



AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New South Wales Division

(ACN 000 538 803)

23/24

ANNUAL REPORT NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





NOTICE

Notice is given that the 2023/2024 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Railway Historical Society, New South Wales Division, will be held in the Mitchell Room on the 1st floor of the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney, at 6.30pm on Wednesday 13 November 2024.

Business:

1. To receive and adopt the Income Account for the year ended 30 April 2024 and the Balance Sheet at that date.
2. To elect members of the Board for the year 2024-2025.
3. To transact any other business that may be brought forward in accordance with the Constitution.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy (who need not be a member of the Society) to attend and vote in the member's absence. Clause 14 of the Society's Constitution prescribes the form of appointment of a proxy. Such forms may be obtained from the Secretary at the registered office of the Society at 5-7 Henderson Road Alexandria NSW 2015 and must be lodged with him at that address on or before 13 October 2023.

By order of the Board
Andrew Phelan AM
Secretary
Sydney, 31 August 2024

THE SOCIETY

The Australian Railway Historical Society had its beginnings in 1933 with the formation of the Railway Circle of Australasia. Since then it has grown to become one of the largest railway societies in the country.

The Society's main objectives are:

- To actively promote, in the community, an interest in Australian railway history and operations;
- To maintain the Railway Archives;
- To enable the Railway Archives to be used for research, study, educational and private purposes by Members and the public;
- To publish quality books, magazines, pamphlets, information, images and videos (including by digital means) related to Australian railway history and operations;
- To operate a public museum;
- To provide a means whereby Members may associate with other Members and persons with similar interests to their mutual benefit, education and enjoyment, including through Society tours, meetings, lectures and the sharing of information;

The Society produces two magazines each month:

- Australian Railway History which features articles of interest on historical topics from across Australia.
- Railway Digest features information and articles related to the contemporary Australian railway scene.

These magazines are distributed directly to subscribers and through newsagents and various retail outlets. Members receive a monthly newsletter.

The Railway Archives is the largest private holding of railway-related records in Australia. It has now been recognised by the National Library of Australia as being of National Significance. The collection continues to grow and is a tremendous asset to historians, heritage consultants, railway operators and maintainers and railway modellers, amongst others. The Archives has a growing presence online with about 300,000 items available, but this is only about 15% of the entire collection.

Meetings of members and their guests are held monthly in Sydney and Newcastle. These meetings usually feature a talk on a topic of railway interest, often accompanied by news, images from the archives and a members image competition.



SOCIETY APPOINTMENTS

BOARD

The Board, which is responsible for governance of the Society, operates on an honorary basis. Directors during 2023-2024, and their attendances at board meetings, are set out in the attached Directors' Report.

The General Manager also attends Board Meetings.

The Society is grateful to all who serve on the Board and the associated committees for their time and effort in overseeing the financial, strategic and risk considerations facing the Society.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

The Newcastle Branch has a committee that organises local activities, including meetings, tours and outings. The committee reports to the General Manager to co-ordinate branch activities with the aims and initiatives of the Society.

Committee members are:

Branch Chairman: Spencer Ross
Branch Secretary: Greg Anderson
Committee: Glen Magee, Tony Lowther, Matthew Parr, Ray Power, Larry Greentree and Wal Williams

STAFF

The Society thanks its staff for their dedication, service and hard work in supporting our activities and in operating, maintaining and developing our Henderson Rd facility.

During 2023/24 our staff team comprised:

Full Time

Sara Stephenson Operations Manager
Stephanie Massamba Cafe All-rounder (from November 2023)

Part Time

James Dalton General Manager
Craig Mackey Archives Supervisor
Edward Dalton Bookshop Assistant
Justin Oh Cafe all-rounder (from March 2024)
Lawrance Ryan *Railway Digest* Specialist News Editor
David Campbell *Railway Digest* Specialist Signalling and Safe Working News Editor
Darren Tulk *Railway Digest* Editorial Assistant

Contractor

Bruce Belbin *Railway Digest* Editor
Stephen McLachlan *Australian Railway History* Editor

LIFE MEMBERS

John Beckhaus
Terence Boardman OAM
Russell Butterworth
Kenneth Date
Joseph Davis
Ian Dixon
Col Gilbertson
Dr John Glastonbury AM
Alex Grunbach
Chris Harding
Graham Harper
Murray Harper
John Hoyle
Gary Hughes
William Laidlaw
Ben Lewis
Geoffrey Lillico
Glen Magee
Barry Millner
Peter Neve OAM
John Oakes
William Phippen OAM
Ray Pickard
Neville Pollard
Ray Power
Spencer Ross
Dr Stuart Sharp
Colin Short
Dr Robert Taaffe
Grahame Thurling
Ross Verdich



THANK YOU & CREDITS

The Board would like to acknowledge all who volunteer in any capacity and contribute to the activities of the Society. In the 2023/24 year, we recognise those listed below for generously contributing their time and energy:

