



AUSTRALASIAN RAIL INDUSTRY AWARDS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Innovative winners recognised at the 2021 Australasian Rail Industry Awards

The rail industry celebrated the 13 winners of the Australasian Rail Industry Awards in a virtual ceremony livestreamed across Australia and New Zealand.

Australasian Railway Association (ARA) Chair and awards judging chair Danny Broad said the event showcased the outstanding achievements in rail, despite the challenges delivering projects and initiatives in a global pandemic.

“Even as the rail industry delivered an essential service safely and efficiently during a challenging year, it continued to innovate and deliver impressive projects,” Mr Broad said.

“Today’s awards demonstrate the determination and dedication of the people working in rail, during a critical time.”

Winners included the North Western Program Alliance who won the Rail Sustainability Award for pioneering the delivery of Reservoir Station in Melbourne. It was the first station in Australia to receive a five-star sustainability rating by the Green Building Council of Australia, making it the benchmark for future level crossing removal projects.

Sydney Trains won two awards, for Safety and Customer Service. Their Sydney Harbour Bridge Rail Deck Upgrade project encompassed a decade of planning on one of the busiest sections of the network. It was also first time this critical piece of rail infrastructure was refurbished since the bridge opened in 1932.

ARA Chief Executive Officer Caroline Wilkie said despite 10 days of continuous construction, Sydney Trains received 98 per cent positive feedback from the community.

“Carrying out major works on the Sydney Harbour Bridge is a once-in-a generation job and Sydney Trains managed to do so with minimal impact to customers, making them a well-deserved recipient of the Customer Service Award,” Ms Wilkie said.

Sydney Trains’ Platform Gap Filler project earned the Safety award, sponsored by RISBB, after reducing falls between the Circular Quay platform and train from an average of 33 per year to zero.

RISBB Chair David George said the Sydney network encompasses trains and platforms from different eras, parts of which are over 100 years old.

“Developing a one-size fits all approach was not an option, so engineers developed a cost-effective and efficient solution made from flexible non-slip rubber filler that bends on contact with trains,” Mr George said.

“The safety solution is now being activated across the network and we are delighted to recognise Sydney Trains for their hard work.”

Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) won two awards for employee engagement, with a range of new initiatives focusing on protecting the mental health of their 6,500 staff during months of lockdowns.

The organisation was commended for keeping employees safe in the world’s most locked down city.

TrackSAFE Foundation Executive Director Heather Neil said transforming all face-to-face activities into virtual programs was not only a success, it guided MTM staff through difficult circumstances.

“MTM’s programs received a 30 per cent increase in engagement to the year prior and we acknowledge the wellness team for taking employee mental health seriously,” Ms Neill said.

Arc Infrastructure received the Freight Rail Excellence Award for delivering a 12-month construction project in only 98 days. The Hampton Intermodal Terminal (IMT) in Western Australia now employs 30 new train drivers, uses 150 locomotives and wagons and supports new growth opportunities.

GHD won the Workforce Diversity Award for its commitment to improving marginalised groups’ visibility in the industry. A range of initiatives created lasting community benefits and increased the diversity composition of senior staff.

3D digital shields developed in New Zealand by KiwiRail, Downer and Aurecon are keeping workers safe and trains running near the nation’s capital. Virtual ‘no-go’ zones protect overhead power lines and sensitive areas by locking the controls of excavators when the machine touches the digital shield.

The technology has led to other developments such as virtual reality experiences for children to increase rail safety awareness, and was a worthy winner of the award for Innovation and Technology.

Mr Broad said these submissions and others highlighted the importance of rail in the community.

“The judges were impressed by how the rail industry uses technology, sustainability and diversity measures to modernise the rail industry,” Mr Broad said.

“It highlights how flexible rail is to adapt to deliver exceptional projects and initiatives for people using the rail network.”

The outstanding achievements of individuals were also highlighted, with JMDR Senior Signals Manager Trevor Moore receiving the prestigious career achievement award. For half a century Trevor has shaped railway signalling, from encouraging innovation to revolutionising how trains move around the country.

Award Sponsor Frauscher Managing Director David Townsend said Trevor’s knowledge, leadership and integrity has earned him the trust of signalling engineers throughout Australia.

“Everyone in the signalling space knows Trevor and the work he has influenced, so we were delighted to present him with the award,” Mr Townsend said.

CPB Contractors Project Manager Melanie Bowden was presented with the PWI Young Achiever Award for her exceptional leadership and management of a major infrastructure project for Sydney Metro.

PWI Young Achiever Award Committee Chair Julian Sharp said Melanie headed a team of engineers and other staff to develop construction methodology and design, overcoming multiple challenges to successfully and safely deliver the Northern Connection Permanent Down Shore works.

“Successful delivery of these works was critical to provide space in the already-restricted rail corridor between the Artarmon and Chatswood stations and it was no easy task, but Melanie rose to the challenge and managed the project magnificently,” Mr Sharp said.

“She is also an excellent role model for young rail professionals and actively participates in a number of rail industry initiatives targeting diversity and young leaders, so we expect Melanie will go far in rail.”

