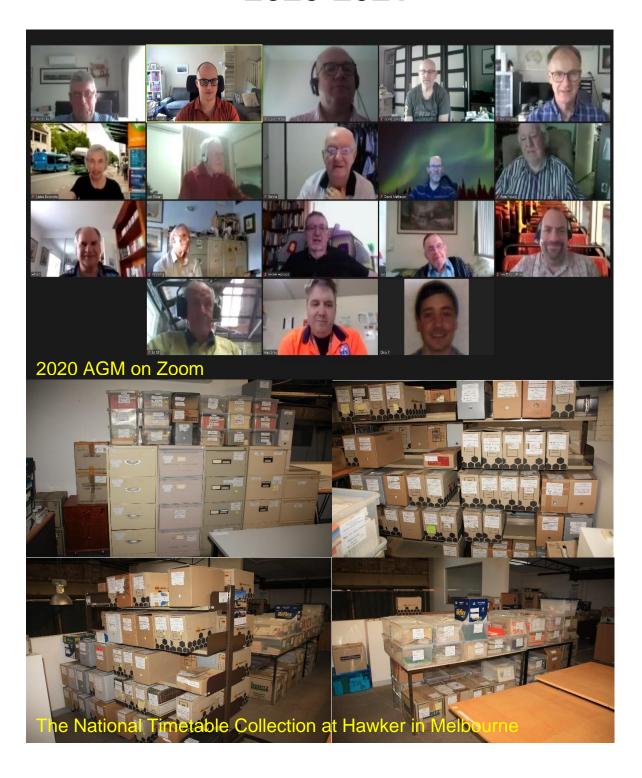
Australian Timetable Association Annual Report

2020-2021





AGENDA ATA 38th AGM 18th September 2021

- 1. Welcome and Apologies
- 2. Minutes of the 2020 (37th) 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 2022 (39th) AGM
- 9. Any other business that may be permitted under the Rules



President's Report

As I prepare this report in mid-July 2021, Greater Sydney, Victoria, and South Australia are in lockdown. These lockdowns are due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am receiving emails from ATA members providing news and thoughtful commentary on the reduction of Sydney Transport services to Sunday timetables and suburban railway stations which will be unattended during the lockdown. This communication demonstrates the value of the ATA in bringing people with a common interest together.

This report will provide an overview of the work of the ATA over the last financial year. More details will be provided in accompanying reports covering various areas.

The work of the ATA has continued to be challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our previous Sydney meeting venue was lost, and no progress has been made on finding a new venue. Our July 2021 mailout was transferred at short notice from Sydney to Melbourne due to the Sydney lockdown imposed on June 26. 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. Fortunately, we were able to have a successful Annual General Meeting on November 21, 2020 using Zoom with nineteen members in attendance.

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. Our Sydney convener, Geoffrey Clifton, organised a Zoom ATA Meeting on Saturday June 12. Ten members participated and after introductions they were able to enjoy a general transport and timetable discussion. Geoffrey Clifton was endorsed as our on-line convener and will continue to organise Zoom meetings. Our next Zoom meeting will be our Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday September 18 at 2.00pm AEST.

Despite on and off COVID restrictions, progress on the National Timetable Collection to be housed at the State Library of Victoria has continued. The ATA undertook the transfer of the National Timetable Collection and the ATA Archives from the Prahran Mechanics Institute (PMI) to our new premises in South Yarra on Saturday 24 April 2021. This move became necessary due to the chronic shortage of storage and working space at PMI, made more difficult with the COVID-19 restrictions. We have a 6-month lease on the new premises, which means we must move again before the end of October 2021. We have named the new premises Hawker. The nearest station is Hawksburn and the building is in Wilson St. The next station after Wilson on the old Commonwealth narrow gauge railway was Hawker. We express our gratitude to Steven Haby for his effort in sourcing our new venue at Hawker and for his considerable involvement in the planning and execution of the move from the PMI. The previous pattern of working one day a week on alternate Thursdays and Saturdays has resumed subject to Covid restrictions.

Following advice from Melbourne Metro, the ATA applied to VicTrack in September 2020 for a Community Lease of the vacant building at Windsor Station for the National Timetable Collection and ATA Archives. VicTrack's reply indicated that our application was reviewed, and it had been determined that the land may be available for lease. VicTrack's website states that the process of checking the availability of a site for lease could take up to 20 weeks. This period expired in mid-February 2021. The ATA sent a letter to Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan by email on Thursday 20 May 2021, asking for her assistance in getting a determination from VicTrack. To date there has been no acknowledgement or reply from the Minister. Sam Hibbins, Local Member for Prahran raised the matter of VicTrack's delay in offering a Community Lease in Parliament on 10 June 2021. The Minister responded that she would investigate the leasing arrangements and the opportunities for the Association. On Friday afternoon 18 June 2021 ATA received a phone call from VicTrack. advising that the lease matter was now in the hands Metro Trains Melbourne, as it



managed the building. This is where we started. Metro Trains have been contacted but have not responded. The ATA has raised the matter with Sam Hibbins, Local Member for Prahran, again and we are awaiting his advice. Our thanks to Len Regan for tenaciously pursuing the matter of a community lease of Windsor Station.