Geoff Allerton	Archives	Lara Linsay	ARH	Chris Walters	<i>Railway Digest</i> ,
Greg Anderson	Archives, Speaker	Gretta Logue	Board		Archives, Publications
Brian Andrews	Archives, Members mtgs	Ray Love OAM	Archives	Wal Williams	Newcastle Committee
Steve Baker	Archives	Tony Lowther	Newcastle Committee	Robert Wilson	Archives, Speaker
Ben Barnes	ARH	John McNamara	Archives	John Wilson	Archives
John Beckhaus	Publications, <i>Railway Digest</i>	Craig Mackey	Board, ARH	Jim Wootton	Archives
		Glen Magee	Newcastle Committee		
Dugald Black	Archives	Peter Marshall	Archives		
Graeme Bolton	Archives	David Matheson	ARH, Photo Competition		
David Brown	Archives	Richard Mathews	ARH, Archives		
Colin Butcher	Photo Competition	Brianna Mifsud	Archives		
Russell Butterworth	Newcastle Committee	Frank Mitchell	ARH		
Geoff Callingham	Publications	Neil Munro	Archives		
Peter Clark	<i>Railway Digest</i>	Michael Murray	Speaker		
John Cowper	Speaker	Don Noble	Speaker		
Ken Date	<i>Railway Digest</i>	Kevin Noonan	Archives		
James Dalton	Board	Dennis O'Brien	Publications		
Peter di Michiel	Archives	Matthew Parr	Newcastle Committee		
Ian Dixon	Archives	David Parsons	ARH		
Ian Fathers	Archives	Julius Pfull	Archives		
Graham Fry	Archives	Andrew Phelan AM	Board		
Ian Gauntlett	Melbourne Committee	William Phippen OAM	Archives, ARH, Speaker		
Anthony Gibbs	Archives	Ray Pickard	Archives		
Bob Gibson	<i>Railway Digest</i> , Talking Trains @10, Luncheon Club	Neville Pollard	ARH, <i>Railway Digest</i>		
		Ray Power	Newcastle Committee		
Col Gilbertson	ARH	Carol Rae	Bookshop		
Garry Glazebrook	Speaker	Mike Richardson	Archives		
Keith Graham	Archives	John Ruddock	Melbourne Committee		
Larry Greentree	Newcastle Committee	Jonathan Scutt	Melbourne Committee		
Phil Griffiths	Photo Competition	Dr Stuart Sharp	Archives, Talking Trains @10, Luncheon Club		
Chris Harding	Archives				
Graham Harper	Archives, ARH	Bill Shaw	Archives		
Graeme Henderson	ARH	John Snider	Board		
Greg Henson	Bookshop	Ben Small	Archives		
Scott Howells	Board	Jack Smith	Archives		
John Hoyle	<i>Railway Digest</i>	Tony Smith	Archives		
Paul Holding	Board, Archives	Peter Stock	Archives		
Michael James	<i>Railway Digest</i>	Warwick Stoddard	Speaker		
David Jehan	Speaker, Tours	Dr Robert Taaffe	ARH, Archives		
Frank Johnson	ARH	Ian Theile	Melbourne Committee		
Ken Kershaw	Archives	Eric Thomas	Melbourne Committee		
Lyn Keily	Archives	Grahame Thurling	Board, Archives, Bookshop		
Rick Lawler	Archives				
Bill Laidlaw	Luncheon Club	Ed Tonks OAM	Tours		
Ben Lewis	Archives	Ben Tooher	Archives		
Geoff Lillico	Archives	Hugh Waldron	Melbourne Committee		
		Geoff Wallace	Melbourne Committee		



CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

2023/24 was another difficult year, following the effects of the pandemic, prevailing economic conditions and societal change. The board developed several strategies to increase turnover and reduce dependence on some of the activities ARHS has conducted for many years and which are no longer producing the benefits they once were.

With free cash very low, the funds needed to implement these strategies required a relatively modest amount of additional borrowing but after a protracted delay, the Commonwealth Bank denied further credit to the Society. Private finance was obtained against the Henderson Rd property, the value of which has risen considerably since the purchase in 2018, on the back of general increases in real estate values, but helped locally by the development and gentrification of the Redfern-Waterloo area and the construction of the Sydney Metro extension.

These funds were available from March 2024 which has not had a significant impact on the results in this report but should facilitate a more optimistic outlook in 2024/25.

Through the year we made several appeals to members for donations, loans, collections and volunteers. Overall the response to these appeals has been positive. The generosity of some members is greatly appreciated; it was only through this giving that we were able to maintain our operations. We found ourselves in the difficult position of trying to increase activity and revenue sources with minimal spending which places extraordinary stress on the staff, management and board.

Despite these challenges, the prevailing mood has remained one of optimism, with the recognition that the Society has plenty of opportunity and potential. There is an anticipation that all of the hard work and improvement will eventually carry-through to financial results.

Throughout, the staff has had a perpetual list of tasks and improvements to attack. Many of these are in response to trends in purchasing patterns, adoption of new technology and customer needs, as described in last year's annual report. During the 2023/24 year we have continued to make improvements to the website to simplify online purchasing and membership renewal. There has been a continuing effort to increase our presence via social media and our online-archives platform, which has now reached over 300,000 records (approximately 10% of our total digitised records).

One such activity was the acquisition of the café from Terracotta Roasters, the lessee who established operations in 2021. The café has been a successful addition to our headquarters particularly since the lease was ended by mutual agreement and we assumed direct control and

management in October 2023. On top of the usual responsibilities in operating the bookshop and tirelessly working to improve our member and subscription databases, Sara Stephenson took on the job of recruiting and training café staff, improving the menu and building up a loyal clientele. Sara has been very ably assisted by Edward Dalton in the bookshop and Stephanie Massamba in the café.

In all that we do, we aspire to excellence. We have some natural advantages in that we specialise and appeal to a narrow but passionate group of customers and we are generally well-known amongst that group. We also have a nationally significant archive, market-leading monthly magazines and a unique and attractive facility, centrally-located. But there is more to do to ensure we are the best we can be in providing customer satisfaction, popular products, depth of knowledge, response time and innovation in how we present ourselves to attract new members, subscribers and professional clients. We have had some catching up to do, but if we can continue to improve, with your help we will achieve these aspirations.

Above all, this will cement our role as the pre-eminent archive and proponent of the tremendous legacy of railways in our state and nation for many years to come.

I would like to thank all our staff and volunteers whose constant focus enables the Society to achieve so much. The Society is fortunate to have loyal and capable people who have demonstrated tenacity and forbearance throughout the year.

Our future success depends on the participation and support of members. Therefore, I am renewing my request to please consider how you might continue or commence your participation, which could be in an active way - volunteering in the office or in the archives, writing articles or researching, editing or cataloguing images; or in a passive way, such as signing-up an interested relative or friend, contributing financially or making occasional purchases at the bookshop or café; these all help the Society not only to function and survive but to provide more benefit to members and increase our voice and involvement in the community and the sectors related to rail operations, heritage, preservation and policy.

In particular, please be an advocate, not a critic. Support the board and staff who are working for members and the future of the Society.

James Dalton
Chairman



SOCIETY OPERATIONS REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

Membership as at 30 April 2023 was 1,185 compared with 942 reported a year ago. This is a membership growth rate of 25%, a very impressive increase on the back of a consistent effort to improve the membership database, promote the Society and its benefits and the ongoing quality of our magazines, products and services.

RETAIL

Retail operations are the engine of the Society's income and its performance is therefore critical to our existence and prosperity. This became obvious during the pandemic and with the associated need to vacate the premises at Central station, sales have been slow to recover.

