

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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Bus
Preservation
Association
of
South
Australia



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FOREWORD

Around Australia there are countless groups involved in the preservation of transport vehicles. Many of these are widely known such as the Pichi Richi Railway. A passion to tell the stories of yesteryear and countless hours of effort from volunteers, ensures that these groups to provide great adventures to those who come and experience the fruits of their labour.

There is a fascination with old things that sparks a joy in all of us. Beyond the buses, trains, trams and planes themselves, there are of course the way in which we interact with them and the influence they have on our daily life. The social impact of public transport and the resulting benefits to society are immense. The stories of the people keeping the wheels turning are fascinating. The memories of adventures on board are priceless.

When looking around Australia a glaring omission in South Australia was the presence of a group dedicated to preserving buses. This seemed surprising given that buses have been the backbone of public transport system in SA. Individuals had started saving buses for many years but no formal society was formed.

In 2019 a group of individuals who owned buses was bought to together and decided to create association dedicated to preserving buses and to telling the stories about bus transport in Australia. This group was quickly incorporated and has grown rapidly in a short period of time. On the cusp of so much change in the transport sector, relating to the climate emergency and owing to technological advancement, it seems like the perfect time to begin to reflect on how things used to be. Also, to capture the changes that are about to occur and to tell these stories for years to come.

Bodie Thorpe
Secretary and Founding Member



MEMBERS AND PUBLIC REACH

It was exciting to see BPASA reach 67 financial members in its first year. Members of BPASA come from all walks of life, united by their passion for the preservation of old buses. In addition to South Australians, we have members from all around Australia. In the membership there are 18 individuals who own a total of 34 buses.



67 Financial Members



805 Followers

34 Buses



2773 website visits

During the year, our members have been involved in various media presentations and interviews including:

- Evenings with Peter Goers on ABC 891AM
- Flash Back segment by Michael Smyth on Channel 7 News
- Drive with Jules Schiller on ABC 891AM

THE INAUGURAL BPASA COMMITTEE

The inaugural committee had the momentous task to make the incorporated a group a success. With the support of the financial membership, BPASA quickly gained momentum. In its first year the committee implemented financial structures and several governance policies. A particularly important achievement was becoming a registered charity.

The inaugural committee consisted of:

- **President:** Matt Traeger
- **Vice President:** Tim Holbrook
- **Secretary:** Bodie Thorpe
- **Treasurer:** John Porter
- **Public Officer:** Joseph Brettig
- **Committee Members:** Hayden Day, Jamie Vardon and Nick Waldie

The South Australian Historic Bus Preservation Association, as pictured below, voted to incorporate the Bus Preservation Association of South Australia (BPASA) in 2019.



L to R: Tim Holbrook, Ryan Orchard, Bodie Thorpe, John Porter, Daniel Aubrey, Michael Pretty, Mitchell Thomas, Joseph Brettig, Jamie Vardon, Jac Ericson, Hayden Day, Peter Donaldson, Matt Traeger and Nicholas Benn



EVENTS

BPASA aims to have regular events to bring together the membership and public to enjoy preserved buses. Despite the interruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic, BPASA managed to provide many great experiences during the year. These events attracted members and enthusiasts from SA and interstate.



