

# NEWSLETTER No 6/2008



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

**June 2008**

## **NEXT MEETING**

### **Next Meeting – TUESDAY 1st July 2008**

The next meeting of the RTSA SA Chapter will be held on **TUESDAY 1st July 2008**. The meeting, to be hosted by the PWI, will be held at the:

**Gil Langley Room,  
Adelaide Oval, North Adelaide**  
commencing at 5.30pm.

The topic of the meeting will be:

### **Railway Standards Development by the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB)**

and the presentation will be made by

**Kevin Taylor**

from the

### **Rail Industry Safety & Standards Board**

The Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) is wholly owned by the ARA and is responsible for development and management of the rail industry standards, rules and codes of practice, all of which have national application. The RISSB is accredited by Standards Australia as a Standards Development Organisation, and all new standards produced by the RISSB are published as Australian Standards.

The RISSB Australian Infrastructure Standards project shall provide the accepted and definitive suite of infrastructure standards for national application to be known as the Australian Rail Infrastructure Standards (ARIS). The standards cover both rolling stock and track infrastructure.

Kevin will describe the aims of the project, the topics the standards will cover and the progress to date.

This presentation is of importance to all within the industry and all should attend.

Directions to the Gil Langley Room may be found at the end of the Newsletter.

Prior to the meeting, light refreshments will be served.

#### **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 presentations by Randall Barry, A/General Manager, TransAdelaide, Mark Williams, Manager, Rail Policy and Investment – DTEI Transport Planning Division, Daniel Martucci, Engineer Rail Policy and Investment – DTEI Transport Planning Division and Charles Irving, Project Director – Rail Track Renewal.

The original Topic was the Upgrade of TransAdelaide's Noarlunga and Belair Lines but due to the fact that the meeting was held on the SA Government Budget Day and that the budget included an announcement of a major investment of the public transport system, the topic was changed to allow a detailed overview of planned renewal of the rail based public transport system as outlined by the Budget announcement.

Randall Barry explained the change in topic for the meeting and introduced his fellow speakers.

Mark Williams gave an overview of the behind the scenes effort over the past few years that formed the basis of the Budget announcement.

Daniel Martucci gave an overview of the budget announcement including the main features of full track upgrading, electrification, standardisation of track gauges, tram extension and the tram-train initiative.

Charles Irving gave a detailed account of the proposed track upgrade works for the heavy rail system.

Editors Note: A copy of Charles' presentation was obtained but somehow misplaced. Another copy will be obtained and included in the next newsletter.

The meeting was attended by 29 members and visitors and Stephen Townsend gave the Vote of Thanks.

## Overview of SA Budget Transport Plans

(Courtesy SA Budget Papers)

The 2008-09 Budget provides \$648.4 million over the next four years to commence this urban rail reform program.

The 10 year program will include electrification, gauge standardisation, concrete resleepering, light rail network extensions and new electric rail vehicles.

The new electric rail services will be faster and quieter, delivering reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality.

Commencing in 2008-09, the budget provides for the tram network to be extended along Port Road from

North Terrace to the Entertainment Centre and for the purchase of new light rail vehicles.

Electrification of the Noarlunga line will commence in 2008-09, and is expected to be completed in 2013-14.

Electrification of the Outer Harbor line will commence in 2010-11, and once connected to the tram network, will enable future extensions of light rail services to West Lakes, Semaphore and Port Adelaide.

The concrete resleepering program will also continue with work commencing on the Gawler line in 2008-09. Electrification works will then commence on this line in 2012-13.

The 10 year program will deliver 50 new electric trains, 58 converted electric trains, 15 new hybrid tram/trains and additional light rail vehicles.

The government is committed to achieving the *South Australia's Strategic Plan* target of doubling weekday passenger transport use to 10 per cent by 2018.

## Order of Australia Medal Awarded to John Adams

It is pleasing to record that RTSA SA Chapter member and Past Chairman, John Adams has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to the rail industry at the Queen's Birthday award announcements. The RTSA SA Chapter congratulates John on his most deserved recognition for his services to the rail industry.

The RTSA proposed John for the award and details of the submission follow.

### JOHN C.B. ADAMS FIEAust CPEng FPWI

Mr John Adams has enjoyed a distinguished railway engineering career, spanning some fifty-five years of which nearly forty years have been spent in the service of the Australian railway industry.

