

Australian Timetable Association Annual Report

2023-2024

WELCOME TO THE AUSTRALIAN TIMETABLE ASSOCIATION

The Australian Timetable Association (ATA) is an organisation for anyone interested in the study of transport timetables, schedules, maps and associated literature.



ABOUT US



TIMETABLES



PUBLICATIONS



CONTACT US

WHAT TO DO WITH OLD TIMETABLES

Old timetables can be a valuable asset for the ATA auctions, Distribution Service or the National Timetable Collection. If you have old timetables that you want to discard, don't!

[Read More](#)



2023 AGM Hawthorn Tram Museum



40th Anniversary Celebrations





AUSTRALIAN TIMETABLE
ASSOCIATION

Inc. No A0043673H
ABN 74 248 483 468

AGENDA

ATA 41st AGM 26th October 2024

Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Canberra City, ACT

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2023 (40th) 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 2025 (42nd) AGM
9. Any other business that may be permitted under the Rules



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President's Report

The 2023-24 financial year has been a more stable affair for the Australian Timetable Association than the COVID years. The association has enjoyed a more "business as usual" period now that we have attained stability in our operation that we had not enjoyed since 2019 while based out of Prahran.

This year our Association is 40 years old, having been founded by Jack McLean in Melbourne in 1983. This milestone event was celebrated on 21 October 2023 with an Anniversary Cake after the 2022-23 AGM at Hawthorn Tram Depot followed by an Anniversary Dinner at the nearby Glenferrie Hotel. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by 12 members.

Work continues on the National Timetable Collection, of course now located at CAVAL within La Trobe University, with work capacity increased thanks to a very generous donation of a second computer with which to continue to catalogue our collection. We also have the added bonus of being able to continue our administration activities without having to pause NTC work, thanks to this additional capacity.

The ATA has also taken the production of our publications in house, thanks to the acquisition of a laser printer, which is also located at CAVAL. While there have been some hiccups in the transition to this process, overall the publications have seen demonstrable improvement.

The ATA does have some capacity constraints though, some easier to solve than others. We continue to receive welcome, and often sizeable donations of collections from members of the ATA and the general public. In order to be able to process these donations, the ATA has had to take out additional shelving storage at CAVAL from time to time, which does incur cost. The more challenging constraint is our volunteer resource. Although we have seen an increase in our volunteer numbers, they remain low and inhibit our capacity to address the NTC work. These same volunteers are also involved in various aspects of our monthly mailout, which further limits NTC capacity.

In no way do I wish this to demean the excellent and invaluable work of our existing volunteers, but it does highlight that the core work of the ATA's volunteers often fall to the same few members. The plight of volunteers is not unique to our organisation, but it does directly affect our capacity to continue the important work our organisation aims to achieve.

Clearly, there is perceived value in our organisation from our membership, as we continue to attract donations from many of our members, often quite substantial in quantity. We remain forever grateful for what we receive and cannot understate the importance of these donations to our organisation. We understand that these donations cannot be guaranteed and have a responsibility to ensure our future can remain secure even with a reduction in the donations we can receive. There is a high likelihood that we will need to consider other revenue streams in the future.

Outlook for the future

My comments remain similar to last year. The ATA remains in a healthy financial position, but we remain increasingly reliant on our donations. Diversification of revenue is an activity that the ATA needs to actively pursue.

Our organisation is reliant on its volunteers, and we would gratefully receive any support you can provide. You do not need to be in any of the major cities to assist in our work, and there are plenty of activities we would love your help with. Please contact us with your skill sets, or activities you would like to assist us in.

In the meantime, to all members, office holders and members of the Committee, thank you for another year of your interest, your assistance, and your support.

Andrew James - President



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Financial Report

The financial statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 has been prepared using accrual accounting, which means that only financial transactions relevant to activities in that year are included. 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 year are also shown.

The financial 2023-2024 year was productive and financially sound for the Association. Income for the year was \$26,614 (\$6,370 more than last year), and expenses were \$22,793 (\$2,929 more than last year). The surplus was \$3,821, compared to a surplus of \$380 last year.

Membership revenue of \$9,456 was \$909 more than in the previous year.

Membership fees for 2024-2025 received up to 30 June 2024 are not included in Income, but are shown as a liability in Net Assets.

Distribution List gross revenue of \$1,753 was \$208 less than in the previous year. Auctions gross revenue of \$3,739 was \$862 greater than in the previous year. Book Sales revenue of \$1,256 was \$563 greater than in the previous year.

Donations received during the financial year totalled \$9,502, which is \$3,500 more than in the previous year. The generosity of members is very much appreciated, and it demonstrates support for the projects that the Association is undertaking.

Bank interest received of \$908 was \$744 greater than in the previous year. This resulted from increased interest rates on term deposits, as well as a small monthly interest receipt on funds held in our current accounts.

During the year the Association invested in two major items of equipment. A second computer, dedicated to work on the NTC, was purchased at a cost of \$2,508, and an A3 colour printer was obtained at a cost of \$4,345. This printer has facilitated an improvement in the presentation of the monthly mailouts.

The purchase of these two items of equipment has resulted in increased depreciation charges of \$2,004, compared to \$634 in the previous year.

The major expense for the year of \$10,671, which is \$1,106 greater than the previous year, is for rent of premises at CAVAL used for storage of timetables and documents for the NTC and ATA archives, and for the space to work with these documents.

The cost of the monthly mailouts was \$3,448, up from \$2,155 in the previous year. The increase is attributable to higher production costs for the improved standard of the mailouts plus increases in Print Post rates charged by Australia Post.

Postage costs for the year were \$1,814, which was \$555 greater than the previous year, reflecting major increases in postal charges by Australia Post. In addition, freight charges of \$2,074 were incurred for the transport of timetable and book collections to Melbourne.

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. Each month, the actual costs of Distribution List orders and winning Auction bids are deducted from the Distribution Service accounts. The total value of credits as at 30 June 2024 was \$2416, a decrease of \$76 from last year. These funds are not included in Income, but are shown as a liability in Net Assets.

Prepayments of expenses for activities relating to 2024-2025 totalled \$2,408: CAVAL rental \$1,700, and Insurance \$708.

The value of stationery and postage items held in stock on 30 June 2023 was \$1,077.89.

On 30 June 2024, the cash at bank was \$15,706, plus \$16,500 in a Term Deposit.



