

# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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

## News Update May 2021



### From the President

Hello from Christchurch.

I hope you are all well and surviving the ups and downs we continue to experience as COVID 19 rolls on. It has been great to see the Trans Tasman bubble finally in place though there continue to be issues, particularly in Victoria.

In November last year I was struck down by a stress related illness which has affected my brain functions, and this has meant a need to cut back on my activities in a number of areas, including tramway.

Accordingly, I have reluctantly decided not to stand for a further term as COTMA President and will step down at the COTMA CGM in September. I have been on the COTMA Executive for quite a few years and became Chairman (as the position was then called) 7 years ago following the sudden resignation of the late Ian Seymour. I have enjoyed the role and will continue to serve the Executive and its new President as best I can.

I have also resigned from the position of Tramways convenor of FRONZ, which will take effect from that organisation's AGM next week. I will continue in my role as secretary of the Tramway Historical Society in Christchurch.

On to other matters. This edition of the update will address the issue of succession planning and urge groups to consider encouraging some of their younger members to put their names forward for office on the COTMA Executive. This is an issue of course not just related to COTMA, it is something we need to tackle within our Societies as well. Other matters include details about the September conference, now to be held in Ballarat from 15- 20 September, and will include the 50th anniversary of the Ballarat Tramway Museum on the Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - don't forget to get your entries in for the COTMA Achievement Awards.

And finally there has been progress on the tram disposal programme at Newport, Victoria. Our thanks to Mal Rowe and Tony Smith for the great work they are doing there.

Enjoy the read Dave Hinman

### *Your To-Do List*

- ✓ *Book your attendance at the COTMA conference and associated events Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of September.*
- ✓ *Submit your award applications for the conference*
- ✓ *Think about who from your group may learn from / contribute to leadership of COTMA*
- ✓ *Consider who you might team up with to share costs and parts from truck sets.*

## From the Secretary

Succession planning is key to survival of any organization. As you will have read in the message from Dave Hinman above, he has decided not to nominate for the role of President at the next Conference General Meeting.

I have been a member of COTMA committee for nine years and Secretary for the last three. I have also led the process of COTMA's involvement in Victoria's "Retired Tram Strategy" – which has been quite intensive ... and continues to be.

Someone on 'facebook' once described COTMA committee as an 'old boys club'. I don't think it was intended as a celebration of our maturity ... but it is pretty accurate in defining the demographic!

Now is the time for us to get some new blood into the COTMA committee. The committee has sometimes been a place for senior and experienced members of the tramway museum fraternity – and has benefited from that experience. However, it can also be a training ground for younger members who will go on to become key members of management committees for museums.

Please consider the possibilities for your museum to nominate members to COTMA committee. I would be happy to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each committee member: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Australian Museum liaison officer, New Zealand Museum liaison officer or a 'Ordinary member'. COTMA is an association incorporated in Victoria, so the Secretary must be a Victorian resident.

In general. The committee roles are not that demanding.

I'm available to be nominated for another term but would not expect to nominate again after that – for a term that would take me to 78 years of age! I would be happy to continue as Secretary for the next two-year term or to take another role while supporting a new Secretary to grow into the role.

I look forward to meeting and working with new friends in the COTMA executive committee.

Mal Rowe – Secretary, COTMA

## Conference and Annual general meetings

The COTMA Conference General Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be combined this year on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. This is possible because the dates and location meet our reporting requirements as an Incorporated Association.

Appropriate notices will be sent out to members. Agenda items will include:

- Annual and Conference reports including financial and auditor's reports.
- Election of Office Bearers for the next two-year term.
- Setting membership fees and a change to due dates so that membership fees are paid in advance instead of in arrears.
- Application for Full Membership for any Associate Member desiring and eligible for full membership.

If you have any items which you would like added to the Conference General Meeting Agenda, then please advise the Secretary (Mal Rowe) with a brief note on the matter for discussion.

## COTMA conference in Ballarat 2021

Ballarat Tramway Museum will host the 2021 conference to align with their 50th anniversary celebrations on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 and with the support of Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association. There will be three parts:

1. The COTMA conference running from the evening of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of September to Saturday night 18<sup>th</sup> of September when we will join the Ballarat Tramway Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration dinner.
2. An all-day heritage transport celebration at Lake Wendouree on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of September.
3. A one-day post-conference tour taking in regional rail heritage sites nearby and including travel in Australia's fastest trains.



The conference will include the usual catch up with people sharing our interests, reports from member museums, visits to both Ballarat Tramway Museum sites (Lake Wendouree and Bungaree) and a visit to the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Society operating museum at Haddon near Ballarat.

There will be the usual COTMA awards night dinner in addition to a dinner celebrating Ballarat's 50 years.

The **Sunday** celebrations are free to all. A package of extras including transport to and from and a cocktail dinner planned for Ballarat members and friends will be offered to COTMA conference attendees.

The post conference one-day tour on **Monday** will visit the part of the Lake Goldsmith steam collection at Beaufort railway station good shed and 'the railway station with a town attached' at Maryborough. Travel will be by train and bus and the last train journey will allow participants to stay on the train to go to Melbourne.