Sydney Trains Program Manager Mary Nguyen won the Railway Technical Society of Australasia’s (RTSA) Young Rail Professional Award.

RTSA Executive Chair Roy Unny said Mary’s engineering and planning knowledge has led to multiple innovative solutions.

“Mary’s enthusiasm for technology has not only improved how Sydney Trains makes decisions and manages project requirements for critical resources, she has saved hundreds of hours of time for staff with her Access Locator App and track possession software,” Mr Unny said.

“She is also a passionate advocate for diversity, gender equality and inclusion and is a shining example of how modern the rail industry is.”

The Rail Track Association Australia (RTAA) confirmed Monash Institute of Railway Technology Research Engineer Nithurshan Nadarajah as the winner of its Emerging Rail Specialist Award.

RTAA President Jonathan Barnes said Nithurshan’s ground-breaking technology has positively impacted Australian rail.

“Nithurshan’s digital modelling software better predicts how rollingstock responds to potential stressors in the field,” Mr Barnes said.

“It allows the rail industry to improve how risks are managed when individual conditions deteriorate, and we are impressed with Nithurshan’s approach to improve safety by providing greater accuracy around derailment risks and develop a more holistic view of operational risks.”

Rio Tinto Principal AutoHaul Lido Costa took home the Signalling and Systems Engineering Award sponsored by IRSE.

IRSE Chair Georgina Hartwell said Lido has been at the forefront of transportation delivery projects that have moved millions of people and tonnes of freight safely and efficiently.

“His relentless drive for improvements, innovation and safety has given Australia a world first and numerous high-tech features,” Ms Hartwell said.

“Rewarding Lido for 35 years of commitment and dedication was a pleasure and a privilege for the IRSE.”

The Australasian Rail Industry Awards are supported by the Australasian Railway Association, Institution of Railway Signal Engineers, Railway Technical Society of Australia, Rail Track Association Australia, the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board, the Permanent Way Institution (NSW) and the TrackSAFE Foundation.

EDITORS' NOTE: See full list of winners attached

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AUSTRALASIAN RAIL INDUSTRY AWARDS 2021 WINNERS

CATEGORY AWARDS:

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD - SYDNEY TRAINS (SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE RAIL DECK UPGRADE)

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is the most famous landmark on the Australian rail network. With more than 450 trains crossing it every day it is also one of the busiest sections of track. Refurbishing this critical piece of rail infrastructure for the first time since the bridge opened in 1932 involved a decade of planning. The initial scope involved replacing existing timber transoms and a walkway with high-grade concrete. However, as the project evolved, underlying long term structural issues appeared. Additional repair works and strengthening were required, extending the life of the rail corridor by 120 years, and reducing vibration-related noises for 2000 neighbouring residents. The project was a customer service triumph; despite 10-days of continuous construction noise, Sydney Trains received 98 per cent positive feedback and only four noise complaints.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AWARD - METRO TRAINS MELBOURNE (STAY CONNECTED AT METRO)

Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) responded to the unique challenges of 2020 by launching a virtual health and wellness series. Abrupt changes in the working environment sparked a range of new initiatives to protect the mental health of Metro's 6500 railway employees. New programs tackled pressing topics in constructive and insightful ways and allowed employees to develop new coping skills – essential tools in a global pandemic.

FREIGHT RAIL EXCELLENCE AWARD - ARC INFRASTRUCTURE (HAMPTON INTERMODAL TERMINAL)

A 12-month rail infrastructure project was completed in only 98 days in Western Australia. The Hampton Intermodal Terminal (IMT) was constructed in record time to support growth opportunities near Kalgoorlie, 600km east of Perth. The rapid-build technology involved laying 2000 sleepers and 2km of new track, along with four new turnouts and two culverts. The \$3 million project now employs 30 new train drivers and uses 150 locomotives and wagons from around Australia.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD - KIWIRAIL, DOWNER, AURECON – (TRENTHAM TO UPPER HUTT DOUBLE TRACKING)

Digital tools developed for a long-term program of rail renewal has the potential to enhance other infrastructure projects around New Zealand. KiwiRail's first Building Information Modelling (BIM) project developed digital shields to protect workers and keep trains running near the nation's capital. 3D machine avoidance modeling and virtual 'no go' zones protect overhead power lines and sensitive areas by locking the controls of excavators if the machine touches the digital shield. BIM has attracted attention throughout the industry and led to other developments such as virtual reality experiences for children to increase rail safety awareness.

RAIL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD - NORTH WESTERN PROGRAM ALLIANCE (HIGH STREET, LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT – RESERVOIR STATION SUSTAINABILITY)

Melbourne's new Reservoir Station is a pioneer in sustainable and environmental project delivery. It was the first station in Australia to receive a five-star sustainability rating by the Green Building Council of Australia. Resource efficiencies reduced project greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent and electricity demand by 41 per cent, plus the station only uses eight per cent of the water usage of traditional stations. Recycled, alternative and sustainable materials were also incorporated into construction, making Reservoir Station the benchmark for sustainability at future level crossing removal projects.