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On 30 June 2024, the Association's Net Assets were \$32,496, compared to \$28,675 on 30 June 2023.

The Financial Statement was certified by the Committee at its meeting on 21 August 2024. The Association's Rules require that it be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

Financial Year Outlook for 2024 - 2025

Income

- Membership – likely to remain constant or decline slightly.
- Distribution List – likely to continue to decline gradually due to difficulties in obtaining current printed timetables, resulting in a decline in orders.
- Auctions – variable, depending on the material offered, but there is potential for some good results and increased revenue given the material that is available.
- Sales – expected to increase with the listing on the website of books from surplus Auction material, donated material and overseas timetables.
- Interest – likely to remain constant, subject to movements in interest rates.
- Donations – although they were very high this year to meet the needs of current projects, this cannot be expected to continue each year in the future, but we will be grateful if they do.

Expenses

- Mailouts – mailout costs will be greater as they will incorporate a full year of the costs of production on the new A3 printer and of the recent increases in postal charges.
- Postage – with the benefits of discounts on bulk purchases of prepaid envelopes and satchels, as well as the use of existing stocks purchased before the recent increase in postal charges, we may be able to see only a slight increase in costs.
- Distribution List – likely to remain constant, but now only for printing of timetables and for purchase of special timetables included in the List.
- Auction – likely to remain constant, but only for vendor payments and any timetables won by ATA for the National Timetable Collection.
- Administration – a small increase can be expected.
- Office supplies – a small increase can be expected.
- Website – a small increase can be expected. Some expense expected for setting up book sales.
- Computer – ongoing expenses for data and software will occur.
- Rental – the rental at CAVAL will increase by CPI, and we may need to continue to rent additional storage for a short term.

End of Year Result


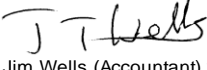
- It is reasonable to hope that a small surplus may be possible in 2024-2025.

John Abrams - Treasurer



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AUSTRALIAN TIMETABLE ASSOCIATION INC.				
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		2024		2023
		\$		\$
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE				
Income				
Membership Fees		9,456		8,547
Distribution List Receipts		1,753		1,961
Auction Receipts		3,739		2,877
Book Sales		1,256		693
Donations Received		9,502		6,002
Bank Interest		908		164
		26,614		20,244
Expenditure				
Mailouts		3,448		2,155
Distribution List Expenses		174		357
Auction Expenses		281		789
Postage		1,814		1,259
Freight		2,074		-
Stationery and Printing		93		129
Office Supplies		304		178
Rent of Premises		10,671		9,565
Website		215		3,674
Computer Expenses		695		653
National Timetable Collection		72		92
Insurance		667		144
Financial Fees		96		99
Administration		185		136
Depreciation		2,004		634
		22,793		19,864
Net Surplus for Year		3,821		380
FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE				
Current Assets				
Cash at bank		15,706		16,302
Term deposit		16,500		16,500
Prepayments		2,408		3,279
		34,614		36,081
Non-current Assets				
Furniture and Equipment		10,023		3,170
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(3,272)		(1,268)
		6,751		1,902
Current Liabilities				
Membership Fees in Advance		6,453		6,816
Members' Credit Accounts		2,416		2,492
		8,869		9,308
Net Assets		32,496		28,675
Accumulated Funds				
Balance at beginning of year		28,675		28,295
Net Surplus for year		3,821		380
Balance at end of year		32,496		28,675
		In my opinion, the financial statements above present a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Association for 2023/24.		
 _____ John Abrams (Treasurer) 29/7/24		 _____ Jim Wells (Accountant) 29/7/24		



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Table Talk

The 2023-24 financial year saw another 12 editions of Table Talk produced and published by the Association. There was a modest increase in output which is mainly attributed to a rebalance after last year's drop.

Most markets have had a steady number of articles from the previous year; exceptions to this included National/Domestic (up 53 per cent) and New Zealand (up 28 per cent).

New South Wales and Victoria continue to be the major item generators, with a combined 41 per cent of content from these markets, aligning with the Association's major membership bases (see Membership Report).

Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia are seeing continued presence most months courtesy of ongoing bus timetable adjustments and the integration of new transport infrastructure into their respective public transport networks.

Provided below is five years of averaged annual data for Table Talk's output:

2019-20 - Pages per edition = 14; Items per edition = 43.

2020-21 - Pages per edition = 17; Items per edition = 53.

2021-22 - Pages per edition = 18; Items per edition = 45.

2022-23 - Pages per edition = 14; Items per edition = 34.

2023-24 - Pages per edition = 15; Items per edition = 35.

The Editor is grateful for the ongoing efforts of contributors to the publication, including (but not limited to) Steven Haby, Ross Morrison, Hilaire Fraser, Paul Brown and Len Regan whose contributions ensure Table Talk has a significantly broader range of coverage, while proofreaders Agnes Boskovitz and David Cranney make a great contribution in lifting the readability of the publication. Thanks also to the publication team in Victoria who ensure the timely manual production and dispatch of the ATA's monthly mailout for the benefit of the Association's members.