John was born in England and on completion of his secondary education, in 1949, he joined the Southern Region of the then British Railways where he was engaged on the design, planning & implementation of track reconstruction works, including major junction layout remodelling, on the heavily trafficked, third rail electrified lines for which the Southern Region was responsible. During his time with British Railways he became a volunteer member of the Brighton Section of the Permanent Way Institution (PWI) and served as Section Secretary for two years. This began a close association with the PWI, which lasts to this day.

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In 1965, he migrated to Australia and joined the South Australian Railways as a Civil Engineer with principal responsibilities for the development of major station yard layouts for the Port Pirie to Broken Hill Rail Standardisation Project and as Resident Engineer Port Pirie he was responsible for all construction activities including planning & implementation of the complex staging for triple-gauge rail operations. Throughout all this time he maintained his association with the PWI as an unattached Overseas Member.

From 1969 to 1972, John performed the duties of District Engineer at Port Lincoln where he was responsible for all Way & Works Maintenance and Construction.

It was after his tour of duty in Port Lincoln that he was appointed as Standardisation Project Manager for the South Australian Railways and this was when he first became closely involved with the whole subject of track standardisation, one that would form an important and influential part of his career. His main responsibility in this role was to implement the Maunsell Master Plan for the new Standard Gauge line from Adelaide to Crystal Brook and it involved the management of all the involved sections of the S.A.R, consultants and other parties associated with this ambitious project. However, the proposals temporarily were shelved and, in 1977, John became Permanent Way Engineer of the S.A.R Central Region again being given responsibility for track maintenance, upgrading & reconstruction.

Nevertheless, in 1978, he again became involved with the Adelaide to Crystal Brook Standard Gauge Project when, as Engineer Special Duties, he assisted with the preparation of a report and recommendations for revised proposals involving a comprehensive operational and organisational review, economical evaluation and coordination of planning requirements that led to eventual legislative & financial approval for the project to proceed.

With the receipt of approval for the implementation of the project, at a cost of \$92 million, he was appointed as Project Engineer with a brief to direct all disciplines in every aspect of the task including planning, design and construction. He served in this capacity from 1980 until 1983 and saw the whole project brought to its successful conclusion.

After this project was completed in 1983, John became Assistant Chief Civil Engineer (Administration) when he was made responsible for the planning, design and management functions related to the provision of civil

engineering works and services; direction & control of the annual Capital Works programme and input to Australian National Rail's consultancy programmes. In this job, he remained involved with standardisation and was party to the first study and report into the potential viability of standardising the Adelaide to Melbourne line.

In 1985, his service to the South Australian Railways and, latterly Australian National (AN) was recognised when he became Chief Civil Engineer with all that it involved.

The list is not exhaustive but, being responsible for the Civil Engineering branch, John managed a staff strength of some 1,350 providing maintenance & construction services including planning, implementation and control of a 10 year programme of rehabilitation and upgrading of trunk main lines, investigations for rationalisation of assets, standardisation of rail gauges, intermodal transport infrastructure planning and related activities for the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway. Amongst his other tasks, he acted as consultant to the Melbourne Transit Authority for Victoria for gauge conversion of the Port Melbourne and St. Kilda lines for Light Transit traffic.

After four years as Chief Civil Engineer, he left the service of AN in 1989 and he became a very successful self-employed consulting engineer. In this capacity, his enthusiasm for railway engineering remained undiminished and he has continued to serve the industry in a wide variety of ways right up to the present time.

The expert consultancy services that he has given over the last 15 years are many and varied & it is not within the scope of this citation to list them all.

However, to give some idea of the span of the work with which he has been involved a few of the more important ones are listed in the following:

- Track design & project management of the Port Dock Museum track remodelling project;
- Preparation of Base Operating Conditions report for TransAdelaide;
- Advisor to SA Urban Project Authority on railway matters;
- Planning advice & concept designs for Steamranger Railway Preservation Society;
- National Rail Corporation One Nation Infrastructure Projects;

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- Strategic Plan development for the National Rail Corporation;
- Expert advisor to the Victorian Government & Geelong Corporation on rail Gauge standardisation matters,
- Member of Design Working Group and Maintenance Alliance Board for the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway;
- Expert witness for a number of rail related cases;
- Feasibility study for rail welding plant for Broken Hill Pty. Ltd.;
- Advisor on gauge conversion for Spanish Government Railways (RENFE);
- Advisor to General & Railway Supplies on general railway engineering, rail fastening design & track technology matters;
- In an ongoing consultancy since 1995, with Electricity Trust of South Australia/Optima Energy/Flinders Power/NRG Flinders he undertook condition reporting, future track maintenance advice, tender preparation & evaluation, track inspection, contract performance auditing, development & ongoing management of Rail Safety Management Plan and the like for the coal haulage line and rail loop facilities between Leigh Creek coal line and Port Augusta Power Station.

