



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

News Update – January 2009

From the Chairman

This year, 2009, will see many issues flowing out of the world economic crisis, which will affect our museums. Higher unemployment, less interstate and overseas travels, difficulties to borrow funds and the list goes on. On the other side, we will see other changes that may help us to achieve our goals; perhaps new sources of funding for labour intensive work. Staying up with all the grant funding opportunities can be difficult, especially when revision to update Rail Safety Systems are made mandatory by changes in legislation, often for little overall safety benefit.

Helping one another with information, equipment, and ideas is all part of being a COTMA Member. We have a good network amongst ourselves, which is one our strengths. This network has been forged through the ongoing COTMA Conferences, personal relationships and involvement in our other rail heritage networks. May this continue well during 2009.

Wanted: - 33" Wheels

The Tramway Historical Society, Christchurch is looking for 33" wheel and axle sets with gears and motors to fit. These would enable them to build more Peckham 14D5 maximum traction trucks (as under their Boon 152) and the under construction double decker 26. To date THS have been using ex MMTB No. 9 trucks as the supply, but they have now exhausted them.

They would like to find out whether any other COTMA museum would have one or more such trucks (or the wheel/axles, gears, motors (MV 101AZ)) that they would be willing to sell or trade. Alternatively if any other 33 " wheel sets (spoked wheels), preferably with motors, from some other truck type could be acceptable. If necessary they would look at obtaining and fitting other W class motors and gears. Dave Hinman, Secretary of the THS can be contacted on dave.hinman@ccc.govt.nz

Executive Meeting

The next COTMA Executive Meeting is being held in Adelaide on Saturday 28 Feb. at the St Kilda Tramway Museum. A draft copy of the Agenda is forwarded with this newsletter. If you have any items you would like included on the agenda, please contact the Chairman or your Museum Liaison Officers, Ian Seymour or Clinton Pearce.

A Single Rail Safety Regulator for Australia

ATHRA's submission to the National Transport Commission, prepared in association with COTMA can be viewed on the NTC's web site at:

http://www.ntc.gov.au/rfcDocuments/Rail_RIS_Submission_8_ATHRA2009011212004030.pdf

COTMA Conferences

Bryce Pender has been appointed by the Wellington Tramway Museum as the Convenor for the 2010 COTMA Conference, with Henry Brittain providing an oversight role. A committee is being arranged and the first steps to arrange the conference administration is underway. More details will be provided in the next News Update, as to dates and preliminary arrangements.

Incandescent Light Bulbs in NZ – an Update

The new NZ Government has rescinded the previous Government's plan to phase out incandescent bulbs. Thus they may be available for a while, as long as there is a demonstrated worldwide market need for them and before they become hard to get like some wood screws.

Youth Groups

A topic often discussed either formally or informally amongst COTMA Museums, and many other volunteer based groups, is: Where are the younger people going to come from? David Critchley of the Sydney Tramway Museum at the 2008 Launceston Conference presented an excellent paper on this topic of starting and running a Youth Group. The Paper, titled *Setting Up a Youth Group* and subsequent discussion can be downloaded from the COTMA web site: <http://cotma.org.au/Conference%202008%20Papers%20List.htm>

The UK Heritage Railway Association's (HRA) Youth Volunteer Adviser, Geoff Evens recently wrote in their newsletter:

"Young Volunteers are the future and unless Heritage Railways make a big effort to understand how to encourage a consistent flow of them into the ranks of volunteers the heritage railway movement may have to pay for more and more of its key skills – which in the long term will become non sustainable. When railways analyse their recruitment flow line it is suggested that they ask the following questions:

- Where do our volunteers come from and how do we help them fit in?
- What is the average volunteer age?
- Are Young Volunteers a viable option, how do we recruit them and how do we make them welcome.

There are of course a number of factors that need to be identified in order to maximise on the positives and to control the negatives. Heritage pursuits are in direct competition with a wide range of leisure and volunteer activities which is why railways need to vigorously market the opportunities on offer, taking into account the proximity to population centres, access routes and industrial centres.

More than ever before it is noticeable how many volunteers are reaching an age where they will have to retire from operational and safety critical activities. It is not necessary to carry out expensive surveys relating to the demographic profile of volunteer organisations – the crisis is now very visible and approaching far too quickly. Heritage railways need to put in place robust and inclusive youth volunteer programmes that will encourage young people to come and take an interest. When considering activities fit for young people a railway should ask itself a number of simple questions focussing on the organisations view of what is a Young Volunteer:

- Are they nuisance to be discouraged?
- A problem to be ignored?
- Or an important resource to be developed?

