

## 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Report Year Ending 31 December 2025

Through 2025, we have remained steadfast in delivering on our strategic priorities: providing relevant education and training to support the professional development of our IRSEA membership and reinforcing our role as a trusted industry partner for competency assurance.

Our commitment to excellence has been matched by a focus on strengthening governance, with the introduction of new rules and improved ways of working. We have also deepened our engagement within the global organisation, ensuring that our voice and expertise contribute to shaping the future of our industry.

Guided by the principle “Locally Focused, Globally Connected,” we celebrated our Australasian section identity through a special edition of the IRSE News. Our aim is to foster and international collaboration and connect our members for knowledge exchange. These efforts reflect our dedication to advancing standards, supporting our members, and promoting the value of our profession worldwide.

Of substantial importance is that work has been continuing on our Graduate Diploma which will be ready to launch formally in 2026.

### **SECTION TECHNICAL MEETINGS & EVENTS**

This year we did things a little differently, our plan was to hold Two Section Technical meetings, one hosted to coincide with our AGM in Melbourne and the second was scheduled to be in Auckland New Zealand.

Something that we planned for this year but did not eventuate was a Australasian Webinar planned by our younger members. This will be a feature event next year as it will be

included as part of our standard schedule Going forward.

Coincidentally CORE was also scheduled to be held in New Zealand so we took this and an opportunity to promote ourselves to a wider audience and collaborate with the RTSA. This proved to be a success and an a positive option for smaller section hosted events in the future.

### **Melbourne AGM & Technical meeting (20-23 March)**

Hosted in the State Library, our Melbourne AGM and Technical Meeting as was expected a real success. General feedback on the additional site visit was positive. We continued our format of a day dedicated to training and seminar, followed by our technical paper day on the Friday, our Gala Dinner and a site visit on the Saturday.

### **CORE (12-14 August)**

This years noted our second technical meeting had been scheduled for Auckland instead we joined forces with RTSA. This approach allowed us to secure a discount for our IRSE members to tend a larger event as well as promote the IRSE in a broader context. Taking this approach allowed for 11 paper signalling and telecommunications papers to be offered.

This approach has been considered a success and we hope to do the same for South Australia with CORE in Adelaide in 2026.

### **AusRail**

IRSEA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australasian Railway Association. The objective of this agreement is to collaborate on AusRAIL events and run the IRSE technical stream.

In return IRSEA gains access to a booth within the exhibition and some complimentary access to the conference, exhibition and associated events.

In November the Victorian local team led by Daniel Martin staffed the IRSE stand at AusRail 2025.

In addition, Mohan Sankarasubbu chaired the IRSE technical session which included four excellent papers. Thanks to everyone involved in this event which has earned the tag of the largest AusRail ever

### **AWARDS FOR 2025**

During the course of the year a number of our members achieved IRSE awards.

Mark Fynmore was the recipient of the **IRSEA Chairperson's Award**. This award was presented in absentia at the Melbourne AGM and recognised Marks's extraordinary support and dedication to the IRSEA over many years, including Management Committee, New Zealand Committee and as the Queensland Section Chairperson. Mohan Sankarasubbu eventually managed to present his award at his retirement event, and we wish all the best for Mark going forward.

Robert Baird was presented a **Certificate of Appreciation at the IRSEA** recognising his longstanding service to our section and later was recognised by IRSE Council receiving the **IRSE Merit Award**. Robert due to his hard work and substantial contribution was known well by most of council, it was a unanimous decision that he deserved this award. This award will be formally presented by the IRSE President Bogdan Godziejewski at our AGM in Sydney.

Christopher Go was the recipient of the **IRSE Signalling and Systems Engineering Excellence Award** which was presented at the ARI awards dinner in August. This award recognised Christopher's long term contribution to the Australasian rail industry including pivotal roles in several transformational projects, significant innovation and the development of younger engineers.

Derek Hughes was presented with the **Shining Light Award** for 2025. This award recognises excellence with achievement of the best results in the Graduate Diploma of Railway signalling.

Thomas Sudholz was the recipient of the **Byles and Calcutt Award** for the best paper presented at a Nation Technical meeting in 2024. His paper was "Passively Active: Warning Systems for Passive and Occupation level Crossings in Agricultural Settings.

I would also like to recognise Dr Frank Hiebel AKA Doc Frank, a Fellow of the IRSE and a member of the Australasian Section for his **RTSA Distinguished Career Award** presented at CORE.

Ken Ashman was nominated for the **Minor Railways Section S&T Technician of the Year Award** and received a "Highly Commended" Certificate from the judging committee. The judging committee advised it was a very close race.

Congratulations to the above and any other members who have achieved award recognition during the year.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2025**

#### **Officers**

##### *CHAIRPERSON*

Mrs Jane Copperthwaite, MIRSE

##### *VICE CHAIRPERSON*

Mr Mohan Sankarasubbu, IRSE

##### *SECRETARY*

Mr Richard Flinders, MIRSE

### *TREASURER*

Mr Moe Goitseman, FIRSE

### *COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

#### **Queensland**

Mr David Woodcock, MIRSE

Mr Sanjay Bharathwaj MIRSE

Mr Somnath Banerjee FIRSE

#### **New South Wales**

Mr Phil Baker, MIRSE

Mr David Peel, Affiliate

Mr Charles Page, FIRSE

#### **Victoria**

Mr Brian Luber, MIRSE

Nik Kumar, Affiliate

#### **South Australia**

Mr Wole Odusanya, MIRSE

#### **Western Australia**

Mr Arvind Maharaj MIRSE

Mr Nick Hughes, MIRSE

#### **New Zealand**

Mr James Clendon, MIRSE

Mr Ben Calcott, AMIRSE

#### **Past Chairpersons**

Mr John Skilton, FIRSE

Ms Georgina Hartwell, AMIRSE

#### **Council Members**

Mr Steve Boshier, FIRSE

Ms Jane Copperthwaite, MIRSE

Mr Stephen Allday FIRSE

Mr. G Cumming was elected by Committee for review of accounts.

