

# Australian Timetable Association Annual Report

2019/20



2019 AGM, Canberra



AUSTRALIAN TIMETABLE  
ASSOCIATION

Inc. No A0043673H  
ABN 74 248 483 468

## AGENDA

### ATA 37th AGM 21st November 2020

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2019 (36th) AGM
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Reports:
  - 5.1 President (requires a vote)
  - 5.2 Treasurer (requires a vote)
  - 5.3 *Table Talk* Editor
  - 5.4 *Times* Editor
  - 5.5 Production Manager
  - 5.6 Distribution Manager
  - 5.7 Membership Officer
  - 5.8 Auctioneer
  - 5.9 Archives Report
  - 5.10 Webmaster
  - 5.11 Divisional Reports:
- 6 Elections and Appointments
  - 6.1 Determination of required Committee numbers
  - 6.2 Election of Committee:
    - 6.2.1 President
    - 6.2.2 Vice-President
    - 6.2.3 Secretary
    - 6.2.4 Treasurer
    - 6.2.5 Ordinary Committee Members (see 6.1)
  - 6.3 Appointment of Auditor
7. General Business
8. Location of 2021 (38th) AGM
9. Any other business that may be permitted under the Rules

## President's Report

The work of ATA has been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, our regular meetings have not been held and there have been frustrating postal delays. Our thanks to committee members and volunteers who have continued to prepare and distribute our monthly mail-out and provide our auction and distribution services. Pleasingly, many members have been in contact with each other through emails, phone calls and, when possible, visits.

Our journals have continued to provide news and articles of interest to our members. Our distribution service and auction have been continuing to perform well. Some members have contributed items resulting from clean-ups conducted during lockdown. Our Sydney convener, Geoffrey Clifton, organised a Zoom ATA Meeting on Saturday May 30. Twenty members participated and over the two hours allocated we were able to introduce ourselves and enjoy a general transport and timetable discussion. Maybe Zoom meetings could become a more regular ATA activity.

The progress on the National Timetable Collection to be housed at the State Library of Victoria has been slowed due to the cessation of the workdays at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute. In addition to the Alan Gray collection, we have received a large collection of Adelaide train, tram and bus timetables from Dave Stephens in Adelaide. We have not heard anything yet about our application for \$15000 under the Local History Grants. As our collections have outgrown the space available at the PMI, discussions have been held with Melbourne Metro about the use of vacant premises at a railway station. A larger storage unit for NTC material has been leased at National Storage Kilsyth. We have also accepted an offer from Steven Haby to use some storage space in his unit at Kennards. Some Melbourne members have been able to do some sorting and cataloguing at home. Prior to the last Sydney division meeting four members participated in a Sydney workday on the NTC. Unfortunately, the Sydney work has been unable to continue due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Our AGM has been rescheduled to Saturday November 21, 2020 at 2pm AEDT using the online conference facilities. If COVID-19 restrictions allow, members may gather at a central place or several locations in each capital city (with appropriate social distancing being practised). Individual members may join the meeting at home by an internet or phone connection. Our committee is looking at making the AGM accessible to all members and maintaining the integrity of voting.

Our committee adopted a proposal to offer concessional membership fees to those who may be in financial or social difficulties resulting from COVID-19 restrictions. Included with membership renewals was a copy of the ATA's promotional brochure. Some members requested additional copies to pass onto friends who may be interested in joining ATA. Some members included a donation with their membership renewal to support our work. This is very much appreciated. Our committee approved our new logo. We are pleased with its modern and crisp appearance. Our thanks to Transit Graphics who designed the new logo in conjunction with the preparation of our recent promotional brochure. Our committee has prepared guidelines for ATA social media. With Transit Graphics we had been working towards a website update. Unfortunately, this has been delayed due COVID-19 disruption.

The ATA became a member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) this year, as a result of taking out public liability insurance brokered by the RHSV. The historical society produces an informative journal twice a year, which we are able to circulate to interested members of the ATA.

Sadly, we wish to acknowledge the passing of Tris Tottenham. Tris was a regular subscriber to the ATA Distribution List. Tris's wife Kaye has offered his timetable collection to the ATA. On behalf of the ATA I wish to express our sympathy and condolences to Kaye and Tris's family. Tris will be missed by many of us.

In my last annual report I wrote a tribute to Victor Isaacs former ATA President and friend. In this report I am pleased to outline Victor's continuing legacy. ATA is working towards the retention of Victor Isaacs' website Train Times Australia and New Zealand. Victor's website is considered by many people to be a valuable asset that should be preserved and, if possible, kept up to date. Our webmaster Alex Sims has integrated this website with our website. Some members have offered to manage a section of Train Times. More members are needed to take responsibility for maintaining

further sections. Geoff Lambert has taken over from Victor Isaacs to look after UK member Jim Fergusson's website documenting every passenger station that has ever existed in most parts of the world. Victor's timetable collection has been donated to ATA, and Victor's wife, Agnes Boskovitz, has organised it ready for despatch to Melbourne when the COVID restrictions are lifted. Agnes has become a member of ATA and is a regular contributor to our Distribution Service, and continues in her role as a proof reader of our journals.

As President, I continue to see the enormous work done by our key people in keeping the ATA running. Our thanks to Geoff Lambert editor of "The Times" and to Geoff and Judy Lambert for handling the production and mailout of our journals. Chris Pandilovski was appointed "Table Talk" editor at the last AGM. As a regular contributor to "Table Talk" I see closely the fine work done by Chris and Steven Haby our bus editor. Our thanks to Len Regan who in addition to being our treasurer and membership officer provides a great deal of the effort required to ensure the smooth running of the distribution service and auction. Len also co-ordinates work on the NTC. ATA gained a surplus of \$986 over the last financial year. This compares with a surplus of \$1096 for 2018-2019.