SAFETY AWARD - SYDNEY TRAINS (PLATFORM GAP FILLER)

The Sydney Trains network includes 664 platforms which vary in curve, height, gradient and gap width. The risk of customers falling through the gap between trains and platforms is ever-present; between July 2018 and January 2021 there were 590 recorded falls. A cost-effective and efficient gap filler solution that would last for 20 years was developed from flexible non-slip rubber, allowing trains to pass platforms without issues. Since installing the technology at Circular Quay Station, incidents have dropped from an average of 33 per year, to zero.

TRACKSAFE FOUNDATION AWARD - METRO TRAINS MELBOURNE (RAIL RU OK? MONTH AT METRO)

Lockdown affected every aspect of Metro Trains Melbourne's operations, and patronage dropped to an all-time low of six per cent. Employees experienced more free time and a loss of work identity, which resulted in long days for more than 2000 station staff. More than 35 separate events were hosted throughout April for Rail RUOK? Month, from virtual morning teas to online BBQs. 1700 MTM employees participated and more than 4000 pieces of RUOK? merchandise were distributed across the network. 125 wellness advocates across 70 different locations were instrumental in supporting employees and programs received a 30 per cent increase in engagement to the year prior.

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY AWARD - GHD (AUSTRALIA INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY (I&D) STRATEGY)

GHD celebrates its cultural diversity, employing 4000 people around Australia from more than 85 different countries. Their Inclusion and Diversity Strategy focuses on female leadership and career pathways, establishment of an Indigenous network and reconciliation initiatives as well as initiatives to support various communities including LGBTQI+, asylum seekers and refugees. GHD believes embracing all forms of diversity helps develop imaginative and responsive solutions for clients to create lasting community benefits. They encourage staff to feel free to be themselves at work and say balancing work and life commitments is key to happiness.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - TREVOR MOORE (JMDR)

For half a century, Trevor Moore has shaped railway signalling; from encouraging innovation to modernising how our trains move around Australia. He has been the technical lead on numerous ground-breaking projects and championed the use of computers in an era when digital safety systems were not commonplace. He has also been instrumental in developing signalling and control system principles with the Rail Industry Safety & Standards Board (RISSB) and been an active board member and chair for many organisations including 20 years' work with the national IRSE Australasian Committee. He also developed the "Insight into Railway Signalling" course which has been delivered 30 times across five states and authored and presented 17 technical papers to conferences domestically and internationally. His knowledge, leadership and integrity has earned him the trust of signalling engineers throughout the country.

EMERGING RAIL SPECIALIST AWARD - NITHURSHAN NADARAJAH, MONASH INSTITUTE OF RAILWAY TECHNOLOGY (IRT)

Research Engineer Nithurshan Nadarajah developed digital modelling to better predict how rollingstock in the field responds to potential stressors. He developed the approach to provide greater accuracy when determining derailment risks. The ground-breaking technology brings in information from multiple sources and allows the rail industry to improve how risks are managed when individual conditions deteriorate.

PWI YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD - MELANIE BOWDEN (CPB CONTRACTORS)

Project Manager Melanie Bowden received the award for her exceptional leadership and management of the Northern Connection Permanent Down Shore Works, delivered as part of the Sydney Metro City & Southwest project (Line-wide Works). Successful delivery of these works was critical to provide space in the already-restricted rail corridor between the Artarmon and Chatswood Stations. Overseeing a team of engineers and staff, Melanie led construction methodology and design on the major infrastructure project, overcoming challenges and relocating nearly a kilometre of Sydney Trains T1 North Shore Line in a complex brownfields rail environment.

SIGNALLING AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AWARD – LIDO COSTA (RIO TINTO IRON ORE)

Lido Costa has been at the forefront of transportation delivery projects that have moved millions of people and tonnes of freight safely and efficiently. He has spent 35 years working in rail around the world, and in Australia developed numerous technological features to improve operations and safety. He led a team of engineers innovating rail in Western Australia, developing a fully-automated driverless heavy haul system that revolutionised how freight is moved. He also helped introduce electronic pneumatic braking systems reducing the likelihood of derailments and computerised interlocking signalling systems. An engineer by trade, Lido's passion for rail and technology has been instrumental in changing the landscape of the railway systems environment.

YOUNG RAIL PROFESSIONAL AWARD - MARY NGUYEN (SYDNEY TRAINS)

Despite less than a decade in rail, Program Manager Mary Nguyen's engineering and planning knowledge has led to multiple innovative solutions. She developed technology to improve the way Sydney Trains manages project requirements for critical resources. Named eDRA (electronic Delivery Resource Assessment), the system automates requests and track possessions allowing Sydney Trains to co-ordinate hundreds of worksites more effectively. An Access Locator App Mary personally built allows 2000 staff to improve project management and maintenance, enabling better decision-making and saving two days of research per person, per year. Mary also works as a mentor and is an active advocate for diversity, gender equality and inclusion as she is passionate about helping young people from all backgrounds succeed and excel in the rail industry.

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