

# Railway Technical Society of Australasia

## Annual General Meeting – Minutes of Previous Meeting



Please find below the Minutes of the RTSA 2008 Annual General Meeting.

**DATE:** Tuesday 9 September 2008  
**TIME:** 1.00pm – 1.30pm  
**LOCATION:** Meeting Room 8  
Perth Convention Exhibition Centre  
21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth, WA

### 1. Welcome / Apologies

#### Apologies

Daniela Ionescu	Manicka Dhanasekar	Phil Blundy
Nicholas Phillips	Daniel Martucci	Barry Renaud

#### Attendees:

Stephen George	William Laidlaw	Colin Cole
Sakdirat Kaewunruen	Scott Hillman	Ross Hamilton
Ian Nibloe	Surya Ambati	John Stapleton
Andrew Hunt	Dale Gleman	David Anderson
Bruce Greening	Peter Milton	Mark Flint
John Watsford	Steve Hooper	Behzad Fatahi
Kenny Wong	Naty Lee	Barry Renald
Rebecca Taylor	Mitchell McClanachan	Clive Shepherd
John Syers	Doug Hayhoe	Roger Wyatt
Russell Trevasakis	Malcolm McConnell	Patrick Chu
Maz Mitchell	Duncan McLeod	Bob Vanselow
Greg Butler	John Scott	Bill Singleton
John Dring	Ravi Ravitharan	Andrew Honan
Robert Schweiger	Martin Baggott	George Erdos
Steve Townsend	John Goodall	

### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007 to be confirmed.

The 2007 AGM Minutes had a typing error (it recorded CORE2007 not CORE2008). Pending this correction, the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate recording of the 2007 AGM.

### 3. RTSA Annual Report / Chairman's Address

Mr Ravitharan reported that RTSA had just passed the thousand mark in membership numbers, which was a fantastic result, with currently 1,035 individual members and 16 Corporate members as follows:

The Railway Technical Society of Australasia  
Engineers Australia  
11 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600  
Tel: 02 6270 6569 Fax: 02 6273 2358  
[www.rtsa.com.au](http://www.rtsa.com.au)



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- Alcoa Fastening Systems
- Australian Railroad Group – A QR Company
- Australian Rail Track Corporation
- Asia Pacific Rail
- Austrak
- Bombardier
- Calibre Engenium
- Hatch Infrastructure
- Interfleet Technology
- Leightons Contractors
- Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Phoenix Project Management
- Public Transport Authority
- Ontrack
- STI-Global
- Transtech Melbourne
- WestNet Rail

Mr Ravitharan thanked Mr George Erdos, the Immediate Past Chair and mentor to Mr Ravitharan, for all his efforts. Mr Erdos will now be retiring from the Executive Committee after many years of service, as Mr Ravitharan becomes the Immediate Past Chair.

Mr Ravitharan also thanked Miss Pearl Ansley (Secretariat), Mr Robert Schweiger (Executive Treasurer) and Mr John Dring who played two roles, as both the Executive Secretary and as another mentor to Mr Ravitharan.

#### 4. Correspondence

The Executive Secretary's report will be available for viewing shortly, on the RTSA website ([www.rtsa.com.au](http://www.rtsa.com.au)).

#### 5. Subcommittee Reports

The Subcommittee reports (with the exception of the Awards subcommittee) were not gone through in detail due to time constraints, but reports will again be available for download from the RSTA website. It was also noted that the RTSA would welcome more subcommittee members.

##### 5.1 Awards

The RTSA is committed to recognising individuals and organisations contributions to the Rail industry with the Annual *Individual Award*, The Biennial *Industry Award*, the *Contact Mechanics Award*, and the Young Railway Engineer of the Year Award being to be presented at this evening's Gala dinner; and the *Student Thesis* winner and runner up having accepted their awards at their local (Queensland) Chapter presentation.

- 5.2 Education
- 5.3 Government Relations
- 5.4 Standards
- 5.5 Technical

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### 6. Financial Report

Mr Robert Schweiger, the Executive Treasurer reported on the current RTSA finances. At June 2008 the RTSA has \$351,000.00 to put towards various initiatives including study tours, professional development programs and Chapter activities.

Whilst conferences are the RTSA's main source of income, great emphasis is placed on keeping them accessible to members with registration prices having only risen by \$100.00 in 10 years (\$800.00 in 1998 to \$900.00 in 2008). Judging by the five year budget the RTSA will remain financially stable, with a Business Plan currently being developed.

### 7. Election of Executive Treasurer and Executive Secretary

With no other nominations, Mr John Dring was accepted and declared Executive Secretary, and Mr Robert Schweiger was accepted and declared Executive Treasurer.

### 8. General Business

Having enjoyed his time as Executive Chair, and after thanking the RTSA and the rest of the Executive Committee for this opportunity, Mr Ravitharan now handed over to the new Executive Chairman - Mr Martin Baggott.

Mr Baggott thanked Mr Ravitharan and the rest of the Executive Committee for their support and believes they prepared him well for this role. The RTSA is in a good financial position with a strong membership base and again thanked Mr Ravitharan for all his efforts.

Mr Baggott then introduced the new Deputy Executive Chairman – Mr Andrew Honan, the Chairman of the NSW Chapter and Government Relations Subcommittee, and welcomed him into this new role.

Mr Baggott spoke of Mr Ravitharan's vision in 2006 regarding the initiative Professional Development and noted that this was not a 2 year initiative but one requiring a sustained effort for which the new executive would maintain. Mr Baggott asked Mr Ravitharan for his assistance moving forward in this regard.

As part of this ongoing thrust Mr Baggott will focus on the educational side, with a vision to improve membership value. Mr Baggott plans to introduce services and initiatives and services to provide value and attract new members.

It was also noted that we are looking for suggestions from all members to improve the value of RTSA membership, and asked attendees at the meeting to spread the word!

### 9. The next AGM

Mr Baggott thanked all attendees for their support; AND SAID THAT it's been a tremendous ten years and we're looking forward to the next ten! Today also happens to be Google™'s 10 year anniversary too; a company that seems like it's been around forever – hopefully our members feel the same way about the RSTA!

The 2009 Annual General Meeting will be held at the AusRail Conference in September, Details will be sent out in the usual manner.

Mr Baggott thanked all for their attendance, and closed the Annual General Meeting.