Robert Henderson, Matthew Gibbins and Richard May have prepared Auction Lists and Geoff Hassall assesses the bids. Alex Sims looks after our website. Paul Brown has looked after ATA Social Media. Richard May, our secretary and Jim Wells, our accountant, handle their duties in a business-like and helpful manner. Our partnership with the Prahran Mechanic's Institute (PMI) in suburban Melbourne continues to work well. We thank these people for their contributions to the success of ATA. As President, I am responsible for the Members' News.

Our Management Committee meets at 4 times a year using Skype. Although we have had a long agenda at most meetings, the committee has continued to work well. Our Division Conveners have an important role to stay in touch with members during this time of lockdowns.

Although we have had some new and younger members join ATA recently our future becomes uncertain when older members are no longer able to serve as office-bearers, committee members or assist the work of ATA. The difficulty for ATA is compounded by the steep learning curve for some of the "working positions". Also by the recent changes to legislation and banking laws/rules that constrain an organisation like ours from making and implementing snap decisions on management. For something like Production Management, it should be in the State with the largest number of members because postal rates are cheaper if the mail-out is sent from that state. It seems that the state with the most number of members is shifting back towards VIC from NSW. Our Facebook posts can be seen by over 200 people who are happy to view them without seeking membership. Members need to come forward to take up roles which will keep the ATA going.

I wish to thank the members of the Committee and those appointed to do various jobs during the year for their hard work and support. Despite the difficulties COVID-19 has sent, it has been another good year and a pleasure to work with you.

Hilaire Fraser-President

## Financial Report

It is pleasing to report that, financially, the Association has had another successful year in 2019-20. This is due to the continued support of members in their membership and for the various Association activities.

The income and expenditure details for each activity, as well as the bank balance details, are shown in the Financial Statement. The corresponding totals from the previous four years are also shown. All the totals are based on accrual accounting.

Income for the year was \$18,936, expenses were \$17,950, giving an accrual surplus of \$986. The surplus in the previous year was \$1096.

Membership revenue received was \$222 more than in the previous year.

Both the Distribution List and the Auctions received more revenue than in the previous year.

Monthly mailout costs were \$9,033, compared to \$8,900 in the previous year. The main contributor to this increase was higher costs for printing the mailout envelopes. There was a reduction in postage costs of 18%.

Administration expenses increased by 47%. They now include membership of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and insurance cover for public liability, association liability, assets and volunteers.

Membership fees for 2020-2021 received prior to 30 June 2020 are not included in Income, but are shown as a liability in Assets.

Funds received for Distribution List orders and Auction bids, as well as credits granted for materials supplied, are allocated to the members' individual Distribution Service accounts. Many participants make occasional bulk payments to their account. The actual costs of Distribution List orders and Auction bids, as well as Membership Fees on request, are deducted from the Distribution Service accounts. This year there was a surplus of \$174 in Distribution Service receipts, which increased the total value of credits to \$2,841. This surplus is not included in Income, but is included in the Distribution Accounts liability in Assets.

The surplus from the Distribution List was \$1,820 (67% more than last year), and the surplus from Auctions was \$2,399 (13% less than last year).

On 30 June 2020, the cash at bank was \$13,241, compared with \$11,742 on 30 June 2019.

On 30 June 2020, the net cash assets were \$32,160, compared with \$31,174 on 30 June 2019.

The value of postal stationery held by production and distribution officers on 30 June 2020 was \$1771.

The funds derived from Auction 110 by the sale of railway working timetables donated by ATA UK member Jim Fergusson are shown as a reserve for the future costs of maintaining Jim's website, a project for which ATA has agreed to manage the Australian content. The website lists the names and distances of all railway infrastructure on all rail lines.

The Financial Statement was certified by the Committee at its meeting on 19 August 2020. The Association Rules require that it be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

### Financial Year Outlook for 2020 - 2021

#### Income

Membership – likely to remain constant or decline slightly.

Distribution List - likely to remain constant or decline slightly due to continuing difficulties to obtain

current timetables, resulting in a decline in orders.

Auctions – unpredictable as usual, but there is potential for some good results given the material that is available.

Sales – may increase if we are able to participate in book sales with surplus Auction material and overseas timetables, but given current priorities, this may have to wait until next financial year.

Interest – will decrease by about 42% due to the lower interest rates when the current Term Deposit at ING matures in October 2020. This interest will be taken as cash, and the Term Deposit will be rolled over.

#### Expenses

Mailouts – print costs have increased, so an increase in total costs could be expected.

Postage – with the benefits of discounts on bulk purchases of prepaid envelopes and satchels, we may be able to see only a slight increase in costs.

Distribution List – likely to remain constant.

Auction – likely to remain constant.

Administration – a small increase can be expected.

AGM – additional costs may be incurred due to the digital multi-site format being considered.

Website – Development and management of a new website may substantially affect total costs this year.

National Timetable Collection – increases in storage costs are likely. Initial capital costs for computer equipment, security and office equipment could be significant, as well as the costs of moving to new premises. These costs were expected to be incurred in 2019-20, but had to be deferred pending the receipt of grants funds.

#### End of Year Result

Due to the large development and capital expenses, a deficit of between \$5000 and \$10000 could be expected. The accumulated funds from surpluses in recent years will fund these expenses.

