## Railway groups agree to work together



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appy New Year! It is amazing that we are nearly four months into the year already but, nonetheless, that is the case. Already this year there have been a number of significant events in the rail industry calendar and there are many more ahead.

In the previous editorial I mentioned my focus on developing the relationship with our kindred bodies. To this end I am pleased to report that the chairs of the RTSA, the Institution of Railway Signalling Engineers (IRSE), the Permanent Way Institution (PWI) and the Rail Track Association Australia (RTAA) gathered together in January in Sydney.

There was unanimous agreement that it was in the best interests of all our members that we work more closely together. This led to a commitment for the chairs to meet regularly, as well as a number of other specific actions. One of these was an invitation – graciously extended by RTAA – to participate in its

annual track days in Sydney. These took place on 25 and 26 February, with RTSA represented by a number of volunteers from our NSW committee and membership. The event was, as ever, a great success and we have already benefitted from the promotion of RTSA as part of the event.

On 4 March the second Stephen Marich annual lecture in railway engineering was hosted by the Institute of Railway Technology in Melbourne. This year's lecture was entitled Strategies to Counter Wheel/Rail Rolling Contact Fatigue in Heavy Haul Service and was delivered by Harry Tournay, senior scientist at Transportation Technology Centre in the United States, a railway expert with extensive professional and research experience in South Africa and the US. RTSA was proud to again endorse the event and was formally represented by our immediate past chair, Katharina Gerstmann, with many other members also present. Our thanks go to Dr Ravi Ravitharan and all at IRT for initiating and continuing to develop this prestigious lecture.

RTSA is also proud to support the International Heavy Haul Association



(IHHA) conference, which will be held on 21-24 June in Perth. The IHHA conference is the premier forum for sharing the latest developments in heavy-haul technology and operation from around the world.

This year the conference theme is "operational excellence", with a focus on the exchange of information to benefit the world's heavy-haul operations with emphasis on technical advancement, innovation, development, management and maintenance of operations. Anyone with an interest in this field is strongly encouraged to attend as it will be some time before this truly international conference returns to Australia. Full details are at www.ihhaperth2015.com.

Up-to-date information on RTSA's many other events at a national and chapter level, including technical presentations, young professional events, annual dinners and more, is provided online at www.rtsa.com.au.



\* This year's Stephen Marich lecture was delivered by Harry Tournay, senior scientist at the Transportation Technology Centre in the United States.