

# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

[www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)

## News Update December 2021



Auckland's Dockline tramway will close at the end of 2022 – 2016 photo by Mal Rowe

UPDATE IS FOR ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS.  
PLEASE FORWARD IT TO ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS

### From the President

As the year draws to a close it is timely to reflect on the past twelve months. 2021 has been a year of disruption with the COVID 19 Pandemic having a significant effect on our collective Tramway activities. Most of us will have experienced lock down in its varying modes as they place community restrictions on our operations. This has resulted in not only a loss of revenue but also the opportunity of undertaking the myriad of other Tramway related activities that are so necessary in keeping our Museums functioning. Given these conditions, it is very pleasing to see that many COTMA groups in Australia and New Zealand are coping and with the good will of their respective members, offering a service to visitors.

What has been of concern was our inability to hold our usual bi-annual conference again this year due to the constraints of COVID. I hope that our next conference, planned to be held in Auckland in 2023 will proceed free of any impediments.

COTMA has seen changes to our Executive during the past twelve months. Outgoing President Dave Hinman stood down for health related issues and our Treasurer, Howard Clark has taken a break from this position for similar reasons. Our Auditor, Hugh Ballment has agreed to take over the reins of Treasurer and I welcome three new members to the Executive; Tony Weston and Roy Winslow plus Vincent Chan as the New Zealand Liaison Officer. I must also commend those other members of the Executive, Mal Rowe, Rod Atkins, Warren Doubleday and Peter Hyde who have played an integral role in undertaking all of those duties that COTMA demands. I give them my sincere thanks.

One of the casualties of 2021 was the inability of COTMA to bring some finality to the allocation and disposal of the spare parts made available from the disposal of redundant trams and tram bodies from the Melbourne system. Despite the enormous amount of work put in by our Secretary, Mal Rowe, we have not made the progress we would have liked and look forward to being able to

resume this important role for members. I would also like to acknowledge Warren Doubleday for his regular newsletters that keep our members up to date as these form an important channel of communication, especially in the absence of this year's Conference.

I wish everybody seasonal greetings and the hope that 2022 will allow us to return to our pre COVID level of activities and enjoyment of our tramway interests.

Kindest Regards,

Henry Brittain, President

2 December 2021

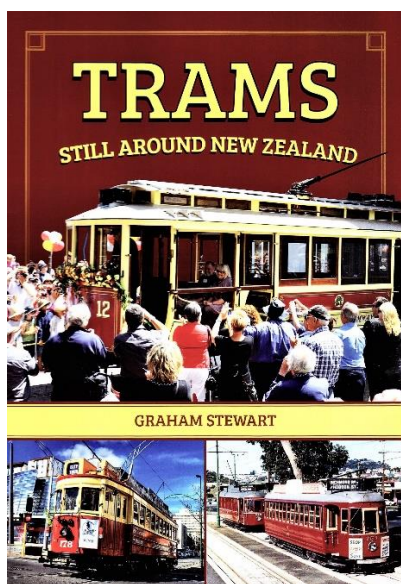
## AGM and Financial reports

The Annual General Meeting resumed on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of November via Zoom. The meeting approved the accounts, noting only minor changes in our position since the last AGM – primarily because COVID has limited activity.

The meeting accepted the resignation of Hugh Ballment as Auditor due to him taking on the role of Assistant Treasurer while Howard Clark takes some leave. It would be a conflict of interest for Hugh to carry both responsibilities. We are not required to have our accounts audited due to the relatively small size of our annual transactions. Thanks Hugh for stepping in to assist!

Membership renewals will be sent out soon. As decided at the Conference General Meeting, the invoices will be for \$1 covering the period ending March 31, 2021 plus the normal subscription (which depends on the size of the museum) covering the period to March 31, 2022.

## Graham Stewart's final Book - Trams still around NZ



With 27 books to his credit, well-known author Graham Stewart has announced it is the end of the line. In his last book. Graham has completed in-depth research to deliver a well-illustrated coverage of the remaining trams in New Zealand.

*Trams Still Around New Zealand* is true to its title, detailing the existence of 99 trams; 85 New Zealand trams and 14 trams from Australia now resident in NZ. Between the covers the reader will discover that the tramcar in New Zealand is far from a street vehicle of the past. Already the tram has returned to the streets of Auckland and Christchurch. Coverage is given to each of the trams now running within the boundaries of transport museums in New Zealand, those that are in storage but not yet running, with coverage also of trams still used as baches (sheds or shacks to Aussies!) around New Zealand. Each tram portrayed has its history outlined with generous photographic coverage of each tram in

original condition, as stored, and finally as restored if that has occurred. Also featured are the Wellington and Dunedin cable-cars. Wrapping up this most interesting book is a broad coverage of the various tramway societies and groups.

