

Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update

July 2025



Christchurch trams #152 (left) and #24 (right) built by Boon & Co in Christchurch and in their 1920's livery present a nicely matched pair.

They were waiting in Cathedral Square to carry the 2025 Super Pacific Rugby champion rugby team (the Canterbury Crusaders) for a victory parade in Christchurch on the afternoon of 23rd June, 2025.

Photo courtesy of "Tracts", the Newsletter of the Tramway Historical Society Incorporated.

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

Your To-Do List

- ✓ Book for the 2025 COTMA conference 10th to 13th of October 2025
- ✓ Send your submission for a COTMA Achievement and Volunteer awards in 2025
- ✓ Attend the AGM on August 30th – in person or on-line
- ✓ Think about who you would like to see on the COTMA committee for the next two years and nominate them.
- ✓ Advise Mal Rowe of the names of members who have passed in the last two years
- ✓ Send any technical data you would like to share to COTMA for use around the world.

From the President

Welcome everybody to this edition of the COTMA newsletter which amongst other items includes details of our upcoming Conference kindly hosted by the Brisbane Tramway Museum between the 10th and the 13th of October.

You will note that we are calling for nominations for the various awards that will be made at the Conference and I encourage member groups to give serious thought to nominating some of their achievements over the past two years without forgetting the individuals who may be sight unseen but are nevertheless the glue that

holds the place together. I am thinking about those people who turn up week after week and quite unselfishly give their volunteer hours simply because they enjoy spending time with fellow enthusiasts in a mutually interesting hobby.

Complimentary to this, I encourage members to give some thought to nominating suitable people for the COTMA Executive as some new blood into any organisation can bring fresh perspectives on where and how we are going to face the future. Having achieved our first half century we need to ensure that we have people with foresight and enterprise to lead us into our next 50 years.

I also remind members of the 2025 Annual General Meeting to be held on 30 August at Hawthorn depot at 3pm AET, and for those who cannot attend, join in by Zoom at the link shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

Look forward to catching up with you all in October.

Henry Brittain KSM

July 2025

Annual General Meeting

The COTMA Annual General Meeting to be held on 30th of August 2025, commencing at 3 pm at the Melbourne Tram Museum, 8 Wallen Road, Hawthorn. COTMA members from each museum have been sent details. **You may need to forward these onto your nominated delegate.**

The meeting will receive the Financial Report to 31 March 2025. The Conference General Meeting in October is where key reports and decisions will be addressed.

Conference details

The 2025 COTMA conference will be held in Brisbane.



If you have an idea, some research or an experience that you think will be useful to others, please the Conference Organiser, Peter Hyde at peter.hyde@bigpond.com by Friday 1 August 2025.

The actual presentation, if you are using PowerPoint or similar, must be with the organisers by Wednesday 1 October.

Presentations planned now include:

- Working with rail safety regulators
- 50 years of COTMA
- Using social media to promote your museum and tell the stories
- Medical standards for rail safety
- Statistics of museums

Photo: Mal Rowe

Here is the current draft program:

Friday 10th Oct

- 8.58am Train ex Central then connecting bus
- 10.20am Ipswich Workshops Rail Museum
- Morning Tea
- **Registration & Welcome**

- Presentation by Ipswich Workshops Rail Museum Director on Visitor Engagement
- Lunch (catered)
- Inspection of Qld Rail Heritage Fleet Maintenance Workshops
- Possible Presentation then return to City by train.
- Dinner - Own arrangements

Saturday 11th Oct

- 9am conference at Qld Museum Southbank
- Presentations & Museum Updates
- Lunch (catered)
- Presentations & Museum Updates
- Dinner - Own arrangements

Sunday 12th Oct

- 9am conference at Qld Museum Southbank
- Presentations & Museum Updates
- Lunch (catered)
- Presentations & Museum Updates
- **Conference dinner and award presentations**

Monday 13th Oct

- 13th Oct Train to Ferny Grove. (Taxis from station for those unable to walk)
- Morning tea
- **Conference General Meeting**
- Lunch (catered)
- Inspection and Tram operations

This conference marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of COTMA in 1975.

Cost

Registration including all sessions, four catered lunches and the Conference Dinner is \$A350

A partner program is being prepared and partner registration is expected to be \$A300.

Achievement and Volunteer Awards

For details of Awards and the nomination process see <https://cotma.org.au/awards.html>

Museum Excellence

Submissions the and achievement awards including the Bill Kingsley Award are due to be submitted by **Monday 1 September** to the Secretary – mal.rowe@gmail.com

Volunteer Awards:

Volunteer awards are on the basis of recommendation from the home museum and the deadline for those is also **Monday 1 September** to the Secretary – mal.rowe@gmail.com. Please give us some background information as set out on the COTMA website.

New COTMA committee members

COTMA works well and the executive are always impressed by the level of mutual support, sharing and cooperation between groups.

That won't change any time soon, but what will be changing is the membership of the COTMA committee.

Henry Brittain is stepping down from President and Mal Rowe from Secretary. Neither are in any way negative about COTMA - rather the opposite. However, the years go by and both look forward to seeing some 'new blood' managing the show.

Henry will stay on as immediate past president for a period and Mal is open to supporting the work of the Committee if needed.

Please give consideration to capable people who you might nominate to join the COTMA committee.

It's an important role but won't be as demanding as the last few years have been.

Each position on the Committee is nominated for and voted for separately. The positions and current people are listed at:

<https://www.cotma.org.au/executives.html>

Individuals are able to be nominated for more than one position but will only be elected for one.

Members who have passed

It is our tradition to remember those who have passed on at the Conference General Meeting. Please **advise the names of those of your members who have passed** to the Secretary – mal.rowe@gmail.com before the Conference.

Geoffrey Claydon

Geoffrey Claydon passed away peacefully late on the evening of Monday 30 June 2025, at Derby Royal Infirmary, following a short period of illness.

Geoffrey visited Australia several times and was known to many COTMA people.

In the UK where he was a key figure in the development of Crich and one of the authors of the UK Transport and Works Act of 1992 under which the current generation of new tramways in the UK have been built.

His wise and learned advice was freely given, not only to the TMS but to other heritage tramways and heritage railways.

His service to the Museum and tramways will never be forgotten.

He made one last tram trip – pic at right from the Tramway Museum Society facebook pages.



Rail Safety

Members should note the proposed changes to the Australian Rail Safety National Law as detailed on a link on the ATHRA web page - see <https://www.athra.asn.au/2025/07/24/proposed-changes-to-rail-safety-national-law/>

COTMA Library

COTMA has an extensive library of tramcar related technical documents - see <https://cotma.org.au/library.html>

We recently added some documents about PCC tramcars, one being received from the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society, who hold Sydney O class car No. 1187. They commented there is " It is the best online data I've found for my tram maintenance"

If you have any tram related documents that are not listed, please send us a pdf copy and we will add it to the Library. You never know who may need it.

See you in Brisbane!