Len Regan - Treasurer

## Australian Timetable Association Inc


ABN 74 248 483 468

### Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June 2020

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Statement of Income and Expenditure</b>					
<b>for the year ended 30th June</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Subscriptions	8,106	7,884	8,030	8,185	8,070
Retail Sales	357	347	480	174	260
Distribution Service .....	5,087	4,756	7,281	6,894	4,543
Auctions	4,152	3,871	4,752	6,658	5,463
Donations	423	-	-	-	250
Bank Interest	811	70	658	493	471
	<b>18,936</b>	<b>16,928</b>	<b>21,201</b>	<b>22,404</b>	<b>19,057</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
The Times Production	3,369	3,190	3,344	3,423	3,734
Table Talk Production	2,499	2,457	2,508	1,971	2,249
Members' Newsletter	232	203	139	163	184
Mailing Costs .....	2,935	3,050	2,950	2,488	2,722
Distribution Service	3,266	3,654	5,054	4,815	4,880
Auctions	1,753	1,096	2,973	4,447	4,144
NTC - PMI Donation	-	-	1,000	-	-
National Timetable Collection	2,678	999	921	126	359
AGM	-	160	57	226	15
Web Site	590	596	330	-	-
Administration	628	427	90	398	456
	<b>17,950</b>	<b>15,832</b>	<b>19,366</b>	<b>18,057</b>	<b>18,743</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,835</b>	<b>4,347</b>	<b>314</b>
<b>Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 30th June</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash at Bank	13,241	11,742	11,895	10,027	13,750
Term Deposit .....	28,000	28,000	27,014	27,014	19,535
Debtors	-	-	-	121	153
	<b>41,241</b>	<b>39,742</b>	<b>38,909</b>	<b>37,162</b>	<b>33,438</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Subscriptions in advance	6,240	5,901	6,322	6,362	6,422
Members' accounts	2,841	2,667	2,509	2,557	3,120
	<b>9,081</b>	<b>8,568</b>	<b>8,831</b>	<b>8,919</b>	<b>9,542</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>32,160</b>	<b>31,174</b>	<b>30,078</b>	<b>28,243</b>	<b>23,896</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>					
Fergusson Reserve	1,218	1,218	-	-	-
Members Funds	30,942	29,956	30,078	28,243	23,896
As at end of period	<b>32,160</b>	<b>31,174</b>	<b>30,078</b>	<b>28,243</b>	<b>23,896</b>



**Len Regan**  
(Treasurer) 23rd July 2020



**Jim Wells**  
(Accountant) 23rd July 2020

## Table Talk

The unfortunate passing of Editor Victor Isaacs in late 2019 saw the editorship of Table Talk change hands to Chris Pandilovski. The transition was made smoother with the assistance of the Bus Editor, Steven Haby, taking on the editorship of the entire publication for the month of November 2019. I also have to greatly acknowledge the kind assistance of Agnes Boskovitz, whose effort enabled Table Talk to retain its familiar formatting and presentation. In a win for readers and the Association, publication of Table Talk was able to be maintained with a new copy published for each and every month throughout Summer 2019/20.

By far, the biggest stories of the financial year have been the bushfires affecting the country in Summer, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which continues to make forecasting and scheduling quite problematic.

Throughout my time in the editorship, there have been some ongoing tweaks made to the Table Talk format in an effort to improve readability, engagement and transparency. These include:

- Adding spacing between articles.
- Delivering a consistent format.
- Moving away from simple regurgitation of externally-sourced news articles to summarising/reviewing the key points.
- Including more images to improve readers' experience.
- Delivering a separate New Zealand section as an important part of "Australasia".
- Minimising over-the-top political spin which often permeates many government releases.
- Improving the listing of article sources to better acknowledge the contribution of external sources.

I thank the various article contributors whose contributions enable a more rounded Table Talk product to be delivered to readers every month across the various transport modes and jurisdictions. I am also reliably assisted by the regular proof-readers (Agnes Boskovitz, David Cranney and Geoff Hassall), whose effort ensures a greater consistency in the solid grammatical and language standards of Table Talk.

The near-term focus now is on bedding down the recent formatting (particularly article sourcing) changes, the imminent implementation of hyperlinks for news sources in the Table Talk digital edition, and imminently returning Table Talk Newswire with a (minimum) goal of achieving a three-out-of-four strike rate.

A summary of the material included in each month's Table Talk is shown in the table below.



		Total pages	Total articles	Nat'nal/ Dom'tic	QLD & NT	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NZ	Int'nal	Feature Article
2019	July	16	47	2	2	16	1	9	1	7	-	4	5	Govt Budgets
	August	16	40	4	3	8	2	10	-	4	4	-	5	QLD additional services
	September	16	44	5	6	13	1	9	2	-	3	2	3	New WTTs/Tim Fischer
	October	14	43	7	4	12	-	9	2	1	2	2	4	-
	November	14	27	3	4	3	1	14	-	-	2	-	-	-
	December	12	40	6	2	10	-	10	2	2	2	3	3	NSW Bus route changes
2020	January	8	29	5	-	9	-	6	1	1	3	1	3	NSW Ferries proposed changes
	February	11	31	2	2	9	1	7	1	2	2	2	3	NSW Blue Mtns fire damage
	March	11	48	6	1	9	5	10	1	-	-	7	9	NSW Bankstown rail options
	April	24	63	8	3	17	5	8	-	6	3	7	6	COVID-19 – various
	May	12	50	8	-	12	-	9	2	3	7	4	5	-
	June	15	51	5	3	14	1	6	-	4	3	9	6	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>169</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>52</b>	
MONTHLY AVE.		14.1	42.8	5.1	2.5	11.0	1.4	8.9	1.0	2.5	2.6	3.4	4.3	

Chris Pandilovski - Editor

## The Times

*“Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose”* remained the continuing motto of The Times in 2019-2020. Rather than produce a set of exquisitely boring statistics for the content and authorship of the articles which had appeared in the July-June issues of The Times, I can summarise by saying that there have, once again, been more articles devoted to Australian transport timetables and a higher proportion devoted to railway timetables than last year. There are a number of “regular authors”, including James T Wells, and Hilaire Fraser, but articles by other authors are starting to dry up. There is still a small backlog of articles from the late Victor Isaacs waiting to be published. Until mid-2020 I found it less and less necessary to throw in random contributions of my own to fill up space – only time will tell if that continues into the new Financial Year.