Due to constraints on spending, new publications were limited in the 23/24 year. However there are three titles in progress and we were successful in obtaining a Transport Heritage Grant for the publication of *Rails to the Riverina* by Neville Pollard.

We aim to produce two-to-three ARHS publications each year to supplement the range of new books available from third-party suppliers. The strategy of offering and promoting monthly specials continues to be effective in reducing inventory on-hand rather than expanding the inventory with new products.

Commercial activity continues to build and we are excited for the opening of the Waterloo Metro station in 2024. Through the year, the number of workers in the area has increased as more people return to the office.

Further behind-the-scenes improvements included the upgrade of our point-of-sale (POS) system, data integration between the website and POS system, and the removal of redundant information which was impacting the responsiveness of the website.

Continued improvements in data accuracy have been made, including a reduction in incorrect and confusing product descriptions, elimination of multiple descriptors for a single item, and rectification of missing and incorrect cost pricing.

Another improvement was better integration of the Online Archives with our membership database. This means members can now access the archives with their usual member login.

While these improvements might appear insignificant, together they constitute a large improvement to both efficiency of our operations and better service to customers. This allows our limited staff resources to concentrate on other activities such as new products, publications, events and marketing all of which contribute to a larger and stronger Society.

Sara Stephenson
Operations Manager

FINANCE

The financial accounts for the year ended 30 April 2024 show a loss of \$266,518 compared with a loss of \$320,086 in the previous year. There were no abnormal items in the accounts. The only non-cash item was

depreciation amounting to \$62,879. When this item is excluded, the cash loss amounted to \$203,639 (\$258,390 in the previous year).

There were a number of factors contributing to the loss. On the revenue side, subscriptions (membership and magazine) and donations were up, book sales and magazine sales were steady and archives consultancies and tour revenue were down. The café, for which we assumed direct operational responsibility during the year, contributed \$53,028 in gross sales. Overall revenue was up by \$182,196 (substantially reflecting an increase in donations of \$138,804). The recovery in membership subscriptions is welcome and reflects the work undertaken in conjunction with the introduction of new management and accounting software (see last year's report). While book sales are steady compared with the previous year, they are significantly below the recorded sales pre-Covid. This does seem to reflect a societal trend away from hard-copy books and has implications for the future operations of ARHS.

Total expenditure increased by \$128,629 comprising \$67K for selling costs (café and books), \$73K for interest, staff costs for \$82K (café and bookshop) with a reduction for general administration of \$69K and small reductions in other costs.

Following the relocation to Henderson Rd and the disruptions caused by Covid and other natural disasters, the Board determined that a number of steps were necessary to ensure the long-term financial viability of the organisation. The first was to address the software and business processing issues that were undermining the capacity of the organisation to operate effectively; then to enhance existing revenue sources; and thirdly to seek new revenue sources. The first issue has been addressed by the implementation of new business and accounting software packages and the consequent overhaul of business processes. This was slower than hoped but is now substantially complete. The second issue is now being addressed by such steps as the adoption of a new book publishing model, a new approach to tours and the introduction of a fee-based program to access our electronic archive. Taking over the café is an example of a new revenue stream with other projects being considered. All these steps have taken longer than hoped but are gradually coming to fruition. Together these initiative have been referred to as the 'transition program'.

An examination of the balance sheet will show that a number of loans were needed to fund the transition program. Since the end of the financial year, all loans have been refinanced and the loans shown in the balance sheet have been repaid.

The challenging financial circumstances that ARHS has experienced since 2020 are consistent with the experience of the economy at large. A recent survey of small businesses found that 89% of small business owners are fearful of their future and anxious about the possibility of going out of business. This is higher than during Covid. Many similar organisations to ARHS have closed over the past couple of years. However, ARHS is still in business, it is in new premises that are fit for purpose and the premises are really well located. Nevertheless, the financial environment for the organisation is really challenging and will require great focus and clear adherence to our transitional objectives to ensure our future.



SOCIETY OPERATIONS REPORTS

Paul Holding FCPA
Treasurer

RAILWAY ARCHIVES

Recognition that the ARHS Collection is Nationally Significant enabled us to apply for additional grant money to purchase storage shelves and replace pallet racking in the loading dock. Five bays of Dexion standard shelves were installed at the loading dock as well as four shelves adjacent to the lift.

Steady work is being done to catalogue the collection, store it in acid-free boxes and locate these in our temperature-controlled and fire-protected strong-room. Permanent catalogue numbers, allocated and controlled from a master list are recorded in a working spreadsheet and will ultimately be uploaded to the on-line archive (Recollect). This methodical process has enabled us to segregate duplicates and material outside the scope of our collection for disposal. An added benefit is that we have re-discovered some previously “lost” items. The ultimate benefit is that it is now easier to locate items for reference and research.

In preparation for the installation of the loading bay shelving, some 88 standard archive boxes of PTC Aerial Survey photographs were re-boxed into archival standard boxes and transferred to the large compactus unit. A significant reduction in storage volume was achieved with more efficient storage. Digitisation of these images has commenced.

Volunteer Lyn Keily has been processing a range of digitised materials for uploading to the on-line archive. Apart from actual uploading, a large part of this process involves correcting and adapting existing metadata to the Recollect format to ensure consistency in file-naming and provision of adequate data to enable effective searching.

Image digitising and cataloguing is a core activity within the Archives. Fully catalogued and searchable images number almost 890,000. We are allocating numbers for ongoing digitisation up to 1,700,000 at this stage.

Prior to this year, the hundreds of thousands of images published in Railway Digest (from the time digital content was employed) accumulated each month on the company’s server. Although these images might be considered modern and contemporary, they are nonetheless of increasing historical value and deserve to be preserved as part of the ARHS Collection. A process has commenced on two fronts to deal with this. Firstly, retrospective cataloguing of the very large backlog is steadily being performed. Secondly, there is now procedure to archive and catalogue each month’s Railway Digest content immediately the magazine goes to the printer.

A number of important collections have been donated to ARHS Archives.

A collection of more than 50,000 Edmonson (and other rare) railway tickets was donated to ARHS by Robert Merchant. Over many months, this collection has been securely stored in acid-free sleeves in our standard ring binders.