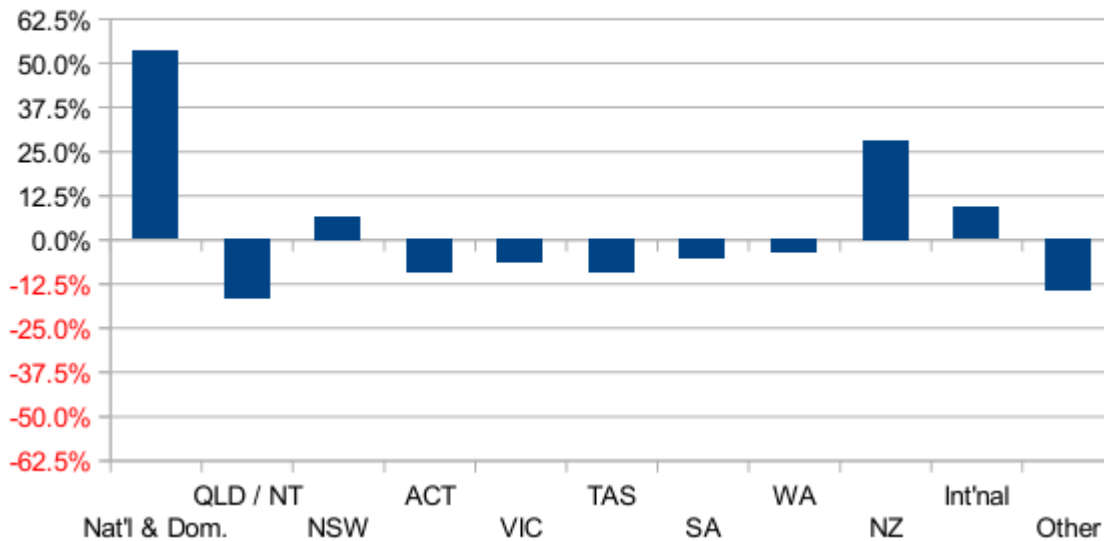


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		Total pages	Total articles	National & Dom.	QLD & NT	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NZ	Int'nal	Other	Feature article(s)
2023	July	16	37	1	5	12	1	7	1	2	1	2	4	1	
	August	16	42	3	6	10	1	4	2	2	3	7	2	2	Sydney U-Go debacle
	September	14	37	2	1	11	0	5	1	1	2	11	3	0	Sydney U-Go debacle 2
	October	14	36	2	2	7	1	6	2	2	4	3	6	1	Kentucky school debacle
	November	14	24	2	1	8	0	4	0	1	2	2	3	1	
	December	16	34	2	4	7	0	7	0	2	1	5	5	1	NW Auckland network changes
2024	January	12	26	1	8	7	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	0	
	February	16	33	2	4	4	0	7	1	2	1	8	4	0	
	March	16	41	3	3	8	3	12	0	0	3	5	4	0	
	April	16	45	0	3	10	1	6	1	2	5	6	10	1	Sydney R8 & 14 adjustments
	May	16	37	2	4	7	1	6	1	3	3	4	3	3	
	June	16	29	3	3	11	1	6	0	0	1	0	2	2	
TOTAL		182	421	23	44	102	10	72	10	18	27	55	48	12	
AVERAGE		15.2	35.1	1.9	3.7	8.5	0.8	6.0	0.8	1.5	2.3	4.6	4.0	1.0	
YOY TOTAL DIFF		14	10	8	-9	6	-1	-5	-1	-1	-1	12	4	-2	
YOY GROWTH		8.3%	2.4%	43.3%	17.0%	6.3%	9.1%	6.5%	9.1%	5.3%	3.6%	27.9%	-9.1%	14.3%	

Table Talk - YOY jurisdictional variance

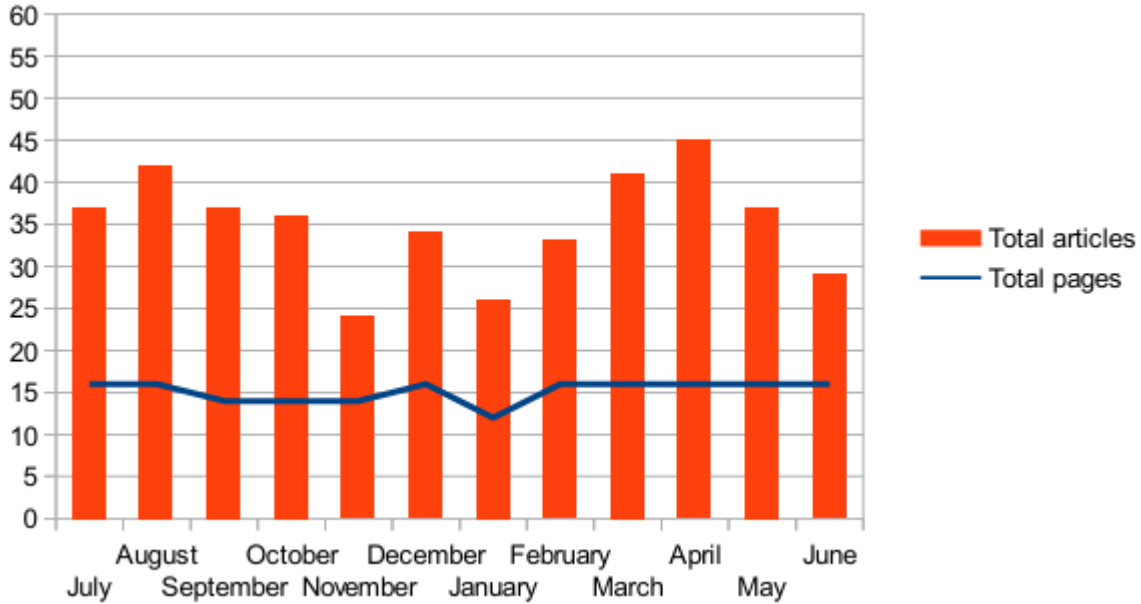




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Table Talk volume FY2023-24



News items by jurisdiction						
		19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
1	NSW	132	130	124	96	102
2	VIC	107	85	87	77	72
3	NZ	41	76	76	43	55
4	INTERN'L	52	135	70	44	48
5	QLD/NT	30	34	49	53	44
6	WA	31	36	33	28	27
7	DOM'C	61	64	33	15	23
8	SA	30	28	22	19	18
9	OTHER	N/A	16	15	14	12
10	TAS	12	17	13	11	10
10	ACT	17	17	13	11	10

Chris Pandilovski - Editor



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The Times

Colour vs B&W. Since December 2023, paper copies of “The Times” have been printed in A3 folded form, with the inside and outside “wraps” in colour. This seems to have made the magazine more presentable – at least in my eyes – but it is unclear whether this matters to people who read it. There is the hope that, should “The Times” again become available for retail sale, it would be more likely to be saleable were it to have colour covers. That is what most of our previous retail outlets and even our “print shops” have said to me. Having an A3 magazine folded to A4 instead of a corner stapled A4 magazine means that the total number of pages must be a multiple of four. You will see that the corner-stapled issues in the current year included issues of 14pp and 18pp.

“Author Stable”. “The Times” is still in the position that its “Stable” of authors is perilously small. During the year, there were 18 different names on the Contents page, an average of 2.6 “authors” per issue. There were a couple of issues where the same author had more than one article. Moreover, seven of the 18 names were the names of authors of articles which I reproduced from other publications. This left seven “ATA Authors”, an average of two per issue. Ten years ago, the “Stable” had an average of 26 “AATTC authors” per year and three different AATTC authors per issue. The AATTC stable was bigger than the Melbourne Cup “stable” - 24! These were the halcyon days when the readers saw “new names” every other month. More to the point, many readers obviously thought “I could have a go at that” ... and so they did ... we rolled along merrily. Since the very first issue of “The Times” in 1983, some 279 different authors have contributed. Over the years of my Editorship (1999-2024), I have dealt with 182 different “Authors”.

