



National Road Transport Museum Newsletter

October 2022 Issue

Message from the CEO

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Firstly, I would like to thank all the people who, in the past 12 months, have supported me in making improvements to this place. People that put their skills, time and love into ensuring the Road Transport Historical Society Inc. stays open and grows.

How quickly the year has gone, in the newsletter published just after the 2021 festival I listed a number of projects we hoped to achieve. I'm happy and proud to report that we achieved all of those and more.

To name just a few we have:

- doubled our turnover from the previous financial year
- had 14,177 visitors through the door
- welcomed 5,624 campers to our camping facility
- renovated, and opened to the public, the first-class sleeper car of the Ghan Train
- spent \$125,000 on much-needed repairs to our infrastructure
- cleaned the area surrounding the train shed, removing over forty tonnes of rubbish and converting the area to unpowered camping grounds



- moved reception to the Ghan building
- created the Ford T display in the entry to the Buntine Shed
- set up a new retail store with a new Point of Sale system
- purchased a security monitoring system that includes 35 cameras

- Installed an alarm in the Kenworth Hall and the Ghan Museum, with the rest of the buildings to be completed next month
- Installed new energy-efficient lights in the Buntine Hall and in the TIA shed
- With the support of an NT Government Grant, we have renovated Stuarts Kitchen

All this and much more was achieved by only a few employees and a handful of volunteers on the back of another Covid year, where tourism is yet to get back to full strength. I would like to thank the Northern Territory Government who, in the last financial year, has supported us with \$290,000 in the form of grants. This is revenue on top of the increased turnover.

Nick Prus



Advisory Committee

Formation of Advisory Committee

At a meeting held on Wednesday 21st September 2022 it was agreed to form an Advisory Committee to support the Statutory Manager during the period of the Statutory Manager's appointment. The members of the Advisory Committee comprise the incoming Board and are as follows:

Chair: Mr Frank Bilato (Northern Territory) Mr Bilato was Operations Manager with Gulf Transport in Darwin. Mr Bilato moved to Alice Springs in 1997 having purchased G & S Transport with his brothers. He has been working as an Owner/Driver at G & S Transport since that time. Mr Bilato is passionate about the National Road Transport Historical Society Inc. and is looking forward to making a positive contribution as Chair.

Member: Ms Ainsleigh Bilato (South Australia) Ms Bilato graduated with a Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of International Relations in 2019 and was admitted as a legal practitioner in early 2020. Ms Bilato is working within the mining, civil construction and transport sector. She provides legal support particularly in the areas of contract law, workplace law and risk management.

Member: Mr James John (JJ) Hurley (New South Wales) Dealer Council of Australia (Kenworth). Mr Hurley was inducted into the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame at ReUnion 2006. Mr Hurley has been an innovator for the transport industry in Australia. On 28th August, 2015, the J.J. Hurley Pavillion (Kenworth) was officially opened and named in recognition of Mr Hurley's commitment to the National Road Transport Historical Society Inc.

Member: Mr Frank Marley (Western Australia) Mr Marley was inducted into the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame at ReUnion 2002. Mr Marley created Marley Transport which led to his long term involvement with the Western Australia Lifestock Transport Association and is a former President of WARTA, now known as the Transport Forum. Mr Marley has a long association with the Road Transport Historical Society Inc.

Member: Mr Peter Mostran (Northern Territory) Mr Mostran was inducted into the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame at ReUnion 2004. He has an engineering degree and has used these skills to design and construct specific purpose-built equipment able to withstand the rigors of transporting fuel around the roughest terrain in Central and Western regions of Australia. Mr Mostran has a long and dedicated service to the road transport industry based in Alice Springs as a fuel distributor and transport operator.

Member: Mr Arthur James Poole (South Australia) Mr Poole, known as Charlie, has been involved with the railways in Alice Springs for 32 years. Mr Poole has been involved with commercial railways for 17 years, working on locomotive, rollingstock, track maintenance and repairs. Mr Poole was the Rollingstock and Locomotive Workshop Supervisor with the Ghan Preservation Society for 15 years.

Member: Mr Randle Walker (Northern Territory) Mr Walker is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation, based in Alice Springs. Mr Walker has held this position for 12 years as well as a member of the Alice Springs Major Business Group. Mr Walker's finance and governance experience and skills are extensive and benefit community groups including Chair of the MacDonnell Regional Council Audit Committee.

Member: Mr Grant Whan (Northern Territory) Mr Whan was born and raised in Central Australia. He is a tourism specialist with over 35 years tourism experience in the Northern Territory, including 22 years in commercial business management. This has included management of his own tour operation, Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) Visitor Centre, School of the Air Visitor Centre and Hermannsburg Heritage Precinct. Mr Whan is a current member of Central Australia Chamber of Commerce.