The ATA has continued to offer concessional membership fees to those who may be financially challenged. Some members included a donation with their membership renewal to support our work. This is very much appreciated. Over the last twelve months we welcomed new members Joe Hicks, Matthew Schoepf, Jimmy Liu, Derek Cheng, Ryan Orchard and Steven Lau. Our website update with Transit Graphics, delayed due to COVID-19 disruption in 2020, has come to a standstill as those involved in the process have had other commitments. I would remind members that the website Train Times Australia and New Zealand set up by Victor Isaacs, former ATA President, is now integrated with the ATA website. The ATA Facebook page has been reopened to promote the Zoom meeting held on June 12. Subsequently it has promoted some interest in ATA. We are looking forward to a Live Auction by Zoom in late 2021.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Adelaide Member Peter Hobbis. Peter joined the Australian Timetable Association soon after it was founded in the 1980's and has remained an active member. In April 2013 he willingly accepted the position of Distribution Manager, a position he held with dignity until November 2016. He also served with distinction for several years on the Association's management committee. On behalf of the ATA, I wish to extend our sympathy and condolences to David and Karen Hobbis and their family.

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. As a regular contributor to "Table Talk" I see closely the fine work done by editor Chris Pandilovski and by 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 coordinates work on the NTC. The ATA experienced a deficit of \$2280 over the last financial year. This compares with a surplus of \$986 for 2019-2020, and accumulated surpluses of \$19609 since 2012.

Robert Henderson, Matthew Gibbins and Geoff Hassall have prepared Auction Lists and Geoff Hassall assesses the bids. Alex Sims looks after our website. Richard May, our secretary and Jim Wells, our accountant, handle their duties in a business-like and helpful manner. As President I am responsible for the Members' News.

Our Management Committee meets 4 times a year using Zoom. 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 on touch with members during this time of lockdowns.

Although we have had some new and younger members join the 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 the ATA. The difficulty for the ATA is compounded by the steep learning curve for some of the "working positions". For something like Production Management, the postal rates are cheaper if the mail-out is sent from a state with the greatest number of members. For the ATA that is Victoria or NSW. Members need to come forward to take up roles which will keep the ATA going. In 2021-2022 it would be good to appoint a Membership Officer, separate from having this job done by our treasurer. Len Regan would like to train someone else as Treasurer so that he can concentrate on the National Timetable Collection. Unless another suitable candidate is found, I can continue as President in 2021-2022. However, I will not seek nomination in 2022-2023 as I expect Nerelle and I will be doing a great deal of travelling in our caravan following a move to the NSW South Coast. After six years it would be good to have new person as President. In the future there may be a greater



reliance on transmitting our journals electronically. Already our Distribution List is greatly reduced by the change from paper to electronic timetables, so our distribution service may take another form.

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 that COVID-19 has sent, it has been another good year and a pleasure to work with you.

Hilaire Fraser-President



Financial Report

In 2020-2021 the Association's finances showed a deficit of \$2,279. This is the first deficit since 2012. From 2013 to 2020 the annual accumulated surpluses totalled \$19,609.

The income and expenditure details for each activity, as well as the Balance Sheet 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 \$16,618, expenses were \$18,897, giving an accrual deficit of \$2,279. The surplus in the previous year was \$986.

Membership revenue of \$7620 was \$486 less than in the previous year.

Distribution List revenue of \$3676 was \$1411 less than in the previous year, and Auctions revenue of \$4,086 was \$66 less than in the previous year.

Monthly mailout costs were \$9,175, compared to \$9,033 in the previous year. The main contributor to this increase was higher costs for printing larger editions of Table Talk. A bulk purchase enabled the cost of printing envelopes for the year to be almost halved.

Membership fees for 2021-2022 received prior to 30 June 2021 are not included in Income but are shown as a liability in Net 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 reduction of \$474 in Distribution Service receipts, which decreased the total value of credits to \$2,366. These funds are not included in Income but are included in the Members' Accounts liability in Net Assets.

The cost of renting premises was a major expense of \$2,543 this year. Rental was paid for storage of timetable stocks that could not be accommodated at the Prahran Mechanics Institute. From April 2021 all of the National Timetable Collection stock and the ATA archives were moved to temporary rental premises at South Yarra pending the approval of our application for a Community Lease at Windsor Station.

It has been our practice to buy bulk stocks of postal stationery at discount prices and prior to price increases. The slowdown in Distribution List and Auction activity has meant that more of these stocks have remained unused than previously. Hence, the value of this stock, \$516, is now shown as a Current Asset. The move to South Yarra meant that we had to buy some second-hand office furniture. This amount of \$350 is now shown as a Non-current Asset. These amounts will be depreciated in future years.

On 30 June 2021, the cash at bank was \$20,716, plus \$16,500 in a Term Deposit.

On 30 June 2021, the Net Assets were \$29,881, compared with \$32,160 on 30 June 2020.

The Financial Statement was certified by the Committee at its meeting on 25 August 2021. The Association Rules require that it be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.



Financial Year Outlook for 2021 - 2022

Income

- Membership likely to remain constant or decline slightly.
- Distribution List likely to remain constant or decline slightly due to continuing difficulties in obtaining current printed 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 \$400 due to the low interest rates (0.55%) when the current Term Deposit at ING matures in October 2021. Interest is no longer paid on the Westpac Community cheque account.
- Grants we may be successful in a current grant application for \$4,000 to support the National Timetable Collection.

Expenses

- Mailouts print costs are significantly reduced when the printing is done by voluntary labour, as is being trialled in Melbourne. While this lasts, costs will be reduced by up to \$500 per month.
- Postage with the benefits of discounts on bulk purchases of prepaid envelopes and satchels, as well as the use of existing stocks, 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.
- 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 2020-2021 but had to be deferred due mainly to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- Rental until we are successful with our application for a Community Lease from VicTrack for a vacant railway building we may have to continue to pay commercial rentals for the National Timetable Collection stock and ATA archives.

