

COTMA Conference 2006

Discussions following presentation of Winstan Bond's Paper

Achieving Sustainability for Independent Museums

Attracting Younger Members

Hayden Holmes – *Sydney Tramway Museum* - STM's youth group, resulted from a school group visit, now grown to 11, with five regulars, Trying to arrange meetings, outings etc for them. Very encouraging – have their own projects.

Geoffrey Claydon – *Tramway Museum Society UK* noted potential difficulties with “working with children” legislation, safety issues, vulnerabilities and volunteers. In the UK, not allowed to dictate specific ages for specific activities. The Heritage Railway Association of UK, has prepared a *Youth Protection Policy* and noted the need for leaders. Had to be accompanied by parents/guardians resulting in more tedious requirements and immense overhead burdens.

John Radcliffe – *Australian Electric Traction Museum* - what brought us to the hobby in the first place? Changes in lifestyles, cultural backgrounds all influencing factors. What are younger people identifying in museums etc? Need to weave in the history of tramways, use of websites important.

Russell Jones – *Tramway Museum Society of Victoria* - noted that the TMSV website has the most “hits” in the social history aspects of the content.

Warren Doubleday – *Ballarat Tramway Museum* – noted that we may have skipped a generation of volunteers in some areas.

Rod Atkins – *Tramway Museum Society of Victoria* - need to bring younger members into the organisation, not marginalise them.

Mikael Lund – *Danish Tramway Museum* - face the same problems in Europe, has been well discussed, show perseverance, give them opportunities, tasks, but make it interesting. Though they may drift away later, implant into them the basic interest and they often come back. Needs good management at the governance level. DTM have increased membership, 40% increase over the last seven years, particularly in the younger group and 45+ group. Now have 180 active members, of whom about 10% is under 20. No one answer to the problem. There is an interest by younger members who have never experienced trams, give them an experience and the importance of cultural heritage.

David Verrier – *Tasmanian Transport Museum* – have a range of activities, younger people interested in the steam locomotive side, need to ensure success.