



National Road Transport Museum Newsletter

March 2023 Issue

Message from the CEO

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I would like to thank everyone for their continued support over the past few months. We accomplished many tasks over Christmas and are now ready for the tourist season.

New signage for all the vehicles in the Buntine Pavilion has been installed. Signage for the TIA shed will be completed in the next few months.

We have launched our new and improved website which will make for easier access and event booking.

We have recently announced our Festival of Transport for 2023, held on 24 – 27 August, along with including the Transport Women Unite Red Ball on Saturday, 26 August.

The cleaning of the area behind the TIA shed and maintenance sheds are progressing slowly as the amount of rubbish and important parts and vehicles accumulated there over the years requires careful selection. Please note that we are NOT throwing away anything that has value or can be restored. We do dispose of old chairs, tyres, and general rubbish.

The not-so-good news is that the previous CEO Ms Liz Martin has taken the Road Transport Historical Society to Northern Territory Supreme Court, demanding hundreds of thousands of dollars for her unpaid overtime and a multitude of trucks and items allegedly owned by her that have not been taken to her own museum in Port Pirie, between 2017 and 2019. The good news is that Northern Territory Government has decided to cover the RTHS legal costs. The RTHS is taking other steps to recover vehicles and museum exhibits, but I'm not at liberty at this moment to provide you with more information. I will inform you about the progress as soon as possible.

With the help of a Government grant, we have engaged an architect to design the new Road Transport Hall of Fame. The design will include – New truck display shed to be built behind the TIA shed, a stand-alone RSL Museum, a car museum, a Hall of Fame building next to the Memorial Garden and renovated Buntine Shed, which will house more exhibits and an administration centre. As you probably know, the whole RTHS infrastructure desperately needs repairs. Since taking on the CEO role two years ago, we have spent over two hundred fifty thousand on repairs and maintenance. We hope that with the Government's help, we will be able, over the next two years, to fix all the issues (as most of the buildings are not compliant) and create the new modern and exciting Road Transport Hall of Fame.

Dear Members, I can promise you one thing, we are doing all we can to build a better and bigger monument for hard-working people from the Transport Industry.

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Featured Vehicles

Leyland Drill Truck



The 1954 Lelyland Hippo has been kindly donated by George and Sally Grant of Gingin Drilling, Western Australia. They purchased it from Barbarton Boring, Moora in 1980. It served George and Sally very well, with over 2500 bores drilled between 1980 and 2020 for Gingin Drilling. Pumps on each of those bores were installed by George. The bores were drilled for stock water, irrigation and domestic supplies.

Neither the truck nor drilling rig ever let George down, the truck starting summer and winter, without heaters. The truck was truly amazing in sand, the worm drive brass diffs did a magnificent job.

The transmission is 5 forward, 1 reverse high low joey box,

with no synchro mesh. The truck reached a maximum speed of 60km/h thanks to its 6 cylinder, 127 hp diesel motor.

The Ruston Bucyrus drilling rig was fitted to the truck in the 1970s. It is a 2-cylinder Ruston motor, with 25 hp at 1000 revs. The tower is 13 metres high, with the drilling bar being 7.5metres including the bit. It is known as a cable tool drilling rig. The drilling bar wire rope is left hand twist. As the bar moves up and down the swivel at the top of the bar spins the drilling bar to the right which makes the drilling action. The drill runs for about 60 hours on one tank of diesel fuel. The rig was originally purchased by the W A Mines Dept known as M D 1 which is welded on main frame near the radiator.

McDonald's T60 Kenworth

This T600 Kenworth prime mover was built in 1994 at the Bayswater Victoria Production facility, and purchased new from Brown & Hurley Darra by Graham and Nyra McDonald, known as Brisbane Bulk Freight. The truck generally operated on the eastern seaboard towing a single trailer grossing around 42 tonnes. It mainly carted plasterboard and roof tiles. It was the last of ten T600's purchased by Graham and Nyra. After traveling approximately 1.2 million kms it was sold in 2000 to Rod North for work in Northern Queensland. Rod replaced the engine with a donor unit from another of Graham's T600s. The truck was re-purchased in 2015 for



restoration to coincide with Graham's induction into the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame.

