

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

RTSA

Railway Technical Society of Australasia
NSW Chapter
Mail: PO Box 6238, Kingston, ACT, 2604

RTSA NSW CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday 7th OCTOBER

11.30 for 12.00 in the

CENTRAL STATION - CONCOURSE MEETING ROOM

(next to Lost Property, opposite platform 2)

**“OUR TASK IS TO ENABLE THE FUTURE,
NOT MERELY FORSEE IT”**



Our October meeting will feature **Peter Moore, Executive Director, UITP – Australia and New Zealand** talking on his favourite topic of Public Transport. Peter will guide us through some interesting comparisons and insights in relation to public transport, with linkage to the contemporary scene here and elsewhere.

Peter is a most entertaining and informative speaker which will make this a ‘not to be missed’ meeting for everyone with an interest in our highly visible and underappreciated city transport system.

The usual light lunch and refreshments will be available prior to the meeting proper.

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THE USUAL STUFF:

The normal inclusions in the Newsletter, such as Words from the Chair, Point of View and Last Meeting, are missing this month – the first two due to the respective writers of those sections having just returned from the STORE tour, while there wasn't a last meeting due to circumstances out of our control at the last minute. As a consolation of sorts this issue has a quick summarization of the STORE tour – a tour that produced a lot of pleasant surprises and to some extent put our own Australian urban systems in a different context for those who participated.

STORE 2009

The long awaited Study Tour to look at Asian Metro systems (and a bit more) came to a conclusion on Thursday 24th Sept when the majority of the 27 participants arrived back in Australia. It would be an understatement to suggest that the tour was good – it was an outstanding success which was due in no small measure to the team who spent a lot of time over the past year getting it all planned and organised and who had to make quite a few decisions on the run as the tour progressed.

It was a full on tour with some days stretching out to 20 hours and several very early starts and/or very late finishes. Despite this there were few if any moments when the pace slackened and as a result we were able to get significant overviews on a range of aspects to do with metros and similar public transport in six cities over the 10 day period of the tour. Nine flights were involved (all with different aircraft types, including the double deck A380) – participants became quite canny in regard to windows, aisles and leg room as a result.

A full report will follow in subsequent Newsletters, but some of the high points were

- A special monorail 'train' in Kuala Lumpur, put on with virtually no notice by the Monorail Operator, after providing us with a presentation about their line.
- A driverless train in K.L. (you can stand at the front window) that decanted its 'normal' passengers at a terminus then cheerfully set off on non public tracks with our group as a special with no operator anywhere to be seen (a bit like being spirited away by aliens!!).
- A massive stabling yard (70 plus trains) and workshop facility in Singapore built 25 metres below ground, which included a 20 metre high automated racking and storage system which was running proving trials during our visit. (the trains were also driverless, as we later experienced)
- Singapore Slings at Raffles (an extra-curricular delight)
- The Shanghai bus – a 30 seater with very restricted baggage space – but we managed to fit in somehow by adopting Sardine Principles.
- The Shanghai Maglev, although it's off peak speed of 300 km/h compared to the peak 480 km/h was a bit of a letdown!
- The High Speed Train Beijing to Tianjin (and return) which achieved a maximum speed of 335 km/h – well above the expected 320 km/h. (train departures for Tianjin, 120 km in 29 minutes, are at 5 to 20 minute intervals, yet have fully reserved seats and refreshments).
- The Great Wall (enshrouded in cloud), Forbidden City (in bright sunshine) and the Birdcage, WaterCube and Tianamen Square by night.
- The comprehensive research facilities of CARS in Beijing, which will be doing the type testing and certification of the PPP trains for Sydney (several Sydney components were seen at the facility)
- The Rail Museum adjacent to CARS in east Beijing, with an interesting array of locomotives (including steam, diesel and electric) as well as rolling stock – passenger cars up to 76 tonnes and a five axle freight wagon
- Manufacture of control units for six axle 10,000 hp electric locos in Zhuzhou.

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- A construction site in Changsha with 13 pile drivers all working away together, closely followed by a vista with at least 24 construction cranes in view at the one time
- Cross platform transfers between lines, no matter in what direction, in Hong Kong
- Never having to wait more than 3 or 4 minutes for a train at any Metro station in any city.
- Metro trains in all cities which were full all day and very late into the evening – the addition of 27 travellers and their baggage was a bit of a strain at times.
- The friendliness and cooperation we had in all cities and considerable support in the way of transport and meals provided by our hosts.

New Metro lines were being built in several cities, with Line 4 in Beijing opening just a week after we were there, recently opened lines in Hong Kong and Shanghai, and extension of the newly opened automated Circle Line in Singapore to name just some.

