

NEWSLETTER No 1/2005



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

JANUARY 2005

NEXT MEETING

Please note:

There will be NO meeting in February.

The next meeting will be on the **3rd March 2005** when Max Shuard will present a talk on the proposed Port River Bridge. This will be a joint meeting with the PWI South Australian Section and will be held at the Riviera Motel and Function Centre on North Terrace Adelaide. Further details will be advised in the February Newsletter.

LAST MEETING?

At the last meeting held on 4th November 2004, Stephen Townsend gave a presentation titled,

“An Overview of the Historical Development of Light Rail and Its Potential to Meet the Future Transport Needs of Modern Cities”

With the aid of a video, the presentation gave a historical overview of the development of light rail and of its evolution to meet the requirements of modern cities.

Stephen then went on to give some of his own views on the transportation needs of Adelaide and how light rail may be a solution. Some of his comments follows:

“Looking towards the future, a modern city, including Adelaide, must have an efficient transportation system if it is to prosper and grow. Rail transportation systems are no longer dominant as they were a century ago. It has to be accepted that road based systems are now dominant and likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

However as a city grows and traffic on main transport routes increase, congestion will result without continual development and improvement. If allowed to become severe, congestion will impede the growth of the city.

In road dominant cities the prime response to congestion has been to build freeways. To a point this has been successful. However beyond that point, this approach becomes increasingly expensive and inefficient. Indeed in some extreme cases, there is evidence that freeways have destroyed the fabric of the city for which they were built. Obviously an alternative solution is required and light rail, as exemplified by its resurgence, is one of those solutions.

Here in Adelaide, I believe that road congestion is becoming a major constraint to its future growth. Adelaide has no freeways in its city area and to build a network of freeways to meet its future needs, based on

road transport only, will be extremely if not prohibitively expensive. Based on developments in North America and elsewhere, a rail solution to complement the road network is an obvious choice.

Adelaide has a rail network but that network is much the same as it was 100 years ago. While modern rail cars have replaced steam trains, the rail network as a whole has not changed. The city however has changed significantly during that same period. To remain relevant, the rail network has to evolve.

How should this evolution take place?

Well my view, firstly Adelaide needs to integrate rail within the total transportation system.

Perth, as a city of similar size and geography to Adelaide, is quite often, and in my view rightly so, held up as an example of how the development of rail based infrastructure can enhance the growth and well being of a city. It is even more interesting when one appreciates that the road network in Perth has also been extensively upgraded during the same period. While I am not sure that Perth's model is directly applicable to Adelaide's need, much of Perth's success in my view is directly related to the integration of rail into the total city transportation system. This has been achieved by the provision of extensive car parks at stations, drop off and pick up facilities and bus-rail interchanges. The bus systems feed the stations, complimenting rather than competing against them. These strategies vastly increase the catchment area and the number of people who can use the public transportation system. Without these facilities, and this applies to most of the stations in Adelaide, the catchment area is limited by how far people are prepared to walk.

With an integrated system people begin to see rail as an integral link in their journey, not something that is separate, an inconvenience and to be avoided if possible.

Secondly, the individual needs of Adelaide suggest a different solution to that currently employed. My view is that Adelaide is more suited to light rather than heavy rail.

The Adelaide suburban system with its short trains, short distance between stops and relatively small ridership is already more like a light rail system than that of heavy rail. We have seen in the presentation that light rail can move large numbers of people quickly and efficiently. I would predict that light rail could meet the current and intermediate future demand quite comfortably and also carry out this function at significantly lower cost, simply as the infrastructure

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needs of a light rail system is much lower than for a heavy rail system.

The Adelaide rail system of the future, to be effective needs to service the central city area. The building of a separate underground system for heavy rail to achieve this such as found in Sydney or Melbourne and to a lesser extent in Brisbane and soon Perth is probably unnecessary and most likely financially out of the question. However the provision of a street level light rail system in the city centre integrated to separate right of way suburban systems is well within Adelaide's capabilities.

As was shown in the presentation, light rail has the flexibility and capability to extend rail public transport to those areas currently not serviced by rail such as the eastern suburbs or those developing areas further out of the city such as down south or up in the Barossa Valley where the potential is high but where the numbers using the system do not justify heavy rail.

The presentation shown tonight shows that light rail has the versatility and potential to meet a wide variety of needs including that of Adelaide. We can't go back to the past but there may be aspects of the past that can be developed to meet our future."

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. The year ahead promises to be an exciting one with many new projects scheduled to kick off.

It is going to be another busy year and your SA Committee has planned some interesting and stimulating meetings. So come along and participate so that we all get the most we can from our membership and stay informed as to what is happening in this exciting Railway Boom.

Adelaide this year sees the introduction of new Trams as well as a timely infrastructure upgrade of the Glenelg Tramline. In addition the long awaited Port River Bridge with Rail capacity is well along in its planning. The RTSA will present an update on these projects at our meetings throughout the year.