Distinguished as John's working life has been, he nevertheless has found the time and energy to give huge voluntary support to both the Permanent Way Institution and the National Committee on Railway Engineering (NCRE) of the Institution of Engineers Australia (Trading Name: Engineers Australia), now the Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA).

As discussed previously, he began his association with the PWI in England at the beginning of his career. In 1982, together with David Reid, he became a prime mover in the formation of the South Australian Section of the Institution, which was inaugurated in October 1983. He became the inaugural Secretary until 1985 when he was elected as Chairman, a post he continued to hold until 1987. He has been a continuous and active member of the Section Committee ever since its formation and there are not too many committee & general meetings that John has missed in the intervening years. In 1988, the parent body in the UK accepted his nomination as Vice President for South Australia and he holds this position to this day. Five

years ago he was granted Life Membership of the PWI in recognition of his devoted service to the Institution.

His involvement with Engineers Australia and the RTSA is no less formidable. He was a member of the National Committee from 1983 until 2003 during which time he was Chairman (from 1991 to 1995). Amongst his other accomplishments are Chairman of Organising Committee and Conference Chairman for both CORE91 and CORE2000; SA Chapter Chair (1998 to 2000) and Chairman of the Awards Committee from 1999 to 2003. He is also a Life Member of the RTSA.

From all of the above, it is hoped that it can be illustrated that Mr. Adams has made a significant contribution to the Australian Industry over a period of some forty years both as an engineer and manager in the South Australian Railways and Australian National Rail and as a consultant and also as an energetic and hard working volunteer supporter of both the PWI & Engineers Australia/RTSA.

## **Advanced Notice – RTSA Eminent Speaker Presentation**

The RTSA 2008 Eminent Speaker will be **Andrew McCusker**, Operations Manager – MTR Corporation Hong Kong who will be making his presentation to the SA Chapter on **WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008**.



Andrew's Topic will be:

## **INTEGRATED LAND USE AND TRANSPORT PLANNING – A SUCCESS STORY**

Please note this important event in your diary. Look for further details in later Newsletters.

Some details about Andrew follow:

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Andrew McCusker has some thirty years of senior industry experiences within Defence, Water, Gas, Power and Railway. He has covered Projects, Design, Operations and Maintenance in diverse environments in the United Kingdom, Middle East and Hong Kong. He is presently Operations Director for the MTR Corporation in Hong Kong.

His experience ranges from the design, development and construction of new systems to Project Management in Defence, Power and Rail, additionally he has been responsible in these industries for growth as well as day to day delivery and P&L responsibility.

He is an Executive Director of MTR Hong Kong, Chairman of NP360 Cable Car, Chairman of Telecoms provider TraxComm HK and a Board member of Octopus Ltd. HK.

In his twenty years in the Mass Transit Railway, Andrew has been responsible for major projects and renewals, maintenance, operations and as director of the rail business.

In each of these fields, he has achieved substantial service, safety and business improvements through leadership and innovation, which has positioned the MTR as the railway to be emulated in many aspects of rail transport.

He received recognition in Australia in 2007 when he was awarded the Steve Maxwell Leadership Award and he has always maintained his interest in rail transport in Australia.

Andrew has been instrumental in moving Hong Kong rail from a traditional somewhat monopolistic approach to one focussed on society and business needs. For MTR this has moved the company into a new era delivering sustainable profit from rail services and enhanced service delivery for customers at a very affordable price.

In his period as chief engineer of the State Power Authority in the Middle East he effected a turn round from endemic brown outs of the power and water system to raising the Bahrain system to achieving international standards.

### Chairman's Chatter – Duncan McLeod

The RTSA National Executive's half-yearly meeting was held recently in Adelaide. Some highlights were:

- i) RTSA membership was reported as approaching 1,000 (and has subsequently passed this total). A great achievement.
- ii) There is continuing strong support leading up to CORE 2008 in Perth from 7-9 September with high quality presentations and a full speaker list. With study tours prior to and after the conference, including partner programs, this year's CORE is shaping up to be top class. Early booking is recommended, so as not to miss out on cheap travel and accommodation deals.
- iii) The NSW Chapter is planning a one-day symposium on the proposed NSW Metro railway, to be held on 12 November. This should be an interesting event, and one, which will be well supported.  
  