The Society thanks Mr Lew Couper for his continued role as Patron of the National Road Transport Historical Society Inc.

AGM

The upcoming AGM for the Road Transport Historical Society Inc. is to be held on Sunday 6th November 2022 at 1pm CST. All financial members have the option to attend in person or via Zoom.

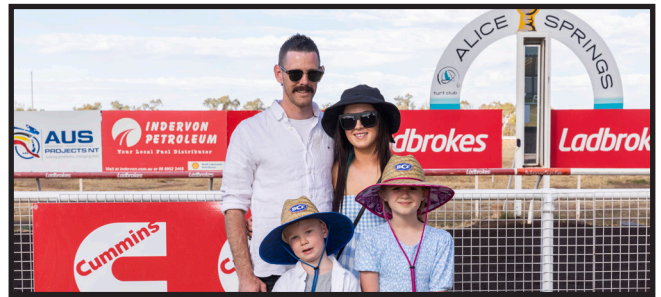
To register your interest, please email Nick Prus at ceo@rths.com.au with your full name, contact details and your preferred method of attendance prior to Friday October 21st. Please note you must be a current financial member to attend in any capacity. To become a financial member, contact reception on (08) 8952 7161

The audited financial statements are now available to current financial members. To request a copy, please contact CEO, Nick Prus on the email listed above.

Festival of Transport 2022

The Festival of Transport was held from August 26th to August 28th and commenced with the Transport Women Australia Limited Breakfast. Jacqueline Brotherton, Chair of TWAL, addressed the crowd of over 80 in the pleasant surrounds of the gardens behind the Ghan Café. A scrumptious buffet breakfast was supplied by Narelle and her staff from the Ghan Café.

Many of the crowd enjoyed wandering through the museum before making their way to the Alice Springs Turf Club for the annual 'Truckies Race Day Cummins Cup'. The sun shone, the drinks flowed and stories continued to be swapped as the punters watched 'Star of Monsoon' win the cup. While, back at the museum, the volunteers readied the TIA shed for the following day's Induction Ceremony.



Late on Saturday afternoon, surrounded by Mack trucks, Bertha and new acquisitions, over 400 people attended the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame Induction ceremony. Fifty-five men and women were inducted, those attending were presented with their medals and certificates by Nick Lubransky, representing Shell. This year, Jim Cooper, was named 'Industry Icon of the Year'. Once again, Imparja TV recorded the event which is available for viewing on YouTube.





Industry Icon 2022 - Mr Jim Cooper OA



After enjoying drinks at Stuart's Kitchen and viewing their frames, inductees, family members and invited guests made their way to the JJ Hurley Pavilion within the Kenworth Pavilion for the Legends Gala Dinner. With Kenworth lights shining, music by 'In-Tatters' playing and the scent of food prepared by 'Reality Bites Catering' the mood was set for a wonderful evening. People ate, laughed and danced into the evening.

Sunday was Museum Open Day, families returned and enjoyed the exhibits as well as Mini Ghan rides.



Functions

Women's Museum of Australia BBQ

It was lovely to welcome the staff and volunteers from the Women's Museum of Australia, formerly the National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame. The group enjoyed a BBQ lunch, at our newly refurbished Stuarts Kitchen facilities. These facilities are available for hire.



Alice Springs Show

A great time was had by all at our local Alice Springs Show. It was a great opportunity to promote to the locals just what a wonderful museum and facility is right in their own backyard.



Community Reception

We had the privilege of Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, The Administrator of the Northern Territory, hosting a Community Reception held on Wednesday 7th September. The event was held in our Kenworth Pavilion and was attended by local dignitaries and other members of the community. It was lovely to hear guests comparing the venue very favourably to other venues in town.



Ghan News

The Old Ghan volunteers from Adelaide arrived at the beginning of August for 4 weeks. David and Robert Jamieson, Ben Dawes and James Brown, then later on an old work mate of David's, Michael Hiller stopped by and became our newest volunteer. First they started to repair NSU58. A big thank you to Switchboard & Power Controls for making a new cable for the NSU58 and also donating their time free of charge. We'd also like to add a big thank you to Bill Legg and Charlie Poole for technical diagnosing of all faults to the NSU58.