For a youth volunteer programme to become viable there has to be a core of adult volunteers that are supportive and proactive because once a positive choice has been made then it is crucial that suitable areas of volunteer work are identified to train and develop young volunteers' skills. Young volunteers should never be allowed to carry out activities that are uncontrolled and not supervised as everything they do should be part of a structured training experience. It is important to remember that if there is the negative message then it may not only apply to the young – be aware of exclusion and the cosy club scenario.

The HRA can provide advice and support to railways considering a youth programme and has prepared a Youth Policy template that will allow any member railways to adopt a tried and tested formula. If your railway is still considering starting a youth scheme it may be worth considering contacting other Heritage Railways that already have Youth Schemes in place. Arrange a visit and see how these various schemes work, but take care when setting up your own programme; build on experience; seek advice and think about how the railway should develop the infrastructure to support both the programme leaders and the young volunteer."



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

News Update – April 2009

From the Chairman

While things may seem to be quiet on the COTMA front, lots of things have been happening in the background that can affect all of us. These are in particular the review of the Rail Safety guidelines for Tourist and Heritage Rail organisations, Training and Competency Assessment, relationships with VicTrack, Moveable Australian Heritage, a single Rail Safety Regulator for Australia and the review of the National Transport Commission. The Executive met in Adelaide during the last weekend of February to discuss these items along with others. Many thanks to Ian Seymour for co-ordinating the meeting and discuss.

Myself, I will be in Europe from April 20 to late May, attending the FEDECRAIL Conference in Luxemburg and doing some travelling in Europe and the UK. However the e-mail service will continue, though with slow periods.

Executive Meeting

At the recent meeting of the Executive in Adelaide at the St. Kilda Tramway Museum, a number of items were discussed.

Richard Clarke, Chief Engineer of the Sydney Tramway Museum is involved in the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) preparation of a standard for Level Crossings. Warren Doubleday is involved in the preparation of a guideline for Emergency Response Planning and the revision of the Tourist Heritage Rail Safety Guidelines. It is important that Members who are interested in these topics and RISSB work in general monitor the ARA Fortnightly Updates, ATHRA Alerts and other materials coming out for example from the offices of the various Rail Safety Regulators or your State Rail Heritage Association.

The COTMA / VicTrack Protocol for W Class Tram Equipment which was agreed to at the last conference is available on the website under the Documents tab.

COTMA Conference and awards were discussed, see separate topic for this.

Next Exec meeting proposed in Brisbane, Oct/Nov. 2009.

The Executive has accepted the offer of Bob Pearce of PETS to act as a Co-ordinator of new tramcar parts. That is, if a person thinks that the part/s that they are obtaining quotes for could be useful at the same time to other Members, Bob will act as the Co-ordinator between the originating Museum and other COTMA Members. More details on how this will work soon.

COTMA parts storage facility, it was agreed that we would continue to provide a service for storing W class parts as necessary, but are not proposing to store parts for Z class trams etc. A storage container will be purchased if necessary to store W class parts at Bungaree.

SMS Guidance for Tourist and Heritage Rail Operators

The Australian Rail Safety Regulators' Panel has released for public consultation the draft Safety Management System Guidance for Tourist and Heritage Railway Operators. The Rail Safety Regulator in each state and territory will forward the material to all affected industry stakeholders in their jurisdiction. The guidance material addresses each element required within a Safety Management System and provides assistance with the requirements to achieve compliance. For more details see [ATHRA Alert #41](#).

It is important those who are involved in the preparation and maintenance of Safety Management Systems review this document, even if your current document is compliant with your States current Act. The more input back to the Regulators the better. The closing date for the review was originally 22 April but it has been extended to 22 May following representations from ATHRA.

Passing of Dave Lee

Those who knew Dave Lee of MOTAT, Auckland, were saddened to learn of his passing on 13 February from a heart attack. Dave came from Sheffield to New Zealand in 1968 and was a Western Springs Tramway (WST) member ever since. Dave was 70, a bundle of energy and a very competent Engineer who had a great knowledge of tram engineering. He will be missed. Our Condolences to WST and his family.