The symposium will look at new technologies and the tasks these technologies will perform, including the integration of technologies between transport modes.
- iv) The National Executive reaffirmed its support for the Young Engineers Australia (YEA). Rebecca Taylor and SA Chapter's Daniel Martucci are the Young Engineers Australia representatives on the National Executive. The age limit of YEA was increased from 30 to 35, to line up with Engineers Australia.
- v) The National Executive discussed strengthening the Incident and Investigation sub-committee of the RTSA. The RISSB talks being promoted by the RTSA and ARA, as well as possible Australia Transport Safety Bureau (ASTB) talks to Chapters, were seen a part of this strengthening process. Our next SA Chapter meeting will feature a presentation by RISSB.
- vi) The National Executive also discussed the use of technical journals and Chapter and National newsletters. It was agreed that RTSA will look at possible use of a transport technical journal through Engineers Australia, in which to publish learned papers.
- vii) The Professional Development Assessment Program (PDAP) was discussed. It was agreed to explore a working relationship with Australasian Association for Engineering Education (A<sup>2</sup>E<sup>2</sup>) (<http://www.aeee.com.au/>). This is another technical society of Engineers Australia made up of deans and academics from a number of universities.
- viii) The redesigned RTSA web site is now up and running, and is a huge improvement on the previous site. Each chapter is to be responsible for uploading and maintaining its own information.

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Overall, RTSA nationally is in great shape and progressing on many fronts, under the committed guidance of Chairman Ravi Ravitharan.

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## Letters to the Editor

Unfortunately, Letters to the Editor are very few and far between. This is a situation that the RSTA National Executive has resolved to change.

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.

Letters to the Editor are requested and will be most welcome. To facilitate this aim, the RTSA has set up a specific email post box to which Letters to the Editor may be sent. The address is:

[SAEditor@RTSA.com.au](mailto:SAEditor@RTSA.com.au)

## CORE 2008

**CORE 2008** will be held in **Perth between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008**. The theme of the conference is:

### **RAIL – THE CORE OF INTEGRATED TRANSPORT**

And according to John Goodall, Conference Chairman, will highlight the successful role of rail in integrated transport systems in both urban travel and freight contexts.

Registration for the conference is now opened.

**Note: Early Bird registration closes 7<sup>th</sup> July.  
Register before that date and save.**

Further information may be found at  
[www.core2008.org](http://www.core2008.org).

## RTSB Level Crossing Bulletin

The RTSB has issued a bulletin on level crossings. The bulletin may be found at:

[http://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/2008/rail\\_bulletin.aspx](http://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/2008/rail_bulletin.aspx)

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## RTSA NEW WEBSITE

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

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.

[www.rtsa.com.au](http://www.rtsa.com.au)

## MEETINGS FOR 2008

Future Speakers/Dates/Topics				
Date	Speaker	Organisation	Topic	Venue
1/07/2008	Kevin Taylor	RISSB	RISSB	Gil Langley Room, Adelaide Oval North Adelaide
7/08/2008	Graham Haywood	United Goninan	92 Class Locomotives	Chapman Hall, ENG AUST, Bagot St North Adelaide
3/09/2008	Andrew McCusker	RTSA Eminent Speaker	Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning – A Success Story	Gil Langley Room, Adelaide Oval North Adelaide
7-10/09/2008		RTSA	CORE 2008	Perth WA
2/10/2008	George Erdos	ASTB	Benalla Signalling Accident	Gill Langley Room, Adelaide Oval – Joint with IRSE and PWI
6/11/2008	Tim Warren	DTEI	Relocation of Railcar Depot a/c new hospital	Chapman Hall, ENG AUST, Bagot St North Adelaide
25/11/2008	David Marchant	ARTC	AGM	Hyde Park Tavern
1-2/12/2008		ARA	AusRail	Sydney

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.

Send copy to the Editor, Stephen Townsend at [SAEditor@RTSA.com.au](mailto:SAEditor@RTSA.com.au)

or fax to 08 8297 0992.

Electronic despatch of Newsletter is undertaken by Steve Torok – contact Steve on [storok@tge.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:dmcleod@aapt.net.au), or by phone on 08 8338 7919.

## 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.

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## Access Directions to Gil Langley Room



Park in car park off Memorial Drive. Note - Parking charges may apply before 6.00pm.

From car park, go through main gates. Veer to right and enter main entrance.

Find lift and go to top floor. Exit lift and turn left and follow corridor to the end.

Enter Gil Langley Room.