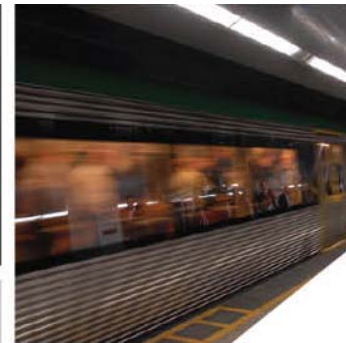


# RTSA SA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010 EDITION



**NEXT MEETING: “Lessons Learnt from Amending Wheel and Rail Profiles on the Defined Interstate Rail Network” – Pacific National & ARTC**

Joint meeting with the Mechanical Branch

**Item 1:** Special Presentation to Dr Ron Fitch in recognition of his recent **100<sup>th</sup> birthday** and the outstanding contribution he has made to the railway industry.

**Item 2:** Presentation by Carolyne Southern (Pacific National) and Nick Petticrew (ARTC). The presentation will discuss the development of new wheel and rail profiles for use on the standard gauge rail network, the problems that have been encountered since the introduction of the new profiles, and what processes will be utilised for further introduction of new profiles in the future.



## TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

### VENUE:

Engineers Australia  
Sir Robert Chapman  
Theatre  
Level 11  
108 King William St  
Adelaide

### DATE:

Thursday 5 August 2010

### TIME:

5.30pm (for 6.10pm start)

Light Refreshments to be provided.

The Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA)

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ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA  
RTSA



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## CHAPTER MEETINGS 2010

### Thursday 2 September

Joint IRSE, RTSA and PWI Meeting, topic TBC  
Gil Langley Room, Adelaide Oval

### Monday 27 September

Andrew McNaughton, Eminent Speaker CORE 2010  
Eminent Speaker Tour

### Tuesday 5 October (lunchtime meeting)

Joint IRSE, RTSA and PWI Meeting  
Paul Radmann, Thermit Australia

### Thursday 4 November

Port Adelaide Viaduct  
Ms Guillermina Perelmuter, DTEI

### Tuesday 30 November

RTSA AGM & Annual Dinner  
Lion Hotel, North Adelaide

### Publisher

This newsletter is a publication of the South Australian Chapter of the Railway Technical Society of Australasia. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of the Chapter, Society or Editor.

### Contributions

Contributions, including news, opinions, or letters to the editor, are always welcome. Send material by e-mail to [saeditor@rtsa.com.au](mailto:saeditor@rtsa.com.au)

### Continuing Professional Development

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

### RTSA Website

The RTSA website [www.rtsa.com.au](http://www.rtsa.com.au) has details of RTSA activities, including future meetings and reports from past meetings, for all Chapters. Membership information for potential new members and an application form may be found at [www.rtsa.com.au](http://www.rtsa.com.au).

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### Newsletter Dispatch

Dispatch of the newsletter is undertaken by Steve Torok. Contact Steve on [storok@tge.com.au](mailto:storok@tge.com.au) if you have any problems receiving this newsletter electronically or in hard copy, or to change your e-mail address.

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## NEWS

### RTSA Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 – Cairns Tilt Train Accident of November 2008

Larry Matters gave an excellent presentation on the outcomes from ATSB's investigation into the Cairns Tilt Train accident of November 2008 at our last meeting.

For those of you interested to find out more, you are welcome to access the Queensland Government's final report on this topic at the following link: [Final Report Cairns Tilt Train November 2008](#)

## COMING EVENTS

### Core 2010 – Wellington, NZ

Registrations are well underway for Core 2010 in September this year. A full conference program, together with the social and partners' program, are available for viewing on the website. Take a look at the website now <http://www.core2010.org.nz/> for more information and get booking!

### AusRAIL 2010 – 23-25<sup>th</sup> November, Perth

This year AusRAIL will focus upon taking the industry forward through innovation,

modernisation and technology leadership. To find out more see the website [www.ausrail.com](http://www.ausrail.com)

### Another Date for the Diary!

In case you missed it on Page 2, the date for this year's AGM and Annual Dinner is **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November** at a new venue, the **Lion Hotel, North Adelaide**. Please put the date in your diaries now for what will be a great social event!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No new correspondence to raise this month, but if you have a comment or observation you would like

to raise, the SA Editor would be pleased to hear from you at [saeditor@rtsa.com.au](mailto:saeditor@rtsa.com.au)

Get writing or typing now!

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**“ECONOMICS.”** The thought this month is about the irony of how this word sometimes seems to engender a less-than-positive response to engineers and technical specialists. For those industry veterans that have been through many privatisations, reorganisations, deregulations and rationalisations – carried out for reasons linked with this word – this feeling is probably quite understandable. Times made turbulent in the name of any cause would naturally produce an aversion to its concepts.

Yet from my impressions, I wonder if another, perhaps forgotten side of economics would actually seem to be of definite appeal to engineers and technical specialists?

We are people trained in a discipline that upholds good technical decisions, respects the integrity and progression of a system, and embodies the resolution of dilemmas using logic and objectivity.

Repeat: logic and objectivity.

Enlightened societies rightly criticise a lack of these two qualities but I consider that our training, as described, can produce a greater personal reaction: disenfranchisement. This is why I think economic analysis could ironically be regarded as a particular friend to our profession.

Economic analysis establishes whether or not a certain concept is a worthwhile investment. Chasing a bigger bang for your buck is not just the province of private, commercial interests; if

your task is reconciling society’s limited means with its unlimited and sometimes conflicting demands, you need the same information.

The beauty of this analysis as I see it comes from its ability to eliminate emotion, bias, and fashion; if a certain wheel squeaks, it’s not allowed to drown out the others. Pros and cons are listed, objectively, then monetised, objectively - using rates established by the nation’s academia. Disadvantages of a concept are openly acknowledged but are given a fair representation against benefits. Like any system it has its imperfections - but it is an industry-standard method, widely embraced by those recommending evidence-based policy to decision makers.

Could economic analysis be the ‘great equaliser’ that can objectively reconcile the diverse aspirations and views-of-the-world in the community? If so, it’s good news for engineers and technical specialists; the objectivity valued by our training will manifest itself in the recommendations that full analysis of this sort can produce.

**IN other news**, tenders will soon close for the State Government’s procurement of 25kV railcars for the future electrified Adelaide suburban network.

**SEE you at the 5<sup>th</sup> August meeting**, where the SA Chapter will be presenting Ron Fitch with a special present for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Daniel Martucci – Chair, RTSA SA Chapter**