End of Year Result

 Due to the continuing development and capital expenses, another deficit of up to \$5000 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 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$	2019 \$	2018 \$	2017 \$
Statement of Income and Expend	diture for	the year	ended 30	th June	
Income					
Subscriptions	7,620	8,106	7,884	8,030	8,185
Retail Sales	280	357	347	480	174
Distribution Service	3,676	5,087	4,756	7,281	6,894
Auctions	4,086	4,152	3,871	4,752	6,658
Donations	488	423	-	-	-
Bank Interest	468 16,618	811 18,936	70 16,928	658 21,201	493 22,404
	10,010	10,930	10,920	21,201	22,404
Expenditure					
The Times Production	3,322	3,369	3,190	3,344	3,423
Table Talk Production	3,058	2,499	2,457	2,508	1,971
Members' Newsletter	170 2,626	232 2,935	203 3,050	139 2,950	163 2,488
Mailing Costs Distribution Service	3,151	3,266	3,654	5,054	2,400 4,815
Auctions	2,254	1,753	1,096	2,973	4,447
National Timetable Collection	857	2,678	999	1,921	126
Premises Rental	2,543	_,	-	-	-
Web Site	330	590	596	330	-
Administration	586	628	587	147	624
	18,897	17,950	15,832	20,423	18,057
Surplus / (deficit)	(2,279)	986	1,096	778	4,347
Financial Position (Balance Sheet) a	as at 30th J	une			
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank	20,716	13,241	11,742	11,895	10,027
Term Deposit	16,500	28,000	28,000	27,014	27,014
Stock (Stationery)	516	-	-	-	-
Debtors	-	-	-	-	121
	37,732	41,241	39,742	38,909	37,162
Non Current Assets					
Furniture	350	-	-	-	-
	350	_	_	-	_
Current Liabilities					
Subscriptions in advance	5,835	6,240	5,901	6,322	6,362
Members' accounts	2,366	2,841	2,667	2,509	2,557
membere deceante	8,201	9,081	8,568	8,831	8,919
Net assets	29,881	32,160	31,174	30,078	28,243
Accumulated Funds					
Fergusson Reserve	1,218	1,218	1,218	-	-
Members Funds	28,663	30,942	29,956	30,078	28,243
As at end of period	29,881	32,160	31,174	30,078	28,243

In my opinion, the financial statements above present a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Association for 2020/21.

Len Regan (Treasurer) 08 Aug 21

Fen Regan

Jim Wells (Accountant) 08 Aug 21

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Table Talk

Twelve editions of Table Talk were delivered for the ATA's members across the 2020-2021 financial year, each ranging from 12 to 24 pages every month. There were no changes to personnel or production. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Steven Haby (Bus Editor), the proof-readers (Geoff Hassall, David Cranney and Agnes Boskovitz), production team and our various contributors - they are what make the publication as varied in content and presentable each month.

Included below are some statistics for the year. A new column, 'Other', has been added for additional articles including Editor/Reader comments, Odd Spot and newcomer Talking In-Depth.

				National & Dom.	QLD	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NZ	Int'nal	Other	Feature article(s)
	July	20	72	14	1	14	3	7	0	7	2	12	11	1	SA New Network bus changes
	August	20	70	5	9	7	4	13	2	6	3	7	11	3	-
2020	September	16	71	6	5	22	2	10	0	0	4	9	13	0	-
	October	16	51	6	3	9	1	6	3	2	0	6	15	0	VIC fare reform
2020	November	16	45	8	2	5	2	6	0	2	2	3	14	1	Federal budget
	December	20	62	5	4	12	1	15	1	4	3	5	9	3	COVID coach impact; Perth bus changes; V/Line corruption probe
	January	24	75	7	2	20	1	15	2	2	4	6	16	0	-
	February	19	39	2	0	6	1	2	2	1	4	11	7	3	Christchurch bus changes; US public transport cash flow
2021	March	16	44	4	4	12	1	2	1	0	3	3	13	1	Inland Rail project
	April	12	35	3	1	5	0	3	1	2	4	5	8	3	-
	Мау	12	28	2	2	4	1	2	3	1	3	3	6	1	
	June	15	46	2	1	14	0	4	2	1	4	6	12	0	Federal budget; S/E Sydney bus changes
	TOTAL	206	638	64	34	130	17	85	17	28	36	76	135	16	
	AVERAGE	17.2	53.2	5.3	2.8	10.8	1.4	7.1	1.4	2.3	3.0	6.3	11.3	1.3	
	YOY TOTAL DIFF	37	125	3	4	-2	0	-22	5	-2	5	35	83	N/A	
	YOY GROWTH	21.9%	24.4%	4.9%	13.3%	- 1.5%	0.0%	- 20.6%	41.7%	- 6.7%	16.1%	85.4%	159.6%	N/A	



Table Talk - YOY jurisdictional variance

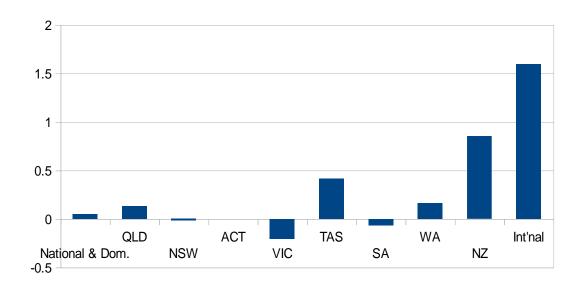
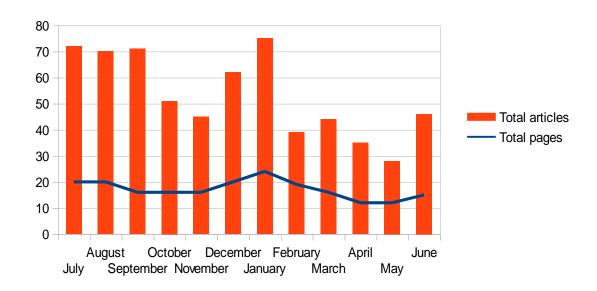