ATHRA Meeting

The recent Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) meeting was held in Queenscliff Victoria. Attending for their respective state rail heritage organisation were Warren Doubleday, Ian Seymour and Peter Hyde. Matters specifically of interest to COTMA Members were:

- Training and Assessment – see item below
- Rail Safety Update – ATHRA Rail Safety Update report available from the COTMA web site – see Latest News Tab

Some excellent presentations on marketing, working with your local tourist associations and wild fire preparedness, were made.

Training and Assessment –

ATHRA will shortly be releasing for comment via an ATHRA Alert a series of draft training packages, including one for Tram Drivers. The packages have been developed by David Rumsey & Associates, a Training Development Consultant through funding provided to ATHRA by the former Standing Committee of Transport Rail Group. The documents have been prepared for the “common” electric tramcar and thus will need to be tailored to your fleet and operational procedures. They comprise seven different elements:

- Mentors Guide
- Lesson Plan and Workbook
- Knowledge Checklist
- Mentors Q&A
- Performance Checklist
- Customisation Guidelines
- Tram Driver Competency Units – Lesson Plan and Workbook Map.

The Competency units have been mapped against the Transport and Logistic Training Package for tram drivers. COTMA provided input to this package that made it relevant to our sector, not just that of the commercial operators.

The Australian Rail Safety Regulators have taken a keen interest in the preparation of these documents and the methodology adopted by each Heritage Rail Operator to assess the competence of their workers. While this project is seen as a start in defining more competencies for the sector, it is important that those who responsibility is for training and assessment review these documents and provide feedback to David. Although you may have a very good training and assessment package in place already, these will be a useful check to see whether you have covered all the necessary aspects of a current good practice system and can show an Auditor that your programme meets the required competency packages. These documents may also be useful to our New Zealand Members, though regulatory requirements are different.

When the ATHRA Documents become available, the Alert will be resent to each COTMA Member. Thanks to those COTMA organisations who made their training documentation available to ATHRA.

COTMA Conference 2010

Wellington Conference 2010 – Planning to date – is for the conference to commence on Thursday evening 16 September 2010. From Friday conference sessions and activities will include a visit to WTM and dinner nearby, Trolleybus Tour and Conference General Meeting. A pre-conference visit (largely self arranged) will be arranged to Christchurch as will a post conference tour that finishes in Auckland the following weekend. Accommodation will be in Wellington city area. The organisation is being led by Bryce Pender of the Wellington Tramway Museum.

The conference is timed for the last weeks the school term so it is hoped that those with young and school aged children can be encouraged to attend.

For further information or to register an expression of interest please email Bryce on cotma2010@paradise.net.nz

The following conferences will be Sydney 2012 and Adelaide 2014.

COTMA Brags and Awards

Given the move for the Conference Brags sessions and workshops towards video presentations or PowerPoint, it is planned to have these given to the Conference organisers 2 weeks or so before the start of the Conference to ensure that they are shown in the right screen format and compatible with the equipment showing them.

One disappointing outcome from the Launceston Conference was the number of submissions for the COTMA Awards. While the two submissions received were very worthy, there were a number of projects done by Volunteers which went un-recognised. The Executive will be reviewing the award system soon and make this information available to all Members.

Rockhampton Celebrations

The Archer Park Station and Steam Tram Museum, Rockhampton, are celebrating an anniversary on the 5th June this year with 100 years of the Purrey Steam Trams running in the streets of Rockhampton. They will be having a wine and cheese night on Friday the 5th June followed by a Carriage Shade Capers Day on Sunday the 6th, we will be asking that everyone come in period costumes of the early 1900's, and maybe a reduced admission on that day also. The Purreys commenced running in Rockhampton on the 5th June 1909 and ceased on the 24th June 1939.

The Museum's latest newsletter can be download from the COTMA Website, see "[Latest News](#)" tab.

Queensland Rail Heritage Conference

The Workshops Rail Museum located at Ipswich is planning a Railway Heritage Conference, Opportunities and Challenges from Thursday 15 October to Saturday 17 October 2009. These dates are subject to change. The conference is intended to provide an important forum to exchange ideas, share experiences and contribute to the ongoing debate about the future of railway heritage. You can register your interest on the Queensland Museum's web page: http://www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/events/railway_heritage.asp

Information Documents that may be of use to COTMA Members

Brill Truck Catalogue: Through the courtesy of the Wellington Tramway Museum, the 1920 Brill truck catalogue has been scanned by Craig Tooke and is available on request via the Chairman. It is a large file.

Electric Railway Journal – www.archive.org (the archives site) has available for downloading the McGraw Hill publication Electric Railway Journal, from Volume 42 (1915) through to Volume 75 (1931). To find these journals and other tramway (known as a railway in the US) documents, use the search function at the top of the web page.