**Full details and booking forms will be on the COTMA website soon.**

It is anticipated that some pre-conference activities in Melbourne will be arranged by Melbourne based people and it is expected that some delegates may wish to follow up the conference with visits to new tram systems up the east coast of Australia.

## RISSB draft standard on management of Light Rail movements

The Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board has issued a Draft Standard - AS7601.1 - Light Rail Road Interfaces - Part 1 - Management of Light Rail Vehicle Movement for comment. This can be downloaded and viewed at <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwLtsrwXXMbBNTVZXRptgVcjbKn> This Standard is to provide a consistent approach to the use of signals used in the operation of light rail networks. This Standard specifically covers signalling used on light rail networks. This Standard does not provide guidance or instruction on road signals used for road traffic purposes.

This draft has been forwarded to those Members who operate trams in the street or have level crossings for review and determine whether COTMA needs to make a formal comment. Recommended that Members review the standard and forward comments back to the Secretary by mid June.

## Parts Management

### *Newport trucks*



The Parts Working Group and COTMA committee have consolidated and ranked the request for trucks out of Newport.

All applications received in the first half of 2020 had already been approved and truck sets will be made available to museums as they come out from under trams at Newport.

Requests received after June 2020 have been ranked according to project, timelines and proposed use. Applications for 'spare trucks for stock' have the lowest ranking and allocation will depend on the number of trucks that are finally available.

It is likely that some requests may be able to be 'combined' between different groups – for example, a request for just motors and axle boxes combined with a request for wheelsets with reasonable tread could be fulfilled with just one truck set.

11 sets (pairs) of trucks have already gone to museums: 1 to Liston, 2 to Bendigo, 3 to Ballarat, 1 to MTPA, 2 to ATM and 2 to Sydney.

8 of those pairs of trucks were shipped out in one morning on March 1<sup>st</sup> thanks to a joint crane hire arrangement coordinated by Tony Smith of MTPA. **Thanks Tony!**

This enabled the crane 'minimum callout charge' to be shared between participating groups with substantial savings. This model is worth considering for other groups as trucks become available.

Ballarat Tramway Museum have sent two sets of MMTB No 15 trucks 'beyond repair' to Newport. This has enabled us to retrieve good trucks from beneath trams which would have otherwise gone to new non-museum owners with the good trucks. **Thanks BTM!**

### *Motor for Perth*

COTMA will provide a motor to enable PETS to get their H type trams going. The motor is one of several purchased by COTMA at the time of the withdrawal of the H type trams. AETM have offered to quote to test the motor before shipping and prepare it for the journey west.

### *Z1 spares*

After a long delay due to COVID issues, Yarra Trams have provided a wide range of new or refurbished spare parts to COTMA members who requested them for Z1 trams in their collections (Sydney Tram Museum, Melbourne Tram Museum and Liston Transport Heritage Park).



## Victoria: Rail Heritage board established.

The Victorian government has released a 'blueprint' for coordination of the Tourist and Heritage Rail sector, including establishing a new voice for the sector, the Tourist and Heritage (T&H) Sector Coordinating Board, which aims to help organisations share information and support each other. The Blueprint is available at: <https://www.victrack.com.au/projects/key-projects/tourist-and-heritage-rail-blueprint> and updates on progress will be posted to the same web page.

Mal Rowe and Joy Hocken of Portland Tramways have been invited by VicTrack to join the interim board. Mal is involved in working groups looking at Constitution (with Joy and others) and Rolling Stock Heritage Policy (with others).

The new board (final name yet to be decided) will deal with all heritage rail in Victoria including tramway museums and static rail / tram museums and will be run by organisations in the sector. It is not a replacement for the roles of either COTMA or ATHRA but will have a coordination role for Victorian efforts.

## Moveable Heritage

Engineering Heritage Australia has made a useful contribution to the debate on museums and moveable heritage. It can be downloaded from: <https://tinyurl.com/c6rw5rz7>

## Ballarat Display Building

Work is well underway on the construction of a new Museum display building, to the south of the existing depot. Current progress can be viewed at <https://btm.org.au/project.html>

Planning for the Tramway Celebration Day, Sunday 19 September is well underway. This event marks the end of the SEC tramway operations in Ballarat. A grant has been received from the City of Ballarat to assist in the funding of this event.



Ballarat Tramway Museum has recently received a Victorian Government grant of \$1.2M to enable repair to 600m of the 1905 vintage track beside Lake Wendouree.

## Christchurch restoration and refurbishment

### *Mornington cable car*

Mornington Cable car 103 is making great progress.

THS restorations often involve substantial dismantling, repair and re-assembly so that the trams are almost like new. This is a recent example.

Dave Hinman photo



## Hills car 24

With the completion of roof and end cabin repairs to the City Tramway's Dunedin No. 11, and its return to town, work has resumed on Christchurch Hills Car no. 24, which had seen little activity over most of the past two years because of HTT's commitments to the City Tramway's tram renovation programme.

HTT is now making good progress on the restoration. Current work is focussing on the saloons and end motorman's cabins.



## Wellington: A Fiducia comes home.

Wellington 244 is now at the Wellington Tramway Museum after spending 57 years in storage at MOTAT. MOTAT decided that 244 was surplus to their requirements and their gift of 244 brings the Kapiti Coast fleet of "Fiducias" to 5.



## Any News?

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)