Table Talk volume FY20/21



Chris Pandilovski - Editor



The Times

The Times seems to be approaching a mid-life crisis. For the 22 years or so that I have been editing it, there have usually been plenty of articles queued up awaiting publication. Only every now and then did I have to throw in random contributions of my own to fill up space. This changed with the new Calendar Year – to the extent that the number of articles by other people "waiting for a place in the queue" is now often zero. Luckily, one always seems to arrive at the last moment – although these tend to be rather short, which the authors often describe as "space fillers". A two-part article by Conrad Smith was a notable exception to this. I still have about a dozen of my own articles (in various states of disrepair), but that is really scraping the bottom of the barrel.

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 (and Table Talk) must have a number of pages that is a multiple of four. The Times is almost always budgeted for 16 pages. There is a tacit agreement between myself (as Times Editor and Production Manager) and the Table Talk editor(s), that the total number of pages between the two publications should rarely total more than 32 pages and certainly never total more than 36 pages. This is to avoid "bracket creep" into a higher postage rate [see the Production Managers' Report]. We have the situation where I am busting myself to bring The Times UP to 16 pages and Chris is busting himself to keep Table Talk DOWN to 16 pages. Because this situation looks like becoming permanent, it may be necessary to reduce the maximum number of pages in The Times to 12 and to allow Table Talk to run to 20 or even 24 pages.

The Times is also produced in a digital edition. The paper edition strives to have its outer wrappers in colour, but internally it is now always in black & white. The digital edition is, of course, in full colour. The digital edition could, if required, have any number of pages. The concept of pages is, in any case somewhat nebulous for a digital magazine. In the future, it probably will not have to have a multiple of 4 pages, especially if it can be produced in an on-screen readable form. Some 54 ATA members receive the digital edition by e-mail—about half of them, exclusively so. This is an increase of 12 from 2019-2020. It would be interesting to know how many "electronic-only" recipients actually print to paper in order to read their magazines. 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, by clicking the hyperlinked text. They don't NEED a paper copy to do this.



If proof-reading were an Olympic Sport, my three champions – Chris, Dean and Judy would be on the dais every month. Thankyou.

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 (magazines)
- "Print yourself" at Officeworks (Auction, Members News)
- 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 (really only important for The Times)
- 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, which usually became a social occasion. When I was the Treasurer of a much larger organisation, envelope stuffing nights involved a team of about 30 – AND free pizza! 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! With two people, working as a team and not gossiping, it can be done in under an hour. With 8 people on the other hand, they all get their "mail-out" via the "grab-table". This has consequences – on mailing costs – see below.

Print Production

Again, things have proceeded fairly normally for production of the two magazines and for the other publications (mainly Distribution List) that require stapling. For the entire Financial Year, we used our "new" printer, BA Printing in Brookvale – to whom we had been referred by our previous printer. The print quality has been uniformly excellent. The new company is more consistent in its pricing regime, but prices are higher than they were with the previous printer—particularly for envelopes, which BA does by Letter-Press methods. We have struck a deal with the printer (brokered by our previous printer!) to reduce this price by ordering envelopes in bulk – by the thousands, rather than by the hundreds. BA issues a bill just after we pick up the job, with payment due at the end of the month of printing. I print items which usually need only a single sheet of paper (e.g. Members News, Auction, etc.) by self-service at Officeworks, which is conveniently located just around the corner from the printer and cheaper than him. These are paid for by using an ATA debit card.

Carrying a very large stock of envelopes somewhat constrains our degrees of freedom should we wish to change things – as was forced upon us for the July 2021 mail-out which had to be done from Melbourne because of the Sydney COVID-19 lockdown. We had to send the requisite number of mailing envelopes to Melbourne. A consequence of the latter is that we are considering moving production to Melbourne, permanently. In Melbourne, the July printing was done by ATA members and a "friendly printer" on a non-profit basis. The money saved by doing this seems to be rather startling and would more than offset the slightly higher total posting cost for Print Post from Melbourne.

Postage

Australian members of ATA who choose to receive paper copies of the mail-out ("snail-mail", about 100 people) receive their "standard item" by what is known as Print Post, for which there is a



significant postage cost-saving of some 36% to ATA compared to Ordinary Post. Print Post is really only meant for very large mailings – of the order of thousands of recipients - for these there are stringent requirements on the labelling of envelopes, etc. Australia Post has made concessions for very small organisations such as the ATA. We are the "left-overs" ... formally delegated in the Australia Post rate-book as "Residue". Even here there is a lower limit on what can be sent – 100. Residue is the most expensive category of Print Post (about 36% more expensive than "non-residue"). There are now only two classes of "Residue Destinations" — "Same State" and "Other State". Same State, whether Country or Metro (SSC and SSM) is cheaper by about 18%. This means that the total cost is least when mailing occurs from the State that has the largest number of "Paper Members" but only by less than \$1.00. It has been a long time since this has been Victoria ... but Victoria is starting to catch up.

Print Post expenses are determined by bracket pricing related to envelope size and mass. The ATA mail-out will cost significantly more as soon as the weight of an envelope and its contents passes 125 grams, from \$1.23 to \$1.48 (20% increase!) for Same State as at July 2021. As mentioned in The Times Editor's Report, this constrains how many pages of The Times and Table Talk there can be – especially when material such as AGM paperwork and renewal notices must be inserted as extras. I do not specify to our printer what weight of paper to print upon but, once or twice, it has been greater than 80gsm. It also seems hard to believe, but the mass of ink (especially colour ink) on the pages of graphics-heavy magazines, can sometimes tip the total weight over 125g. It's a tricky business!

