



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – August 2012

From the Chairman

The 21st COTMA Conference and the third for Adelaide commences on Thursday 16 August. There is a good roll up of attendees from NZ and our Australian Members. Thanks to Ian Seymour and his band of helpers for arranging the conference. The post conference tour and Partners tour have booked well and were effectively filled quickly. Thanks to Richard Gilbert and Simon Green for organising these.

Since our last COTMA News Update, the Tramway Museum movement has lost some of our Regular conference attendees; Bill Kingsley, Bruce Worthington and one of the founders of the Sydney Tramway Museum – Norm Chin and a founder of the Tramway Wanganui Trust – Martin Emmerson.

A Tribute to Bill Kingsley was prepared and published on the Website soon after I received news of his death. He was in good spirits when I last saw him just before I left to go to Europe in late April and looking forward to the Adelaide Conference. He had made preliminary arrangements. As one of the principal founders of COTMA, he will be remembered with a specific tribute at the Conference dinner. Bruce Worthington was an active member of the Sydney Tramway Museum and always in a jovial mode. The one thing a Conference tour organiser will remember about Bruce is he was always just in time and I mean just in time to join the tour bus. Bruce was not well at the time of the Wellington Conference and struggled through with ill health but he got there and had a good time to the best of his ability at those moments.

The loss of these and other COTMA Museum workers will be remembered at the conference dinner.

Tramcar Bell Cord

David Cawood's of Western Springs Tramway is often on the lookout for tramway materials; recently advising about Bell cord, or sewing machine belting. They found a supplier in New York and purchase two 90 foot rolls of the 5/16" round. http://www.ebay.com/itm/90-FT-Leather-Treadle-Belt-Sewing-Machine-5-16-Round-/290497933267?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item43a306afd3

Another supplier in Melbourne is Leffler leather in Macaulay Road Kensington, a Melbourne suburb. Their website is <http://www.leffler.com.au>. Ballarat Tramway Museum has obtained cord from them, it is not cheap, but they do have an excellent range of leather tools and equipment. Current price for 7mm diameter is about \$7/metre + GST.

ATHRA Rail Safety News

The movement to a National Rail Safety Regulator within Australia continues. A report that was prepared for ATHRA members during July is attached, in case you have not seen it.

Commonwealth Government & Charities Legislation

The federal government has referred its draft laws to establish a charities register to a parliamentary committee to hold hearings over the parliamentary recess. Assistant Treasurer, David Bradbury MP, has stated that the regulator will begin operations in October 2012. It will

affect all registered charities including historical societies registered for tax deductible purposes and operating in a not-for-profit situation.

COTMA AGM

The COTMA AGM was held at Hawthorn Depot on 1 August 2012, as part of the regular meeting with VicTrack. The accounts were received and passed. They will be reported on at the forthcoming Conference General Meeting.

COTMA Conference General Meeting

Specific topics for consideration at the forthcoming CGM, other than the usual reports and elections for the positions on the Executive will be:

- Distribution of COTMA and other Museum documents/newsletters
- Changes in the Regulatory Environment – Single Regulator in Australia and issues with some of the Regulatory approaches
- Training and Competency Assessment Standards
- Health Standards – 2012 – Australia and New Zealand
- A name change for COTMA
- COTMA Achievement Awards:
- Members visiting other COTMA Museums – any issues?
- Men's Shed and other ways for increasing your volunteer numbers.
- Social Media

If you have any additional topics you wish to add, please advise the Chairman, so they can be added to the Agenda.

An Underside Tram Washing Facility?

Photographed by the Chairman during a May 2012 visit was this fountain incorporated within a tram junction in Oslo. The fountain is subdued when the tram passes over it. It acts as a roundabout at other times. Found when looking for a car parking space! Then took a tram.



Links correct at the time of publication.