The whole 10 days were truly an eye-opener and those who went will undoubtedly remember it for a very long time. It is also more than likely that there will be a shift in our thinking and concepts in relation to Metros (and other rail activities) as a result of the tour. Those who could have travelled and didn't should make sure they are better prepared for the next one.



The RTSA Special Monorail in Kuala Lumpur – NSW, Vic, SA and Qld delegates are all visible in this shot

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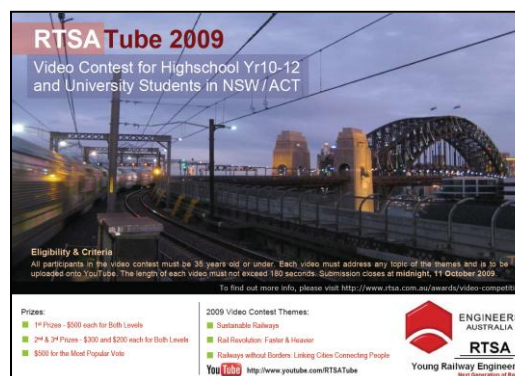
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ENTER THE RTSA TUBE VIDEO COMPETITION

Are you a student in engineering, computer science or information technology and under age of 35 or are you a high school students in year 10-12? Then this is for you!

Your video could be funny, quirky, serious or sad. It could be an animation or just a video of you talking. Do a rap, or a dance. Do a drama. Do it with friends, or do it by yourself. Make it complicated, or simply speak about what you think. Have fun! Win prizes! But make sure it is:

- About Railways
- Maximum 180 seconds long
- Suitable for all audiences, and
- Get it to us through YouTube by midnight (AEST), 11 October 2009.



Winners will be contacted by email or phone early November 2009.

Profiles of winners & their video will be put on the RTSA website and on top of our YouTube channel, and we might use them for publicity in the future. By entering, you'll be having your say, helping tell others about railway, and having a great time!

For more information on rules & guidelines, how to enter the RTSA Tube Video Competition and how to upload an entry on YouTube, go to <http://rtsa.com.au/awards/video-competition>. Good luck!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are very welcome. In general letters should be relatively concise (no more than half a page) and should relate to either past material in the Newsletter, events or activities of interest, reminiscences or future watching of the rail industry as a whole. If in doubt write anyway – the editor is quite pleasant to deal with after that first cup of coffee in the morning.

None this month

COMING EVENTS:

The following is a listing of coming events that involve RTSA or are being organised by associated groups.

17 to 19 Nov, 2009	AusRail Plus in Adelaide, SA.
28 November, 2009	Possible STORE to Metro Light Rail & Metro Monorail TBC
3 to 4 March 2010	RTAA / RailCorp Rail Industry Field Days at Clyde Yard.
March, 2010	Possible two day STORE to Hunter Valley with Rail Motor Soc. TBC
12 to 15 Sept, 2010	CORE 2010, Wellington, New Zealand.
23 to 24 Nov, 2010	AusRail, Perth, WA

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AUSRAIL PLUS 2009 ~ 17TH-19TH NOVEMBER 2009, ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

This year the prestigious and popular AusRAIL PLUS 2009 conference and exhibition is taking place in Adelaide, South Australia. AusRAIL PLUS 2009 has announced the support of the Government of South Australia's, Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) as an Event Partner.

AusRAIL PLUS 2009 runs from 17th to 19th November 2009 at the Adelaide Convention Centre and features a major exhibition, a 3-day conference and a range of networking opportunities.

The AusRAIL PLUS 2009 conference

The theme of the AusRAIL PLUS 2009 conference is 'DOING MORE WITH LESS' and the extensive 3-day conference will look at how the rail industry is shaping up in the current climate as well as looking at ensuring it is strong for the future.

The AusRAIL PLUS 2009 conference plenary sessions bring together the top-flight decision makers involved in the sector. Delegates will have access to the latest insights into rail policy and will be able to join the debate with leading influencers in the rail industry.

The conference will feature ministerial addresses from:

- The Hon. Patrick Conlon MP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Energy, South Australia
- The Hon. Warren Truss MP, Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Trade & Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Day three of the conference has the ever popular 'CEO's Forum' this is a rare opportunity to see the heads of the major players in the rail industry together in an open discussion and provides a chance for professionals in rail to put their questions directly to those planning the future of rail.

