



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.net.au

## News Update April 2014

*Sorry its been quite a while since the last issue. We have been waiting for more information about the Sydney Conference, and that has now arrived (see details below).*

*Here is the news!*

### **From the Deputy Chairman (Dave Hinman)**

First up for those who haven't heard, we advise with regret that on 5 March we received a brief email from Ian Seymour advising of his resignation from the Chairmanship of COTMA, as well as from his home museum, AETM. This came as a shock to us all, as just three weeks earlier he had chaired the COTMA Executive team meeting in Sydney on 15 February. Ian has given long and faithful service to the Australasian tram movement and will leave a big gap in our ranks. He worked long and hard for AETM and COTMA, as well as other related organisations, one example being the many hours of organising he put into the 2012 COTMA Conference in Adelaide. Perhaps it is not too much hope that after some time out we may yet see him again somewhere on the tramway scene?

Our thanks to Immediate Past Chairman Warren Doubleday who continues to publish this news update for us - even from long distance (he is currently in Europe visiting the coastal tramway in Oostende!), though he is having a technical issue with the website. Can you please use our alternative website [cotma.net.au](http://www.cotma.net.au) rather than [cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au) for the time being.

In this Update, and soon also to be found on the COTMA website at <http://www.cotma.net.au/conference.html> are the details of our 2014 Conference to be held in Sydney, together with pre and post conference tours. Please promote this around your museum - it is important that we get a good attendance from the tram fraternity of Australia and New Zealand at a time when there are issues and challenges facing all of us and there are also positive signs (at least in Australia) that the world resurgence of tramways (light rail) is also happening "Down Under". At our February COTMA Executive meeting we met with Sydney reps. and also Richard Gilbert who is organising the post conference tour and helping Peter Hyde with the pre-conference visit to Brisbane and the Gold Coast, and we are confident that once again we will experience a well-organised, interesting, relevant and enjoyable time next October.

### **2014 Conference – Sydney October 2014**

The next Conference of the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia (COTMA) will be held in Sydney between Thursday, 9 October - Tuesday, 14 October. The Conference is being jointly hosted by the Sydney Tramway Museum and the Valley Heights Steam Tramway.

An exciting program of activities has been developed and will be launched over the coming autumn.

## **Program outline:**

- Thu. 9 October— Evening Registration and Welcome Function at the Rendezvous Hotel.
- Fri. 10 October— Conference activities and papers
- Sat. 11 October— Full day at the Sydney Tramway Museum, Loftus.
- Sun. 12 October— Valley Heights Steam Tramway and the glorious Blue Mountains.
- Monday 13 October— Sydney Light Railway, Conference papers and Sydney Harbour Cruise using a heritage ferry.
- Tuesday 14 October— COTMA AGM.

Further conference details and booking forms including the partners program will be available on the COTMA website under the conference tab as soon as they become available from the Sydney Tramway Museum.

Contact and Enquiries: David Critchley— [eclass436@gmail.com](mailto:eclass436@gmail.com)

## **Pre and Post Conference Tours**

Richard Gilbert our well known and experienced tour organiser is planning for:

A Pre-Conference tour that will commence in Brisbane on the afternoon of Monday 6th October with a visit to the Ferny Grove Museum. On Tuesday, a visit to the Ipswich Railway Workshop Museum is planned, then to the Gold Coast in the evening. Wednesday will be all day in the Gold Coast, visiting the new tramway. On Thursday 9th October, fly from Coolangatta airport to Sydney at convenient times (flight not included in the tour).

The Post Conference Tour is planned to commence on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> taking in Canberra, Cooma, Junee Roundhouse and Wagga Wagga. Travel by 3801 Limited's heritage diesel train from Sydney to Moss Vale, Explorer train to Canberra. A Road Coach will be used between Canberra and Wagga. The tour arrives in Wagga on Sunday 19th and departs for Melbourne/Sydney by XPT train on the Monday, arriving in Melbourne/Sydney on the Monday evening(20th).

Further details and booking forms will be available on the web site as soon as they are available from the Conference Organisers.

## **Non web users**

If you are not connected to the web, please send us a note with your contact details to our mailbox – PO Box 61, CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053.

## **From the Executive Officers (*Rod Atkins, Mal Rowe*)**

At the 15 Feb. 2014 Meeting of the Executive, the following matters were discussed.

- H class parts stored by the AETM
- PC5 Equipment distribution

- Membership of the Auckland Electric Tramway Co. – subject to further information
- Membership of the Whangarei Steam and Model Club – who have acquired the former Lisbon trams Heritage Trams Henderson
- Disposal of ARHS Vic Div. ex VR trams 35 and 49 – no interest from Members
- Changes in the Regulatory Environment within Australia – Qld, Vic and WA still to enact Single rail safety legislation. In Vic, trams will remain under the state regulator.
- Revision of COTMA Rules to bring them into line with new Victorian Legislation.
- Achievement awards – volunteer awards – more detail in the next Newsletter.
- Renaming the EAR Award to the Bill Kingsley Award, having both a physical trophy and an amount of cash.
- Future Conferences.

## **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRANSPORT MUSEUMS CONFERENCE – JUNE 2014 - SWEDEN**

COTMA has been advised of details of the 2014 Conference of the International Association of Transport Museums, of which COTMA has been a member for some years. The Conference is being held in Sweden, in Stockholm and Gävle, from Sunday 15 June 2014 to Wednesday 18 June 2014. Visits and sessions will be held **SUNDAY** in the Royal Armoury (royal coaches); **MONDAY** at the Postmuseum; Stockholm Transport Museum (transfer by vintage bus) with dinner on a steam ship touring the Stockholm Archipelago; **TUESDAY** at the Stockholm Museum of Science and Technology; followed by vintage bus transfer to Stockholm Central Station for vintage train to Gävle (lunch in dining car); Gävle City Hall Auditorium; rail bus transfer to Swedish Railway Museum, Swedish Midsummer dinner in the Museum Park; **WEDNESDAY** Steam Train to Swedish Railway Museum Store, with final transfer to Gävle Central Station for train back to Arlanda Airport (takes one hour). Full details are available at <http://www.iatm.museum/conferences/> . The registration cost for the conference itself is €195.

## **FEDERATION OF RAIL ORGANISATIONS OF NZ (FRONZ) ANNUAL CONFERENCE - WANGANUI FRIDAY 30 MAY TO MONDAY 02 JUNE**

Coach departs from Wellington Airport at 10:00 am on Friday, via Mainline Steam, Plimmerton, Steam Inc. Paekakariki, and lunch at Wellington Tramway Museum, McKays Crossing. Host Museum is SteamRail Wanganui and features of the conference will include a cruise on the paddle steamer Waimarie and “also a look at some planned exciting progress with the new Wanganui Tramway”. Full details are available at <https://www.fronz.org.nz/conference.php> Attendance cost for full conference (including bus from Wellington but excluding accommodation) is \$NZ180.

### **Some Recent Tramway Milestones**

- 19 November 2013 - Official Partial re-opening of Christchurch Tramway, post earthquake
- February 2014 Sydney - 3 consortia shortlisted to build and operate the [CBD and South East Light Rail](#) line. The contract will be awarded in late 2014.
- 27 March 2014 – Sydney – Dulwich Hill Extensions of SLR opened.
- June ? 2014 - projected opening of Gold Coast Light Rail (tram testing began October 2013).

**Next News Update – June 2014**