



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

## News Update – July 2009

### From the Chairman

Functioning in today's political/world/finance environment is not easy, though some Museums have reported that they have picked up in visitors numbers due to the financial crisis. Less overseas or interstate travel is seeing more local visitors. However, keeping abreast of developments both in rail safety, museum developments, business planning, grants and other changes to the legal or local environments is time consuming and diverts resources away from conservation or operational activities. However if you or someone else does not devote time to these matters, the Museum itself could be placed in jeopardy. Associations such as COTMA is very important to help you assist in achieving this, but to do so, we need your feedback, thoughts and assistance. Two matters where your feedback is important are presented below. Please ensure that someone in your Museum/Tramway comments on these documents to the person nominated on the topics by the due date.

### Training and Assessment –

In the last Newsletter, the production by Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA), in conjunction with COTMA Officers of model Tram Driving training package was flagged. These have since been released by ATHRA, following [ATHRA Alert # 43](#). The link to the various training packages is given within the Alert.

The Competency units have been mapped against the Transport and Logistic Training Package for tram drivers. COTMA provided input to this package that made it relevant to our sector, not just that of the commercial operators.

Your feedback to the consultant via the ATHRA Secretary on these packages is very important and strongly encouraged. Can comment please be given by the Secretary to ATHRA by August 16, 2009.

### Review of NTC Health Assessment Documents

The NTC is undertaking a review of the Transport Medical Standards, see the following weblink which then leads to the review study document. Comments close on 14 August 2009.

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsId=00300>

You will notice that its for the review of the medical standards themselves, not the administrative system that goes behind them. The heritage rail sectors are having problems in both areas and that was pointed out at a recent meeting with the NTC. They were advised that ATHRA's submission would incorporate both issues, so that they are aware of the administrative issues that we are facing. This was acknowledged by them.

ATHRA will be making a submission and I am quite happy to receive short and or quick emails for inclusion of the problems you are facing and any suggestions to rectify them. Please mail [railsafety@athra.asn.au](mailto:railsafety@athra.asn.au) You are also very welcome to make your own submissions. If you do, can you please send ATHRA a copy for information.

### COTMA AGM

The 2010 Annual General Meeting notice was sent to Members recently by e-mail. A formal confirmation slip is enclosed. The AGM meeting will be held in Melbourne on Wednesday 19 August at the VicTrack Offices, Level 8, 1010 LaTrobe Street Docklands, Melbourne,<sup>1</sup>

commencing at 12 Noon Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the regular meeting with VicTrack. Museum representatives are welcome to attend. This meeting is a statutory requirement to accept the annual financial statement of COTMA.

### **COTMA Conference 2010**

Planning for the COTMA 2010 Conference in Wellington NZ is proceeding well. The planning team is ably lead by Bryce Pender. The selection of the conference hotel and venues is currently being finalised. The programme as currently planned is:

- Thursday 16 September 2010 – Registration with light buffet dinner and welcome function
- Fri 17 Sep. – Conference sessions and Dinner
- Sat 18 Sep. – Conference General Meeting, free afternoon and Conference Dinner
- Sun 19 Sep. - Visit Mainline steam depot, Steam Inc. Depot and Wellington Tramway Museum
- Mon 20 Sep. – Conference Sessions and visit Te Papa, New Zealand's principal Museum
- Tue 21 Sep. – Trolley bus tour and cable car museum

A post conference tour Wed. 22 Sep to Sat 25 Sep. Arrangements are yet to be planned, but it is likely visits to Wellington Tramway Museum, Foxton, Wanganui and New Plymouth will be made, with the trip finishing up in Auckland for visits to MOTAT and other places of interest. A self organised pre-conference tour visiting Christchurch will be suggested.

Please put these dates in your diaries. Tasman airfares are at the cheapest level probably ever at the moment.

### **COTMA Brags and Awards**

Don't forget your Museum's Conference Brag (what we have done since the last conference) and nominations for the COTMA Achievement Awards are part of the conference activities. These are an excellent time to showcase the work your Museum has done and gain recognition for your volunteers in their work as well. Brags can either be a PowerPoint presentation or a DVD presentation and are scheduled to be in the hands of the conference organisers two weeks in advance. Achievement award nominations will close around June or July 2010.

### **Queensland Rail Heritage Conference**

The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich Queensland is planning the "International Railway Heritage Conference: Opportunities and Challenges" 15 to 17 October 2009. The conference provides an important forum to exchange ideas, share experiences and contribute to the ongoing development of rail heritage. As with all conferences, the opportunities for networking and meeting new people are great. The Conference fees are excellent value, \$420 for three days. The conference dinner is an additional \$85.

For full information and registration visit The Workshops Rail Museum web site at [http://theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/events/railway\\_heritage.asp](http://theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/events/railway_heritage.asp)

### **A New Light Rail System (Tramway) – Gold Coast Qld**

Readers may be aware of the recent announcements concerning the final approvals for the construction of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit link between Griffith University (Southport) to Broadbeach. Are we starting to see the commencement of the development of new light rail systems in Australia? The link to the web site is [http://www.translink.com.au/gc\\_rapidtransit.php](http://www.translink.com.au/gc_rapidtransit.php)

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