A potential big problem still "lurks like the pernicious bat-fly". Unless we can recruit more Australian paper members [there is no longer any such a thing as Overseas Print Post], such that their number remains at 100 or greater, we cannot legally take advantage of the cheaper Print Post mailing scheme. We only just made it the current year and, at the end of the 2020-2021 Financial Year, the number of print post members mailed to was just exactly that. During this reporting year, five members chose not to renew. Should even one "paper person" not renew for the 2021-2022 year, then we will sink below that threshold. At this point 99 members receiving "snail mail" by Ordinary Post would cost ATA \$218, compared with \$140 for 100 members receiving "snail mail" by Print Post. That's \$7 per member per year. Should the number of members who wish to receive paper despatches drop from 100 to 64, then there will be no postage problem. It is the gap between 64 such members and 100 such members that is the worry.

We are exploring the possible ways around this. There doesn't seem to be any vetting process at Australia Post on this issue – they accept what we write on the lodgement form but once it got down to 100, we started to get quizzical looks as if to say "you aren't trying to put one over us, are you?" We never are, of course. I always strive to engage postal officials on jolly and mutual respect terms and wouldn't want to stretch the relationship by cheating. We could, of course (and in fact DID for the July mail-out), keep the number up to the bare minimum by sending more than one envelope to some people (I received five because I asked for 4 spare sets!) to plump up the numbers to 100. At some point, this would descend into ridiculousness.

Geoff Lambert - Production Manager



Distribution List

In 2020-2021 the Distribution List has continued to perform well to produce a surplus of \$525. This surplus supports other ATA activities and reduces our membership fees. On the Distribution List, the most popular items are working rail timetables usually sent in electronic form and printed bus timetables. Reliable supplies of printed timetables have been available from PTV and Transperth. We have been fortunate to receive recent timetables from Adelaide Metro and various regional operators in NSW. Once again, the Distribution Service has had to manage an increase in postal charges. Our thanks to 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.

However, the future of the Distribution List is uncertain. In September last I received an email from Metro Hobart informing us that they were no longer able to supply printed timetables. We were directed to timetables available on their website. Recently we received an email from Busways stating, "As of this implementation, Busways has opted to go paperless with new timetables. Unfortunately, this means that we no longer keep hard copies of the timetables requested." However, we accepted their offer to print one set of timetables. This set went to the National Timetable Collection. We also received the following email from PTV, "In this case, it is determined that providing printed timetables for all public transport routes to you for purpose of on-selling is an unreasonable diversion of PTV resources. As such, PTV respectfully refuses to provide any further requested printed collateral to you." To obtain timetables to fulfil orders Melbourne members have had to visit PTV Hubs and various railway stations in person.

Thus, we have the problem of dealing with electronic timetables rather than printed timetables. ATA member Nick Hiscock suggested that electronic timetables may be downloaded from a members' section of our website for a fee. In June and July recent electronic timetables were listed on the Distribution List. This is a service to members, producing no revenue, and feedback was requested. To date, feedback has only come from one member, who endorsed this initiative. More feedback would be appreciated. We wish to know whether this service should continue and whether the Distribution List is the right place for this initiative.

Hilaire Fraser



Membership Report

The Association's membership changed from 135 at the beginning of the year to 137 at the end of the year – a net gain of 2 members.

Three members did not renew their membership in July 2020.

One member died during the year: Peter Hobbis.

During the year we welcomed 6 new members:

- Joe Hicks, Forestville, Adelaide: student
- Matthew Schoepf, Tranmere, Adelaide: student
- Jimmy Liu, Wiley Park, Sydney
- Derek Cheng, Beecroft, Sydney
- Steven Lau, Eight Mile Plains, Brisbane: student
- Ryan Orchard, Stirling, Adelaide: student.

Membership at the end of the financial year was made up of 3 life members, 129 normal members and 5 student members.

For the monthly mailout, 82 members received it only by post, 35 members received it only by email, and 20 members received it both ways.

Here is the geographic distribution of members.

	Number	Percentage
Queensland	14	10%
New South Wales	49	36%
ACT	9	7%
Victoria	42	31%
South Australia	11	8%
Western Australia	5	4%
United Kingdom	5	4%
Switzerland	1	1%
USA	1	1%
Total	137	

The Membership Renewal form included provision for members to choose to pay a concession membership fee if they were financially challenged, and for members to make an optional donation to support the Association's projects. Five members paid the concessional membership rate, and 18 members made a total of \$427 in donations. We are pleased that we were able to retain these five members and we extend our gratitude to the members for their donations.

Len Regan - Membership Officer



Auctions

This has not been a good year for the auctions. Firstly, all the worries of the year have no doubt distracted some of our most faithful bidders.

More importantly, frequent and prolonged lockdowns have frequently separated items to be offered from catalogue compilers, so that offerings actually reaching the catalogues have sometimes been sub-optimal.

Furthermore, since we have 'standardised' our auction procedures, the financial results from each successful bid have reduced. This may improve as we get more familiar with setting realistic estimates.

As a result of the above, the all-important financial return from the auctions is reduced.

These are the topics of the auctions during the year, with the number of bidders and the bids received. Our thanks go to the ATA members who compiled the auction catalogues each month.

