

Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

P.O. Box 61
Carlton South Vic. 3053
www.cotma.org.au
A304117B
ABN 81 315 085 479

News Update – January - March 2006

From the Chairman

This issue of the News Update covers a large number of items, partially due to my recent ill-health. As we all know, changes in the safety regulatory environment in both New Zealand and Australia is either affecting us already or shortly will be doing so. COTMA has been involved in the Australian National level and at the Victorian state level. We are happy to try to assist various Member Museums in their local regulatory areas upon request. Coming out of these changes will be many impacts on our Members over the following few years.

One of the most important areas, though it often gets overlooked it seems in the rush to meet the latest regulatory requirement, is the area of Conservation and Collection Management. Without our collections being maintained in a presentable or an operable condition, we are not maintaining one of our basic aims of providing a personal taste of history to our visitors in being able to experience a journey on an operable tram or trolley bus. At the same time, our photographic collections etc enable the visitor to see past urban transport systems that once served their cities.

Assistance of Conserving collections can be obtained from various sources on the web. COTMA's web site has links through both the [Documents](#) and [Museums Links](#) pages to these organisations such as [Australian Museums On Line](#) (AMOL) web site, [Collections Australian Network](#) who will replace AMOL overtime and the [Australian Institute for Conservation of Cultural Materials \(AICCM\)](#).

Copyright (Australia)

Copyright can be tricky, especially those involving digital technologies. A recent publication *Copyright and Cultural Institutions: Short Guidelines for Digitisation 2005* addresses these issues. It has checklists, flow charts, good explanations of the problems and some of the pitfalls you can encounter. Published by the Centre for Media and Communications Law of the University of Melbourne and the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia, it can be downloaded from <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/cmcl/publications/guidelines.htm> The existence of this document should be brought to your attention for those who publish either in print, film, sound or on the web for your Museum.

COTMA Achievement Awards

Don't forget your Museum's nomination for the COTMA Achievement Awards to be made at the forthcoming conference. Submissions are due by the end of September 2006. Details of the awards were provided in the December 2005 Newsheet which can be downloaded from the COTMA web site if you can't find it. The website also provides details of past awards – [Achievement Awards](#).

Disposal of H Class Cars ex Adelaide

The bulk of the spare parts ex TransAdelaide obtained by COTMA has been picked up by AETM and stored at their St. Kilda site. At the end of March, TransAdelaide had yet to release any of the operable tramcars obtained by the various Australian Museums, although all the non-operable cars, except for the Restaurant tram have been collected by their new owners. The delay in releasing these cars is due to problems in the delivery process of the new tramcars from Europe.

COTMA Website

The COTMA Website is currently being kept up to date with Newsletters, links for useful resources, fellow representative organisations, papers from the Auckland 2004 Conference and the forthcoming Melbourne conference. One of the pages recently added was the past recipients of the COTMA Achievement Awards. The *COTMA Museums* will be updated shortly. The address for the COTMA web site is <http://www.cotma.org.au>

2006 Centenary COTMA Conference in Melbourne

Members and past participants will by now have received a Circular, Call for Papers and a Draft Programme for the forthcoming COTMA Conference 2006. Bookings will be either by the web site or postal to those who return to the form requesting this form of booking by 1/8/06. The circulars can be downloaded from the website if you wish to see them – see the *Conference Details* page. Booking sheets etc. should be available during May. Quite a few offers for Papers have been received.

Next Executive Meeting 8 April

The next meeting of the COTMA Executive will take place on Saturday April 8 at Hawthorn Depot. The agenda is quite extensive. A draft copy of the Agenda is included in the e-mail version sent to Members of this Newsheet. If Members have any items that they consider should be included or discussed, or have comments to make please contact Ian Seymour or Henry Brittain.

IATM News

John Radcliffe, our representative for the International Association of Transport Museums has advised that the next IATM Conference, to be held in - YORK, UK between 9-17 June 2007, titled "TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION MUSEUMS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT" The Conference Organising Committee Chair is Andrew Scott, Director of the UK National Railway Museum, and who was also for many years curatorial advisor to the National Tramway Museum at Crich. Other members are Professor Colin Divall (University of York, and who was at the recent Tamworth Railway Museum Conference) and Birgitta Wistoff (IATM President). Other organisations involved in the conduct of the conference will be the National Museum of Film and Theatre, Post Office Heritage and the Heritage Railway Association.

Papers are now invited addressing the theory and/or practice of one or more of the following topics:

- The role of Volunteers
- Operating in a political environment
- The sustainability of Museums over the longer term
- Generating income
- Partnerships between museums with related bodies

Proposals for an individual paper must include a short 200-300 abstract, a brief (no more than one side of A-4) of the author(s) and an e-mail address for subsequent correspondence. The deadline for initial submissions is 30 June 2006. Participants will be required to register by 9 April 2007 to secure their place on the program.