The truck is powered by a Cummins 435 hp engine coupled to an Eaton 18 speed Roadranger gearbox, driving through a Meritor RT40 rear axle assembly. Rear suspension is Kenworth Airglide 100 air bag. The gross combination weight is 45,000 kg.

Featured Vehicles

Landrover Series 2

This Land Rover is a complete 'knock-down' vehicle having been exported from the UK in component form as all parts were manufactured by Land Rover UK. It was assembled in Australia by Press Metals Ltd. Sydney.

William Harris found it on a property in western Queensland and believed it had been owned by one family until that point.

Mr Harris pulled it apart with the aim of restoring it and retaining as much originality as possible, including some of its well earned blemishes and dents.



It was driven from Adelaide to Alice Springs, it was a slow three day trip. This Land Rover can get up to 100km/h coming off a big hill with a tail wind! The registration plate of 'BMG757A' is a reference to the UK Great Train Robbery in which two Land Rovers were used - a Series A and a Series 2A. Both vehicles had this number plate in an effort to confuse the police and make an escape.

The Shell Grey Ghost



Many of us have heard tales of the Kenworth Grey Ghosts running up and down the highway through the dead of night. The original of which sits in the Kenworth Hall of Fame. Well, now, we have a second and different Grey Ghost for people to enjoy - the Shell Grey Ghost.

As this International Truck was used to clean up spills or mishaps for the Shell company, no signage was used as the idea was to slip in and out, much like an unseen ghost. Painted in matte grey, the Grey Ghost was built in the Shell Newport workshop in 1986 and was used as an emergency response vehicle for over 30 years. As most of the work was 'just around the corner' the 37 year old truck had just under 69,000 kilometres on the clock before being driven to Alice Springs in 2022.



Seeing the trucks historical value, Brendan Johnson purchased the truck with the intention of placing it in the museum. The truck arrived just in time for the 2022 Festival weekend with the crew having set out from near Melbourne, 2253km away. They had many stories to tell of the lack of speed, (top speed being 80km/h), too much speed when going down hills and the need for a stronger wheel brace and that was only on day one!

Kenworth Hall of Fame

Kenworth C500 series.

At the Kenworth Hall of Fame there are two brand new C5 series heavy duty trucks proudly on display. First is a C510 6x4 featuring a GCM of 160,000kg, the other is a C509 8x6 tri-drive with a GCM of 171,000KG. Both feature day cabs with Roll over Protection System (ROPS) on the C510.



C510 at Kenworth Hall of Fame



C510 size in relation to the T650 adjacent

The C510 was designed to meet the specific needs of very high GCM mine haul operations, It incorporates a very robust 19 litre engine with cooling capacity comfortably exceeding the 50 degree ambient temperatures commonly experienced in the remote mining areas of Australia.

A higher cab, larger radiator core and hydraulic fan drive are all part of the Australian designed package to suit our unique conditions. Custom engineered for every individual application, the C510 has become the benchmark for all heavy haul prime movers.

Main specification of the C510 is Cummins QSK 19, 605 HP from this 19 litre power plant coupled to an RTLO 22918B 18 speed Roadranger manual transmission,

The C510 features Meritor SPRC 1927 tandem rear axle with a rating of 41,200KG.

Rear suspension is Hendrickson R1000 with a rating of 45,300KG. GCM is 160,000KG.

Front axle is Meritor FL941 with a rating of 9100KG. including Kenworth Slipper spring suspension.



Kenworth C509 Tri-drive



Meritor R278-1866 Tri Drive Axles

The C509 tri drive specification is Cummins ISX E5 550HP coupled to an RTLO22918B 18 speed manual transmission. Rear axle is Meritor R278-1866 tri drive axle assembly on New Way AD369-10 rear spring suspension.

Front axle is Meritor FL941 rated at 9100KG on Kenworth Slipper spring suspension.

Kenworth C5 series trucks have been developed and built here in Australia for the harshest possible operating conditions. Optimal tare weight and rugged reliability combined with build flexibility and options in a high- performance environment, ensure that when an operator requires an extreme duty truck, the C5 series is always front of mind.

The Australian production of C5 series commenced with the C500AR in 1981. This was extremely popular with operators involved in a number of heavy haulage applications throughout Australia such as construction, mining, logging, livestock, mostly in multi trailer configurations.