Subjects outside of South Australia will also be covered. There will be a presentation on the ARTC expansion into NSW. How this is progressing and their future targets will be discussed at our April meeting.

In June, the International Heavy Haul Conference is being held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. We will have someone give our members an overview of this event, which is only held every 5 years. The RTSA Victorian

Chapter is arranging a Study Tour On Railway Engineering which will include attendance at the IHHA Conference as well as visiting other Railways in South America. If you need further details please contact me.

Overall it should be an exciting year.

Robert Schweiger
Chairman – SA Chapter

2004 AGM REPORT

The November AGM held at the Rising Sun Inn, Kensington was a great success. The generous support of our Sponsors and the attendance by Industry Leaders provides a good opportunity for networking and socializing in a relaxed, friendly and informal environment. Also in attendance from Engineers Australia were Gael Tilbrook the SA Director and Adrian Smith the SA President.

Our Sponsors this year were:

- Davison Nominees;
- PC Truck and Plant Hire;
- Rexlok;
- ARTC;
- John Holland;
- TransAdelaide;
- Connell Wagner;
- OneSteel; and
- Skilled Rail

I would like to once again thank our Sponsors for their generous support of our AGM.

The meeting also conducted elections for the RTSA SA Chapter Committee. Roger Wyatt undertook the role as returning officer with the following nominations received and endorsed by those present:

The results of the elections are as follows:

Executive:

Chairman: Robert Schweiger
Secretary: No nominations received - vacant
Treasurer: Duncan McLeod

These nominations were unopposed and the two nominees were duly declared elected. It was agreed that in the new committee would examine options to cover the duties of secretary.

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There were six nominations for the other committee positions as follows:

Malcolm Menadue
John King
Bill Edmonds
John Dring
Stephen Townsend
Steve Torok
George Erdos
Roger Wyatt

There being no further nominations the nominees were duly declared elected.

The position of Secretary has still to be filled. If there any member who is prepared to take up the position, please contact the Chairman.

Special thanks were given to Roger Wyatt and Max Michell for their tremendous efforts during their time with the Committee as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Thanks were given to the Committee overall for having just completed a very busy year with CORE2004 in Darwin being the highlight. Their tireless efforts and sacrifices were the fundamental reason the conference was the success it was and undoubtedly it will be the benchmark for future events.

It is not too late to be part of the committee (this year will not be as onerous) and a special invitation is extended to anyone, especially any "Young Engineers", to join with us and be part of this rewarding volunteer group that brings benefit to the wider Railway Industry.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Speakers/Dates/Topics				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Venue</u>
03/03/05 (joint PWI)	Max Shuard	Transport SA	Port River Bridge	Hosted by PWI. Riviera Motel and Function Centre
07/04/05	Malcolm Owens	ARTC	ARTC Expansion into NSW	Engineers Australia Chapman Hall
05/05/05	Robb van Toledo	John Holland	The new RG9 Rail Grinder	Engineers Australia Chapman Hall
02/06/05 (Joint PWI)	TBA			
07/07/05	Dean Philips	TransAdelaide	Re-Tendering of TransAdelaide's Railcar Maintenance Contract	Engineers Australia Chapman Hall
04/08/05	TBA		Review of Heavy Haul Conference-Brazil	Engineers Australia Chapman Hall
01/09/05 (joint PWI)	TBA	TransAdelaide	New Trans Adelaide Trams	Engineers Australia Chapman Hall (RTSA to host)
06/10/05	TBA	TBA	Upgrading of Glenelg Tram Infrastructure	Engineers Australia Chapman Hall
03/11/05	TBA	TBA	TBA	Engineers Australia Chapman Hall
29/11/05	Annual General Meeting of RTSA - SA Chapter		Dinner meeting	

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS RECEIVING RTSA NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Members receiving this Newsletter by email should note that all Newsletters will be sent in a PDF format prepared using Adobe Acrobat Version 6. To ensure that the Newsletter is decoded correctly it is recommended that members update their copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader to Version 6.

Version 6 of Adobe Acrobat Reader may be downloaded free of charge from the internet at www.adobe.com.

Alternatively, Adobe Acrobat Reader 6 is generally included on the CD ROM attached to most computer magazines.

KEY RTSA CHAPTER COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman	Rob Schweiger	8238 3412
Treasurer	George Erdos	8218 2209
Secretary	Vacant	
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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.

Send copy to the Editor, Stephen Townsend at st771048@bigpond.net.au or fax to 08 8390 3772

Electronic despatch of Newsletter is undertaken by Malcolm Menadue – contact Malcolm on mmenadue@ozemail.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 stuff is done, while the hard copy mail will of course be some days slower.

For all other matters relating to RTSA SA Chapter contact Robert Schweiger (Chairman) at e-mail robert.schweiger@jhg.com.au or

by phone on 0413 128 775.