801 passengers

4 Events

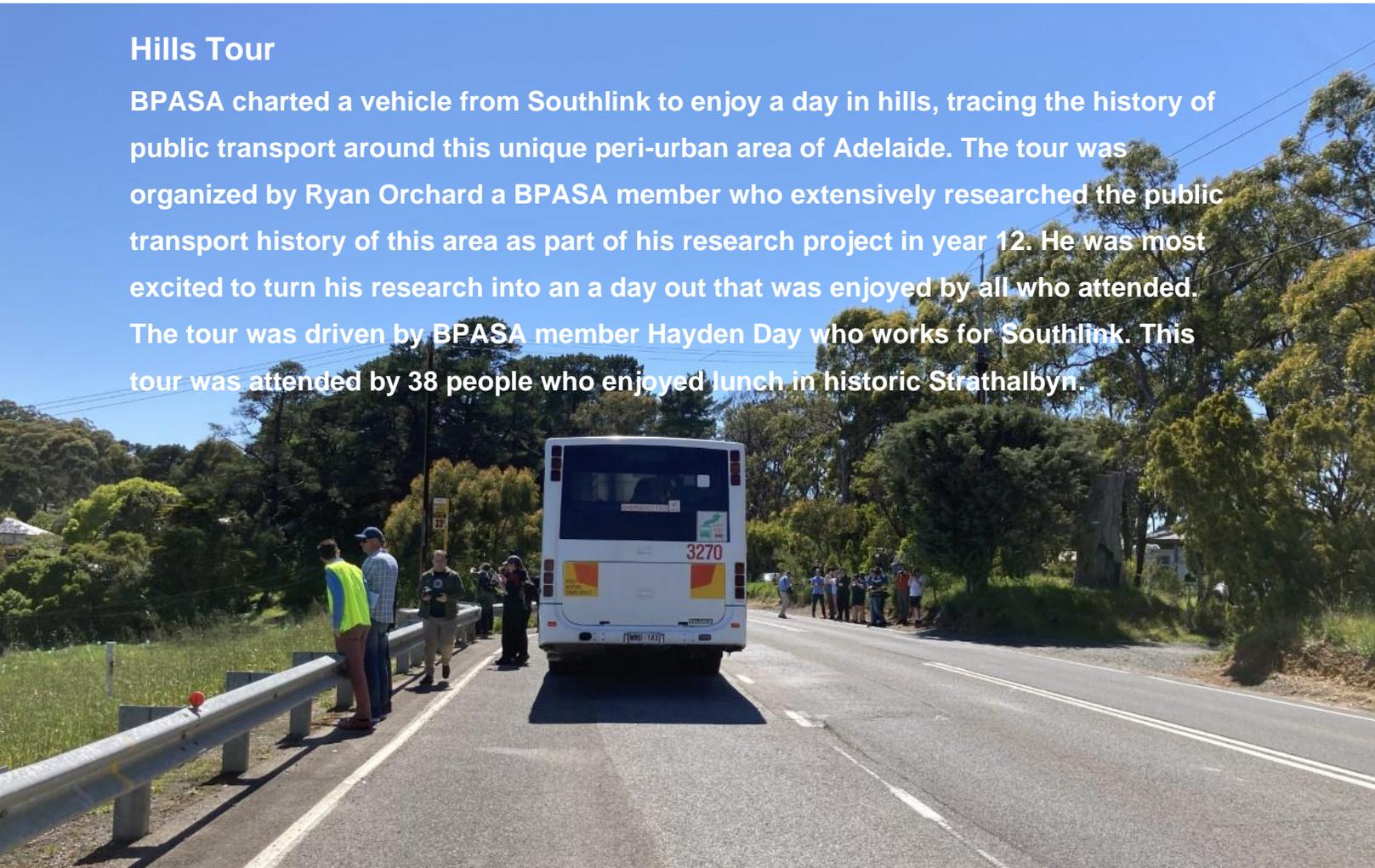
11 Buses

Heritage Transport Expo

BPASA joined forces with the National Railway Museum on the 10th and 11th of October to provide bus rides for the Museum's annual Heritage Transport Expo. Two BPASA member's buses were supplied as static display for the public to explore and admire. Additionally, two BPASA member's buses were used to provide joyrides around historic Pt Adelaide as part of the event. This provided a great addition to the train rides that were also available to the attendees. BPASA vehicles completed 70 loops and were enjoyed by 696 passengers during the weekend.

Hills Tour

BPASA chartered a vehicle from Southlink to enjoy a day in hills, tracing the history of public transport around this unique peri-urban area of Adelaide. The tour was organized by Ryan Orchard a BPASA member who extensively researched the public transport history of this area as part of his research project in year 12. He was most excited to turn his research into an a day out that was enjoyed by all who attended. The tour was driven by BPASA member Hayden Day who works for Southlink. This tour was attended by 38 people who enjoyed lunch in historic Strathalbyn.



Nightmoves tour

More public transport history was revisited on a summer night out on BPASA Member's buses. Night services on weekends have had some unique branding over the years and have varied considerably. These services were retraced as we enjoyed the balmy night with the windows open. 35 people enjoyed a great night out which included dinner and ice creams at Glenelg.



K Rail Tour

The electrification of the Gawler railway line has seen a long term shut down, requiring a large bus substitute effort to carry the passengers. This resulted in Kanga being subcontracted to deliver rail substitute services and subsequently obtaining a varied and unique fleet of buses from interstate for the task. A selection of this fleet was enjoyed by bus enthusiasts on a great day out around the north-eastern suburbs. 32 people came to enjoy the buses that we chartered from Kanga Coachlines/K Rail.

ECONOMIC IMPACT TO SA

BPASA receives a huge amount of interest on our website and facebook page from all over Australia and around the world. It is of course no surprise then when we get people travelling from interstate just to join our events or to engage with the bus owners directly. This is a great boost for the economy as most people come for a weekend or more to enjoy what SA has to offer.

During the last year BPASA events have seen;

- 6 visitors from New South Wales
- 2 visitors from Victoria
- 1 visitor from Queensland
- 1 visitor from Western Australia

The demand for events with historic buses is strong. Similar events interstate have attracted over 20 attendees from interstate per event[^]. It is envisioned that when border restrictions are lifted and travel can be planned with higher confidence that BPASA tours will attract more visitors to South Australia.

BPASA members proudly support local businesses who provide mechanical work on all of the preserved buses.

[^]Tasmanian Bus and Coach Society 2019 tour had 22 attendees from the mainland.

FINANCE

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The great benefit of having buses as part of a larger transportation heritage preservation is the ability for them to take people anywhere and anytime! Train and tram societies struggle with maintenance of track and infrastructure and are inhibited by rail gauges and high costs for track access. Other road vehicles aren't designed to carry large numbers of people. Old planes are cost prohibitive to fly. Buses are the perfect link between them all! We hope to work with other transport preservation societies as much as we can in future to create and perpetuate transport heritage as an important part of the cultural heritage of South Australia.

BPASA has big plans for the future, which include:

- **Creating a mobile 'pop-up' museum inside of a bus**
- **Becoming the owner of key buses historic to SA**
- **Obtaining undercover storage for Member's buses**
- **Creation of an archive of artifacts and memorabilia with public access to a database of the collection**
- **Regular exciting events**

