



COTMA CONFERENCE 2010 – March 2010 Update

Wellington 16 to 22 September

Welcome to the March 2010 update from the COTMA 2010 committee.

Location: The conference location is The Comfort/Quality Hotel in Cuba St Te Aro, <http://www.hotelwellington.co.nz/> This location is in central Wellington and only a few minutes walk to major bus routes and activities in the city. There are two levels of accommodation available within the hotel to assist with budgets and as usual rooms will be offered on the Share Twin, Double, Single, Share Triple and Family basis. Delegates will settle all accommodation expenses upon departure; this will help spread the cost to delegates to a more manageable level. For those driving to the hotel there is limited onsite parking for hotel guests but for day delegates there is plenty of very local parking at nearby the Marion St Car Park Building.

Programme: The programme is being finalised, but is similar to that previously detailed and on the COTMA web site – see the www.cotma.org.au/conference.html for the latest version. Currently the proposed programme includes not only the usual conference session presented by various delegates but also there is the possibility of presentations from one or two international guests. Other plans also feature a trip to Wellington Tramway Museum and the world class Southwards Car Museum on the Kapiti Coast, a trolleybus tour around Wellington, a visit to the Cable Car and Cable Car Museum and a visit to Te Papa (New Zealand's National Museum).

A formal (jacket and tie) dinner is planned as a major event during the conference and will feature activities such as a quiz by quiz masters Bob Pearce and David Critchley, so get your General, Tramway and Trivial knowledge ready, the COTMA Excellence Awards as well as speeches from respected members of the tramway museum community.

Bookings: Bookings are due to open around the end of March 2010 and to run till about a month before the conference, an online registration page will be added to Wellington Tramway Museum and the COTMA websites along with a downloadable PDF registration form. As only the conference costs will be charged at time of registration we are establishing an online payment system, all accommodation costs will need to be settled upon departure. **(please note further changes are being considered to this in an attempt to keep costs down and we will keep you informed).**

Partners Programme: Committee members Denys Peck and Mike Secker are developing a partners/family programme, so bring the wife and the kids, make the conference a family holiday.

Presentations: The committee have a number of people offering to present various papers during the conference. Late suggestions are welcome, please contact Bryce on cotma2010@paradise.net.nz or the Chairman at tramwad@alphalink.com.au by the end of March 2010.

Museum Updates (Brag Tapes): Have you started collecting video and photos of your activities since the Launceston Conference? Brag tapes will be being played at various times during the conference so we would like to see short (10 minute) updates from you. Again please contact Bryce on cotma2010@paradise.net.nz. Please prepare all presentations in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 2007 or Windows Media Player/Power DVD 5 and have them ready to email to me a week or two prior to the conference so we can make sure they are included in the DVD and also to make sure we have the necessary software to run them.

Vale: During the formal dinner plans currently include a minutes silence and memorial to all museum members who have passed to the great tramway museum in the sky, so please if you have members who have passed on could you obtain a photo (ideally taken while they are working at a museum) and forward it on to me at cotma2010@paradise.net.nz along with birth and death dates.

Pre Conference Trip: Warren Doubleday is planning a visit to Christchurch for a few days including visits to Ferrymead, Christchurch City Tramway and other places of interest finishing with a trip on the Coastal Pacific Train from Christchurch to Picton and a trip across Cook Strait on Wednesday 15th arriving in the evening, accommodation will be at the same hotel as for the conference and Thursday day would be open for wandering around Wellington. Contact Warren on tramwad@alphalink.com.au for further booking info.

Post Conference Tours: A post conference tour is under planning with the assistance of Richard Gilbert (Ballarat Tramways) who recently visited Wellington on a planning trip, the initial plan is for a three day trip starting on Wed 23rd Sept finishing Friday night 25th in Auckland, Richard is also planning a visit to MOTAT and other places of interest over the weekend of 26 and 27 Sept.

That's about all for now folks, remember please register you interest in attending with Bryce via email at cotma2010@paradise.net.nz or ring me on +64 (0) 21 220 2009 to be added to the update lists and again if there is any queries.

Are you the newsletter editor for your museum, please put this in your regular newsletters and if possible pin a copy to the noticeboard in your lunch rooms.

Bryce Pender

Convenor Cotma Conference 2010 Wellington New Zealand.