On the production side, things have not changed much. For many years now, The Times has been produced as a folded booklet, using what a printer would call two-up imposition. This means that the magazine must have a number of pages that is a multiple of four. The Times is almost always budgeted for 16 pages. Because Table Talk, now frequently runs to 20 pages, there is little scope for The Times to run to more than 16, because that would bump our postage costs into a higher category.

The Times is also produced in a “digital edition”. The paper edition strives to have its “outer wrappers” in eye-catching colour, but internally it is nearly always in Black & White. The digital edition is, of course, in full colour. The digital edition could, if required, have any number of pages. In the future, it probably will have, especially if it can be produced in on-screen readable form. Some 48 ATA members receive the Digital Edition by e-mail—about half of them, exclusively so. The Digital Edition usually has many active hyperlinks which enable readers to navigate its pages, to write a Letter to the Editor and to find many of the references, timetables and other documents that are cited by the authors.

Geoff Lambert - Editor

## Production Managers

The Production Managers are responsible for

- Reception of copy from Editors
- Knocking the copy into shape for the printer
- Delivering copy to the printer
- Collecting printing (including yakking to the printer)
- Preparing the mailing list
- Producing a set of labels
- Stuffing the envelopes
- Taking the snail-mail to the Print Post Reception Centre at Brookvale
- Converting snail-mail editions to digital editions
- Despatching the digital editions via e-mail

The timings indicate that this requires about 11 person-hours per month in fits and starts—mostly fits. For many years stuffing envelopes was a team effort of up to 8 people that usually became a social occasion. The total time in hours and certainly the total person hours under such conditions rises exponentially with more than two people (as does the fun!) —gossip beats work!

Again, things have proceeded fairly normally for Production and Postage. Our previous Printer went out of business during the Financial Year and sold his business to another Company nearby, whom we now use. The new company is more consistent in its pricing regime, but prices are higher than they were with the previous Printer—particularly for envelopes.

We are therefore currently reviewing printing costs, to ascertain whether money can be saved by using different print companies or a mix of print companies (including Officeworks), even perhaps moving Production to Melbourne, where printing of envelopes (especially) may be facilitated via the use of the Printing Company used by the new publishers of Newsrail. The money saved by doing this may offset the increase in mailing costs that will be caused by the increase in the number of “Other State” Print Post destinations. The alternative to this is to print our Print Post envelopes in Melbourne, in large batches, and courier the batches to me in Sydney. The Newsrail people actually print a new batch of brown paper envelopes each month, already pre-addressed to each recipient, but they have recommended that ATA not do this.

A potential big problem is looming. Unless we can bring the number of Financial Australian-resident members who wish to receive a paper mail-out back up to at least 100, we cannot legally take advantage of the cheaper Print Post mailing scheme.

Geoff Lambert - Production Managers

## **Distribution List**

In 2019-2020 the Distribution List has continued to perform well to produce a surplus of \$1820. This surplus supports other ATA activities and also reduces our membership fees. The Distribution List's good performance comes despite the impact of COVID-19 and fewer timetables being available in print. The most popular items are working rail timetables usually sent in electronic form and printed bus timetables. Reliable supplies of printed timetables are available from PTV, Transperth, Transport Canberra and Metro and Tassielink in Tasmania. A number of members have provided timetables as a result of COVID clean-ups. These items have attracted many orders. Once again, the Distribution Service has had to manage an increase in postal charges. Our thanks Agnes Boskovitz, Scott Ferris, Stephen Gray, Andrew James, Michael Marshall, Dennis McLean, Len Regan, Alex Sims, Peter Walhouse and David Whiteford who are regular contributors and to other members, who have supplied items.

Also, thanks to our Distribution Officers, who despatch items. Our Distribution Officers provide lists of items they have and I combine these into the final Distribution List. Len Regan handles the finances and a good many of the items on the Distribution List.

We look forward to another good year over 2020-2021.

Hilaire Fraser

## Membership Report

The Association membership changed from 136 at the beginning of the year to 135 at the end of the year.

3 members did not renew their membership in July 2019.

4 members died during the year: Alan Gray, Tim Fischer, Victor Isaacs and Tris Tottenham.

During the year we welcomed 6 new members

Nick Hiscock, Hampton East, Melbourne

Aljosa Veljovic, Hampton, Melbourne

Andrew Woods, Torquay, Victoria

Agnes Boskovitz, Downer, ACT

Robin Bromby, Edgecliff, Sydney

Dave Brown, Inglewood, Perth

Membership at the end of the financial year was made up of 3 life members, 131 normal members and 1 student member.

For the monthly mailout, 86 members received it only by post, 29 members received it only by email, and 19 members received it both ways.

Here is the geographic distribution of members.

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Queensland	13	10%
New South Wales	50	37%
ACT	9	7%
Victoria	42	31%
South Australia	9	7%
Western Australia	5	4%
United Kingdom	5	4%
Switzerland	1	1%
USA	1	1%
Total	135	

The folded DL-size ATA information and membership brochure has been distributed to members via the postal mailout. Members are encouraged to pass the brochure on to friends who may be interested in the ATA. More copies are readily available on request to the Membership Officer.