A4 portrait format, Over 600 black & white and colour photographs, 160 pages, Soft-bound

Price NZ\$49 including postage within NZ

Price NZ\$65 including postage to Australia

Available from the publisher; New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society Inc.

<https://railsoc.org.nz/publication-catalogue/>

This book will sell out quickly – don't put off ordering it!

## COTMA President's Award Presentation

The COTMA President's Award is awarded occasionally to mark our appreciation of an outstanding contribution to tramway preservation.

At the 2021 conference it was awarded to Warrington Cameron for the recovery and restoration to full working order of Melbourne Electric Supply Company tram No 2.

The certificate was presented during the Ballarat Tramway Museum Annual General Meeting on Sunday 21 November.

Warrington admitted that he originally acquired the tram as a potential children's playhouse.



Mal Rowe presents the President's Achievement Award to Warrington Cameron.

Photo by Helen Rowe.



Warrington aboard his excellent reconstruction of Geelong No. 2, restored to operating condition. The tram was originally built by Duncan and Fraser of Adelaide for the Melbourne Electric Supply Company (MESCo) in 1912.

Photo: Paul Mong.

## COTMA Technical Library

The Sydney Tramway Museum recently supplied a large tranche of Technical Documents, primarily General Electric materials for the COTMA Technical Library. These have now been added see:

[www.cotma.org.au/library.html](http://www.cotma.org.au/library.html)



The library is a very extensive collection of historical documents that cover tramway equipment. Documents cover many technical aspects of equipment that is fitted to our Museums' tramcar fleet. It is the most frequently visited part of the COTMA website.

Well worth checking out the link. Lots of interesting historical documents. We are always on the lookout for more tramway documents that we can add. Please contact [warren@cotma.org.au](mailto:warren@cotma.org.au)

## New display depot at Ballarat

The Ballarat Tramway Museum took occupancy of its new Museum building in early October. Some trams have already been moved into the new display hall.



Looking from the doors at the trams already moved into the new building on 22 Nov 2021. Fit out of displays is underway. The windows in the wall at right open onto meeting rooms and a large archive storage area.

Photo: Mal Rowe

## Awards for Achievement

The significant achievements of member museums were recognized at the COTMA Awards presentation on 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021, conducted on-line.

### Bill Kingsley Award

The Bill Kingsley Award for outstanding achievement in the restoration to running order of Wellington tramcar No 17 was won by Wellington Tramway Museum. The tram is currently being commissioned and readied for operations.



Photo supplied by WTM

### Other achievements

Other achievements awards were made to AETM (Adelaide) for achievement in its program of infrastructure and track replacement and upgrading projects and to Ballarat Tramway Museum for achievement in promoting and funding its track reconstruction project. The Tramway Historical Society (Christchurch) was recognized for their restoration and renewal of restaurant tram 411.

### Volunteer award presentations

COTMA makes awards to individual volunteers based on the recommendation of member museums. Only 4 per museum are available each year. At the 2021 CGM the following volunteer awards were made:

#### *Australian Electric Transport Museum*

Chris Bennett and Colin Seymour

#### *Perth Electric Tramway Society*

William (Bill) Allnutt VI

Ian Kelly

Stuart Darbyshire

Ian Sidebottom

#### *Tramway Historical Society*

Brian Andrew

Larry Day

#### *Wellington Tramway Museum*

Keith McGavin

Bill Alnutt VI and Stuart Darbyshire are seen at right receiving their awards in reality at the PETS Christmas break-up.

Photo: supplied, PETS





## End of the line (again) for Dockline Tramway

The Dockline Tramway in the Wynyard Quarter of Auckland was put in to encourage visitors and assist in selling the real estate. After several closures and re-opening, the Auckland Planning Committee has decided to close it and relocate the assets to MOTAT. The trams have been managed and operated by MOTAT in recent times. According to a press release in "Our Auckland", the tramway will continue to operate on Sundays only until the end of 2022.

## Kitson in steam again



Alex and the Kitson

DLA Hunter photo

Alex Hunter reports (from Ferrymead Tram Tracts).

On Saturday 30th October a fire was lit in the THS 'spare boiler' for their Kitson steam tram.

This was the first time that this boiler was operated to full working pressure since 1952, when it was used for soil sterilisation at the Orchards in Ferry Rd.

On 24 November, Marcus Stocks of SGS Inspections Ltd came by to witness the live steam test of the boiler and test all the various fittings. It passed with flying colours and a new boiler certificate was issued for 12 months.

## Something missing?

Did your museum fail to get a mention?

Museum News in COTMA News update is always of interest.

If you have something to tell us, then we would be delighted to hear at [cotma@cotma.org.au](mailto:cotma@cotma.org.au)

... and remember:

UPDATE IS FOR ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS.  
PLEASE FORWARD IT TO ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS

*Happy  
Christmas and  
best wishes for  
2022*