Paper vs Digital 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.

Quarterly vs Monthly? In recent years, the suggestion has been made that “The Times” should move to quarterly production, in much the same manner as our USA equivalent NAOTC does with its flagship magazine “The Timetable Collector” – produced in “Spring”, “Summer”, “Fall” and “Winter” editions. These are full-colour, folded magazines of about 36 pages per issue – equivalent to 12 pp per month. NAOTC’s equivalent to ATA’s monthly “Table Talk” is its bimonthly “First Edition”, which appears as a B&W 12-page folder paper magazine. This works well for NAOTC because it is a totally-paper-orientated entity – there never has been a digital edition of either magazine. There is, however a synchronization problem of having a six-times per year magazine, with a four-times per year magazine. NAOTC does have a website, but it is mainly a repository of “interesting” ETT covers. ATA’s budgetary exigencies probably rule this sort of thing out of the question.

Variable # of pages in “The Times” and “Table Talk”. The principal determining cost factor for both “The Times” and “Table Talk” is postage. Ideally, these two magazines should be restricted to 32 pages in total – depending on what other bits of paper are in the Print Post (PP) envelope. The idea is to have the entire mail-out in the cheapest PP category. This has usually worked in the 2023-24 financial year, but has involved some re-prioritising of articles submitted to “The Times”.



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Here is a summary of the 2023-2024 Times issues, authors and articles

THE TIMES EDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT				
Statistics 2023-2024				
	Pages	Articles	Authors	Featured article (s)
Jul-23	16	4	4	The terminus that never was
Aug-23	12	3	3	Hobart to Wynyard in 1949 and 2023
Sep-23	14	2	2	Interchanging without an Interchange
Oct-23	14	3	3	Sydney's bus patronage after COVID
Nov-23	18	2	3	NYC-Sydney the hard way
Dec-23	20	2	2	The last South East Narrow Gauge
Jan-24	16	3	3	Fremantle-Armadale
Feb-24	16	2	3	Paperwork Part 7
Mar-24	12	3	3	Interesting Ads
Apr-24	16	3	3	Hey Siri! Where is the Melbourne XPT?
May-24	16	4	4	How to split a cross-regional route
Jun-24	16	4	4	Unpunctuality - the cause and the cure
Average	15.5	2.9	3.1	
Total	186	35	18	<- # different Authors

Geoff Lambert – Editor

Magazine Production and Mailout

The production of The Times, Table Talk and other documents that comprise the monthly mailout for ATA members continues as a two-stage process at CAVAL on the last Thursday of the month followed by the compilation and mailout at Federation (the home of Steven Haby) on the following Saturday, concluding with the lodgement at the Murrumbeena Post Office.

The regular production team comprises of Richard Talbot and Steven Haby with assistance from time to time (usually on the Saturday) by David Hennell and Len Regan.

Following receipt of the draft The Times and Table Talk in DropBox these are proof-read by a regular team including Agnes, Chris, Geoff, Richard Talbot and Steven Haby before the final PDF and print files are deposited by the editors in DropBox.

The introduction of colour printing has significantly improved the 'look and feel' of both publications and made them a more attractive proposition for new members (and potential retail sales). Colour printing will continue as a feature for The Times but will be incorporated in Table Talk as the need arises.

Colour printing has meant a slight adjustment to the printing process which is now required to be done in two batches to cover the colour front and rear pages and the rest of the publication which is then assembled and stapled usually at CAVAL.



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Generally printing and compilation takes most of the Thursday including time for morning tea (Tea and Tickets with David) and lunch interspersed with discussions of a timetable nature.

Steven Haby – Production Manager

Distribution List

Despite the challenges posed in finding suitable printed material in our ever-increasing digital world, the distribution service has continued to provide a valuable service to the Association's members with a wide monthly selection of items offered, both current and older, during the past year.

Without doubt the most popular items to appear on the lists when available have been rail working timetables and their associated documents. They regularly attract double figure orders and thanks to the Association now owning its own printer located at CAVAL we are able to supply them in print as well as digital format if required.

Although sadly the heyday of the printed timetable has passed and is now non-existent in some states, when they can be obtained, current bus and rail timetables continue to be sought after and always attract a good number of orders. There is also interest in the various guides and brochures that we are able to obtain from time to time.

As always, I have to thank the small but loyal band of members who regularly contribute to the distribution service. You know who you are and without your ongoing support we would have a considerably diminished offering to present to our members.

In conclusion, may I repeat an appeal that was made in a members newsletter earlier this year. Many of you get to travel to different parts of our country and visit locations such as tourist information centres during your travels. If anything of interest is spotted such as transport guides, maps and timetables and if copies can be obtained for supply to the Association for the distribution service it will be welcome. At the end of the day, the service we offer can only be as good as the level of support provide by our members.

Michael Marshall – Distribution List Manager

Membership Report

As at 30 June 2024, the membership renewal drive was ongoing with 97 members having renewed for 2024-25. The Association had a total of 141 members at this time. The membership reach consisted of:

Location	Members	Percentage
VIC	52	37%
NSW	44	31%
QLD	16	11%
SA	11	8%
ACT	9	6%
INT'L	7	6%
WA	1	1%
NZ	1	1%



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We have regretfully lost a number of members throughout the year including Ron Bridger, Roger Wheaton, John Price, and George Chomiak.

Finally, it has been humbling to witness the generosity of the membership with the donations being made, whether large or small, to support the Association's key projects including the National Timetable Archive. This is arguably a project which will provide significant opportunity for not only current interested parties but also future generations for public transport timetables, schedules and publications from the past and present.

Chris Pandilovski - Membership Officer

Auctions

It has been another positive year for Auctions, which has been put down to some of the amazing collections that I have had the pleasure of being able to work with and offer, which continue to be of high to excellent quality. These are often the result of members downsizing their loved collections, or sadly, collections being bequeathed to us.

With material now more accessible at Federation, it has been easier to select items and forward plan our auction topics a number of months in advance.

