



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – April - May 2006

From the Chairman

All of us who operate our Museums are facing huge regulatory changes in the next few years. Our Members in New Zealand are coping with their requirements of NZ's recent Rail Safety legislation, which introduced a Safety Case approach. Fortunately the Australian NTC did not agree with this approach, but at the moment, virtually every state has a different set of rules to be applied. The *Break of Gauge* problem is still alive and well in Australia.

All of the paperwork required to meet these regulatory documents, which are overwhelming many in the Tourist and Heritage Sector, is diverting our activities from the main reason we exist – the Conservation of our Tramway heritage. If we are not careful and take part in the various forums, provide feed back via COTMA, ATHRA or FRONZ etc., then you could find yourself relegated to a static Museum. The COTMA Executive needs input or feedback about problems you foresee in these various draft regulatory documents so we can put in comprehensive submissions on your behalf or support your own submission to your regulator.

During late April, I spent six days touring the eastern half of Tasmania. I visited the three Tasmanian COTMA Members, the Launceston Tramway Museum Society, Hobart City Council and the Tasmanian Transport Museum Society. I also met with the Tasmanian Rail Regulator, Penny Nichols to discuss various matters.

Launceston is progressing well with the construction of their display area adjacent to their workshop at Inveresk. I was warmly welcomed by the workers on their main workday Saturday. Extensive discussions took place on their planning for the COTMA Conference to be held in Launceston during September 2008 and other areas where COTMA Members could assist. The following two photos show the fitting out of the display area, which is proposed to be opened in September 2006 as part of the City of Launceston's 200 years celebrations.



Wellington Tramway Museum Safety Case

The Wellington Tramway Museum (WTM) has made available to other NZ based Members, their Safety Case that they have presented to Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) for comment on

form and content, prior to finalisation and submission for approval, together with supporting documentation. While they could expect a number of changes as part of the formal process, hopefully these will only be minor. The Safety Plan is the interface document between the NZ Railways Act 2005 and WTM's existing Safety System documentation.

Henry Brittain, Vice President of COTMA, noted that by forwarding a copy for their information, it may well assist in the preparation of the Safety Cases which have to be registered with LTNZ by 30 June 2006. Henry noted that "Ideally given that we all run tramway museums of similar format in NZ, and are governed by the same legislation, I would suggest that if we all had similar content for our compulsory documentation (apart for accommodating local variation) it would be of benefit to us all. " If Australian Members would like to view this document, it can be requested from Henry at henry.brittain@xtra.co.nz

The COTMA Executive supports the action of WTM is making such documents available to other Members and encourages other Members to interchange documents in order to save hours of preparation etc.

ATR Seminar

The Association of Tourist Railway Vic. (ATR) will be holding a seminar on the Weekend of 29 – 30 July 2006. The Theme of the Seminar is "The Regulatory Changes and the new Laws in Victoria and how to stay in Business". Other topics will also be dealt with. The ATR is in the process of obtaining the speakers and determining the site for the Seminar and these will be advised shortly. Victorian based Members should ensure that they at least send one delegate, preferably two or three to this important seminar that will help you survive in business. Interstate Members would be welcome as well. Details can be sourced from either the Chairman or from the ATR website. The proposed venue is the Hawthorn Tram Depot.

Notice of AGM

In order to meet the Victorian Act regarding Incorporated Associations, we need to hold an AGM in Victoria every year. It is proposed to hold this meeting after the VicTrack meeting at 595 Collins St. Melbourne on 21 June 2006. The only item of business will be the acceptance of the financial statement. The Conference General Meeting to be held on Tues. 21 November will consider all other matters. A formal notice is enclosed in the mailout to Members.

Health Standard Update

The Victorian Department of Infrastructure recently released on their website, a Report of the Implementation Evaluation of the Code of Practice for Health Assessment of Rail Safety Workers, dated December 2005. You may access this PTSV Report (and PTSV response) by going to <http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/publictransportandsafety> and clicking on Code of Practice for Health Assessment of Rail Safety. This report covers the Tourist and Heritage sector as well as main line operators and gives an indication, with few solutions though, of our problems. Further details on the sector issues can be seen in the ATR's April 2006 Newsletter, which has been attached to the email version of this News Update.

Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee took place at Hawthorn Depot on Saturday 8 April 2006. Russell Jones, Chairman of the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria was invited to attend as an observer. Significant Items discussed or outcomes of were:

- Membership renewals – will be sent to Members shortly.
- Information Kit or Statement of Purposes of COTMA has been reviewed following input from Members. The document has been forwarded to Members to review their

entries prior to publication on the web or for distribution to Regulators, consultants etc. Closing date for comments is 31/05/06.