Len Regan - Membership Officer

## Auctions

Despite the considerable upsets of 2019-2020, this has been a year of consolidation for our auctions. The availability of material has been stable, from various sources: donations, deceased estates, material on consignment, duplicates from the National Timetable Collection and unsold material from previous auctions. Bidder numbers have been variable within a lowish range, as has been the case for a number of years. A lot of discussion has gone into raising the number of bidders, but the material available and the demographic age of members: (most of us are in the older age-group), who have collections which, other than the occasional rarities, are essentially complete suppress the potential pool of bidders. That being said, there are a few newer, and presumably younger, members who bid regularly and enthusiastically, and they are greatly appreciated. Financially these bidders are keeping the auction, and to an extent the Association, above water (see below).

For those considering downsizing their collections or considering where their collections are to go if they should pass on, it must be said that we will try to auction whatever we get that is relevant, but obviously the older and rarer the better. It has been clear over a few years that rail Working Timetables (or as otherwise titled) and tram timetables tend to elicit the most interest and air timetables the least. Overall, rail & tram timetables are more popular than bus, but there are many exceptions to this generalisation. Further, we must consider that we are rapidly entering a period with no new printed timetables being issued, so younger members might find that there is an upsurge in interest in and thus value of paper timetables as certain members of later generations become interested in the 'olden days' and how we 'oldies' did things then.

Back in the here and now, I must proffer my enormous thanks to those who have been prepared to produce one or some of the monthly catalogues of material which will not fit in my limited domestic space. They are ably coordinated by Len Regan, without whose assistance and guidance I would never have been able to stick with this job for such a period. The distribution of tasks, and therefore stress, across many members is all Len's idea. I won't name the cataloguers for fear of leaving anyone out, but I am deeply grateful to all.

Finally, thanks to our esteemed Treasurer we can say that the auction made a surplus of \$2399 in 2019-20. The best result was \$734 in Dec 2019, for some older tram timetables and the worst a surplus of just \$9 for air timetables.

Geoff Hassall - Auctioneer

## Archives Officer's Report

The Association's Archives and Timetable Collections are stored in the James Mason Room at the Prahran Mechanics Institute in Melbourne and at a commercial storage location at Kilsyth in Melbourne. Some boxes are also stored temporarily by members in Melbourne, and one box is stored in Sydney.

Work continued, on one day each week, to sort, cull and catalogue the timetables for the Jack McLean National Timetable Collection (NTC) until March 2020 when the work had to stop due to COVID-19 restrictions. It may be November 2020 before work can safely resume.

Early in the year, 2793 timetables which had been catalogued, boxed and labelled were transferred to the National Timetable Collection at the State Library of Victoria (SLV), bringing the total number of timetables transferred to 3104.

At the same time, work has continued with the sorting and culling of the timetables in the collections that had been received, and in the new collections received during the year. Timetables for the National Timetable Collection also come from unsold lots in the ATA Auctions and surplus stock from the Distribution Lists.

We acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the donors of timetable collections received during the year: John Beckhaus, Wilfrid Brook, Ian and Debbie Burke, Canberra Railway Museum (former ARHS ACT), Kim Critchley, Glenn Cumming, Geoff Dyer, Alan Gray, John Hearsch, Les Hyland, Ben Lewis, Max Michell, John Murray, Noel Pye, Len Regan, Brian Sherry, Malcolm Simister, Dave Stephens, Peter Walhouse, Jim Wells and Bill Wembridge.

During the year, there were 43 working sessions in which 21 participants provided 150-person work days on the National Timetable Collection project at Prahran. In addition, 4 members participated in a working session at the University of Sydney at the start of a program to involve Sydney members, and 5 members supported a rescue mission at Long Jetty, NSW, to salvage the vast timetable collection of Alan Gray.

Members and supporters have enjoyed the camaraderie and challenges of sorting, culling and collating, and we are very grateful for their work and dedication: Geoffrey Clifton, Noel Farr, Hilaire Fraser, Nerelle Fraser, Matthew Gibbins, Stephen Gray, Steven Haby, Geoff Hassall, Robert Henderson, David Hennell, Andrew James, Geoff Lambert, Geoff Mann, Michael Marshall, Richard May, Max Michell, Katie Moss, Jim Nelson, James Ng, Len Regan, Richard Talbot, Michael Vale, Peter Walhouse and Andrew Woods.

The Association applied in January 2020 to the Public Records Office of Victoria, through the Local History Grants Program, for \$15,000 to purchase suitable computer equipment and storage shelving, and to pay for access to scanning facilities. This funding would support the scanning, cataloguing and transfer of the Victorian timetables to the State Library of Victoria over the next 3 years. Announcement of the successful grants has been delayed until the Victorian State Budget in November 2020.

An agreement was negotiated with Docuvan, a business in Melbourne, for the use of its range of high quality scanning equipment for scanning the NTC timetables prior to their transfer to the SLV: 400 days at \$50 a day, worth \$20,000. In return, ATA will promote Docuvan's services in its printed material. The COVID-19 restrictions have prevented a start to this program of scanning.

The ATA Archives are missing much of the early documents of the Association, particularly from the 1980s and 1990s. Documents such as meeting minutes, membership lists, distribution lists and auction catalogues are particularly in short supply. Members who may still have any of these old documents, or know who might have them, are asked to consider making them available for secure storage in the ATA Archives. Please contact Archives Officer, Len Regan, if you can help.