This led to a number of C5 models to follow over the years such as:

- C500T during 1988, C501T 1992, C510 1998, C540 2008, C508 2008, C509 2011.

By Jim McGrath



Memorial Notices

Stephen Gleisner

We were saddened to hear Stephen passed away on 9th January 2023. Stephen was born in Maryborough, Victoria, 1961 to Norma and Kenneth. Stephen had many roles in the industry including running Avoca Transport, after taking over from his father in 2001.

Stephen transported various freight across the country, from livestock and culverts to grain and fertilizer.

He and his wife, Tracy, also ran a sand and soil depot supplying locals. Stephens pride and joy was a restored Mack B61! He was inducted to the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame in 2021.

We offer sincere condolences to his family and friends.



John Bourke

20.02.1936 - 24.11.2022

John followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps, driving trucks for a living. He started with a Maple Leaf tipper and then a KB5 International. In the 1970's John changed to semis. He'd had enough mud and slush and wanted a truck that would stay clean for a while. He started off with a long nose 1418 Mercedes Benz and also a cab-over Benz. They were carting three and a half ton paper reels for Australian Paper Mills. Each had to be barred in place and it was very heavy manual work, then the load had to be tarped. John then purchased a Kenworth S2 and was from then on totally converted to Kenworth trucks.

We offer our deepest condolence to John's family and friends.

John was inducted in 2008



Festival of Transport 2023

This year we are pleased to announce we are extending our Festival of Transport to a four day event.

We will kick the Festival off with Welcome Drinks and Nibbles by the Café gardens on Thursday evening.

Friday will be a busy day starting off with the Transport Women Breakfast, followed by Cummins Cup Truckies Race Day and we will end the evening with BBQ Dinner Under the Stars in Stuarts Kitchen.

Saturday, we will see our new inductees welcomed to into the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame. To end the evening, our first annual 'Transport Women Unite Red Ball' will be held on Saturday night. This will be a celebration event for both our new Shell Rimula Wall of Fame inductees and our Transport Women Dream Maker Award winners.

Sunday is the Museum Open Day, the mini train will be running around the track and there will be activities for the whole family to enjoy!

Scan the QR Code or head to our website to book your tickets now.

We look forward to seeing you all in Alice Springs in August!



Australian FESTIVAL Of TRANSPORT

24 - 27 AUGUST 2023

book now!



OFFICIAL FESTIVAL PROGRAM

THURSDAY	
6pm	Welcome drinks and nibbles in the cafe gardens welcome drink on arrival bar available
FRIDAY	
8am - 9.30am	Transport Women Breakfast at the Old Ghan Cafe buffet style breakfast live entertainment
12.30pm	Gates open for Cummins Cup Truckies Race Day food and bar facilities available
6pm	BBQ dinner under the stars in Stuarts Kitchen bar available live entertainment
SATURDAY	
3pm	Shell Rimula Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony Trucks in Action Pavilion
5pm - 6pm	Post induction celebratory drinks at Stuarts Kitchen drinks available to purchase
6pm	Transport Women Unite Red Ball in the Kenworth Pavilion sit down dinner bar available live music red territory formal
SUNDAY	
9am - 3pm	Museum open day mini train rides merchandise sale family activities

old ghan cafe open for meals throughout the festival

event times subject to change






Transport Women Dream Maker Award

New date announced for the Transport Women Unite Red Ball
– Saturday 26 August, 2023

Transport Women Australia Limited and the National Road Transport Museum are delighted to announce the establishment of a new award - the Transport Women Dream Maker Award. This award is to recognise the women in the industry who work behind the scenes and help those who front the organisation to achieve their dreams, whether it be an owner/operator, a family business or a large company.

v

This award will be presented at the Transport Women Unite Red Ball at Alice Springs on Saturday August 26 2023. Nominations for this inaugural award are now open. Please contact the National Road Transport Museum on (08) 8952 7161 for further information or to discuss your nomination.



Head to our website to download the nomination form:
<https://www.roadtransporthall.com/>

Shell Rimula Wall of Fame

Do you know someone who has contributed to the Transport Industry for more than 25 years and deserves to be recognised for their efforts?

