

**TO: ALL NHMA MEMBER CLUBS**

**Re: OPERATING HERITAGE AUSTRALIA**

Attention: Club Secretaries and Editors

11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Attached is a flyer from Operating Heritage Australia (OHA) that introduces OHA, briefly explains some of its activities and seeks the assistance and input of enthusiasts. We ask that you communicate this flyer to your members by email or in your club's newsletter/magazine.

OHA a coalition of enthusiasts who all hold senior positions in peak operating heritage organisations representing over 2500 organisations across Australia covering historic cars, trucks, motorcycles, buses, horse drawn vehicles, trams, ships and boats, trains and planes, and their related machinery, equipment, appliances, implements and tools. The NHMA is represented at OHA by *President Peter Garnham*

OHA presents a significant united front for all moveable heritage sectors to politicians and regulators, and already has had discussions at very high levels in Canberra.

OHA's unity derives from the recognition that:

- All sectors are impacted by regulations and legislation that overlook or even suppress operating heritage and its continued appropriate use
- All have heritage objects that are portable, easily sold, relocated or discarded. All have objects vulnerable to damage, theft or dispersal, especially when heritage significance is not understood or acknowledged.
- All are largely overlooked by governments at all levels. Heritage support and funding programs focus on the built and natural heritage environments leaving the preservation, conservation and custodianship of operating heritage to be born both financially and physically by enthusiasts and volunteers.
- All are experiencing difficulties in ensuring that traditional skills and trades associated with their sector are preserved and passed on. OHA has identified over 28 key traditional skills and trades crucial to these heritage sectors – many of those skills/trades our sector has in common with other OHA sectors.

OHA would welcome your members support in its priority projects which are: -

1. Identifying significant historic vehicles and machinery at risk of export or loss;
2. Lobbying the Commonwealth Government to implement the reforms contained in the Review of the Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage Act;
2. Addressing with decision-makers unreasonable legislation and regulations that restrict the operation of moveable heritage objects;
3. Developing traditional skills preservation and training programs;
4. Gaining government recognition that all movable heritage objects are historically, culturally and technologically significant to Australia, and that the operating heritage sectors contribute significantly to local regional, State and national economies.

I encourage you to send the OHA information flyer to your members.

Regards,  
Peter Garnham  
President NHMA