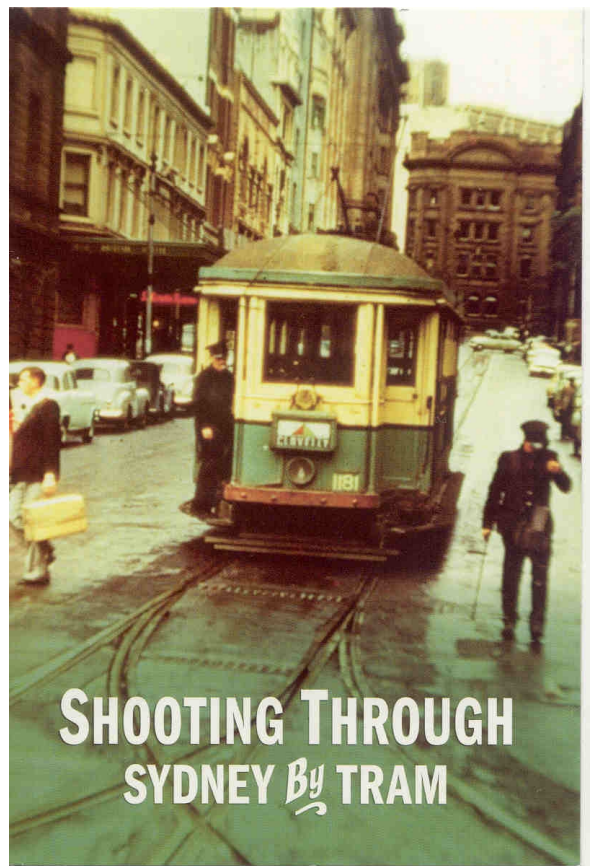
Electric Railway Handbook - During the heyday of first generation electric trolley systems in America, a comprehensive handbook covering virtually every technical aspect of street railways was compiled by Albert S. Richey, a professor at the Worcester (MA) Polytechnic Institute. This work has long been considered the touchstone reference document of the field and is highly relevant to present day heritage streetcar and modern streetcar lines. In 1989 the Association of Railway Museums republished the book as a reference for museums preserving street railway equipment. They subsequently converted the book to PDF format. Click on the below link to see this work but be prepared for a significant download time as the file is approximately 27 megabytes in size:

- [Electric Railway Handbook - Albert S. Richey](#)

File courtesy of the www.heritagetrolley.com web site maintained by the Seashore Trolley Museum on behalf of the American Public Transport Association:

Shooting Through Sydney By Tram

The Historic Houses Trust of NSW, in association with the Sydney Tramway Museum is holding an exhibition titled “*Shooting Through Sydney By Tram*” from April 4 to October 18, 2009 at the Museum of Sydney, Cnr of Bridge and Phillip Streets Sydney. Postcards advertising this exhibition are enclosed with the mailout. A hardcover pictorial book, RRP \$24.95, 128pp, 170 x 127mm prepared by Caroline Butler-Bowdon, Annie Campbell and Howard Clark complements the exhibition. Other souvenir items are also available. Full details from shop.hht.net.au



Further information from: http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/exhibitions/exhibitions/sydney_by_tram

Next News update – June 2009



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

News Update – July 2009

From the Chairman

Functioning in today's political/world/finance environment is not easy, though some Museums have reported that they have picked up in visitors numbers due to the financial crisis. Less overseas or interstate travel is seeing more local visitors. However, keeping abreast of developments both in rail safety, museum developments, business planning, grants and other changes to the legal or local environments is time consuming and diverts resources away from conservation or operational activities. However if you or someone else does not devote time to these matters, the Museum itself could be placed in jeopardy. Associations such as COTMA is very important to help you assist in achieving this, but to do so, we need your feedback, thoughts and assistance. Two matters where your feedback is important are presented below. Please ensure that someone in your Museum/Tramway comments on these documents to the person nominated on the topics by the due date.

Training and Assessment –

In the last Newsletter, the production by Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA), in conjunction with COTMA Officers of model Tram Driving training package was flagged. These have since been released by ATHRA, following [ATHRA Alert # 43](#). The link to the various training packages is given within the Alert.

The Competency units have been mapped against the Transport and Logistic Training Package for tram drivers. COTMA provided input to this package that made it relevant to our sector, not just that of the commercial operators.