Investigations have continued to try to find more spacious premises for the ATA Archives and National Timetable Collection; somewhere between 60m<sup>2</sup> and 100m<sup>2</sup> in a secure building is needed.

Again, if you can help with any advice about suitable premises, please contact the Archives Officer. Associated with this is the need to purchase computer and printing equipment to support the work on the NTC.

Len Regan - Archives Officer

## **Webmaster**

The website has remained steady with 2000 unique visitors each month, mainly from the US and Australia, although the US looks to be more automated robots rather than humans. The most frequently visited page is the home page, a former forum page of interest to “spambots” and then “The Times” and “Table Talk”. Reports from the Google search engine show different results with the home page being followed in popularity with Brisbane Timetables, then the October 2014 Table Talk (searchers seeking “pacific national rail timetable”), then NSW timetables.

In 2019/2020 achievements have been:

- production of a special auction catalogue with pictures of individual items listed

In 2019/2020 I'm still seeking to:

- Make Victor Isaacs' Traintimes website content available for update as well as preserving this site.
- Explore automated collation of electronic versions of printed timetables into timetable lists

In 2019/2020 the website is expected to move to a new design by TransitGraphics and some particular tasks of interest are:

- Integrate the timetable lists in some way into the new website
- Help with migration of content
- Make back issues of The Times and TableTalk available in alternative formats good for reading on all devices from the largest desktop to the smallest phone as well as easy for search engines to digest and index.

Alex Sims - Webmaster



## Divisional Reports

### Melbourne

Only 4 meetings were held during the 2019/2020 year as the May meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As usual, these were held at the home of David Hennell in Surrey Hills.

The topics presented were:–

- July 2019: QR's Mt. Morgan rack railway 1943 – including the Yeppoon & Emu Park lines as they're in the WTT instructions for Mt. Morgan – David Hennell
- September 2019: dating a railway map covering NSW, Vic and SA taken from an 1890s atlas (it included many amazing proposed railways) – Len Regan; also David Hennell distributed homework for the November meeting
- November 2019: discussing the homework (VR 3 letter station names, along with train services on the appropriate lines) – David Hennell
- March 2020: Melbourne suburban station list taken from the December 1893 Compendium and subsequent name changes; the Swan Hill line and branches from 1906 to 1934 (this period preceded that of the handout at the SLUOC seminar) – David Hennell
- May 2020: – meeting cancelled (was to have been presented by Len Regan)

The Division contributed significantly to the State Library User Organisations' Council's seminar entitled On Time! held on Saturday 3rd August 2019 at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's premises in A'Beckett St. in the Melbourne CBD, just north of Flagstaff. Presentations were given by members Andrew James, John Mikita, Len Regan and David Hennell, as well as people from the State Library and the SLUOC. It was a most successful afternoon and resulted in some new members for the Association.

Melbourne members continue to contribute substantially to the sorting, culling and indexing of material for the National Timetable Collection held by the State Library of Victoria. Past members' collections are adding positively to our workload and some timetables are now being indexed by the Sydney Division. Work continued at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute on alternate Thursdays and alternate Saturdays during most of the year, apart from the Christmas/New Year period. However, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, work at PMI ceased in mid-March. Fortunately, work did not entirely stop as, after a short while, some people took material to their homes for sorting and indexing. Work at PMI resumed in late June, but again had to stop due to more COVID-19 restrictions. Some enthusiastic new people joined the PMI regulars during the year. Len Regan is a hard taskmaster but he distributes the work with a smile. This exercise is exceedingly worthwhile and a most enjoyable social activity despite the senses of humour involved.

My thanks to all for a successful almost year.

David Hennell – Melbourne Convenor

### Adelaide

There have been no Adelaide Branch meetings during the year. More recently the Covid virus struck, imposing various restrictions on social activity.

Due to Covid-Safety plans South Australian country bus services have been badly affected. Many trips on Stateliner routes have been suspended. Also smaller companies' routes have been affected. Remarkably Adelaide Metro has not cut services during the pandemic. Rail services were reduced on Belair, Outer Harbor and Grange lines for a month or so due to mechanical fault in the new Mercedes V-8 diesel engines in the D-E railcars.

In 2020-21 we look forward to the opening of the Flinders extension of Tonsley line with a probable new timetable format and feeder buses from Flagstaff Hill, Aberfoyle Pk areas. Also we look forward to seeing the changes to be introduced with the opening of Gawler electric train service.

## **Brisbane**

The Brisbane group of five members have continued to hold meetings four times a year. They have shared and discussed a wide range of railway information and subjects.

In the past year, two new train operators, Watco and One Rail have commenced running trains and hauling and placing empty wagons to be introduced on the two 1,067mm gauge networks, Queensland Rail and AURIZON.

The covid-19 virus initially saw QR passenger services reduced but they have returned and with a better frequency on the suburban network.

The Queensland members wish to thank those who supply information to and prepare the magazines so we can keep abreast of the "Times".

Thank you

Brian Webber - Brisbane Convener

## **Canberra**

The Canberra Branch, as it has done for a number of years, met monthly until February 2020 after which meetings were suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions. Attendance has normally been around 4 to 8 people, including others with an interest in any form of transport. Meeting format has been a discussion over dinner at the Ainslie Football Club, around 500 metres from the Macarthur Avenue Light Rail station.