I have continued to vary the areas from which we offer material, which has been quite successful. An example of this was Western Australia and Queensland timetables (public and working) which performed extremely well, as they were areas that did not always feature in auctions previously. Books continue to perform extremely well too - especially in the areas of rail and tramways.

A listing of the topics we featured is shown below.

Bidder numbers continue to remain low, averaging 4 bidders per auction - the same as in 2022/2023.

Overall, income for the year was \$3458.27, which was an increase of \$1370.13 on the previous year.

Some shout outs: To our regular and dedicated bidders - thank you for your support in making our auctions over this past 12 months a success.... and to Len, David and Steven who assist me in curating materials or with catalogue production - your help is well and truly appreciated - so thank you! I particularly appreciate the quality support from our ATA member who prepares the website files for the books in our Auctions.

These are the topics the auctions covered throughout the year:

July	London Suburban Working Timetables
August	Canadian and United States Bus and Railway Timetables
September	Australian Tram, Trolley Bus and Bus Books
October	Perth Suburban Rail and WA Regional Passenger Timetables
November	New South Wales Steam and Electric Train Books
December	Melbourne Tram Timetables
January	World Tram and Trolleybus Books
February	Queensland and New South Wales Country Bus Timetables
March	Queensland Rail Public and Working Timetables
April	Australian Tram Books
May	Australia Bus and Ferry Books
June	Australian Tram Books



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Auction results for the period (including the financials) are shown here:

ATA Auction Results July 2023 - June 2024													
Auction	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	Total
Date	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	
Details													
Lots offered	45	50	42	53	59	64	52	41	58	50	41	51	606
Bidders	3	5	3	3	8	5	2	1	5	7	3	5	50
No. of bids	8	18	16	52	42	13	10	12	42	33	11	27	284
Highest win bid	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00	\$43.00	\$90.00	\$57.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$29.00	\$31.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$90.00
Lots sold	5	18	14	45	30	12	10	12	44	28	11	20	249
Lots unsold	40	32	29	8	29	58	42	29	21	24	30	31	373
Vendors	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	1	20
Receipts													
Bids won value	\$51.00	\$97.00	\$212.00	\$298.20	\$843.00	\$354.00	\$186.00	\$51.00	\$470.20	\$457.60	\$113.00	\$262.50	\$3,395.50
Discounts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.60	\$7.08	\$40.90	\$15.80	\$9.30	\$2.55	\$8.95	\$20.10	\$4.30	\$12.15	\$131.73
Postage	\$10.80	\$16.00	\$44.40	\$16.10	\$141.35	\$12.45	\$23.85	\$3.60	\$84.75	\$61.85	\$21.30	\$38.70	\$475.15
Income	\$61.80	\$113.00	\$245.80	\$307.22	\$943.45	\$350.65	\$200.55	\$52.05	\$546.00	\$499.35	\$130.00	\$289.05	\$3,738.92
Expenses													
Vendor payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16.50	\$0.00	\$37.50	\$158.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53.40	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$280.65
ATA bids													
Payment pending													
ATA surplus	\$61.80	\$113.00	\$229.30	\$307.22	\$905.95	\$192.40	\$200.55	\$52.05	\$546.00	\$445.95	\$115.00	\$289.05	\$3,458.27

Matthew Gibbins – Auctioneer

Archives Report

By the start of the year, we had settled into the new accommodation at CAVAL in the grounds of La Trobe University at Bundoora in Melbourne. The Association's Archives and National Timetable Collections are stored there in a place we have named Mern Merna. Our place names are taken from the consecutive stations along the Commonwealth Railways' former narrow-gauge railway in South Australia.

The kind support of the staff at CAVAL has continued. We have the use of high-quality metal storage shelving in a climate-controlled secure building. Our computers are located close to the storage area. We can work on the Collection efficiently with comprehensive support from CAVAL staff. At present we work there on most Thursdays.

In November 2023 we purchased a reconditioned Toshiba Studio 2505 A3 colour laser printer. This is located at Mern Merna and is used predominantly for the printing of the monthly mailouts. It has also proved to be very useful in the printing requirements for the National Timetable Collection (NTC). In May 2024 we gratefully received a donation which allowed us to purchase a second computer. This allows work on the NTC cataloguing to proceed without interruption from the mailout printing.

The cataloguing of the NTC continues with various batches of timetables being catalogued. Lack of resources has restricted our ability to get these catalogues bundled and labelled ready for despatch to the State Library of Victoria. There are now 4037 timetables in the National Timetable Collection in the State Library, with several thousand more timetables catalogued and being prepared for despatch.

In November 2023 we received the Victor Isaacs' railway collections comprising both Australian and overseas timetables. The Australian timetables have been fully catalogued, and the overseas timetables are fully listed. This work was undertaken by Agnes Boskovitz and her team of ATA members in Canberra. We are very grateful for the high quality of this work. We also appreciate and thank Agnes for donating the cost of transporting Victor's collection to CAVAL.



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Our current work is to check Victor's Australian timetable collection against what the NTC has in store, and to add timetables that are available to fill gaps in his collection. This relate mostly to railway working timetables.

We have made an enquiry to the State Library of Victoria with the proposal that Victor Isaacs' overseas railways timetables collection be accepted as a Collection in its own right. It contains railway timetables from most countries in the world as far back as 1895. To date we have not been able to obtain a response from the Library.

Apart from the National Timetable Collection, we have large collections of overseas timetables and transport books. These were moved to storage in garage space made available by Steven Haby and Katie Moss at their home in Hughesdale. For this we are very grateful. We have named this location Federation. The transport books provide a source of items for the ATA Auctions. There are over 1000 books in storage. We desperately need more members to take on the task of sorting and packing these books into bundles suitable for the Auctions. We also need members to create lists for these books so that they can be offered for sale on the ATA website. Work at Federation is done mostly on Saturdays.

A large number of current digital timetables are being received by email for the Digital Timetable Collection. We need members who can transfer the digital timetables from these emails into the Digital Timetables folders in the Digital Timetables Collection. This work can be done in members' homes with suitable computer equipment and software.

We acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the donors of timetable collections and books received during the year: Agnes Boskovitz (Victor Isaacs collection), Geoff Hassall, Hugh Waldron, Paul Mason, Warren Doubleday, Carolyn Cleak and the Melbourne Tram Museum, Ron Peach, Les Hyland, John Hoyle, Dennis McLean, Peter Walhouse, Brian Sherry and Derek Scrafton.