During their time here the team:

- mounted a restored Commonwealth Railways Coat of Arms on NSU64 which sits in front of reception
- moved rolling stock out of the storage road, ready for the clean up at the back of the loco shed
- placed the two Lions carriages and two flatcars onto the consists at the station to allow for greater use of the train for functions
- installed two set of gates around the W924 Steam Locomotive and one set of gates on the loco shed
- moved a cattle wagon down to the end of the railway line (Stuart Highway) to be made into a sign for advertising .

On the last day of the festival the crew had NSU58 and DH14 on display with tours inside the locos. With engines running, David gave history lessons on NSU58 for a coin donation. \$103.10 was collected towards the repainting of W924. They had a lovely surprise when Jeremy R Browne made a \$500 donation towards the repainting of W924.

A big thank you to Jarrod Wapper at BP Recharge for donating two 44 gallon drums of diesel that cost \$780 for both locos. Big thank you too all the businesses in Alice Springs who have helped the Old Ghan this time round: BP Recharge, Ross Engineering, Alice Equipment Hire, Alice Bolt Supplies, Switchboard & Power Controls and Local Locksmiths NT.



RSL Sub-branch

Volunteers staying in our campgrounds have continued to build on the work of the local RSL members. Military machines now line the front fence and corner to welcome museum visitors. Further changes and updates have also been made in the RSL indoor exhibits.



Vehicle Acquisitions



The Egg Truck - UD



Ferguson Grey Gold 35



Ferguson Grey



Green Drill Truck - Leyland



Gilbert's Kenworth T650



RSL Land Rover



McDonald's T60 Kenworth



RIO Tinto Truck



Shell Grey Ghost

Featured Vehicles

NB: All of the vehicles on the previous page will be 'Featured Vehicles' in upcoming newsletters.

AAT Kings Land Rover



It all began in the 1950's when Bill King was driving a school bus in the family business, Northern Buslines. He was taking kids to school here, there and everywhere, including Ayers Rock as it was known then, in the school holidays. It was Ayers Rock or bust in the 1960's in a two wheel drive SB Bedford bus along a bush track that in those days was subject to all manner of weather conditions.

It was on these journeys that Bill developed a fascination for the Outback, the fauna, flora and the amazing journeys of the overland explorers, in particular Burke and Wills. On that impulse he saw a business opportunity and purchased a 1960's Landrover Safari, the first vehicle to wear the King brand and began exploring the camel train paths to the far north on small group expeditions.

AAT King opened up many tourist routes on these expeditions, like the Gibb River Road, the Mereenie Loop, the Gunbarrel and the Roper River in Arnhem land.

Today Bill King's Safaris still trades as AAT King's, with an exciting range of holidays, Australia wide.

Byron Bonney's R600 Mack



Byron Bonney was born in 1942 in Burnie, Tasmania into a transport family. He left school at 15 to pursue a career in the family business where he worked in various roles and eventually managed the Bonney Mix Concrete division.

Byron was an innovator and visionary, constantly looking to improve productivity. In the early eighties, Byron established Lloyds North Petroleum and developed a close relationship with Caltex which led to the acquisition of the remaining two Caltex Distributors in the state and the start of a new company, called Caltas. This truck has been immaculately refurbished as a memorial to Byron.



Visitor's Corner

Kylee was showing her cousin-in-law, Peter, around virtually when he couldn't believe his eyes. A truck he'd driven for many years, and had since tried to find, was parked in the Kenworth Hall!
Peter then sent us snaps of it back when it was working. Keeping memories alive is what this place is all about!
Steve, Peter's brother, came out to the museum two days later to have a look. He was very pleased to be behind the wheel of the Kenworth SAR he had driven for Jack White when he was about 20 years old.



News in Brief

BlokesWorld - Ado and Camera 3 from Channel 7Mate's 'BlokesWorld' visited the museum during their trip to the Red Centre Nats. They were shown through the museum by Nick and were most excited to hear Bertha roar into life! The show should air around the end of September or early October so keep an eye out for it.



Children's University Australia - Children's University has partnered with Charles Darwin University, Alice Springs, to foster learning outside of traditional school settings. The National Road Transport Museum is pleased to announce we have also partnered with Children's University and are now a Learning Destination. The program coordinates voluntary learning opportunities for children aged 7-14.

Meet the Volunteers

Once again, we've had an outstanding group of volunteers not only helping in the lead up to our Festival of Transport but helping throughout the weekend of festivities. Many have been with us for months getting trucks running, rebuilding, upgrading and generally keeping the place going as well as having a lot of fun.

Volunteers are needed throughout the year for various tasks. Skills including computer skills, carpentry, maintenance, gardening and many more are needed depending on the tasks underway.
Please contact Nick or Jac to discuss your interest on (08) 8952 7161.