David Cranney – Canberra Convener

## **Sydney**

The Sydney Division finished 2019 with our regular scheduled meetings. We enjoyed the usual food, discussion and timetable swapping. We also made good use of the Audio-Visual capabilities in our meeting room. We also started off strong in 2020 with a morning spent cataloguing timetables for the national archives before the regular meeting. Unfortunately we have not been able to meet since due to Covid restrictions but we did host a national get together on Zoom that was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Geoffrey Clifton – Sydney Convener

**MINUTES OF THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN TIMETABLE ASSOCIATION  
SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2019**

Held in the offices of TransitGraphics, Suite 3, Level 1, 11 McKay Lane, Turner ACT 2612

**1. WELCOME, ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

The President, Hilaire Fraser, declared the meeting open at 1405pm.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Hilaire Fraser (President), Geoff Hassall (Committee, Acting Secretary), Len Regan (Treasurer), Stephen Gray, Geoff Mann, Richard May, Neville Fenn, John Abrams, Andrew James, James Ng, Chris Pandilovski, Agnes Boskovitz, Ross Willson, John Mikita.

**APOLOGIES:** Geoff Lambert (Secretary), Brendan White, David Hennell, Roger Wheaton, Paul Brown, Glenn Cumming, Alex Sims (Committee, Webmaster), Steven Haby (Committee), David Cranney.

**PROXIES:** The Acting Secretary announced the following proxies held:  
Vic Solomons by Acting Secretary  
David Hennell by Len Regan  
Joel Taggart by Acting Secretary  
Geoff Lambert by Len Regan  
Glen Ogle by Acting Secretary

**2. MINUTES OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 13 OCTOBER 2018:**

Minutes accepted. Moved: A James, Seconded: G Mann.

2.1 **Business Arising:** None

**3. CORRESPONDENCE:** Nil

**4. REPORTS:**

All reports were included in the ATA Annual Report 2018-9 distributed to most members by email and available via the Association's Distribution Service and web page.

**4.1 President's Report:**

The President's Report and indeed all proceedings were overshadowed by the untimely death of esteemed Vice-President Victor Isaacs not long prior to the AGM. For an obituary, see the text of the President's Report.

Report accepted. Moved H Fraser, Seconded C Pandilovski. Accepted

**4.2 Financial Report:**

The Treasurer spoke to the report.

The meeting confirmed the Financial Statement for the Association that was approved by the Committee on 21 August 2019.

Moved: L Regan, Seconded: N Fenn. Accepted

The following reports were discussed:

- 4.3 Editor of The Times
- 4.4 Editor of Table Talk
- 4.4 Production Manager
- 4.5 Distribution Officer

- 4.6 Membership Officer
- 4.7 Auctioneer
- 4.8 Archives Officer
- 4.9 Webmaster
- 4.10 Social Media

## 5. DIVISIONAL REPORTS:

Reports were included in the Annual Report 2018-9 distributed to most members by email and available via the Association's Distribution Service and web page.

## 6. RESOLUTION ON THE NUMBER OF ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

That there be five ordinary committee members.  
 Moved: A James, Seconded C Pandilovski. Agreed.

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

### 7.1 Location of 2020 Annual General Meeting

The meeting discussed the usual rotation of AGM's which would mean that the next AGM would be held in Brisbane. If it is not convenient for Brisbane to host, Sydney was proposed as an alternative.

The President has confirmed with Brisbane members that Sydney would have the greater appeal to members. The new City/ Eastern Suburbs tram/light rail should by then be in operation, as well as the North-West Metro for those new to it. Sydney was therefore be approached to host. Geoffrey Clifton has informally agreed. Brisbane would then be approached to host the 2021 meeting or some subsequent year if need be. The initially-proposed balloting of divisions would then not be necessary.

A proposed schedule would involve a tram ride from Circular Quay to Randwick, bus to Kingsford, lunch, then return tram to Central and bus to Sydney University (AGM). Other activities/exploration would be at member's discretion (as of course is the tram ride!).

### 7.2 Other General Business

Nil

## 8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	RESULT
President	H Fraser	H Fraser	Elected
Vice-President	G Lambert	L Regan	Elected
Secretary	R May	L Regan	Elected
Treasurer	L Regan	G Lambert	Elected
Committee	C Pandilovski	C Pandilovski	Elected
Committee	A James	A James	Elected
Committee	G Hassall	G Hassall	Elected
Committee	A Sims	A Sims	Elected
Committee	S Haby	H Fraser	Elected

**MOTION OF APPRECIATION** was proposed for the services of the outgoing committee, and of **WELCOME** to the committee for 2020.

Moved: G Mann, Seconded: A Bokovitz. Agreed with acclamation.

**MEETING CLOSED:** 1600

**APPOINTMENTS:**

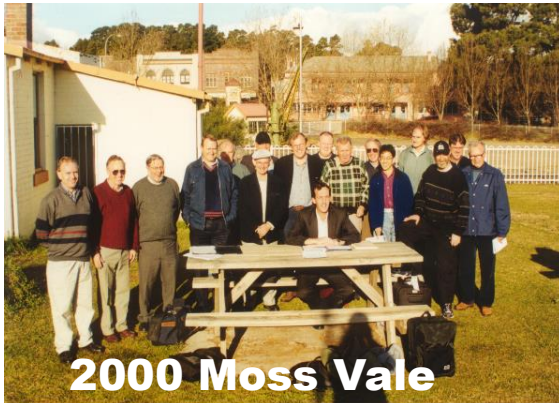
Following the AGM, the incoming committee met and made the following appointments:

<i>Times</i> Editor	Geoff Lambert
Interim <i>Table Talk</i> Editor	Chris Pandilovski.
<i>Table Talk</i> Bus Editor	Steven Haby,
Production Manager	Geoff Lambert,
Auctioneer	Geoff Hassall,
Archives Officer	Len Regan
Webmaster	Alex Sims,
Social Media Officer	Paul Brown,
Distribution Manager	Hilaire Fraser
Membership Officer	Len Regan.