We have been fortunate to receive the EA Downs negative collection, which includes in the order of 5,000 negatives dating from 1940 to the 1970s.

A large collection of NSW Mechanical Branch blue-prints was donated by Noel Bruce and collected over multiple visits by ARHS staff and volunteers.

A large collection of NSW steam locomotive Depot (or Barge) Plates was donated for restoration and display at our Henderson Road headquarters.

Scanning of full-size engineering tracings and blue-prints continued, although it was necessary to divert efforts to complete a commercial order from the Rail Motor Society to digitise their collection of engineering drawings (via grant funding).

Commencing January 2024 there was a modest price increase across the board for archive services and media, the first since 2020.

Commercial business by the Archive ranged from regular enquires from modellers requesting drawings and photographs, requests from regional and local history societies and repeat business from a number of heritage and architectural consultants.

Unfortunately revenue from enquiries received and actioned is not always sufficient to cover the costs of operating the archives and employing a member of staff to supervise volunteers and coordinate the many activities of the Archives. This has been highlighted this year when we received fewer load history projects than we have in previous years. These are labour intensive jobs but bring in solid income.

We receive regular enquires from TfNSW and TAHE to support their precinct heritage and social media communications activities, supplying drawings, images, historical data and interpretation.

A number of tertiary students have accessed the archives to support elective and assignment work in their various disciplines. We have also been joined by several new and younger volunteers which provides reassurance that we can attract and retain volunteers, and encouragement that people respond to our call-outs for help.

Craig Mackey
Archives Supervisor

TOURS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The year began with our 90th anniversary tour to Bathurst. Approximately 50 passengers travelled by XPT, specially adorned with a 90th anniversary roundel on the nose of the two power cars, to Bathurst. We visited the Bathurst Railway Museum before returning on a train provided by Lachlan Valley Railway to Lithgow and a (heavily patronised) V-Set to Sydney.

Later in May, another collaboration, this time with Heritage Electric Traction and the Railmotor Society, provided a tour to Broadmeadow behind a K-Set before connecting with 621/721 at Broadmeadow to Paterson for a picnic lunch.

We had fine weather for both celebrations of the Society’s 90th birthday.

The long weekend tour was another collaboration with The Railmotor Society. This time a group of approximately 50 passengers travelled to Armidale in 621/721 before changing for a coach to Glen Innes, which



SOCIETY OPERATIONS REPORTS

was the base for three nights. In that time we explored the railways of the New England region including Guyra, Black Mountain, Tenterfield Wallan-Garra and Inverell. An early start took us to Armidale for the railmotor to Tamworth for lunch and then onward by coach to explore Manilla and Barraba. The return home included a stop at Premer for lunch before a fast run on 621/721 back to Broadmeadow.

Popular walking tours, to Cockatoo Island with David Jehan and the Mines and Lines of the Newcastle Area with Ed Tonks OAM were repeated in 2023. This was Ed Tonks' 22nd tour for the Society over a 25 year period. Many thanks to Ed for his support over such a long period.

Thanks to Sara Stephenson, Edward Dalton and volunteer Grahame Thurling at our ARHS Office for the assistance in processing tour bookings and making sure our tours went to plan.

Another very special thanks also must be given to James Dalton and Craig Mackey in the Railway Archives for providing materials for the Tour Notes.

After many years as Tours Director Spencer Ross announced his retirement from the role in September 2023. Spencer worked tirelessly to organise and operate entertaining tours for members and a loyal group of devotees no sooner completed one tour when they were enquiring about booking on the next! The Society is indebted to Spencer for his enthusiastic service over many years.

In the current climate, the ability of the Society to offer tours has been constrained by increasing competition and costs. Many competitors in the space either operate their own rolling stock or cater to a higher-end experience charging fares which are beyond the expectations of members. There is also an increasing expectation around safety and compliance. The number of members participating in tours has also diminished since the pandemic. These factors have resulted in tours running at very low margins at a time when we need to focus our efforts on improving profitability. As a consequence we suspended further rail tours for the time being.

Once conditions improve this will be reviewed. In the meantime we are focusing efforts on smaller and shorter tours aimed at attracting greater community engagement and improving public awareness.

Monthly Members Meetings have continued throughout the year at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. The meetings are usually attended by about 30 members and we have arranged a variety of speakers, both external and internal to the Society.

Talking Trains at 10 has continued this year, which involves a bi-monthly gathering at Henderson Rd. This is organised by Stuart Sharp and Bob Gibson and has gone from strength-to-strength. It is clearly of benefit to those who attend, providing socialisation and fellowship. Such activities fulfil the vision of moving to Henderson Rd back in 2018. Thanks to Stuart and Bob for coordinating this activity.

Stuart Sharp has also continued the Luncheon Club events on a bimonthly basis (alternating with Talking Trains at 10) with the assistance of Bob Gibson and Bill Laidlaw. Thank you to these gentlemen for organising visits in 2023-24 to Picton, Shellharbour Junction, St Marys, Dora Creek, Carlton and Stuart Town.

The Newcastle Branch continued to meet monthly at the Hamilton North Bowling Club and had a full programme of Entertainment Meetings. In April, members travelled to Sydney to visit the Henderson Rd facility and enjoy some hospitality in the cafe.

Another group was formed some years ago in Melbourne, inspired by our own Luncheon Club. This group met as an activity of the ARHS Victorian Division, but when that was wound-up, the group continued as an activity of the Association of Railway Enthusiasts (ARE). Sadly, in 2023 that group also ceased operations. This presented an opportunity for ARHS to support this group, which is well attended by a group of about 30 who meet on a monthly basis. Apart from public liability insurance this group is largely self-supporting but means the ARHS retains a connection with Victorian-based enthusiasts. The ARHS can grow its national profile by providing a forum for fellowship in other states, as the need arises, particularly if there is the enthusiasm and the need for oversight and funding is low.

ARHS looks forward to some more modest, but different tours and outings in 2023-2024. The interest and participation of members is greatly appreciated.

James Dalton

MAGAZINE PUBLICATION

Railway Digest

During the 2023-2024 year, Railway Digest maintained strong sales, and continued to provide a broad oversight of the Australian railway scene, covering a wide range of subjects including operations, logistics, economics & politics, locomotives & rolling stock, rail travel, signalling & infrastructure, heritage & tourism, and rail industry issues.

