# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

# News Update

# November 2026



Sydney Tramway Museum's photo for its entry on the soon-to-launch COTMA website was expertly timed to capture trams, buses and heritage 1970s S set train which had brought visitors to the Vintage Tramway Festival on 22 February 2026. Photo Eugene Lo.

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

## *Your To-Do List*

- ✓ *Mark 17 to 20 September 2027 in your diary as dates to keep free for the 2027 COTMA conference.*
- ✓ *Rolling Stock – draft electrical standard*
- ✓ *COTMA AGM 28/11*
- ✓ *ATHRA Health Standard*
- ✓ *Tram Money Boxes*.

## COTMA AGM

The COTMA AGM will take place at Hawthorn Tram Depot on Saturday 28 November at 4pm, with Zoom access available. Formal notices have been sent to Members.

## COTMA Conference 2027

Planning continues for the 2027 COTMA conference in Ballarat. Following positive feedback from attendees at the Brisbane 2025 Conference about the Museum of Queensland venue, the conference organiser is exploring a similar venue in central Ballarat.

It's time to start thinking about any Papers you could present to the Conference and entries for awards and recognition of volunteers.

## Website Revision

ASCET digital's development of the new website is nearly complete. We are awaiting information for individual member entries and aim to formally launch the site around 9 November, although some member details may still be missing. The conference section will remain a work in progress for a while.

## AETM Rebranding

The Australian Electric Transport Museum (AETM) has rebranded itself as the "Adelaide Tram Museum". The website remains as [www.adelaidetrammuseum.org.au/](www.adelaidetrammuseum.org.au/)

## Rolling Stock Electrical Draft Standard

The Australian Rail Industry Standards Organisation (ARISO) has issued a draft standard – AS 7530, Electrical Systems Passenger Rolling Stock for comment. This Standard provides good practice for design, construction and maintenance requirements for on board electrical systems, circuit breakers, wiring, separation of wiring, conduits and earthing requirements to minimise overload and potential fire risks. The Scope of the document does not formally include Light Rail/Tramways vehicles, it notes that it can be applied to Light Rail Operators. It can be downloaded at https://www.ariso.org.au/news/as-7530-electrical-systems-passenger-rolling-stock/

Can you please bring this draft standard to the attention of the those in you Museum who are responsible for the electrical aspects of your tramcars.

## Spare Parts sorting

Alex Hunter of Christchurch City Tramway and Mal Rowe have sorted through the spare-parts containers at Bungaree and compiled an inventory. Thanks to Alex and Mal for this important work.

## ATHRA input review of the National Health Standards

ATHRA has launched a national advocacy campaign to raise concerns about the impact of the National Standard for Health Assessment of Rail Safety Workers 2024 on Australia's tourist and heritage railway sector. The Tourist and Heritage sector of the rail industry fully supports high standards of rail safety; however, we believe the current medical requirements should better reflect the risk-based principles that underpin Australia's rail safety framework.

They have circulated to all ATHRA members a draft template letter to be sent to State or Territory Transport and Tourism Ministers; to support a review of the Standard to ensure it remains evidence-based, proportionate to risk and sustainable for volunteer heritage railways.

COTMA strongly supports this approach by ATHRA and recommends that each Member take appropriate action.

## Tram Money Boxes

Peter Kahn of the Sydney Tramway Museum has advised that Victor Than-Aye from Tin Concepts, who have been supplying Sydney Tramway Museum and some other COTMA affiliated museums Melbourne Tram money boxes over recent years, has advised that the remaining stock is available for disposal at a special reduced price of $4.30 each + GST + freight. They are packed 48 per carton, contained in 17 cartons, making a total of 816 individual money boxes.

This is an opportunity for those museums which have Melbourne trams in their collection but have not stocks of the money boxes in their sales stock, should be offered the opportunity to purchase these for sale at their museum location.

Incidentally, STM are looking at the possibility of working with Tin Concepts on production of a Sydney Corridor tram money box.

## Ticket Punch pouch?

The Tasmanian Transport Museum was recently donated a pouch that looks like it was used for a ticket punch or similar device. Does anyone recognise the organisation markings. Please let us know at cotma@cotma.org.au








In May 2026 Brisbane Dropcentre 236 was taken from Ferrymead, where it has been in regular service for many years, to Christchurch City Tramway to check its clearances and suitability for operations there. The trial was a success and Alex Hunter described its performance as 'lively', which is impressive for a fairly large two-motor car. It is now planned to overhaul the tram and use it as part of the City Tramway fleet. After a long day of trials, it paused outside the Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora in Worcester Boulevard. (Alex Hunter)