

Operating Heritage Peak Organisations

7:00 – 9:00pm AEST Monday 12 November 2018

Present: Chris Martin, Richard Clarke (part), Jenny Fawbert, Michael Hough, Neil Hogg,

Apology: Neil Meyers, Peter Garnham, Bruce Marich, Mike Beale, Glenn Rigden

1. Quantify benefit to society

Agreed that collecting accurate information on the social and economic impact of operating heritage is critical to allow us to argue for greater support.

Suggested format:

- Measure support from general public – general questions about attitude and involvement
- Measure active “hands-on” involvement by owners, members and organisations
 - o General questions relevant to all forms of operating heritage
 - o Type specific questions
 - Separate for railway, aircraft, motor vehicles, ships, trams, machinery
- Measure economic impact – direct expenditure by owners, organisations and visitors and impact on businesses and local economies.
- Measure social impact – community involvement, preserving knowledge and skills, cultural identity

To be resolved:

- Design of survey:
 - o What information do we want/need to help us and convince authorities?
 - o How do we structure the data gathering?
 - Available data. There is often no official data for many organisations!
 - Survey (sampling methodology, credibility)
 - o What specific questions do we ask?
- Collection of information
 - o Who and how?

Actions:

- Michael Hough, Jenny, Chris and Richard volunteered to find what information would be most useful
- Michael Hough will approach university of Wollongong for help with survey design.
- Michael Hough and Neil Hogg will draft a survey for everyone to comment
- Everyone will advise what information is currently available for their organisations.

2. Regulation

Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act

Confirmed that PMCH Act review of 2015 (Simpson Review) was supported by all of the organisations which made submissions (not perfect for everyone but an improvement).

Since the meeting Neil Myers has researched the parliamentary records and cannot find any reference to legislation being prepared or submitted.

Neil Myers is drafting a letter to be sent to the relevant ministers and shadow ministers and commonwealth departments. This will be sent to everyone for comment.

Decision required:

- Do we all agree to ask for implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2015 review (keep it simple; don't ask for further changes; ask to be involved in implementation).
- Do we canvass other organisations (eg. National Trust, Museums and Collections Australia) to make joint approach or do we "go it alone"?

General Regulations

Aim: To convince authorities to accept an alternative regulatory system for heritage machinery that is not subject to current commercial working conditions.

Strategy: To produce alternative regulations which are:

- More appropriate for the working conditions experienced by heritage machinery
- Based on best-practice risk assessment
- Supported by strict and appropriate training systems for operators, maintainers and inspectors/auditors

Training in Specialist Skills

Agreed that knowledge of heritage skills is not made available through current educational organisations. It is often only available through our own membership and contacts.

Aim: to partner with a teaching organisation to "adopt" our organisations' in-house training, formalise and recognise it. This "umbrella" partnership can be used for all types of skills training.

Agreed to use Chris Martin's steam engine driver and boiler attendant courses as trial of the process.

Since the meeting Chris has met with the pro Vice Chancellor (David Adams) of the University of Tasmania to discuss options. UTas:

- is prepared to offer flexible learning models such as joint programme design, content provision, delivery and assessment.
- currently works with 20 partner organisations and will work with other teaching organisations.
- is prepared to offer flexible learning methods – 60% of students currently mature aged and 70% of learning is through short courses (avoids university bureaucracy and high cost)
- could offer a "package" of training – eg. specific heritage skill plus workplace health and safety, governance, modern technology, etc.

Actions:

- Chris to continue discussions with UTas regarding his specific needs
- Neil H to continue discussion with UTas regarding model suitable for all skills

Publicity for Operating Heritage

Agreed that website similar to European Routes of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) would be useful.

Agreed that site should be limited to technological and industrial heritage

Action:

- Neil H to ask for more information from the ERIH organisation on the success of the website in increasing visits to sites.

Other Projects

Agreed that the projects currently being worked on are long-term. We need to manage expectations among members – we can't fix everything immediately.

Suggested that tow projects could provide immediate benefit to members:

- Reduced public liability insurance premiums
 - o Contact insurance brokers to understand what insurers perceive our risks to be and what we could do to reduce them (NH)
- Directory of people/organisations with valuable skills
 - o Produce and distribute pro-forma for everyone to fill-in (maybe on Google Drive?) and keep adding to. (NH)

Identity - what will we call ourselves?

At this stage we do not intend to register as a formal organisation (this may become necessary in the future if we apply for grants) but a name would be useful.

Ideas please.

The next phone conference is proposed for 7:00pm AEST on Monday 10th December 2018. We didn't actually agree a date so please let me know if this is acceptable.

Contact Details

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