Submissions should be sent to Martyn Halman, IATM Conference Facilitator, National Railway Museum, Leeman Road York YO26 4XJ UK, martyn.halman@nmsi.ac.uk

FRONZ Conference for 2006

The next conference of the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand next conference will be held in Nelson June 2 to June 5. The [FRONZ website](#), provides links to the conference program and bookings pages. The program is a busy one, with many issues that can affect or be of interest to all of us being discussed. FRONZ papers from their past two conferences are available on their web site.

Trams to Copenhagen and Auckland

COTMA Assistant Executive Officer Rod Atkins has recently been involved in the shipping of two ex Melbourne W class trams overseas and of a rotary converter packed into a container to the Christchurch based, Tramway Historical Society. Not as easy as one would think – a lot of paperwork and organisation involved. Rod ably assisted VicTrack in enabling these donations to tramway museums:

SW6 965 to Copenhagen

Readers may have seen recent Press stories about SW6 965 going to Denmark as a gift to Prince Frederick and Crown Princess Mary. The tram will be housed at the Danish Tramway Historical Society's Museum about 65km southwest of Copenhagen. For details of their museum see www.sporvejsmuseet.dk. The Sydney Tramway Museum, introduced the Museum to the Victorian Government and assisted with negotiations for the gift of the tramcar. The tram has since been delivered to Denmark via Yokohama Japan where it changed ships. The Museum's excellent web site has some great photos of it being transport and finally running in snow on their line.

SW6 906 to Auckland

The Western Springs Tramway who operates the tram service at the Museum of Transport and Technology, Western Springs Auckland recently acquired SW6 906 to meet an increasing demand for transporting school children as part of MOTAT's educational programme in fully enclosed tramcars. It will also ease the pressure on their historic fleet. The tram left Melbourne late Feb. and arrived at the Museum on 1 March 2006. It was powered up that afternoon around the depot/MOTAT area. Their February newsletter, *The Controller* had some great photos of it passing through central Auckland.

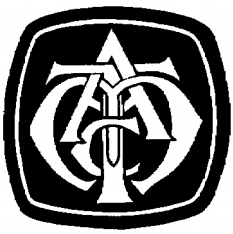
Rotary Converter to Christchurch

After a long period of waiting for the various processes to be clicked into place, a container containing the former Rotary Converter from Glenhuntly depot was delivered to Christchurch based Tramway Historical Society. This donation by VicTrack and Yarra trams was facilitated by COTMA Executive Officer Craig Tooke. This converter will form an important part of the Society's long term goal to construct a steam driven power station at their Ferrymead location. Thanks to all those involved, especially to Kevin Taig who packed the container for shipment to NZ.

Omnibus Society Wellington Webpage

Recently added to the Museum Links page within the COTMA web site was the [Omnibus Society](#) of Wellington home page. Well worth visiting for those bus enthusiasts, with up to date news on what is happening in NZ and fleet lists etc.

Next News Update – late April or early May 2006.



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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

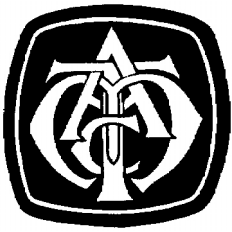
entries prior to publication on the web or for distribution to Regulators, consultants etc. Closing date for comments is 31/05/06.

- 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.



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News Update – June & July 2006

From the Chairman

The May 2006 issue of *Museums Australia* has an interesting article on the ethical perspective on collections, illicit traffic and ownership of Cultural Property. While the article is primarily about the acquisition of classical antiquities from historic archaeological sites, it has some warnings for all of us. If we collect objects without a knowledge of prior ownership or some due diligence and the possibility that they could have been illegally acquired originally, we could find problems in the future. The article refers to the International Council of Museums *Code of Ethics* which can be viewed on their website: <http://icom.museum/ethics.html#intro>

Meanwhile, the pace of change in the regulatory area that affects directly most COTMA Museums continues unabated. While we are contending with all the paperwork that comes out of these new requirements, we are foregoing time we could be spending on conservation or the active exhibition of our collection. It is important that in comments we make back to the Regulators about new regulations that we point this out to them in no uncertain terms and request remuneration in cost of doing this work. The cost of implementing the new Regulations in Victoria has been estimated by one Member to be about \$24,000 and another in excess of it, due to its larger operation. This is based on the number of estimated hours at the average weekly earnings rate.