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. We appreciate the regular work done at Mern Merna and Federation by David Hennell, Richard May, Mike Vale, Richard Talbot, Steven Haby, Peter Walhouse, Duncan Peattie, Geoff Mann and Joshua Wike-Gysen.

The ATA Archives are missing many 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.

Now that we have settled into permanent premises at Mern Merna with excellent working conditions, we are keen to encourage more members to become involved with the work on the National Timetable Collection. There is a great variety of tasks to be undertaken, and a wide range of interests and capabilities can be utilised. For more information, please contact the Archives Officer at archives@timetable.org.au or 0409 209 114.

Len Regan - Archives Officer



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Website

The website had a major change in June 2024 in moving past issues of our publications from Akamai CDN to be with the rest of the website. Concurrently the “canonical” URLs changed from the prefix of <http://cdn.timetable.org.au> to <https://www.timetable.org.au>. This was an extensive piece of work in redirecting each of the individual files to their new place without losing any reputation built up with search engines. This appears to have been successful from all indications. With this change the last part of the website accessible via http rather than https has gone in line with best practice.

The website unique visitors each month declined in August 2023 from 2000 to a steady 1200 and another 400 (no change) for the TrainTimes section. I expect the decline was due to the new layout and robots giving up hammering old URLs. Visitors are mainly from Australia and the US, although the US looks to be more automated robots rather than humans. The most frequently visited page is the home page, the back copies of publications page and then the TrainTimes homepage. Similarly, the Association’s old domains (now including cdn.timetable.org.au) continue to decline in popularity to very small levels.

Reports from the Google search engine which covers our websites ending in timetable.org.au, has another view of popularity in descending order, the TrainTimes home page, TrainTimes Indian Pacific Timetables, TrainTimes Stony Point timetables, and the main home page. Our dependence on “Google” for search engine traffic remains high with roughly 80% of search engine visitors coming via a Google property.

This year the website has had:

- Regular updates of the Distribution List, Auction catalogue (with supplements for several issues showing book covers), Divisional meetings, and the Annual Report as they become available
- Delayed updates of The Times and Table Talk after two months
- Tweaks to fix spelling errors and technical glitches
- Continued provision of functional emails for the Association’s activities

I see further changes next year in:

- Possibly adding in content that might be maintained by members (not me!) such as timetable lists
- Streamlining the updating of Victor Isaac’s TrainTimes website content and making that website “mobile friendly”
- Adhering to “Good URL’s don’t change” and pointing old addresses to the relevant new address in the new website, particularly the back issues of our publications.
- 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.

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

Alex Sims – Webmaster



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Divisional Reports

Melbourne

The Association's Melbourne Division meetings continue to be held at David Hennell's home. Topics covered this year were:-

- July 2023: unfortunately, the only attendee was the convenor
- September 2023: a 1953 public holiday service for Whittlesea, Gembrook trains and the Cowes ferry, along with coupon tickets and much more – David Hennell
- November 2023: unfortunately yet again, the only attendee was the convenor
- March 2024: a handout containing the non-electrified extracts, along with discussion of some aspects of the electrified service, from VR's Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Day 2nd June 1953 suburban WTT – David Hennell

The problems associated with the declining attendance at evening meetings have been solved by transferring meetings from Wednesday evenings to Saturday afternoons, the first one at the new time being on a 38 °C day in March when the attendance was a respectable 9. The second Saturday of the month was chosen so as to avoid clashing with mailout days. Meetings are now being held thrice annually, in March, July and November.

Work on the National Timetable Collection at Mern Merna (at CAVAL at La Trobe University) continues well and the sense of achievement and camaraderie provide a great working atmosphere (in addition to it being 79% nitrogen by volume – sorry!). Twice a month or so, work takes place at Federation in Hughesdale as well.

My thanks to all those who have supported the Melbourne Division and its activities throughout the year.

David Hennell – Melbourne Convenor

Adelaide

Two meetings were held during 2023-24. The same small group of members show interest in attending meetings. Some old timetables, Australian bus, tram and rail, have been exchanged. Two members keep abreast of developments in other countries as well as in Australia.

Some timetables have been changed from the 25th August with the implementation of some electoral commitments made in 2022. To some extent services to Mt Barker and other Adelaide Hills towns have been improved. As a consolation gesture to the advocates of a fast rail service to the Mt Barker area the frequencies on the principal route 800 (formerly 840) have improved 7 days per week. On the other hand, the peak hour express services, 840X, have been abolished and replaced by limited stop T800 services which make 4 stops at key locations in the inner suburbs, thereby weakening the Mt Barker service and rendering the inner suburban route 861 to Glen Osmond almost superfluous. This counter-productive change seems to be part of a wider policy change under which the categories of "F" (down pick up only and up set down only in inner suburbs) and "X" (express for at least part of a route) are being abolished. This policy has been applied partly on outer south routes to the Noarlunga area although some "X" routes survive.

On the 25th August the 900 metre branch off the Outer Harbour line to Port Dock station was opened. An associated bus interchange commenced operation as well with numerous routes to Port Adelaide being rerouted to terminate there, some 400 metres away from the old Port Adelaide hub, the Black Diamond Corner. The branch will receive a flat 30-minute frequency 7 days per week. Trains will run all stops while Outer Harbour trains will run limited stops between Adelaide and Alberton. Many



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observers predict that this expensive stub will prove to be a white elephant given the lack of employment and residential properties near the station. Park and ride may yet be the salvation.

From the 25th August, route 720 (City – Darlington, Marion SC and Reynella) was rerouted to run via Anzac Highway and South Rd in common with route 719 to Flinders Uni and other 720 series routes to outer suburbs in the Morphett Vale East and Noarlunga areas. The inner portion of route 720 via Sir Donald Bradman Drive and South Rd Mile End to Anzac Highway (dating from the 1920's) is now served by diverting route 248 from directly along Anzac Highway.

The positive aspect of the Adelaide Division is that two of our active members are young and through them there is some prospect of gaining new members from bus preservation groups and the St Kilda tram museum.

Robert Field – Adelaide Convenor

Brisbane

Several Brisbane members meet about four times a year. They exchange information about rail / tram operators throughout the world. They thank those who prepare the various magazines.