Lawrance Ryan continued in his role of National Affairs editor, compiling our well-regarded news section. Ken Date's quarterly International News pages provided interesting insights into current railway and light rail developments throughout the world. Features Editor, John Hoyle, reviewed and edited the work of many contributors and was himself a prolific contributor of valuable news, articles, and photos. Bruce Belbin remained in the role of Editor, while Darren Tulk continued to provide reliable proofreading and copyediting services.

In September, Railway Digest once again participated as media partner in the Australasian Rail Industry Awards night. Held at The Palladium at the Crown Towers in Melbourne, on Wednesday 13th, the 2023 Awards Gala Dinner was, as in previous years, a sold-out event, with over 700 people in attendance to acknowledge the industry's great achievers. The 16 winners chosen across the 16 categories were awarded with uniquely designed glass pyramid trophies.

In November, Railway Digest again participated as a media partner in AusRAIL, the Australian rail industry's flagship event. Held at the International Conference Centre in Sydney, on 14-16 November, AusRAIL Plus 2023 hosted nearly 1000 delegates and over 90 exhibitors, with a record 6000 visitors attending. Regular contributor Philip Laird, Editor Bruce Belbin, Rolling Stock Editors John Beckhaus and Peter Clark, and Features Editor John Hoyle flew the flag for Railway Digest, attending



SOCIETY OPERATIONS REPORTS

various presentations and functions and catching up with some industry identities.

Other rail-related events attended by Railway Digest people during the year included CORE 2023, Informa Connect 2023 Rail Decarbonising Conference, the International High Speed Rail Association Forum, Hunter Valley Steamfest, the 2023 Bentley Year in Infrastructure and Going Digital Awards, the AFR National Infrastructure Summit, Urban Rail 2023, NSW Transport Heritage Expo, the RISSB Rail Safety Conference 2024, the RTAA Rail Industry Field Days, and the 2024 Heavy Haul Rail Conference.

Michael James looked after Railway Digest's Facebook page, maintaining a positive online presence for the magazine and a strong, interactive, and ongoing connection with its readers, particularly in the under-35 demographic.

John Beckhaus and Peter Clark continued to produce our magazine's well-regarded quarterly 'Rolling Stock Contracts & Deliveries' section, providing a comprehensive record of recent orders and deliveries, as well as extensive background information on locomotive, rolling stock and light rail developments. Featured subjects in RSC&D during the year included 'The locomotive hauled passenger car fleet', 'The UGL C44ACi Locomotive', 'Spirit of Queensland Railbed', 'Adelaide Metro DEMU Refurbishing' and 'The Progress Rail GT46C Ace Locomotive'.

This year, once again, Railway Digest was the beneficiary of a steady stream of quality contributions from a wide range of supporters. Notable among these during 2023-2024 were:

Greg Blackwell, David Campbell, James Chuang, Peter Clark, Wayne Eade, Anthony Evans, Dave Haden, Malcolm Holdsworth, Philip Jeeves, Effie Kelly, Philip Laird, Mike Martin, Phil Melling, Vaughn Moore, Steve Munro, Neville Pollard, John Scott, David Whiteford, Graham Vincent, and Chris Walters, though many others also provided valuable material. For that, we sincerely thank them all, for without their support there would be no Railway Digest.

Bruce Belbin
Editor

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORY

In the society reporting year of 2023/2024, Australian Railway History magazine (ARH) was proud to support the Australian Railway Historical Society in its 90th year celebrations. It is amazing to think what started simply as a few friends sharing railway information and photos through letters, has now grown into a wonderfully diverse railway orientated society that supports historical and contemporary railway interests of Australia.

ARH is still a vital monthly production in assisting many generations of Australians in understanding and researching railway related history. Our biggest article of the year was the June 2023 issue Jim Longworth supplied another brilliant article to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the building the Great Southern Railway from Goulburn to the River Murray. This was virtually linking Australia's biggest colonies, New South Wales and

Victoria (and their capitals Sydney and Melbourne) in the most significant of railway works. Researching many original documents at the time for photos to use it was amazing to see how the people of the time perceived this development and to look at the original glass plate negatives to see how differently people lived was quite an eye opener.

I would like to thank the editorial team for another year's support, research and review: Ben Barnes, Col Gilbertson, David Matheson, Richard Mathews. Also thanks to the admin team in Alexandria with ARHS Archives - Craig Mackey, Sales and operations - Sara Stephenson and of course our General Manager, James Dalton with helping to improve and maintain the standard of each month's ARH for readers.

Stephen McLachlan
Editor

Connect with us and check for regular updates at:

Email: editorarh@arhsnsw.com.au

Facebook: [@AusRailHistory](https://www.facebook.com/AusRailHistory)

Instagram: [#ausrailhistory](https://www.instagram.com/ausrailhistory)



SOCIETY OPERATIONS REPORTS

SYDNEY MEMBERS' MEETINGS SPEAKERS

May	Greg Anderson, Films from the Roger McKenzie collection, courtesy Brian Andrews
June	John Cowper - Sydney South-East Light Rail project
July	Gretta Logue - City Railway Air Raid Shelters
August	Bill Phippen OAM - The Harbour Bridge and City Railway projects in 1923 - 100 years ago
September	James Dalton - Viewing the railway landscape from a new perspective
October	AGM followed by Greg Anderson and Film highlights from the Roger McKenzie collection, courtesy Brian Andrews (part 2)
November	Mick Murray, former rollingstock engineer and XPT engineering manager
December	Robert Wilson, the signalman's life
January	No Meeting
February	The photos of Andrew Foy
March	Warwick Stoddard - FreightCorp's Leigh Creek Coal Trains
April	No Meeting

NEWCASTLE MEMBERS' MEETINGS SPEAKERS

May	AGM, Election, Image contest and quiz
June	James Dalton, A vision for the future of the Society
July	Graham Black, RODs on the RVR
August	Gary Huges - A Reflection of Steam Days in the 1960s
September	Peter Sansom - Reminiscences of Rail Travel in New Zealand
October	Greg Anderson - 16mm film highlights from the Brian Andrews collection
November	Don Noble, former manager of SMR during the end of steam, talks about his career
December	James Dalton: Viewing the railway landscape from a new perspective
January	No meeting
February	Garry Glazebrook: Miniature Newcastle