COTMA Conference November 2006

Bookings have opened for the 2006 Conference. Booking forms have been mailed direct to those people who have requested them from COTMA and additional copies to each Member Museum for distribution to interested members. The booking form and conference programmes, including that for Partners can be made directly over the COTMA site or downloaded for posting back. The organising groups are now in the process of finalising details. Please publish details of the Conference in your newsletters. Further forms can be obtained upon request.

Congratulations

Exciting news from Archer Park Rockhampton: they recently won two awards, organised each year by the ANZ Bank and the Morning Bulletin Newspaper "*The Best In The Business Awards*". It has twenty four categories and this year had four hundred and thirty business nominations. Archer Park took out the Tour and Travel Award and also took out the Overall Award for the night. The nominations come from around Rockhampton, Mt. Morgan, Capricorn Coast and Gracemere.

The Ballarat Tramway Museum was awarded Museum's Australia Award for the most meritorious achievement by volunteers in the Victorian Museum Sector at International Museums Day on 25 May. The volunteer's achievement in overcoming the failure of the substation in Oct 2004 and then publishing *The Golden City and its Tramways* in 2005 was recognised by this award.

NTC Model Act, Regulations etc.

The recent decision of the Australian Transport Ministers to accept the National Transport Commission proposals for a model Rail Safety Bill will affect all Australian COTMA members who operate their tramcars over the next two years. The Victorian Government, although ahead of the National process in already having their Act in place and published a Regulatory Impact Statement, have announced that they will pursue alignment as much as possible. The ARA is

most interested in having this alignment almost total for those railways who work in the various states. While none of COTMA Members are cross border operators in Australia, there could still be differences between the various states in approaches and wording.

The principal outcome of all of this is that we will have to revise our documentation again to keep up with these changes. Gone for example is the AS4292 references which many had to write their systems to. The Victorian Act allows exemptions and it is possible that the smallest of the heritage rail operators will be exempted. The COTMA Chairman is involved in a working group with the Victorian Department of Infrastructure in the strategy for the implementation of the new Victorian Act. This will be detailed by the DOI at the Association of Tourist Railways seminar in Melbourne on 29/30 July 2006. See the last COTMA News Update for details.

COTMA has responded to the Victorian Regulatory Impact Statement. Comment closed on 3 July. The Regulations will most likely vary in each state and various state members will need to keep a watch for the documents that will impact on them and that allow for comment. The COTMA Executive is more than happy to assist in preparing responses to them. We are working closely with ATHRA on these.

The National Transport Commission alerted to a National "road show" of the new Act and draft Regs at a meeting facilitated by the Australasian Railway Association held in Melbourne on 13 June, at which the Chairman attended. Your attendance at these future "shows" is strongly encouraged.

COTMA has also made a submission to TDT Australia regarding proposed draft competency units for tram driving. These will form the basis of units of competency that will need to be assessed under the new Rail Safety regulations and standards. Little input was received from Members on these standards, which is regrettable given the likely impact they could have on your operations.

AGM

The COTMA AGM was commenced as scheduled on 21 June, but had to be adjourned until August 16, to allow time for the finalisation of the accounts and their auditing. The meeting will be resumed in VicTrack offices on the 17th floor of 595 Collins St on 16 August at 12pm.

Web site

The web site for COTMA has been updated for our Members following the completion of the COTMA Statement of Purpose. Can Members please review their entries of the web site to see if we have made any errors in their listings. The web site is www.cotma.org.au On the web site link for this Newsletter are the comments provided to the Victorian Regulator on their recent draft regulations and those provided to TDT on the tram driving training units.

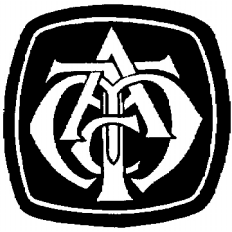
ATHRA - AGM and General Meeting

The Association of Tourist & Heritage Rail Australia is holding its Annual General Meeting and meeting in Brisbane on 8 to 11 September 2006. The meeting is open to all volunteers or workers of COTMA Museum Members. Details can be viewed on the ATHRA website at its Next meeting link http://www.athra.asn.au/next_meeting.htm The programme includes a visit to the Brisbane Tramway Museum at Ferny Grove and the Ipswich Rail Workshops Museum as well as other heritage rail venues and operations. It is a great opportunity for networking and seeing what others are doing. Your attendance is recommended as a precursor to the COTMA Conference.

Attachments – *electronic version only*

Attached to the e-mail or electronic version of this issue of the News Update is the latest Member address list, including emails and the link for the COTMA Statement of Purpose on the web site. As there have recently been new Associate members added, can Members please check their newsletter distribution lists.

Next News Update – August 2006.