Brian Webber – Brisbane Convenor

Canberra

While the Canberra Branch has not held any formal meetings during 2023-24, some ATA members and others with an interest in transport matters continue to exchange emails on various current and historical topics. Thanks especially to Dale Budd and others for sharing items that are newsworthy. This informal arrangement is suitable for those who are older or otherwise unable to meet in person.

David Cranney – Canberra Convenor

Sydney

The Sydney Division has not met this year, as a regular meeting place and a member willing to act as convenor was sought.



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**MINUTES OF THE 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN
TIMETABLE ASSOCIATION**

**Meeting held at the Hawthorn Tram Museum, Hawthorn, Victoria
Saturday 21st October 2023**

Item 1

Welcome Melbourne convenor David Hennell welcomed everyone to the meeting. President, Andrew James also welcomed everyone, in particular new member Ian Thiele and visitors. The meeting was opened at 1404.

Attendance John Abrams, Geoffrey Clifton, Hilaire Fraser, Andrew James, Richard May, Chris Pandilovski, Len Regan, Michael Vale, David Hennell, Richard Talbot, Peter Walhouse, Michael Marshall, Ian Thiele, Geoff Mann, Russell Nowell, Graeme Cleak

Visitors Mary Regan, Peter Regan, Anita Marshall

Apologies Matthew Gibbins, Robert Field, Neville Fenn, Michael and Nicole Smith, Geoff Lambert, Glenn Cumming, Paul Brown

Proxies Steven Haby by Secretary, Vic Solomons by Secretary, Joel Taggart by Secretary

Item 2 Minutes of the 39th AGM held on 16th October 2022

Moved Andrew James, seconded Michael Marshall that the minutes of the 39th 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

Andrew James spoke briefly to his written report highlighting the ARHS agreement, the new website, the completed social media policy, the need to be active in the digital timetable space and the sound financial situation albeit in part the result of donations. Andrew also noted the many tasks that required members active involvement.

Moved Andrew James, seconded Hilaire Fraser that the President's report be received. Passed.

Hilaire Fraser commented on the importance of IT in supporting the running of the ATA and asked whether a Zoom component should be added to future AGMs.

5.2 Treasurer's Report

In addition to his written report, Len Regan noted the sound state of the association's finances. Len recorded his thanks to members for the donations received from members totalling approximately \$6000. The major expense for the year relates to housing the National Timetable Collection at CAVAL. This move has been highly beneficial despite the expense.

The financial statement for the year was presented to the meeting noting that it had previously been approved by the management committee at its August meeting.

Len indicated that after 15 years he was no longer able to continue as treasurer and thanked everyone for their support.

Andrew James acknowledged Len's great contribution noting that it was possible that the ATA would not continue to exist without Len's significant work. The meeting wholeheartedly endorsed these comments.

5.3 Table Talk

In addition to the written report, editor Chris Pandilovski noted that COVID is still impacting information reported. Chris also noted the increased NZ content and the value in adding a few more in-depth articles. A visual refresh was also completed in January 2023.

The meeting commended Chris for his work and noted that Table Talk was one of the most appreciated components of the ATA and a key reason for many to continue their membership.

5.4 The Times

The written contribution in the annual report was received in the absence of editor Geoff Lambert. It was noted that it has been a struggle at times to get articles and that as we are trying to record social history it is important to have a wide variety of articles presented in an impartial and factual manner.

Hilaire Fraser noted that it had been very easy to work with Geoff in preparing articles and thanked him for his role as editor.

5.5 Production Manager

The contribution in the annual report was noted.

Len Regan indicated that consideration was being given to leasing an A3 colour printer in order that the printed magazines could be presented more professionally and with colour. This would add the equivalent of about \$34 per member receiving the mailout to the association's annual costs. We have agreement, in principle, to house the printer at CAVAL but would need someone to volunteer to undertake the monthly printing, a task that would require 2 to 3 hours work each month.

5.6 Distribution List

Michael Marshall spoke to his written report and noted that it was increasingly challenging getting adequate supplies of printed timetables.

5.7 Membership

Len Regan spoke briefly to his written report.

Since 1 July 2023 Len noted that we had received 18 new members, 17 of whom were originally members of the ARE. Six members have not renewed their membership including two who have passed away. Membership currently stands at 143. The digital mailout is received by 88 members, 78 get the hardcopy mail out and 16 members receive both.

Len also indicated that we need a new membership officer as he can no longer continue in this role. The work can be completed from home.

5.8 Auctions

In Matthew Gibbins absence, his written report was received. It was noted that the auctions are proceeding well. Hilaire Fraser commended Matthew on his efforts.

Len Regan noted that we have received the donation of approximately 1000 books which can be progressively auctioned. There is also a need for proof-readers to assist Matthew in preparing auction lists.

5.9 Archives and NTC

In addition to his written report, Len Regan noted that we had recently received some significant large collections from Geoff Hassall, Hugh Waldron, Paul Mason and Victor Isaacs. We have approached the Victorian State Library so see whether they would house Victor's extensive overseas timetable collection.

Given the large volume of material to collate and catalogue, additional help is needed. If necessary, material can be sent to members so that they can undertake some work from home.

5.10 Website

The written report was noted.

Len Regan noted that the new website, which took 10 years to bring to fruition, has been well received. Work is still required to fill gaps, including listing timetables by location, and so assistance is sought from members to achieve this.

5.11 Branch reports

Reports of branch activities were circulated in the written annual report.

Item 6 Elections and Appointments

6.1 Determination of required number of committee members

Moved David Hennell, seconded Richard Talbot that there be no more than seven ordinary committee members. Passed.

6.2 Election of Committee

In addition to the nominations received prior to the meeting, Chris Pandilovski nominated himself for the position of Ordinary Committee Member and Michael Vale was nominated by Richard Talbot for the position of Ordinary Committee Member.

As the number of nominations matched the number of positions, Andrew James declared the positions filled as shown in the table below.

Position	Nominee	Nominator
President	Andrew James	Richard May
Vice President	Len Regan	Richard May
Secretary	Richard May	Len Regan
Treasurer	John Abrams	Richard May
Committee Member	Geoff Lambert	Geoff Lambert
Committee Member	Chris Pandilovski	Chris Pandilovski
Committee Member	Michael Vale	Richard Talbot
Committee Member	Matthew Gibbins	Richard May
Committee Member	Hilaire Fraser	Hilaire Fraser
Committee Member	Steven Haby	Steven Haby

6.3 Appointment of auditor

It was moved by Len Regan and seconded by Andrew James that Jim Wells remain as our accountant.