Month	Topic	Compiled by	Number of:		
WOTH	Торіс	Complied by	Bidders	Bids	
July 2020	South Australian & Northern Territory Buses and Ferries	Robert Henderson	5	111	
August 2020	Overseas Transport Books	Matthew Gibbins	3	8	
September 2020	Railway Working Timetables Queensland, Victoria, Commonwealth, West Australian Railways	Len Regan	11	62	
October 2020	Australian Public Transport Maps and Guides	Len Regan	4	22	
November 2020	Tasmanian & Western Australian timetables & maps	Robert Henderson	2	14	
December 2020	Australian Public Train Timetables	Len Regan	5	30	
January 2021	NSW & SA Train Working Timetables & Notices	Len Regan	13	55	
February 2021	Australian Public Train Timetables	Len Regan	12	45	
March 2021	Australian Public Railway Timetables	Len Regan	7	14	
April 2021	Australian Railways Maps, Guides and Brochures	Matthew Gibbins	3	8	
May 2021	Railway DVDs	Geoff Hassall	0	0	
June 2021	Melbourne & Victoria Adelaide Tram Timetables	Matthew Gibbins	4	48	

Geoff Hassall - Auctioneer



Archives Officer's Report

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

During the long Victorian COVID-19 lockdown, it was not possible to do any work on the National Timetable Collection for 4 months from July to November 2020.

Due to congestion for storage and workspace at PMI, and to respect the COVID-19 work restrictions, alternative premises were obtained at 14 Wilson St, South Yarra, and the Collections and Archives were moved there on 24 April 2021. Our premises are part of a former Call Centre with desks and chairs provided. We have called the premises Hawker, a name taken from the next station after Wilson on the Commonwealth Railways former narrow gauge railway.

Work continued on one day each week, except for 2 weeks in June 2021 during another COVID-19 lockdown, to sort, cull and catalogue the timetables for the Jack McLean National Timetable Collection (NTC).

Timetables for the National Timetable Collection came from new collections donated during the year and also 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: Peter Hobbis, Kevin Eadie, Les Hyland, Bruce Macdonald, Samuel Rachdi, Adrian Dessanti, Patricia Stewart, Dennis McLean, Bill Wembridge, Bruce Dixon, Peter Graham, Peter Walhouse, Warren Doubleday, John Young, Robert Henderson, Geoff Lambert and Brian Sherry.

Members and supporters have enjoyed the camaraderie and challenges of sorting, culling, collating and cataloguing, and we are very grateful for their work and dedication. As well as the work being done in Melbourne, ATA member Agnes Boskovitz in Canberra is cataloguing the collection bequeathed by Victor Isaacs and ATA member Joel Taggart in Gumeracha has begun cataloguing Adelaide bus timetables.

The bureaucracy associated with our efforts to obtain a Community Lease for the vacant building at Windsor Station in suburban Melbourne resembles an episode of "Yes Minister". We are no further ahead in achieving an outcome than we were when we applied for the lease two years ago. We have to vacate the temporary premises at Hawker by late October 2021. So the search is now on for alternative permanent spacious premises for the ATA Archives and National Timetable Collection; somewhere between 60m² and 100m² in a secure building is needed. Urgently, if you can help with any advice about suitable premises, please contact the Archives Officer.

We submitted an application in March 2021 to the Local History Grants Program run by the Public Records Office Victoria for funding to purchase computer and printing equipment to support the work on the NTC. The result of this application is expected to be known in early September 2021.

The ATA Archives are missing much of the early documentation 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.

Len Regan - Archives Officer



Webmaster

The website has remained steady again this year with 2000 unique visitors each month (and another 600 for the TrainTimes section), 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" (still they persist) and then The Times and Table Talk. Reports from the Google search engine which covers all of our websites ending in timetable.org.au has another view with the TrainTimes Main Interstate Timetables followed in popularity with the main home page, then the TrainTimes Indian Pacific timetable then the TrainTimes website. Our dependence on "Google" for search engine traffic remains high with 80% of search engine visitors coming via a Google property. The Association's old domains continue to receive some traffic although only 0.5% of the main website.

In 2020-2021 the website has had:

- Regular updates of Member News, the Distribution List, Auction catalogue, Divisional meetings and Annual Report as they become available
- Delayed updates of The Times and Table Talk after two months
- Regular updates of the Adelaide Current and Historical timetable lists based on "scraping" of the AdelaideMetro website
- Effort to maintain software currency of the toolchain used to build the site
- A change of logo to the new one
- Tweaks to fix spelling errors and technical glitches
- Continued provision of functional emails for the Association's activities

I see further changes this year in:

- Streamlining the updating of Victor Isaac's TrainTimes website content and making that website "mobile friendly" (more than 50% of access to the main website is from tablets or phones)
- Moving the current website to a new design by TransitGraphics
- Making back issues of The Times and Table Talk available in alternative formats good for reading on all devices from the largest desktop to the smallest phone as well as being easier for search engines to digest and index increasing their value as a research source
- Adapting to changes in timetable provider websites to continue automatic extraction of timetables
- Integrating timetable lists into the new "WordPress" website (we currently use Jekyll RB)

Any feedback or suggestions on the website are most welcome, as if something seems odd to you, it probably is to others and like copy-editing, the publisher can't see it. There are always improvements that could be made.

Alex Sims - Webmaster



Divisional Reports

Melbourne

Meetings were restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic again this year, there being only 2 held during the 2020-2021 Association year. As usual, these were held at the home of David Hennell in Surrey Hills.