Your feedback to the consultant via the ATHRA Secretary on these packages is very important and strongly encouraged. Can comment please be given by the Secretary to ATHRA by August 16, 2009.

Review of NTC Health Assessment Documents

The NTC is undertaking a review of the Transport Medical Standards, see the following weblink which then leads to the review study document. Comments close on 14 August 2009.

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsId=00300>

You will notice that its for the review of the medical standards themselves, not the administrative system that goes behind them. The heritage rail sectors are having problems in both areas and that was pointed out at a recent meeting with the NTC. They were advised that ATHRA's submission would incorporate both issues, so that they are aware of the administrative issues that we are facing. This was acknowledged by them.

ATHRA will be making a submission and I am quite happy to receive short and or quick emails for inclusion of the problems you are facing and any suggestions to rectify them. Please mail railsafety@athra.asn.au You are also very welcome to make your own submissions. If you do, can you please send ATHRA a copy for information.

COTMA AGM

The 2010 Annual General Meeting notice was sent to Members recently by e-mail. A formal confirmation slip is enclosed. The AGM meeting will be held in Melbourne on Wednesday 19 August at the VicTrack Offices, Level 8, 1010 LaTrobe Street Docklands, Melbourne,¹

commencing at 12 Noon Wednesday 19th August 2009. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the regular meeting with VicTrack. Museum representatives are welcome to attend. This meeting is a statutory requirement to accept the annual financial statement of COTMA.

COTMA Conference 2010

Planning for the COTMA 2010 Conference in Wellington NZ is proceeding well. The planning team is ably lead by Bryce Pender. The selection of the conference hotel and venues is currently being finalised. The programme as currently planned is:

- Thursday 16 September 2010 – Registration with light buffet dinner and welcome function
- Fri 17 Sep. – Conference sessions and Dinner
- Sat 18 Sep. – Conference General Meeting, free afternoon and Conference Dinner
- Sun 19 Sep. - Visit Mainline steam depot, Steam Inc. Depot and Wellington Tramway Museum
- Mon 20 Sep. – Conference Sessions and visit Te Papa, New Zealand's principal Museum
- Tue 21 Sep. – Trolley bus tour and cable car museum

A post conference tour Wed. 22 Sep to Sat 25 Sep. Arrangements are yet to be planned, but it is likely visits to Wellington Tramway Museum, Foxton, Wanganui and New Plymouth will be made, with the trip finishing up in Auckland for visits to MOTAT and other places of interest. A self organised pre-conference tour visiting Christchurch will be suggested.

Please put these dates in your diaries. Tasman airfares are at the cheapest level probably ever at the moment.

COTMA Brags and Awards

Don't forget your Museum's Conference Brag (what we have done since the last conference) and nominations for the COTMA Achievement Awards are part of the conference activities. These are an excellent time to showcase the work your Museum has done and gain recognition for your volunteers in their work as well. Brags can either be a PowerPoint presentation or a DVD presentation and are scheduled to be in the hands of the conference organisers two weeks in advance. Achievement award nominations will close around June or July 2010.

Queensland Rail Heritage Conference

The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich Queensland is planning the "International Railway Heritage Conference: Opportunities and Challenges" 15 to 17 October 2009. The conference provides an important forum to exchange ideas, share experiences and contribute to the ongoing development of rail heritage. As with all conferences, the opportunities for networking and meeting new people are great. The Conference fees are excellent value, \$420 for three days. The conference dinner is an additional \$85.

For full information and registration visit The Workshops Rail Museum web site at http://theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/events/railway_heritage.asp

A New Light Rail System (Tramway) – Gold Coast Qld

Readers may be aware of the recent announcements concerning the final approvals for the construction of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit link between Griffith University (Southport) to Broadbeach. Are we starting to see the commencement of the development of new light rail systems in Australia? The link to the web site is http://www.translink.com.au/gc_rapidtransit.php

Next News update – October 2009



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – October 2009

From the Chairman

The next COTMA Conference, to be hosted by the Wellington Tramway Museum is a little under 12 months away. Preparations are well advanced as can be seen from the report with this News Update. Please consider attending, for Conferences bring our Museum workers together and some would say help us to make us more enthusiastic to continue on preserving Australasian urban tramway heritage. Networking is invaluable and life long friendships are made. All tram heritage workers are invited to attend the Conference and with tours of New Zealand tram museums being incorporated and cheaper air fares to NZ, it is well worthwhile putting now into your diary. The conference formally commences in Wellington on Thursday Sept. 16.