March
April

Bruce Helman: Weston Langford's Tasmania
Ed Tonks: BHP Diesel Locomotives

TOURS PROGRAM

27 May 2023	Second 90th Birthday Tour - K Set Tour to Newcastle and 621/721 to Paterson
9-13 June 2023	Armidale, Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Wallan-Garra Tamworth, Manilla, Barraba, Inverell, Werris Creek and Premer long-weekend tour
12 July 2023	Cockatoo Island tour
5-6 August 2023	Mines and Lines Tour, Newcastle

RAILWAY LUNCHEON CLUB PROGRAM (SYDNEY)

21 June	Picton
16 August	Shellharbour Junction
18 October	St Marys
6 December	Dora Creek
21 February	Carlton
3 April	Stuart Town

LUNCHEON OUTING GROUP (MELBOURNE)

6 June	Glen Waverley, Boronia, Union Station
4 July	Hurstbridge and Greensborough
1 August	Preston Workshops and East Preston depot
8 August	New Glen Huntley station and Glen Huntley laneways
6 September	Box Hill Miniature Railway
16 November	Warburton
7 December	Violet Town
10 January	Seaworks, Williamstown
6 February	Wangaratta and Inland Rail
5 March	Birregurra
13 April	Noojee



DIRECTORS REPORT

Your board submits this report on the Society for the financial year ended 30 April 2024.

1. The names and details of the Board members in office during the year and to the date of this report, together with their areas of responsibility, year of original appointment/election and attendance at Board meetings held during the year to 30 April 2024, are:

James Dalton. BE(Mech), MBA, MAICD. Age 53 years. Engineering executive and Business Consultant. Director since February 2016. Chairman since October 2017.

Paul Holding FCPA. Age 77 years. Retired. Director since October 2018, Treasurer since October 2018.

Scott Howells. BSc, GCCM, GAICD. Age 49 Years. Operations Manager. Director since August 2021.

Craig R Mackey. BE, BSc Age 58 years. Engineer and Project Manager. Director since February 2015.

Andrew Phelan. AM, BA, LLB, B.Bus, FIML Age 70 years. Retired Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the High Court of Australia. Director since August 2021. Secretary from December 2022.

John Snider. Cert.Gen.Mgmt, Dip.Proj.Mgmt. Age 70 years. Program Director. Director since October 2019.

Grahame L Thurling. Age 77 years. Retired bank officer. Director since 1996. Secretary from November 2004 to December 2022

Gretta B. Logue. BSc, MS, Dipl Environmental Law, Dipl Heritage Conservation, Age 46 Heritage Consultant. Director since October 2022.

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Directors' Board Meeting Attendance:

	NUMBER ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	ATTENDED
James Dalton	8	7
Paul Holding	8	8
Scott Howells	8	8
Gretta Logue	8	7
Craig Mackey	8	8
Andrew Phelan	8	7
John Snider	8	8
Grahame Thurling	8	8

2. The principal activities of the Society during the financial year were publication of books and magazines, maintenance of the Railway Archives, recording railway history, the collection of records of interest to railway historians, the operation of a railway bookshop and the operation of railway tours. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

3. The net deficit of the Society for the financial year amounted to \$xxx,xxx (2023: Loss \$320,886).

4. No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year that significantly affect or may significantly affect the operations of the Society in subsequent years.

5. The Society expects to maintain the present status and level of operations and hence there are no likely developments in the operations in future financial years.

6. The Society's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

7. The Society has paid premiums to insure each of the Directors against liabilities for costs and expenses incurred by them in defending any legal proceedings arising out of their conduct while acting in the capacity of a director of the Society, other than conduct involving a wilful breach of duty in relation to the Society.

8. No person has applied for leave of the Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Society or to intervene in any proceedings to which the Society is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Society for all or part of those proceedings. The Society was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

9. Short term objectives of the Society: The ARHS NSW is the only organisation of this type in NSW, holding the largest private repository of railway related documents, photos, records and publications. Its short-term objectives are to provide access to these resources to members, to the public and to organisations who have a commercial need to research a topic relating to railways in NSW. The Society also aims to provide a range of opportunities for supporting and encouraging railway enthusiasts including the publication of two regular magazines, arranging railway tours, organising railway related events and operating a specialist bookshop. The short term objectives are to generate sufficient revenue to maintain these operations and to be seen as the leading authority on railway history in NSW and its significant role in the development of the state.

10. Long term Objectives of the Society. The Society has a long history and its aim has always been to support, encourage and facilitate the interests of those who are interested in Australian railways of the past and present. The Society faces a number of challenges which it will address in the medium to long term:

- An ageing and declining membership
- Changes in the operating environment for bookshops, archives and libraries
- Changes in the operating environment for railway tours and events
- A generalised threat to volunteer organisation in maintaining the interest and contribution of volunteers to give their time to the level required
- A change in the role of railways in society both as an employer and a service provider driven by profound social and technological changes.

However, the same forces also create opportunities for the Society. Therefore, the Society's long term objectives aim to address these threats and capitalise on the opportunities through:



DIRECTORS REPORT

- Increased membership and revenue by providing access to some of the Society's resources online.
- The expanded use of digital marketing tools to attract new and younger members and to retain existing members.
- Improve our facility, systems and processes to ensure our resources are available beyond living memory.
- Continue to grow, preserve and publicise the collection so that we become widely known as the source of information pertaining to railways, and the authority on matters of railway history particularly in NSW.
- Develop links to related societies, government agencies and educational Institutions to secure our reputation for historical research.

Board Committees

Two Board Committees operate to assist board oversight and decision making.

Audit and Finance Committee

The charter of the Audit and Finance Committee is to review financial information including Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports to ensure the Society maintains a sound financial position. This has been especially important during the pandemic when cash flow required careful management on a weekly basis.

The Audit and Finance Committee is chaired by Paul Holding. The committee members are Craig Mackey and James Dalton.

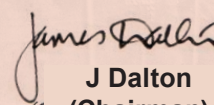
Strategy and Risk Committee

The charter of the Strategy and Risk Committee is to assist the Board in discharging its oversight duties with respect to the development and implementation of the Society's strategic plan and its associated risks.

