

Operating Heritage Peak Organisations

7:00 – 9:00pm AEST Monday 8 October 2018

Present: Chris Martin, Peter Garnham, Bruce Marich (part), Richard Clarke, Neil Meyers, Jenny Fawbert, Neil Hogg, Glenn Rigden

Apology: Michael Hough, Mike Beale

Estimation of scope of the organisations committed to preserving operating heritage

- Cover railways, trams, aircraft, boats and ships, motor vehicles, and all types of machinery
- Comprise over 500 separate organisations and 250,000 members throughout Australia¹

We would like to be able to quantify the contribution made to the economy and society by these organisations. Some examples were given:

- A survey done by the peak motor heritage organisation in the UK quantified the contribution to the economy by and increased the bargaining power of motoring heritage.
- A study done by Orange(?) Council estimating that a weekend car rally of 150 vehicles added \$500,000 to the local economy.
- 500 antique aircraft owners spend an average of \$20,000 per year = > \$10m per year
- Need to include volunteer hours
- Need to include “soft” benefits like community involvement, men’s and women’s health, etc.

Actions:

1. Ask Men’s Shed organisation for their measurement methodology – Neil M
2. Ask motor vehicle organisation to share their survey information – Jenny/Mike
3. Distribute steam information – Chris
4. Convince a university to conduct formal research - ?

¹ 70 x rail organisations with 15,000 members; 18 tramway groups with 5000 members; 100,000 motor vehicle members, 100,000 members of Engineers Australia, over 200 machinery organisations with 15,000 members; ships with 3000 members; aircraft with 5000 members. Note: these numbers are indicative to be used as examples.

Strategy for Regulation

- Focus on federal level first
 - o Movable Heritage Act, Regulations and application
 - General agreement that the review of 2015 proposed significant improvements, BUT they have not been implemented
 - We should contact Commonwealth Dept. and offer to help with the implementation
 - Make sure that we speak with one voice

Action: Jenny, Peter, Neil M, Neil H to develop plan (election provides an opportunity – deal with politicians but let bureaucrats know what we’re doing). Does anyone know high-profile advocates (Dick Smith, Tim Fischer etc.)?

- o Australian Heritage Strategy – completely overlooks movable heritage in general and operating heritage in particular.
 - Introduce ourselves to Department of Environment and Energy

- Offer to help write sections on Movable and Intangible Heritage
- o Unexpected consequences of legislation
 - Issues: - asbestos ban, customs, multiple medical certifications, greenhouse gas emissions (coal ban)
 - Find most appropriate person (Minister?), explain impact and ask for exemption
- o Continuing source of income for heritage projects
 - Suggestions:
 - Our own “lottery” – eg. \$50 membership – half prizes, half to heritage
 - Art Union
 - Bequests
 - Government/community money
 - Mechanism for people to donate

Strategy for Training in Specialist Skills

- use term “heritage” or “cultural” – NOT “trades”
- to be ultra-up-to-date with global heritage terminology talk about “intangible heritage”. For us, it means all those things that we can’t see, hear, feel, etc. but that we can’t do without like the knowledge of how to do something. Recently the Neapolitan pizza and how to make it was inscribed on the World Heritage List!
- Identified some high priority skills
 - o Blacksmithing (hand-forming and forge work) – general metalwork for machines, carts, cars, rail
 - o Coach-building – cars, carriages, rail
 - o Wheelwrighting – cars, carriages
 - o Harness-making (leather and electrical)
 - o Fitting and machining (non-CNC work)
 - o Metal founding
 - o Riveting
 - o Engine reconditioning
 - o Risk management
 - o Leadership
 - o Boiler operation
- Potential paths
 - o New apprentices
 - likely to be small in number
 - need TAFE to offer course
 - must be reasonable chance of job in the field
 - o Little interest from TAFE or RTOs because of high cost and low volume
 - o Specialist skill module for qualified trades-people
 - Potential to partner with teaching organisation
 - Heritage organisation provides specialist knowledge
 - Teaching organisation provides teaching materials, accreditation, recognised qualification, credibility, etc.
 - Opportunity for self-regulation
 - University of Tasmania investigating “community learning”
 - Need to identify experts or centres of excellence to provide specialist knowledge and experience
 - Need to include use of modern technologies where appropriate (eg. 3D printing for pattern-making and prototyping). Don’t expect apprentices to use original tools.

Actions: Contact Uni of Tasmania to understand their ideas and assess interest –
Chris

Further investigation continuing:

Training – Michael Hough, Bruce Marich, Chris Martin, Neil Hogg

Social and Other Media – Michael Hough, Bruce Marich

Regulation – Jenny Fawbert, Peter Garnham, Neil Meyers, Neil Hogg

Access to workshop and Other Resources – Glenn Rigden, volunteers required

Insurance – Volunteers required

**The next phone conference is proposed for 7:00pm AEST
on 12th November 2018.**

Contact Details

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