- July, September and November 2020: meetings cancelled due COVID-19 pandemic
- March 2021: CR's 6th June 1949 Trans-Australian Railway WTT and some comparisons Len Regan
- May 2021: Easter 1960 at Nyora along with the Yarram and Wonthaggi lines from 1951 to 1978 – David Hennell

Work on the National Timetable Collection (NTC) at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute (PMI) ceased again on Saturday 4th July 2020 due to a spike in Victorian COVID-19 cases after just one day of work (20th June). Working days at PMI occurred in early December and resumed mid January 2021. All the NTC timetables were successfully relocated either from storage or from the PMI to a location in Wilson Street, South Yarra on Saturday 24th April – many hands and a truck made light work of the move. As the new venue is closest to Hawksburn station and in Wilson Street, it's been called Hawker, in honour of the former narrow gauge Central Australia Railway, Hawker being the station after Wilson. Len Regan's organisation of NTC working parties continues to be meticulous and I thank all those members who work tirelessly on this very worthwhile and enjoyable project.

My thanks to all for a successful partial year.

David Hennell - Melbourne Convenor

Adelaide

COVID-19 restrictions have continued to deny us the opportunity to schedule any meetings. We are aware of several new members having joined the ATA during the year but do not yet have contact details for them.

Country bus services operated by Stateliner and lesser companies have continued with reduced schedules for the year 2020-2021.

Our politically sensitive State Government has made only minimal cuts to metro bus services during the year. The usual reaction to more austere COVID-19 restrictions has been to cancel the City-Free Routes 98-99 services for short periods. It is surprising that permanent cuts have not been made across the network; many peak services have been carrying little more than fresh air.

Rail services have operated to full pre-COVID timetables on the Belair, Outer Harbor, Grange and Seaford lines. The Flinders extension of the Tonsley line opened in late December 2020 and it is pleasing to observe a steady increase in patronage over calendar year 2021. The fastest train of the day on the Flinders line is the 17.16 UP which runs semi-express to Adelaide arriving 17.35. The expected feeder services from Flagstaff Hill & Aberfoyle area has not materialised, possibly because there would be a walk of 350 metres between modes.

The completion of the electric services to Gawler has been postponed until early 2022, shortly before the next State election. A diverse collection of Adelaide Metro and private charter coaches and retired interstate metro buses continue to provide substitute services.



Overall, not a very exciting year.

Roger Wheaton & Robert Field – Adelaide Convenors

Brisbane

Despite the strange times we live in, the five Brisbane members managed to meet when we could about four times a year. We have a member who sends weekly photos to each of us and another member who distributes various publications.

The subjects discussed at our meetings range across the whole transport scene with plenty of interesting chats.

The Brisbane members offer sincere THANKS to those who produce the monthly magazines that arrive reliably. There is always much of interest.

Brian Webber - Brisbane Convener

Canberra

Canberra Branch meetings include ATA members and others with an interest in transport matters. The meeting format is discussion over dinner at the Ainslie Football Club, around 600 metres from the Macarthur Avenue Light Rail station. Meetings were suspended for most of 2020-2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions but have resumed on a bi-monthly basis. For information, contact David Cranney on 0421 174 951 or email innamincka2002@gmail.com

David Cranney – Canberra Convenor

Sydney

The Sydney Division managed to meet once in person during 2021 but meetings are now on hiatus until the lockdown finishes. However, we have been hosting on-line meetings for the entire membership which have been a successful means of keeping in touch during these difficult times. In the longer term, the division currently lacks a regular meeting place as the University of Sydney has altered its arrangements for accessing meeting rooms on weekends. Any suggestions for alternative venues are welcome to Geoffrey Clifton at geoffrey.clifton@sydney.edu.au

Geoffrey Clifton - Sydney Convenor



MINUTES OF THE 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN TIMETABLE ASSOCIATION Meeting held via Zoom Saturday 21st November 2020

Item 1

Welcome The President, Hilaire Fraser, opened the meeting at 1405

Attendance Hilaire Fraser, Andrew James, Len Regan, Geoff Lambert, Richard May, Chris Pandilovski, Geoff Hassall, Steven Haby, Graeme Cleak, Geoffrey Clifton, David Lewis, Agnes Boskovitz, Dennis McLean, David Matheson, The Hon Justice Peter Young, Ian Manning, Alex Sims, Ted McDonald

Apologies Michael Smith, Paul Nicholson, Donald Cole, Peter Murphy, Andrew Killingsworth, Dale Budd

Proxies

Robert Field by Secretary
David Hennell by Len Regan
Geoffrey Mann via Secretary
Dean Ogle by Secretary
Michael Smith by Chairman
Vic Solomons by Secretary
Joel Taggart by Secretary

Item 2 Minutes of the 36th AGM held on 19 October 2019

Moved Steven Haby, seconded Geoffrey Clifton that the minutes of the 36th AGM be received. Passed

Items 3 and 4 Business arising from minutes of previous meeting and correspondence None

Item 5 Reports

5.1 President's Report

Hilaire Fraser spoke briefly to his written report highlighting the need for generational change on the management committee given that 5 of the 9 current members were over 60 years of age.

Moved Hilaire Fraser, seconded Denis McLean that the President's written report be received. Passed

Geoff Lambert requested that it be noted that he is not taking over management of Jim Ferguson's website as suggested in the President's report but acting to receive timetables from Jim for further circulation and sale.

5.2 Treasurer's Report

In addition to his written report, the Treasurer indicated that the likely increased expenditure for 2020-2021 on the new website and possible use of Windsor station for NTC work will in part be funded by the accumulated surpluses (over \$16,000) from the last 6 years. In his view this is a worthwhile use for these accumulated funds.

Moved Len Regan, seconded Agnes Boskovitz that the financial report submitted to the AGM be received. Passed.

5.3 Table Talk

In addition to the written report, Steven Haby noted that a challenge remained to get more news for inclusion in Table Talk from members.

The meeting agreed to record the great gratitude the members had for the work of Chris Pandilovski in editing Table Talk.

