
Deposit for Meeting 1 July 2008 - Gil Langley Room	\$375
Payment to PWI (for meetings to October 2007)	<u>\$873</u>
TOTAL Expenditure	<u>\$7,131</u>

Surplus **-\$942**

Note: -

Negative surplus incurred due to increase in meeting costs

