



The Young Leaders Advisory Board (Y-Lab) 2024 Quarter 2 update

The Young Leaders Advisory Board (Y-LAB) was established by the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) Board to harness the ideas of young talent across the Australasian rail industry and provide advice and input to the ARA, its Committees and Board. Learn more about Y-Lab [here](#).

Strategy Check-in

The Y-Lab 2024 Strategy was published early 2024 and aims to cover key areas that resonated with the y-lab members and the ARA young rail members, we often check-in on the strategy with young rail professionals with our online quarterly coffee catch ups. The strategy continues to centre on the four key pillars:

1. Leading industry voice: have a voice and give a voice
2. Exceptional member experience: engage and network
3. Thriving, diverse and skilled workforce: attraction and awareness
4. Sustainable and resilient industry that benefits communities: promote sustainability.

You can read more about it --> [ARA Y-Lab Strategy 2024](#)



Our last catch up...

Y-lab members meet quarterly across the state and below is a key snippet of our catch up in May:

Y-LAB convened the Q2 meeting at the John Holland Group's offices in Perth, WA on 21 May 2024. The Perth location marks the first meeting outside of the eastern states and signifies Y-LAB's mission to broaden representation of the young rail industry and covered:

- An update on the 2024 [Work in Rail](#) campaign, noting a renewed focus on social media campaigning and digital resources.
- Y-LAB pilot Rail Ambassadors Program has been endorsed! - the program will provide a speaking network for ARA members to be involved in. A group of pilot Ambassadors have been engaged to represent ARA and Y-LAB events throughout 2024, expanding our outreach and impact to more locations.
- We ended the session with a Y-LAB networking event to promote engagement with WA-based young rail industry personnel



Over the past quarter...

We have had a great opportunity to contribute across industry and be the voice for young rail professionals – some key highlights below:

- Y-LAB have attended various ARA rail executive meeting allowing a direct youth voice in shaping the strategy and direction of industry. In the June executive committee meetings, each member provided a spotlight update on the Y-LAB Strategy to further promote Y-LAB's mission. These updates were well received.
- Hosted a virtual coffee catch up for Young Rail Professionals on June 28 gaining insights on attracting the future workforce and diversity in the rail industry
- Supporting the National Transport Commission (NTC) in hosting a webinar to

seek feedback from young people as to what attracted them to rail, with an aim to collect ideas to support further rail industry promotion.

Farewell...

The Y-Lab says farewell to outgoing members, we recognise the members for their invaluable contributions over the past two years:

- James Forrest, John Holland Group
- Jorge Martin Gistau, Ricardo Rail
- Samiha Najem, Sydney Trains
- Sebastian Smith, ARTC
- James Dillon, ARTC (reserve)
- Beata Majidi, Yarra Trams (reserve)

Read more about their journey [here](#)

Y-LAB industry engagement panel at GHD with Charlotte Robinson, Samiha Najem and Lauren Fraser and Y-LAB sponsor Julian Sharp!



Farewell to outgoing members

Perth Get Together with young rail professionals.



What is coming up...

Y-LAB representatives are supporting the ARA events team with the delivery of a Young Rail Professionals ball in Melbourne and Sydney at the end of September 2024. This inaugural event is the perfect opportunity for young professionals in the rail industry to meet, connect, and expand their networks. Register in Melbourne [here](#) and Sydney [here](#)!

In the next quarter we also welcome the new [Y-LAB members](#). **Hear more soon...**

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