5.4 The Times

In addition to the written report, Geoff Lambert noted the interesting trend for a dominance of bus articles rather than articles related to trains.

5.5 Production Manager

Geoff Lambert indicated that we remained just over the 100 mail out limit for receiving cheaper postal rates. It appeared inevitable that distribution of ATA magazines would ultimately be electronic.

Hilaire Fraser thanked Geoff and Judy Lambert for their work on producing and distributing the Association's magazines.

5.6 Distribution List

It was noted that surplus timetables from the distribution list are forwarded on for the NTC. It also needs to be highlighted to members that they should not dispose of their own superceded hard copy timetables but pass them on for the NTC.

5.7 Membership

Len Regan highlighted the ATA information brochure that was included in mailouts this year and which was intended to be used to encourage prospective members. Further brochures are available should members require these.

Steven Haby asked that the Association consider how to make membership of the ATA more desirable for younger members; what are the value drivers for them? Ted McDonald suggested that Steven's son, Domenic, could be encouraged to write a short article on why he is interested in timetables. Geoff Lambert suggested that any member should also consider writing such an article for inclusion in The Times.

5.8 Auctions

Geoff Hassall spoke briefly to his written report.

5.9 Archives and NTC

Len Regan indicated that following a long hiatus, a working session of the NTC was held at Prahran in November. Our application for the use of Windsor station is currently being considered by VicTrack and we are hopeful of a decision by late January. Steven Haby suggested that we should make contact with the new councillors for the South Ward of Stonnington Council to seek further support for our application for the use of Windsor Station.

5.10 Webmaster

Alex Sims spoke briefly to his written report.

5.11 Branch reports

Reports of branch activities were circulated in the written annual report. It was noted that the Brisbane branch had been able to meet earlier in November.

Item 6 Elections and Appointments

6.1 Determination of required number of committee members

Moved Andrew James, seconded Geoff Hassall that there be 5 ordinary committee members. Passed.

6.2 Election of Committee

The following nominations were received prior to the meeting for committee positions.

Position	Nominee	Nominator
President	Hilaire Fraser	Richard May
Vice President	Geoff Lambert	Geoff Lambert
Secretary	Richard May	Geoffrey Mann
Treasurer	Len Regan	Geoffrey Mann
Committee Member	Geoff Hassall	Geoff Hassall
Committee Member	Chris Pandilovski	Chris Pandilovski
Committee Member	Andrew James	Richard May
Committee Member	Steven Haby	Hilaire Fraser
Committee Member	Alex Sims	Hilaire Fraser

As there were no further nominations from the floor of the meeting and the number of nominations matched the number of positions, the President, Hilaire Fraser, declared that all appointments were filled as per the nominations.

6.3 Appointment of auditor

It was agreed that Jim Wells be appointed to this role.

Item 7 General Business

Agnes Boskovitz moved a motion of appreciation for the work done by the committee during the year. This was seconded by Ted McDonald. The motion was carried with acclamation.

Item 8 Location of the 2021 (38th) AGM

It was agreed that the Sydney Division be invited to host the 38th AGM of the ATA.

Hilaire Fraser closed the meeting at 1537.

Appointments

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

Times Editor **Geoff Lambert** Table Talk Editor Chris Pandilovski Table Talk Bus Editor Steven Haby **Production Manager** Geoff Lambert Auctioneer Geoff Hassall **Archives Officer** Len Regan Alex Sims Webmaster Distribution Manager Hilaire Fraser Membership Officer Len Regan

OFFICE HOLDERS 2020-2021

Management Committee								
President	Hilaire Fraser	president@timetable.org.au	5 Manor Hill Rd, Miranda NSW 2228					
Vice President	Geoff Lambert	G.Lambert@iinet.net.au						
Secretary	Richard May	secretary@timetable.org.au	1 Walerna Road,					
Treasurer	Len Regan	treasurer@timetable.org.au	Glen Iris Vic 3146 76 Woodville Rd Mooroolbark Vic 3138					
Member	Geoff Hassall							
Member	Chris Pandilovski							
Member	Andrew James							
Member	Steven Haby							
Member	Alex Sims							
Other Officials								
The Times Editor	Geoff Lambert	thetimes@timetable.org.au	179 Sydney Rd,					
			Fairlight, NSW 2094					
Table Talk (Rail)	Chris Pandilovski	tabletalk@timetable.org.au						
Editor								
Table Talk (Bus)	Steven Haby	busnews@timetable.org.au						
Editor								
Production	Geoff Lambert	G.Lambert@iinet.net.au						
Membership	Len Regan	membership@timetable.org.au	76 Woodville Rd					
			Mooroolbark Vic					
	_		3138					
Archives	Len Regan	archives@timetable.org.au	76 Woodville Rd					
			Mooroolbark Vic					
	0 "11 "		3138					
Auctioneer	Geoff Hassall	auction@timetable.org.au	2/30 Vale St,					
			Birmingham					
			Gardens NSW 2287					
Webmaster	Alex Sims	webmaster@timetable.org.au	- M 1111 D 1					
Distribution : Manager	Hilaire Fraser	distribution@timetable.org.au	5 Manor Hill Rd,					
	D 14/1 (Miranda NSW 2228					
Adelaide Convenor	Roger Wheaton	rogertw@adam.com.au						
Brisbane Convenor	Brian Webber	bwebber5@bigpond.com						
Canberra Convenor	David Cranney	cranney@iinet.net.au						
Melbourne Convenor	David Hennell	(03) 9830-1802						
Sydney Convenor	Geoffrey Clifton	geoffrey.clifton@sydney.edu.au						