The Strategy and Risk Committee was formed in 2021 and comprises James Dalton (chair), Andrew Phelan, Scott Howells and Paul Holding.

Directors Benefits

Outside of the arrangements allowed by the Constitution, no Director has received or become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the Company with a Director, a firm of which a Director is a member or an entity in which a Director has a substantial financial interest.



**J Dalton
(Chairman)**

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2024.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board.



**AM Phelan
(Secretary)**



FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 April 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income	3	1,150,174	967,978
Expenses			
Accounting & Audit		(31,353)	(28,202)
Purchases & Selling Costs		(232,591)	(165,780)
Digest Publication Costs		(160,108)	(182,004)
ARH Publication Costs		(111,181)	(91,627)
Depreciation		(62,879)	(61,696)
Insurance		(18,674)	(27,529)
Interest Expense		(173,290)	(100,099)
Premises Costs		(68,704)	(75,387)
Telephone		(3,731)	(4,619)
Legal Fees		(6,775)	(15,366)
Employee Benefit Expenses		(430,797)	(348,840)
Relocation Expenses		-	(1,936)
General Administration		(116,610)	(184,979)
Deficit before income tax expense		(266,518)	(320,086)
Income tax expense		-	-
Deficit after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION	13	(266,518)	(320,086)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION		<u>(266,518)</u>	<u>(320,086)</u>



FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION
Statement of financial position
As at 30 April 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	271,644	66,132
Trade and other receivables	5	429,030	32
Inventories	6	38,626	54,201
Total current assets		<u>739,299</u>	<u>120,365</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	7,686,155	7,741,887
Goodwill	8	60,000	-
Total non-current assets		<u>7,746,155</u>	<u>7,741,887</u>
Total assets		<u>8,485,454</u>	<u>7,862,252</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Bank Loan – Secured	9	3,152,250	2,210,336
Trade and other payables	10	86,319	84,117
Income in Advance	11	-	64,150
Total current liabilities		<u>3,238,569</u>	<u>2,358,603</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Other Payables	12	144,963	135,208
Total non-current liabilities		<u>144,963</u>	<u>135,208</u>
Total liabilities		<u>3,383,532</u>	<u>2,493,812</u>
Net assets		<u>5,101,922</u>	<u>5,368,440</u>
Equity			
Retained Earnings		768,067	1,034,586
Reserves		4,333,854	4,333,854
Total equity		<u>5,101,922</u>	<u>5,368,440</u>

FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION
Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 30 April 2024

	Retained surpluses \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 May 2022	1,354,672	5,688,526
Deficit after income tax expense for the year	(320,086)	(320,086)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>(320,086)</u>	<u>(320,086)</u>
Balance at 30 April 2023	<u>1,034,586</u>	<u>5,368,440</u>
	Retained surpluses \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 May 2023	1,034,586	5,368,440
Deficit after income tax expense for the year	(266,518)	(266,518)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>(266,518)</u>	<u>(266,518)</u>
Balance at 30 April 2024	<u>768,067</u>	<u>5,101,922</u>





FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 30 April 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST)		1,201,678	1,136,399
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		<u>(1,888,573)</u>	<u>(1,426,082)</u>
		(686,895)	(289,683)
Grants received		<u>20,300</u>	<u>6,904</u>
Net cash from operating activities		<u>(666,594)</u>	<u>(282,779)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(7,147)	(876)
Movement in Bank Loans		941,914	155,293
Loans From Other Parties		(29,661)	48,971
Other Cash Items <u>From</u> Investing Activities		<u>(33,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>872,106</u>	<u>203,387</u>
Net cash from financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		205,512	(79,392)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		<u>66,132</u>	<u>145,524</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5	<u>271,644</u>	<u>66,132</u>



FINANCIAL NOTES

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

Notes to the financial statements

30 April 2024

Note 1. Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

The adoption of these Accounting Standards and Interpretations did not have any significant impact on the financial performance or position of the company.

The following Accounting Standards and Interpretations are most relevant to the company:

Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework)

The company has adopted the revised Conceptual Framework from 1 July 2021. The Conceptual Framework contains new definition and recognition criteria as well as new guidance on measurement that affects several Accounting Standards, but it has not had a material impact on the company's financial statements.

AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities

The company has adopted AASB 1060 from 1 July 2021. The standard provides a new Tier 2 reporting framework with simplified disclosures that are based on the requirements of IFRS for SMEs. As a result, there is increased disclosure in these financial statements for key management personnel and related parties.

Basis of preparation

These [general purpose](#) financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Victorian legislation the Fundraising Act 1998 and associated regulations and the Corporations Act 2001, as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 2.



FINANCIAL NOTES

Revenue recognition

The company recognises revenue as follows:

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the company: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Variable consideration within the transaction price, if any, reflects concessions provided to the customer such as discounts, rebates and refunds, any potential bonuses receivable from the customer and any other contingent events. Such estimates are determined using either the 'expected value' or 'most likely amount' method. The measurement of variable consideration is subject to a constraining principle whereby revenue will only be recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur. The measurement constraint continues until the uncertainty associated with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved. Amounts received that are subject to the constraining principle are recognised as a refund liability.

Sales revenue

Events, fundraising and raffles are recognised when received or receivable.

Donations

Donations are recognised at the time the pledge is made.

Grants

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the company satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the company is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Volunteer services

The company has elected not to recognise volunteer services as either revenue or other form of contribution received. As such, any related consumption or capitalisation of such resources received is also not recognised.

Income tax

As the company is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.



FINANCIAL NOTES

Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the company's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the company's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are always classified as non-current.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Trade and other receivables

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land) over their expected useful lives as follows:

Buildings	40 years
Freehold improvements	15 years
Plant and equipment	3-7 years
Motor vehicles	5-7 years
Office equipment	3-5 years

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the company. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

Impairment of non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the company prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities represent the company's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer and are recognised when a customer pays consideration, or when the company recognises a receivable to reflect its unconditional right to consideration (whichever is earlier) before the company has transferred the goods or services to the customer.

FINANCIAL NOTES

Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Other long-term employee benefits

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Defined contribution superannuation expense

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Fair value measurement

When an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date; and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principal market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

Note 2. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Judgement has been exercised in considering the impacts that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had, or may have, on the company based on known information. This consideration extends to the nature of the products and services offered, customers, supply chain, staffing and geographic regions in which the company operates.

