



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

P.O. Box 61  
Carlton South Vic. 3053  
[www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)  
A304117B  
ABN 81 315 085 479

## News Update – January/February 2005

### Next AGM

It is confirmed that the next AGM will be in Melbourne, based at Hawthorn depot on the weekend of 25 and 26 June 2005. Our planning, subject to confirmation and arrangements with Yarra Trams, is:

**Saturday** – AGM commencing at 10am, depart 12.30pm for a tram tour with lunch, returning at 4.30pm for slide and film presentations, with an informal meal being provided. We would finish about 8pm. It is winter in Melbourne!

**Sunday** – Executive meeting, followed by a discussion to review the draft Code of Ethics and another topic. After lunch, (possibly en-route), a tour of the new Eastern Road facility of Yarra Trams. Travel would be using route 70 and 1 trams. The weekend would finish on mid afternoon Sunday.

Travel and accommodation arrangements would be left to each individual to arrange. Further details and some indication of cost for the COTMA section in March/April News Update. Put this date in your diary and advise others who may be interested in attending. RSVP's will most likely close end of May or early June.

### Executive Meeting

The next Executive Meeting is to be held at the AETM Museum in Adelaide on the weekend of March 19 and 20. A copy of the draft Agenda is attached to the email version of this Update. If you have any comments, points, issues to raise about the Agenda items or those that may be left out, please contact your Museum Liaison Officer or any member of the Executive. The COTMA Executive meeting follows the Executive Meeting of ATHRA (Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia), the previous weekend in Melbourne. COTMA and FRONZ have been invited to this meeting as well. This will be an excellent opportunity to advance the interests of our museums in conjunction with other rail heritage participants.

### Review of AS4292

Richard Clarke recently attended the Committee (ME079) that is reviewing AS 4292, the Australian Rail Safety Standard. He advises that the first draft should be released for public comment within two months.

### COTMA Conference 2006

The date for the 2006 COTMA Conference planned to be held in Melbourne has been set by the organising committee as commencing on Friday 18 November 2006. Put this date in your diaries! Further details on planning will be made available mid 2006.

### Code of Ethics

Don't forget we would like to receive early feedback, preferably by the end of February from the draft Code of Ethics that was circulated in our last mailout. The Chairman of ATHRA, Paul

Rollason, has expressed interest in this document being adopted by ATHRA as well. It is planned to discuss this at the forthcoming Executive Meeting in March and then at the AGM in June. It is aimed to have this ready for adoption at the 2006 Melbourne COTMA Conference.

## **National Railway Heritage Conference**

Recently received was an announcement of a [National Railway Heritage Conference](#) planned for 28 – 30 September 2005 in Tamworth, NSW. The conference has the theme “Thinking Rail: Lessons from the Past, the Way of the Future – The Past, Present and Future of Australian Railways”. The conference is allied with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Railways in NSW. Further information can be obtained from [www.une.edu.au/campus/confco/nrhc2005/](http://www.une.edu.au/campus/confco/nrhc2005/)

## **A View of our Industry**

In the December 2004 issue of ARHS NSW Railway Digest has an interesting interview with Bryan Nye, the CEO of the Australasian Railway Association. He makes some interesting comments about the rail heritage industry and its relationships with one another and that it does not work well collectively. This was certainly the case for many of us in the rail heritage industry in general, and still is for some. COTMA has been an excellent example of co-operation by a sub-sector of rail heritage organisations (tramway museums) over the years, albeit with some hiccups. There is still room for improvement. It is always good to see some interchange of equipment, sharing of parts and information. The bi-annual conference of COTMA sees this happens in “real time”. A copy of the interview, which can be downloaded is enclosed with the snail mail version of this update.

## **Waterfall Inquiry**

Richard Clarke of STM advises that the Waterfall Report is available free from the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Waterfall Rail Accident Level 8, 345 George Street Sydney NSW 2000. Telephone: (02) 8251 8600, Facsimile: (02) 8251 8686. It is suggested that all COTMA Members get a copy as rail regulators throughout Australia are referencing the report. It is also available on the internet <http://www.waterfallinquiry.com.au/> but rather slow if you only have a steam driven dial up connection.

## **Attachments.**

Accompanying this newsletter (electronic version) are the following documents or references to web links:

### **Electronic:**

- Draft Agenda for COTMA Executive Meeting 19/3/2005
- Pending adoption - Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference General Meeting – 23/6/2004
- Pending adoption – Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> AGM – 23/6/2004
- Graeme Breydon for the ATHRA Committee, notes on the outcome of the NTC December 2004 discussion paper – “Improving the Regulatory Framework for Rail Safety in Australia”.

### **Links**

- [Link to ARHS NSW Railway Digest Interview with Bryan Nye of the ARA.](#)
- Link to the National Transport Commission, to a recent discussion paper titled “[Risk Tolerability in Rail Safety Regulation](#)”. The Summary makes interesting reading. (<http://www.ntc.gov.au/DocView.aspx?page=A02310403400920020>)

## **Did you see this?**

During January, featured on ABC TV promotions was a short clip on the Victor Harbor Horse Tramway. Good publicity.