- Review of Organisation Objectives and Goals – a copy of this review in full can be viewed on the website under the documents tab. On page 4 of this News Update is the review on progress of the Auckland 2004 Conference *What can COTMA do for your Museum*.
- Spare Parts policy – a policy re the distribution and charges for parts, components etc acquired or sourced by COTMA on behalf of Museums has been drafted. Extensive discussion took place on this matter and following review, will be distributed to all Members for further comment. It will include the H class spares that COTMA has acquired on behalf of Members who will be operating these trams in the future.
- Parts ex Melbourne – Prior to the meeting, members of the Executive attended the regular VicTrack meeting for Victorian Tramway groups. We received an update on the views and options that VicTrack are considering. One of the issues to be addressed by Museums is their needs – this will determine the overall demand for parts and components in the future. Subject to approval by VicTrack, a document will be circulated to Members requesting information about their needs and the basis for acquiring these parts etc. Issues to be considered are the cost of acquisition, whether best by complete tramcars, asbestos, safety of workers and other disposal matters.
- Code of Ethics – at the 2004 Auckland General Meeting, and in the December 2004 Mailout. A copy can be viewed on the COTMA website if you can't find your copy or did not receive one personally. This draft code was discussed by the Executive and felt by some to be excessive and possibly restraining activities too much. A simpler document perhaps? The Chairman would like to receive your comment prior to considering the potential of a shorter version. Having such ethics is considered desirable by many in giving guidance for good organisational governance.
- New Affiliate Member – The Glenreagh Mountain Railway was accepted by the Executive Committee for Affiliate Membership. The Railway operates ex Melbourne W2 392 using a generator along the trafficable section of the former NSWGR Glenreagh to Dorrigo railway. Their website address is <http://www.gmr.org.au>
- Launceston Conference date – the Launceston Tramway Museum who are the organisers of the 2008 Conference are planning to hold the Conference during September 2008.
- Changes to Rail Safety Acts and Regulations are happening around us. Pending a more uniform set of Rail Safety Acts and Regulations promoted by the NTC, the various states are making changes, some due to the new version of AS4292.1 A state by state summary is:
 - Qld – will include tramways in their scope when the National Model Bill adopted. Timing unknown but likely to be a generous transition.
 - NSW – new Regulations next month – three year transition. ITSRR and RHA (NSW) planning joint seminar on 6 May 2006 to explain impact to T&H groups.
 - Vic – New Act comes into play 31/7/06 but three year transition for reaccreditation provisions. Regulatory Impact Statement and draft regulations expected out late April with only 28 days to comment. No Safety case approach, but it will still identify all risks! ATR holding a seminar on this matter 29/30 July.
 - Tas – Act refers to AS4292.1 – 12 months from Jan 2006 to be compliant with the new version of standard
 - SA – Act refers to AS4292.1 – 12 months from Jan 2006 to be compliant with the new version of standard.
 - WA – Act refers to AS4292.1 – 12 months from Jan 2006 to be compliant with the new version of standard. Seminar for T&H sector to be held by Regulator with Risk Expert on 5/6 May 2006.

Next News Update – June 2006.

From the Auckland 2004 Forum – *What can COTMA do for your Museum?* - in order of priority – Review for April 2006 Executive Meeting

Summary Topic	Topic	Progress
Museum Practices, Knowledgebase & Education	How to do things, education in traditional methods, record personal knowledge and experiences in conservation, ethics of restoration.	Education and Training will become a major issue in the future – especially in traditional practices – Recognition of this. Ethics – conservation planning documents have been made available on the web site and promoted in News Updates. More papers to be encouraged on this topic. To be set up on web site in the medium term.
Museum Communications	Extend information flow between Museums, enable person to person communications, foster economies of scale, disbursement of regulatory submissions between Museums, keep web site up to date.	Promoting through regular update of address list, encouraging swapping of newsletters, free travel (need to promote this) when visiting, co-operation in the purchase of brake blocks, sending copies of formal regulatory submissions to all, web site up to date. Could improve further – will take time. At least we tend to visit each other.
Representation / lobbying for COTMA	Foster relationships with ATHRA, strengthen lobbying powers and liaison with world organisations.	Working well with ATHRA, making submissions to NTC and Vic. Govt, NSW (ITSRR). Have developed preliminary links with FEDECRAIL. Links with FRONZ ongoing. Need to work further on this in the future. Standards Australia submissions and TDT involvement.
COTMA Conferences	Continue Conferences	Happening
Aging Memberships	Aging Memberships, younger members.	Promotion of Succession planning in News Update, we can provide information, but up to Members to implement. The FRONZ <i>Future Heritage Network</i> – could provide a useful model.
Community Relationships	Community Relationships, Networking with Museum Industry and Marketing COTMA.	News Updates has promoted this to Members – can only do so much. Have revised <i>Information Kit</i> to <i>Statement of Purpose</i> – further information on Museums to be updated. Promoting COTMA, ATHRA in Museum Industry.
Museum Sustainability	Museum Sustainability	News Updates has addressed some of this. Could do more to promote over time. Need to encourage thinking on thinking of this – eg Strategic Planning.
Insurance	Public Liability Insurance	Taking part in active development with ATHRA, ATR Vic etc. Each state varies. A continuing matter - not a dead issue.