The COTMA Executive had planned to meet during October / November 2009, but with the Queensland Rail Heritage Conference and other events, personal matters, the meeting has been deferred to Jan/Feb. 2010 and is proposed to be held in Wellington NZ.

This News Update has lots of information in it, so please ensure that your fellow workers who may not see it, at least scan it for something that may impact on their work or responsibilities. In the News Updates, COTMA often refers to the Internet for documents and sources by providing links to relevant websites, so as to provide information to Members. These links are correct at the time of publication, but can become "broken" over time due to web site changes. Always check back with the parent web site itself, if this occurs and to see if you can find the original document.

Training and Assessment

The Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) training and assessment packages that have been noted in the last couple of COTMA updates have been well received by the sector and Regulators. Although comments have closed, these will be made available for heritage rail operators to prepare or to review their own training and assessment documents in the future. Funding will be sought to extend the range of documents in coming months. For those who missed these documents, they can be seen on the ATHRA website as part of ATHRA Alert #43 and in particular <http://www.athra.asn.au/training.htm>

Review of NTC Health Assessment Documents

Thanks to those who provided feedback on the NTC Health Assessment review documents. These have been incorporated into the ATHRA submission which can be seen on the NTC website. ATHRA has been invited to be part of the continuing review process itself. The various submissions to the NTC can be viewed on:

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/RFCCommentsView.aspx?DocumentId=1883>

COTMA AGM

The COTMA AGM was held as scheduled on Wed. 19th August during the regular meeting with VicTrack. The main purpose of the meeting was to accept the Annual Financial Statement and the Auditor's Report. Items coming out of the meeting for further attention are to investigate the use of a cash management account, undertake a stocktake of the ex Adelaide items prior to 31 March and the need for a change to the Associations Rules in order to meet the recent changes to the Victorian Incorporation Act. A copy of the Annual Financial Statements is enclosed with this mailout.

COTMA Conference 2010

Preparations for the COTMA Conference 2010, to be held in Wellington, commencing Thursday 16 September are well underway. An update from Bryce Pender the Conference Convenor of the Wellington Tramway Museum, is enclosed with the mailout. Can Members please ensure that a copy is left in the meal rooms, placed on noticeboards for your workers to see it. All are welcome to attend. The update can be viewed at; www.cotma.org.au/conference.html

Topmill Pty Ltd Productions

Members may receive contact from Topmill Pty Ltd concerning the production of a book on tram museums in Australia. Topmill produce the annual tram calendar. It is understood that they are planning a book that will feature trams in the various museum collections. This is a good way to publicise the sector and your co-operation is encouraged.

COTMA Awards and Update Presentations

Don't forget to start thinking about the COTMA Achievement Awards. Submissions will be due by the end of June 2010 to enable judging. All readers should consider these and who is going to prepare the submission/s to ensure that we receive something from all Members. The worst thing to do is not to put one in, because you thought someone else was going to do it!

Also the Museum update presentations (Braggs), or what your museum has done since the last COTMA Conference – don't leave these to the last minute either. See COTMA Conference Update for further information.

Brochure's to Museums

Another worthwhile task for a nominated person; arranging to send your brochure to other COTMA Museums for visitors to pick up and possibly visit on another day. Archer Park Rockhampton and the Friends of Hawthorn Depot are always willing to distribute brochures on behalf of COTMA Members as are many others. Yes, the tricky bit is actually mailing them, but don't forget that someone could be visiting and they can drop them off, as long as they have allowed room in their luggage of course.

Accident Reports

From time to time, COTMA will send out references to reports to COTMA Rail Safety Officers about tram accidents investigations and reports, mainly UK ones from the Rail Accident Investigation Board. Two recent ones have concerned accidents that may have relevance to Museum operations are:

1. A collision between two trams at Blackpool during June 2009 due to the failure of an air hose to the brake relay valve. This was due to the hidden failure of a holding clip. See RAIB Bulletin: http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms_resources.cfm?file=/Bulletin%2008-2009.pdf
2. A derailment of a Manchester Metrolink tram during June 2008 – due to the failure of the rail's keep (flange way) which was due to the deterioration of the track itself. See report http://www.raib.gov.uk/latest_news/090917_pn_st_peters_square.cfm

Also available on the Victorian Department of Transport website is accident reports into Melbourne tram incidents. Most of these events are outside the scope of Museum operations. They can be viewed on:

<http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/DOI/Internet/Home.nsf/AllDocs/A66C66BEDA437D67CA2573A1001D0D79?OpenDocument#rail>

If we spot any report considered to have relevance we will send them out to Members, but if you see any, please let us know, just in case we don't see them.