The panel of the CEO's Forum will include:

- David Marchant, CEO, ARTC and Chairman, Australasian Railway Association
- Bob Stobbe, CEO, TransAdelaide
- Don Telford, CEO, Pacific National and COO, Asciano
- Rob Mason, CEO, Railcorp
- Rob Barnett, CEO, V/Line
- Lance Hockridge, CEO, QR
- Tony Braxton-Smith, CEO, Great Southern Railway
- John Cleland, CEO, Westnet Infrastructure Group
- John Fullerton, CEO, FreightLink
- Reece Waldock, CEO, Public Transport Authority, WA
- Jim Quinn, CEO, KiwiRail
- Dennis Cliché, CEO, Yarra Trams
- Alan Chaplin, Managing Director, Connex Melbourne

For the first time there will be a separate 'Rail Suppliers CEO Forum', to be held on day one, this panel comprises of:

- Dean Jenkins, CEO, United Group Rail
- Guy Wannop, CEO, Downer EDi
- Dan Osbourne, Managing Director, Bombardier Transportation
- Jean de la Chapelle, Customer Director, Alstom Transport
- Paul Bennett, Vice President, Siemens
- Phil Ellingworth, Managing Director, Westinghouse Rail Systems Australia
- Lyle Jackson, CEO & Managing Director, Ansaldo STS – Asia Pacific Region

The conference also offers a full complement of technical streams organised by the RTAA, IRSE and RTSA. These provide insights and in-depth sessions in specific areas of technical expertise. The streams will cover a wide range of topics including:

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- Rollingstock
- New generation control systems
- Infrastructure
- Track maintenance innovations
- Detection, protection and communications
- New products and applications
- Technology moving forward
- Research and development
- Safety projects

The AusRAIL PLUS 2009 Exhibition

The AusRAIL exhibition has gone from strength to strength and this year will include more exhibitors than ever. Visitors will be able to find out about the very latest products and services on offer and meet face-to-face with suppliers. Australian expertise is well represented, but a wide variety of international exhibits will show what is on offer outside of the region. The exhibition is free to attend for any professional involved in the rail industry. To register in advance go to www.ausrail.com/visitor

For general enquiries about, or to book your place on, the AusRAIL PLUS 2009 conference, exhibition or dinners please contact the customer service team on:

Email: registration@informa.com.au

Telephone: (+61 2) 9080 4307

Website: www.ausrail.com

RTAA / RAILCORP RAIL INDUSTRY FIELD DAYS – 3rd and 4th MARCH 2010.

The 3rd Rail industry Field day will be held at the usual Clyde Yard venue on 3rd and 4th March 2010. This event is the only event displaying track and infrastructure industry equipment and products out in an open air environment.

For further details, including prospective exhibitors, go to the RTAA web site www.rtaa.org.au or contact Sandy Bull at sandy@bullhead.com.au

WHOOOPS:

The electronic BritRail's September Newsletter advertises, inter alia, a strange new place:-

“Scenic Routes Not to Miss - Stunning Welch countryside”

I can't find Welch in my atlas and I doubt if they can either!

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DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC	LOCATION	TIME
7 October 2009	Peter Moore Executive Director, UITP Australia	Presentation on the UITP (International Union for Public Transport)	Central Station Concourse Meeting Room	11.30 for 12.00
4 November 2009	Ivan Waterfield Executive Manager, Cardiff Operations, Downer EDI Rail	RailCorp PPP A-Trains	Central Station Concourse Meeting Room	11.30 for 12.00
2 December 2009	Alan Gardner Manager Infrastructure and Engineering RISSB	Restoration of NSWGR Beyer-Garratt Steam Locomotive 6029	Central Station Concourse Meeting Room	11.30 for 12.00

BLACK TEXT: indicates meeting is confirmed

BLUE TEXT: indicates request has been made to speaker

RED TEXT: indicates a suggested topic only at this stage

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Andrew Mackay	Treasurer		
Bill Laidlaw	Outing Convenor		
Candice Ng	Committee	Tomas Magyla	Committee
Malcolm Cluett	Committee	Paul Harris	Committee
Chris Venn-Brown	Committee		

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SYDNEY 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. Articles, letters or editorial comment for Newsletter are very welcome. We have several hundred members locally, of whom around half a dozen have actually put pen to paper, so I am expecting a couple of hundred more correspondents of the next how-ever-long. Items for publication should be in electronic (Word) format – the editor is a total klutz when it comes to typing and would be very grateful for not having to retype articles if at all possible.

Contact details are –

The Editor, Max Michell,

- e-mail to max412@gmail.com ,
- phone 02 9331 5662 or
- post to P.O.Box 279, Potts Point, NSW, 1335.

For all other matters relating to RTSA NSW Chapter contact Katharina Gerstmann (Chair) or John Watsford (Secretary) as above.

CPD CREDITS

Engineers Aust members who attend RTSA meetings and events will qualify for CPD credits as per the Engineers Australia criteria. Members are responsible for recording their own CPD for audit.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS RECEIVING RTSA NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you receive this Newsletter by post you will periodically miss out or be given late advice of events – a natural consequence of the slower postal system. E-mail is far quicker and more reliable, so let Canberra know if you are able to change from post to e-mail (address in the page header). E-mail saves time for you and costs for RTSA, which in the end can only mean better service to our members.

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