

# **PERMANENT WAY INSTITUTION NSW INC.**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

### **Presidents Report**

#### **Financial Year Ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Welcome to the 2020 Annual General Meeting for the New South Wales branch of Permanent Way Institution. As President and Public Officer of the PWI, I would like to officially welcome and thank all our corporate and enhanced members, our general membership and other guests for your attendance tonight and personally welcome any new members who are attending their first PWI AGM.

If you're part of the small group here at the Sydney Masonic Centre or joining us on our live Teams meeting, welcome.

The past 6 months has indeed been a challenging time for everyone as we battle with and manage the impacts of this global pandemic. All businesses have had to continually adapt and change, personally we faced the challenges of working from home, home schooling our children or continuing to work on site with strict controls in place.

For the PWI, the biggest impacts, has been on our technical meetings and our ability to host functions like our Executive Breakfast series and the Winter Dinner where we attract large numbers of people. Unfortunately, we had to cancelled both these premium events that were planned for March and June. We continue to plan for the annual convention and have a number of contingencies in place.

So, for the time being we will continue to assess what events we can run to ensure we meet our obligation that the NSW Government has put in place. We are currently investigating options to return to small physical events and move to a hybrid event model over the coming months where it is safe to do so. It remains our top priority to keep all our members safe at all PWI events and this will continue to be the case as we work towards a return to physical events.

Tonight's AGM and Technical Meeting is sponsored by WSP who is one of our Silver enhanced corporate member of the PWI and we would like to thank them for their continued support over many years.

It has been another strong year for the New South Wales branch of the Permanent Way Institution, our membership remains strong and as a committee have we have continued to focus on ensuring that we provide quality events that benefit all our members however, over the past few months, this has been a challenge.

Financially, the PWI continues to be in a strong and healthy position thanks to the continued support of our corporate and private members. An Independent Audit of the PWI's accounts has been conducted by Mark Veran, Director for Bromley Accounting Group Pty Ltd. The audited accounts that the treasurer will present shows a profit of \$31,809 for the year ending 30 June 2020. The accounts will also show that the PWI's total members accumulated funds as of the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 was \$463,774 up from \$431,965 last year.

I would like to thank our Treasurer, Claudine O'Donoghue and Assistant Treasurer, Mark Butler for all their hard work and diligence to continually improve and strengthen our internal controls and reporting systems following the implementation of the new MYOB accounting system.

Over the past 12 months we have hosted five Technical Meetings, where a variety of papers and presentations have been provided. These events continue to be an excellent networking opportunity that are well supported by our corporate members; however, we have moved to virtual meetings over the past 4 months and they have also been a success with excellent attendance.

Last year we held our Annual Convention in Bathurst on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, as we supported our members in the bush and acknowledge the significant contribution that the Country Rail Networks plays in our rail industry. The keynote speaker the Hon. Paul Toole, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Member for Bathurst opened the conference to over 250 delegates. Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink jointly sponsoring a "Special PWI Train" to take many of the delegates up to Bathurst on the Thursday afternoon before the Convention. The pre-registration event was held at the Voestalpine Rail Fabrication Centre in Bathurst and included an exclusive tour of their workshop where they were welding long legs of rail and fabricating turnouts. Steve Naumovski and his subcommittee have done an outstanding job in providing new ideas and improving our annual conventions.

We were fortunate to get in our annual Golf Day in March just prior to the COVID shutdown and was well supported with over 100 starters at the Bankstown Golf Club. This event is professional organised by Wade Perram, with support from his small sub-committee. Thanks to the continued strong corporate support this event proves to be a very popular day for the members and their guests.

It was very sad that lifelong servant of the Rail Industry Don Hagarty passed. Don was instrumental setting up PWI NSW in 1974 and was a great and loyal supporter of both the PWI and the rail industry.

On behalf of the outgoing committee we would like to thank you all for your continued support of the PWI. Three committee members are standing down from the committee this year and I would like to thank Peter Boonstra, Gillian Cottle and Juliet Murray for everything they have done for the PWI.

Finally, I would also like to thank all the Members and Corporate Members of the PWI for all their continued support over the past 12 months and I would like to personally thank the committee for giving us their time and effort in supporting the PWI over the past 12 months.



**MARK HARRIS**  
President

Thank you to our enhanced members

Platinum Members



Gold Members



Silver Members