Shell Rimula and The National Road Transport Museum are pleased to present the annual event held in Alice Springs, which sees Australia's trucking heroes inducted into the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame.

With a historic and iconic connection to the industry, Shell Rimula has partnered with The National Road Transport Museum to celebrate the achievements of the Australian transport community and recognise the individuals who have shown a lifelong commitment to the transport industry. Shell Rimula has continued to highlight the contributions that the road transport industry has made to the economic wellbeing of Australia through the efforts of Australia's trucking and transport heroes.

Click the link below for the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame Nomination Form: <https://www.roadtransporthall.com/nominations>

We look forward to hearing your stories!



Other News

RSL Sub-branch



The RSL Sub-branch outdoor display was moved to the entrance of the museum some months ago, thanks to the efforts of our volunteers. There are now vehicles outside and inside for defence force enthusiasts to enjoy!



News in Brief

Ainsleigh Bilato has written a terrific article for the February edition of Big Rigs highlighting our role in celebrating Australia's unsung heroes. You can enjoy her article and the Big Rig issue by clicking this link:

https://issuu.com/primecreativemedia-2016/docs/br04_17.2.23_lr

Keep an eye out on 7plus in March for BlokesWorld, Ado tells us the RTHS episode will be airing soon!



Visitors Corner

On one of Lindsay Johannsen's recent visits he dropped off some of the children's books he has written. Linz kindly offered all profits from the sales to the museum. Linz has also generously given his time, providing accurate information and stories for the soon to be completed sandwich board signs for Bertha, the AEC and the Rotinoff. It's wonderful to have people with knowledge of the vehicles sharing it for all of us to learn from and enjoy.



Could you be our next Volunteer?

We currently have vacancies for volunteers! This is a busy time as we begin the preparations for the coming festival. We need helpers willing to type, sweep, dust, hang frames, hammer nails, work in the cafe, greet visitors at reception and much more.

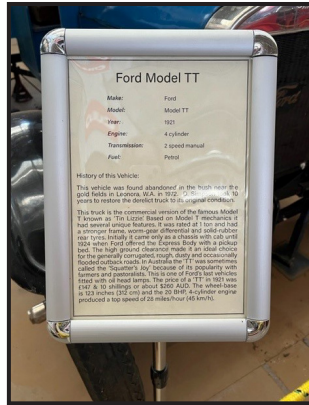
Many of our volunteers return time and again as they enjoy the opportunity to extend their stay in Alice Springs, make new friends over 'happy hour' and give to a not for profit organisation.

If volunteering is something that you've thought about please contact Nick or Jac to discuss your interest on (08) 8952 7161 or see our website for further information. <https://www.roadtransporthall.com/>



Improvement and Upgrades

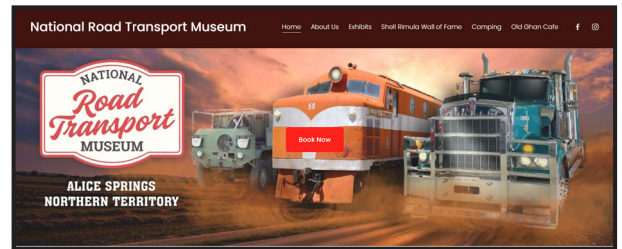
It has been a goal of management for some time, to display signage in front of as many of our exhibits as possible. After months of work and research we are well on the way to having signs in place for the majority of vehicles in both the Buntine and TIA sheds.



This short video, showcasing our diverse exhibits, is the first instalment of our advertising campaign at the Alice Springs Airport. Further advertising is in production and will be in place shortly.



Our new website is up and running. It went live on Wednesday 8 March. Head over and check it out!
<https://www.roadtransporthall.com/>



A number of our vehicles have been given a run over the last few months. Check out our Facebook page for some videos.

<https://www.facebook.com/trucks.trainsNT/>



Ghan News

We are very grateful to Mike Dee for sending a replacement for the missing horns off our DH14. It will be an exciting day when our volunteers can hook them up and that day is getting closer thanks to Charlie and Luke Poole.

One of the air horns has been resoldered, both horns have been stripped, cleaned in both chambers and adjusted etc.

Both have been given a good smooth sanding and a fresh coat of paint.