COTMA Website

The COTMA website has been revamped, the address www.cotma.org.au remains unchanged. The old layout was well over 10 years old and needed to be updated. It has been kept simple and the previous information has been transferred over. One addition has been a set of four images from each Member who operates or is actively involved in COTMA affairs provided on most of the pages throughout the website. Currently six different sets, each featuring four Members are used. Most of the images have been taken off the Member's websites or from the Chairman's personal photographs. More are welcome, so we can have a bit of a change over from time to time. If readers spot any issues with the website, or wish to make suggestions or corrections please let the Chairman know on tramwad@alphalink.com.au

One change that has been made is to not provide information about the operational days and email contact details for each member. These can be obtained off the individual Member's websites themselves. Keeping these up to date is difficult and often best done in one spot.

Keeping up the weblinks themselves is difficult. We have noted that quite a few Member's linked COTMA via or old address when it was hosted by Andrew Cox via "optushome". These are being changed over by the individual webmasters – thanks guys. While looking at some web pages, we have noted that some of the links to museums can be older links that may still be functioning, but are not up to date. We trust the COTMA site itself is correct (as at 30/9), but please inform COTMA so we can advise Members via the News Update or directly to Museums if you note an old address.

Launceston Tramway Museum Society's Website

LTMS's website has been re-developed. The address is now: www.ltms.org.au/

Please advise your members and webmaster of this change.

Christchurch Update

The Christchurch Tramway extension has been approved by the City of Christchurch. News of the extension was reported in the staff newsletter for the Christchurch Tram Co. They reported:

"Despite worldwide economic doom, on a recent dreary June Friday the Christchurch City Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of spending \$11.5million to extend the present 2.5 km Christchurch heritage tramway. The project would more than double the tramway network taking the tramway in two stages as far as Barbados Street. Christchurch mayor Bob Parker said, "This is about doing something for one of our most important employers and economic assets this city has." "The recession was the right time to invest in infrastructure such as the tram extension," he said. While some councillors see the extended tramway as the beginnings of a modern light rail system, the emphasis will be on a heritage tourist tramway. Other Councillors spoke generously of the added value Tramway staff gave to the city's tourism. The extended tramway will serve principal retail sectors and, eventually the Polytechnic, Music Centre and Roman Catholic Cathedral. Construction of Stage One, as far as Poplar Lane, is well underway through the City Mall with old tramway point work being unearthed in the High Street and City Mall intersection. "

For progress photos visit their web site: - <http://www.tram.co.nz/> and view the tram extension page. Work could be well advanced when COTMA visits Christchurch prior to the September 2010 Conference.



Cashel and High St rails being laid.

(Christchurch Tramway's website)

Screws for Tramcars

Allan Cowan has advised that another source of traditional slot head screws for restoration work is <http://www.bronzeandbrassfasteners.com.au/current-stock-list/>. They are made in China. They can also possibly make screws to an order as well. We are not the only people suffering the same issues, specialist boat builders, fine cabinet makers do too.

Updated Address List

Enclosed within the mailout is an updated Member's Museum address and e-mail contact list. Changes are marked with a large arrowhead. Can those responsible for mail-outs of newsletters etc ensure that the address changes are noted. Electronic copies are available upon request.

Old Conference Proceedings

The COTMA Executive would like to place on the website, electronic copies of past conferences between 1975 and 1998 when only printed copies of the Proceedings were produced. John Radcliffe has supplied a PDF copy of the 1978 Adelaide Conference to us and this will shortly be placed on the website. To produce these efficiently and accurately requires a sheet feeder situation and we would like to obtain a surplus copy in order to remove it from the binding and then scan it. Please let the Chairman if you have any copies you would like to dispose of or pass onto another home.

Next News update – December 2009



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – December 2009

From the Chairman

On behalf of the COTMA Executive, I wish all our Members and readers Season Greetings and that 2010 is a great year for all.