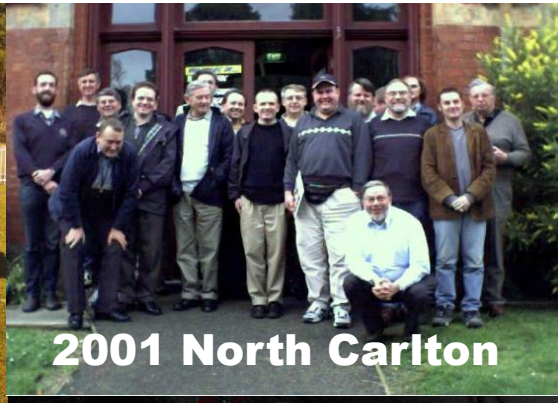
## OFFICE HOLDERS 2019-2020

### Management Committee

<b>President</b>	Hilaire Fraser	<a href="mailto:president@timetable.org.au">president@timetable.org.au</a>	5 Manor Hill Rd, Miranda NSW 2228
<b>Vice President</b>	Geoff Lambert	<a href="mailto:G.Lambert@iinet.net.au">G.Lambert@iinet.net.au</a>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Richard May	<a href="mailto:secretary@timetable.org.au">secretary@timetable.org.au</a>	179 Sydney Rd, Fairlight, NSW 2094
<b>Treasurer</b>	Len Regan	<a href="mailto:treasurer@timetable.org.au">treasurer@timetable.org.au</a>	76 Woodville Rd Mooroolbark Vic 3138
<b>Member</b>	Geoff Hassall		
<b>Member</b>	Chris Pandilovski		
<b>Member</b>	Andrew James		
<b>Member</b>	Steven Haby		
<b>Member</b>	Alex Sims		
<b>Other Officials</b>			
<b>The Times Editor</b>	Geoff Lambert	<a href="mailto:thetimes@timetable.org.au">thetimes@timetable.org.au</a>	179 Sydney Rd, Fairlight, NSW 2094
<b>Table Talk (Rail) Editor</b>	Chris Pandilovski	<a href="mailto:tabletalk@timetable.org.au">tabletalk@timetable.org.au</a>	
<b>Table Talk (Bus) Editor</b>	Steven Haby	<a href="mailto:busnews@timetable.org.au">busnews@timetable.org.au</a>	
<b>Production Membership</b>	Geoff Lambert Len Regan	<a href="mailto:G.Lambert@iinet.net.au">G.Lambert@iinet.net.au</a> <a href="mailto:membership@timetable.org.au">membership@timetable.org.au</a>	76 Woodville Rd Mooroolbark Vic 3138
<b>Archives</b>	Len Regan	<a href="mailto:archives@timetable.org.au">archives@timetable.org.au</a>	76 Woodville Rd Mooroolbark Vic 3138
<b>Auctioneer</b>	Geoff Hassall	<a href="mailto:auction@timetable.org.au">auction@timetable.org.au</a>	2/30 Vale St, Birmingham Gardens NSW 2287
<b>Webmaster</b>	Alex Sims	<a href="mailto:webmaster@timetable.org.au">webmaster@timetable.org.au</a>	
<b>Distribution: Manager</b>	Hilaire Fraser	<a href="mailto:distribution@timetable.org.au">distribution@timetable.org.au</a>	5 Manor Hill Rd, Miranda NSW 2228
<b>Adelaide Convenor</b>	Roger Wheaton	<a href="mailto:rogertw@adam.com.au">rogertw@adam.com.au</a>	
<b>Brisbane Convenor</b>	Brian Webber	<a href="mailto:bwebber5@bigpond.com">bwebber5@bigpond.com</a>	
<b>Canberra Convenor</b>	David Cranney	<a href="mailto:cranney@iinet.net.au">cranney@iinet.net.au</a>	
<b>Melbourne Convenor</b>	David Hennell	(03) 9830-1802	
<b>Sydney Convenor</b>	Geoffrey Clifton	<a href="mailto:geoffrey.clifton@sydney.edu.au">geoffrey.clifton@sydney.edu.au</a>	



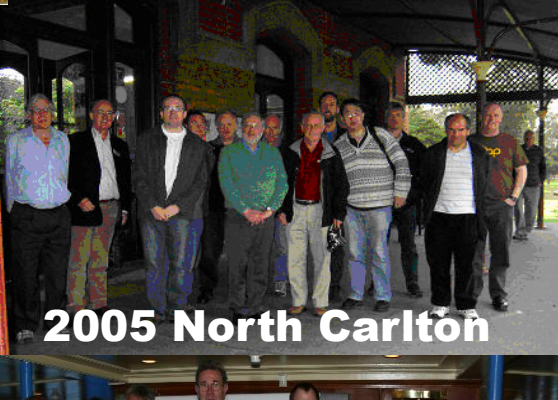
**2000 Moss Vale**



**2001 North Carlton**



**2002 Brisbane**



**2005 North Carlton**



**2003 Sydney, Lindfield**



**2007 Darling Harbour**



**Jack McLean**



**2006 Brisbane, New Farm**



**2008 Canberra Transit Graphics**



**2009 Hawthorn Tram Museum**



**2011 Queanbeyan Station**



**2013 Darling Harbour**



**2014 Canberra, Transit Graphics**



**2016 Brisbane Tram Museum**



**2012 Hawthorn Tram Museum**



**2018 Melbourne, Prahran**



**2015 Hawthorn Tram Museum**



**2017 Sydney University**