Item 7 General Business

Len Regan recommended that Honorary Life Membership be granted to Samuel Rachdi. Len presented his rationale and noted that several members of the association and committee had supported this proposal. The meeting endorsed the proposal to offer Samuel life membership.

Andrew James will write to Samuel notifying him of this award.

Item 8 Location of the 2024 (41st) AGM

It was proposed that Andrew James offer Adelaide the opportunity to host the 41st AGM of the Association and that if this offer is not accepted that the offer be made to Canberra.

Appointments

At the end of the AGM, the following appointments were agreed.

Times Editor	Geoff Lambert
Table Talk Editor	Chris Pandilovski
Table Talk Bus Editor	Steven Haby
Production Manager	Appointment not made
Auctioneer	Matthew Gibbins
Archives Officer	Len Regan
Webmaster	Alex Sims
Distribution Officer	Michael Marshall
Membership Officer	Appointment not made

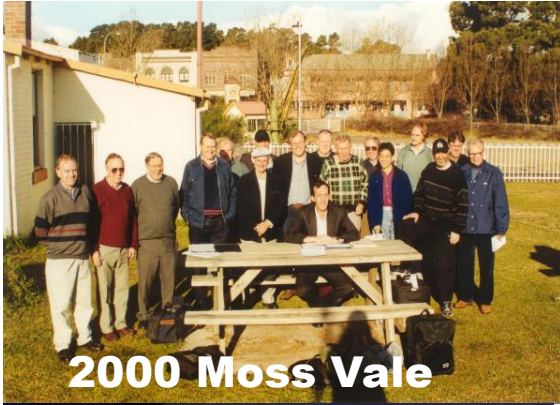
Andrew James formally closed the meeting at 1552.

OFFICE HOLDERS 2023-2024

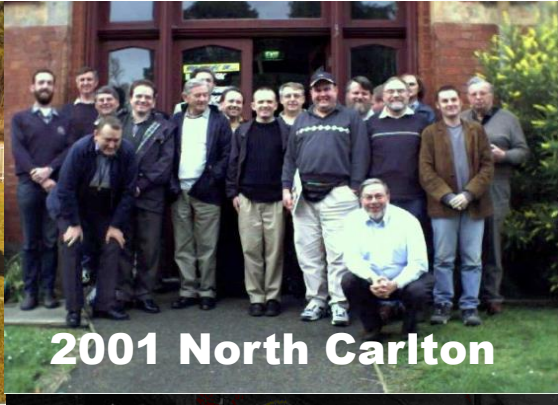
Management Committee

President	Andrew James	president@timetable.org.au	1 Walerna Road, Glen Iris Vic 3146
Vice President	Len Regan	vicepresident@timetable.org.au	
Secretary	Richard May	secretary@timetable.org.au	
Treasurer	John Abrams	treasurer@timetable.org.au	
Member	Geoff Lambert		
Member	Chris Pandilovski		
Member	Michael Vale		
Member	Steven Haby		
Member	Matthew Gibbins		
Member	Hilaire Fraser		
Other Officials			
The Times Editor	Geoff Lambert	thetimes@timetable.org.au	179 Sydney Rd, Fairlight, NSW 2094
Table Talk (Rail) Editor	Chris Pandilovski	tabletalk@timetable.org.au	
Table Talk (Bus) Editor	Steven Haby	busnews@timetable.org.au	
Production	Steven Haby	steven.haby@gmail.com	
Membership	Chris Pandilovski	membership@timetable.org.au	76 Woodville Rd Mooroolbark Vic 3138
Archives	Len Regan	archives@timetable.org.au	
Auctioneer	Matthew Gibbins	auction@timetable.org.au	
Webmaster	Alex Sims	webmaster@timetable.org.au	
Distribution: Manager	Michael Marshall	distribution@timetable.org.au	
Adelaide Convenor	Robert Field	fieldfro9@adam.com.au	
Brisbane Convenor	Roger Wheaton	bwebber5@bigpond.com	
Canberra Convenor	David Cranney	cranney@inet.net.au	
Melbourne Convenor	David Hennell	(03) 9830-1802	
Sydney Convenor	Vacant		





2000 Moss Vale



2001 North Carlton



2002 Brisbane



2005 North Carlton



2003 Sydney, Roseville



2007 Darling Harbour



Jack McLean



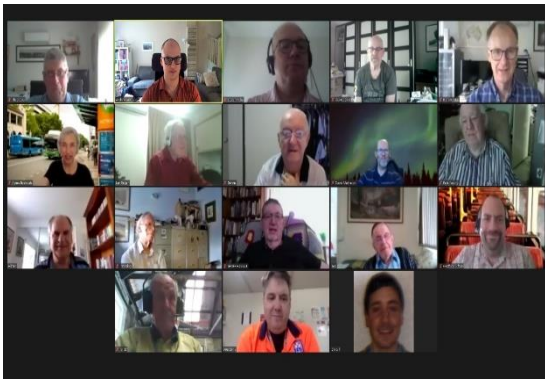
2006 Brisbane, New Farm



2008 Canberra Transit Graphics



2009 Hawthorn Tram Museum



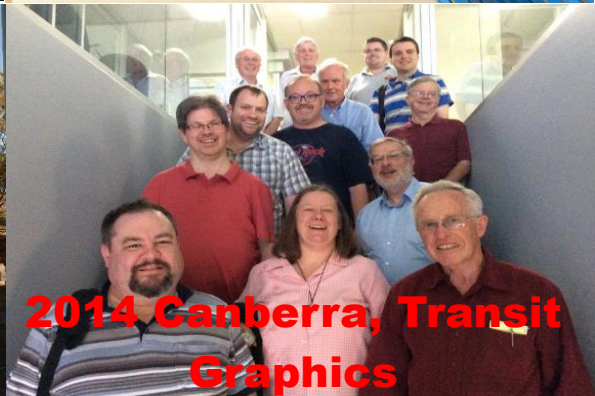
2020 AGM via Zoom



2011 Queanbeyan Station



2016 Brisbane Tram Museum



2014 Canberra, Transit Graphics



2018 Melbourne, Prahran



2012 Hawthorn Tram Museum



2019 Canberra



2015 Hawthorn Tram Museum



2013 Darling Harbour



2017 Sydney University