On the tramway scene in Australasia, we are seeing a number of new street tramways appear or existing ones being extended in both the commercial or public transport or heritage arenas. With Christchurch extending its heritage tramway, Adelaide and Melbourne systems continuing to expand and a new tramway system planned for the Gold Coast area of Queensland. Australasian tramway systems are following the world wide awakening. With the new operator in Melbourne for Yarra trams, further changes are planned for the system, which is now (in terms of track kms) the largest system in the world. On behalf of the COTMA Executive, we wish to thank TransdevTSL the former operators of Yarra Trams for their assistance in the past and look forward to establishing a good working relationship with the new operators – KDR (Keolis Downer EDI Rail).

COTMA Conference 2010

Planning for the 2010 Conference is proceeding well. A formal Invitation / Registration should be available towards the end of the first quarter or early the second quarter of 2010. Arrangements remain the same as detailed in the last COTMA News Update. For full details see the COTMA website Conference Page - www.cotma.org.au/conference.html The organisers will have their own website to enable direct booking for the conference itself and with links to the conference hotel for bookings. Principally the Conference will be opened on Thursday 16 September and run through to Tuesday 21 September. A post conference tour to Auckland travelling via Wanganui and New Plymouth to arrive in Auckland the following weekend is being separately planned.

A pre-conference partly self arranged tour will also be proposed. Our current thinking is that we will meet in Christchurch on Monday evening 13th September, visit the Tramway Historical operations at Ferrymead that night – their work night. On Tuesday 14, visit the City Tramway and Ferrymead and then travel the following day via the Tranzcoastal and Ferry to Wellington so we are in Wellington for the conference opening the following evening. Depending on the numbers of potential travellers, we should be able to arrange a discount fare on the train/ferry. We will make suggestions for hotels in Christchurch.

Further details if available earlier will be shown on the COTMA website.

Australian Regulatory News

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) recently agreed to the establishment of a single Rail Safety Regulator to be based in Adelaide and is planned to be established by 2013. The Parliamentary Act to enable this will be based in South Australia. Head office will be in SA with offices in each state. The various states will have an Act that points to the SA Act somehow. This however, still allows each state to have their own peculiarity. COTMA through the Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) will be following the establishment of this regulator closely and is likely to be represented on consultative panels in conjunction with the Australasian Railway Association. Members help and assistance in commenting on documents will be sought.

A number of COTMA members provided input into the National Transport Commission's review of the Australian Medical Standards. ATHRA has been represented on the review of these standards. One of the outcomes has been the recognition of the impact that these standards are having on the heritage sector.

Past Conference Papers on the COTMA Website

The Adelaide 1977 and Ballarat 2000 Conference papers have been added to the COTMMA website under the Proceedings tab. Further papers will be added as they are scanned.

Training and Competency Documentation

A number of COTMA Members provided feedback to ATHRA on the ATHRA Training documents, including tram driving. These have been reviewed and will be incorporated into the documentation shortly. Members can see the first version of these documents on the ATHRA web site – www.athra.asn.au/training.htm

The 2009 National Survey of Volunteering Issues

[Download the report: PDF \[1.3MB\]](#)

The annual National Survey of Volunteering Issues conducted by Volunteering Australia provides an insight into the issues that affect volunteering in Australia. The 2009 survey attracted a record number of participants with more than 3,700 respondents taking part, ensuring a wide cross section of opinions was received from individual volunteers, volunteer involving organisations and companies with employee volunteer programs.

Key findings of the report found that:

- 'Being accepted as a valuable team member', 'personal thank you' and 'feedback about my contribution' are the most significant methods of recognition that volunteer respondents reported made them feel valued as a volunteer.
- more than one third (36%) of volunteers reported they had not had any recognition for their good work in the last month of their volunteering.
- 'Knowing that my contribution would make a difference' is most important to volunteers in their decision to volunteer (selected by 80% of volunteer respondents).
- 30% of organisations surveyed have not been able to access adequate information about the protection of volunteers under occupational health and safety legislation.
- 44% of volunteers reported that out of pocket expenses affect their ability or desire to volunteer, with fuel (84.6%) and telephone charges (65.4%) being the two most common cost problems.
- only 17% of volunteers reported that their organisation offered full reimbursement of their out of pocket expenses.

The question to be asked is – How relevant are these outcomes applicable to your organisation?

Odd spot - The Other COTMA's

A web site search shows that there are some other COTMA's as well.

- City of Taunton Management Association - Taunton is an English city.
- Congregation of Taste-Making Aficionados - they have the cotma blogspot sewn up!

Executive meeting

The next Executive meeting of COTMA is Saturday 30 January 2010 in Wellington. If any Member has any item they wish to raise or have discussed at the meeting, can they please advise the Chairman.

Next News update – February 2010.