#### **Appreciation of Retiring Committee Members:**

Mark Fynmore, FIRSE (QLD)

Robert Baird FIRSE (VIC)

Yik Chong, MIRSE (QLD)

John Hall, MIRSE (SA)

Thanks is extended to all our sponsors, for their assistance in providing support for events, trade displays and advertisements at the Technical Meetings during the year:

#### **LOCAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS 2025**

##### **Large Sections**

This year we hosted a touring presentation from the NTC introducing their discussion paper on Digital Train Control Technology discussion paper.

##### *QUEENSLAND*

Queensland has been reinvigorated this year with the support of Queensland Rail providing a venue for the regular meetings. The numbers in meetings has been around 100 attendees.

With a new chairperson and a new home there is evident that this section has continued to provide beneficial CPD events.

##### *VICTORIA*

The Victorian section has been very active this year with numerous events well attended.

There is active participation in the local committee, and they have been able to secure interesting topics.

##### *NEW SOUTH WALES*

20 February 2025, attendance 32

Lessons Learnt – Trevor Moore

15 May 2025, attendance 69

National Interoperability and Harmonisation of ETCS L2: Why? How? What? – Stephen Lemon

17 July 2025, attendance 42

Shared Experience: Waterfall & Sydney Yard Resignalling – Adam Toffolo & Matthew Ward

21 August 2025, attendance 20

Our Younger Members – Chan Ung

Wollongong TDM Life Extension – Luella Rodin

18 September 2025, attendance 36  
The Inland Rail Project – An Insider’s View – Chris Hutchinson

20 November 2025, attendance 35  
What can possibly go wrong? – Trevor Moore

### **Smaller Sections**

Our Smaller sections of Western Australia, South Australia and New Zealand have been quietly active this year with a focus on joint events with other industry societies. New Zealand jointly hosted Core.

Our smaller sections are all represented on our committee of management and going forward we will refocus on how to better serve these smaller sections.

### **Younger Members Society**

The year 2025 has been a successful and constructive year for the YMS, with new members joining the YMS committee and multiple educational events being chaired by the YMS. Both the YMS Webinar and the AGM Signalling Exchange have been highly popular among younger members from both within and outside the industry. The YMS is committed to continuing to host such events and promote IRSEA in the coming years.

Australasian Technical Meeting and AGM – 2025 - YMS Day The Signalling Exchange March 2025 Sold out 50+ attendance for the workshop

Younger Members Society networking event

YMS Webinar – Role of the Asset Engineer April 2025 100+ participants

YMS Webinar – ETCS L2 September, 2025 100+ participants

AusRAIL PLUS 2025

ASPECT 2025 Yokohama Innovators session and 15 global YMS Members were given funding support

### **Membership**

Sanjay Bharathwaj, Membership Coordinator reporting to the Secretary, continued his efforts to engage members across the region, resulting in an overall lift in membership. Notably, the proportion of members in the region who are also Section members increased by 9%, bringing the total to 86.5% — an excellent achievement.

As of 31 December 2024, there were 919 IRSE members residing in Australasia. Membership of the Australasian Section Inc reached 813, up from 729, following a membership drive conducted throughout the year by Richard Stephens and Sanjay Bharathwaj.

This uplift was largely achieved by identifying IRSE members who regularly attended Australasian Section events but were not yet Section members.

As of the latest update, there are now 907 IRSE members in the region. Only 94 members have not yet joined the Australasian Section. Follow ups are being sent to these members, and if they confirm their interest, their applications will proceed for joining the Section.

### **Additional Significant Events & Activities for 2025**

Looking back on the year much has been achieved to strengthen the base of IRSEA with work continuing on building teaching material and agreeing a partnership with UTAS for the re-designed Graduate Diploma of Railway Signalling and Control Systems course and developing a new website sets us up well for the future. Looking forward to 2026 there is much to anticipate. The new Grad Dip course will commence with short courses that are modules that can contribute to the diploma.,

the new website and knowledge base has gone live and there will continue to be a range of events which provide valuable CPD and networking opportunities.

The new IRSE Section Rules were formally accepted at our AGM by special resolution and confirmed by Consumer Affairs Victoria. This has prompted a review of our governance framework.

As with any not-for-profit organisation, a lot of effort goes into behind the scenes work which is important but not particularly exciting. During the year, following on from the development of our risk register and acceptance of our new rules we have put some work into designing a restructure to ensure that all our risk controls and operational needs are properly governed. This is a significant effort but should make our operations smoother and properly allocated all roles and responsibilities to ensure we are effective in delivering value for our membership and managing risk.

Brian Luber has been a powerhouse for engaging with industry, most significantly promoting our value to the Australasian Rail Association and our sponsors. This year we had representation at all the ARA networking dinners enabling us to ensure we are known and part of the wider rail family.

Other events of note

- An IRSEA edition of the IRSE News
- We responded to the Victorian Professional Engineers Registration Act on behalf of our members
- We provided an IRSEA response to the NTC discussion paper on interoperability.

## FINANCIAL

See attached annual financial reports for details.

**For and on behalf of the Committee.**

Chairperson, Jane Copperthwaite

.....

Secretary, Richard Flinders

.....