Although the worst of the pandemic has passed, the impacts are still being felt by the Society. Loans initiated to keep the Society operating during 2021/2022 have increased debt and demand has been slow to recover. This has been disclosed in previous financial reports and strategies have been implemented and disclosed to mitigate the ongoing effects.



Estimation of useful lives of assets

The company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets

The company assesses impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the company and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions.

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 1, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Note 3. Revenue

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<i>Other revenue</i>		
Archives	77,405	120,979
Book Sales	321,228	317,903
Café Sales	53,028	-
Donations	142,506	3,702
Magazines	246,563	249,347
Other	27,196	24,747
Subscriptions	274,930	219,918
Tours	7,317	31,382
Revenue	<u>1,150,174</u>	<u>967,978</u>

Note 4. Current assets - cash and cash equivalents

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash on hand	-	-
Cash at bank	270,644	65,132
	<u>270,644</u>	<u>65,132</u>

Note 5. Current assets - trade and other receivables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Trade Receivables	12,041	32
Borrowing Costs	127,687	-
Prepayments	289,302	-
	<u>429,030</u>	<u>32</u>

Note 6. Inventories

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current (At Cost)	<u>38,626</u>	<u>54,201</u>



FINANCIAL NOTES

Note 7. Non-current assets - property, plant and equipment

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Land and buildings - at cost	6,300,000	6,300,000
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-	-
	<u>6,300,000</u>	<u>6,300,000</u>
Freehold improvements - at cost	1,151,970	1,151,970
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(139,065)	(112,628)
	<u>1,012,905</u>	<u>1,039,342</u>
Plant and equipment - at cost	576,161	570,217
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(202,911)	(170,983)
	<u>373,250</u>	<u>399,234</u>
Computer equipment - at cost	96,082	94,879
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(96,082)	(91,568)
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,311</u>
	<u>7,686,155</u>	<u>7,741,887</u>

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Land and buildings \$	Freehold improvements \$	Plant and equipment \$	Computer Equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 May 2023	6,300,000	1,039,342	399,234	3,311	7,741,887
Additions	-	-	5,944	1,203	7,147
Depreciation expense	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,437)</u>	<u>(31,928)</u>	<u>(4,514)</u>	<u>(62,879)</u>
Balance at 30 April 2024	<u>6,300,000</u>	<u>1,012,905</u>	<u>373,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,686,155</u>

Note 8. Goodwill

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Goodwill	<u>60,000</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 9. Bank Loans

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Loans	<u>3,152,250</u>	<u>2,210,336</u>



FINANCIAL NOTES

Note 10. Current liabilities - trade and other payables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Trade payables	31,460	55,506
Other payables	-	8,264
Superannuation Payable	5,274	2,455
GST Payable	2,904	4,894
Other creditors	27,000	-
PAYG Payable	19,681	12,998
	<u>86,319</u>	<u>84,117</u>

Note 11. Current liabilities – Income Received in Advance

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Tour	-	64,150
	<u>-</u>	<u>64,150</u>

Note 12. Non-current liabilities – Other Payables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
CBA Mastercard (James Dalton) Credit Facility	19,310	1,971
Loan-Paul Holding	-	15,000
Loan-James Dalton	-	5,000
Loan-Scott Howells	-	5,000
Loan-Andrew Phelan	-	10,000
Loan-Craig Mackey	-	5,000
Loan-Brigid Logue (Gretta)	-	5,000
Loan-Grahame Thurling	-	2,000
ATO ICA	55,653	16,238
Loans- <u>Glillico</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>
	<u>144,963</u>	<u>135,208</u>

Note 13. Equity - retained surpluses

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Retained surpluses at the beginning of the financial year	1,034,586	1,354,672
Deficit after income tax expense for the year	<u>(266,518)</u>	<u>(320,086)</u>
Retained surpluses at the end of the financial year	<u>768,067</u>	<u>1,034,586</u>



FINANCIAL NOTES

Note 14. Key management personnel disclosures

Compensation

James Dalton and Craig Mackey have served as both directors and employees during the period. The aggregate compensation made to directors and other members of key management personnel of the company is set out below:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Aggregate compensation	<u>210,733</u>	<u>163,130</u>

Note 15. Remuneration of auditors

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by Accounting Firm 123, the auditor of the company:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Audit services - Accounting Firm 123 Audit of the financial statements	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,500</u>

Note 16. Contingent liabilities

The company had no contingent liabilities as at 30 April 2024 and 30 April 2023.

Note 17. Commitments

The company had no commitments for expenditure as at 30 April 2024 and 30 April 2023.

Note 18. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 14.

Transactions with related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Note 19. Events after the reporting period

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 April 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.



FINANCIAL NOTES

In the directors' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Victorian legislation the Fundraising Act 1998 and associated regulations, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 April 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of directors made pursuant to section 295(5)(a) of the Corporations Act 2001.

On behalf of the directors

J Dalton
(Chairman)

AM Phelan
(Secretary)

Sydney, 25 October 2024



AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2024



AUSTRALIAN AUDITS & CORPORATE SERVICES

AUDITOR'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

To the directors of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division

In relation to our audit of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division for the year ended 30 April 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, there have been:

- (a) no contravention of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) no contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division

Australian Audit & Corporate Services

.....
Brian Robert Taylor

Register Auditor

Sydney

24th October, 2024

AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2024



AUSTRALIAN AUDITS & CORPORATE SERVICES

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION
ABN 96 000 538 803

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the financial report of Australian Railway Historical Society New South Wales Division, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2024, the statement of income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the period 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024 then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the financial report of Australian Railway Historical Society New South Wales Division, has been prepared in accordance with the *Corporation Act 2001* and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 April 2024 and of its financial performance for the period then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Director' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the ACNC Act and the



AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2024

Corporations Act 2001, and for such internal control as directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, directors are responsible for assessing the of Australian Railway Historical Society New South Wales Division's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entity's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2024

We communicate with the responsible entity regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

AUSTRALIAN AUDITS & CORPORATE SERVICES

Brian Taylor

Registered Auditor

Sydney

Date: 24th October, 2024