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News Update – August 2006

From the Chairman

The sudden passing of Graeme Breydon, Chairman of the Emerald Tourist Railway Board (Puffing Billy) is a major loss to the Tourist and Heritage rail sector. Graeme was also active in the TMSV for many years and had an excellent knowledge of the tramway sector as well. Graeme has been ably representing the sector in our interests to the various rail and OH&S regulatory bodies and for the ARA itself. He will be missed by all of us. On behalf of us all, we convey our condolences to his family and friends.

COTMA Conference November 2006

Bookings for the Conference to commence on Friday 17 November 2006 are being received. Planning is well advanced with the detailed timetable being prepared. The booking forms can be downloaded from the COTMA web site and returned to the COTMA PO Box – see above. Don't forget bookings close on Friday 6 October, after that a late conference booking and payment fee of \$50 applies. Any enquiries about the Conference booking form, or obtaining a copy by post should be made direct to Warren Doubleday: E-mail: tramwad@alphalink.com.au. Phone (+61 3) or (03) 9376 6882 or FAX (=61 3) or (03) 9372 6641.

Achievement Awards – Closing Soon.

This is the final reminder for submission of your Achievement Awards nominations. They are due to be with the judges by the end of September 2006. Submissions can be posted directly to the judging panel c/- of the COTMA PO Box or emailed directly to Rod Atkins home email: ozrod_au@yahoo.com. Details were given in the December 2005 *News Update*. Past winning projects can be viewed on the COTMA web site under the Achievement Awards tab.

BRAGs (or what has your Museum Achieved since the last COTMA Conference)

Would Members please ensure that you return the enclosed form to Rod Atkins – the Brag co-ordinator by the middle of October to ensure you have a slot during the conference to present your video, DVD, slides, or PowerPoint presentation. Please limit your presentation to no more than 10 mins.

NTC Model Act, Regulations etc.

By now most Australian Members will have attended either the National Transport Commission (NTC) workshop on the new Model Act and Regulations for Rail Safety or the Association of Tourist Railway's Victorian weekend seminar on the Victorian Act and Regulations which are different to those proposed by the NTC.

COTMA has submitted a detailed document reviewing many aspects of the draft regulations and regulatory impact statement. One of our principle concerns is about the scalability of the draft regulations. That is, making them workable for all rail organisations irrespective of size and not being overbearing, providing unworkable situations or requiring excessive documentation for smaller organisations. The NTC does recognise that an unwanted impact of the new regulations are that they could put rail heritage organisations out of business due to their nature. Volunteer burnout and walking away is a real possibility. Our main concerns are with the Security Management Plan and Emergency Plans which have been written around the requirements for large suburban heavy rail systems and competency training and assessments for workers. The

latter would apply almost entirely to everyone in your Museum. COTMA has suggested a basis for exemptions, although these are not allowed for by the model Act. A copy of our submission can be found on the COTMA Website.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Western Springs Tramway and MOTAT for the commencement of work on the 600m long extension from the zoo entrance to MOTAT 2 Aviation site in Western Springs, Auckland. The NZ Prime Minister, Helen Clark took place in the ground breaking ceremony on Friday 11 August 2006. For the full news story and a photo of the Prime Minister on a rather old looking excavator see <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK0608/S00115.htm>

Watch your Copper!

With the high price of copper, your copper based materials are a potential target for thieves. Both the Minnesota Streetcar Museum's Excelsior line and Vancouver's British Columbia Electric Railway have recently lost copper rail bonds along the length of their lines. Overhead has been stolen in the past too.

TDT Australia

We have been advised that the proposed draft competency units for tram driving should be finalised during September and that we will be involved in the process to complete this. We understand that a detailed revision of the layout will be part of this finalisation. A copy of our submission on the draft documents is available on our website, (see June 2006, News Update).

COTMA AGM

The COTMA Annual General Meeting, necessary for our incorporated status, was held at the end of a recent meeting at VicTrack's offices on 16 August 2006. The only business item was the formal adoption of the Annual Financial Report. A copy of the Annual Report is enclosed. An electronic copy was emailed to all Members recently.

IATM Newsletter

The latest issue of the IATM newsletter (No. 30) in electronic form can be requested from the Chairman. It is about a 2.5MB file, so a little large to distribute with this News Update. It has articles on: Protecting our Museums in 2006, Railway Patrimony in Portugal, COTMA News and if you are interested, a short article on Count Zeppelins R-Planes.

Web site

On the web site link for this Newsletter are the comments provided to the NTC on their recent draft regulations and the response received from the Victorian Department of Infrastructure following COTMA's comments on their proposed regulations which have since come into force.

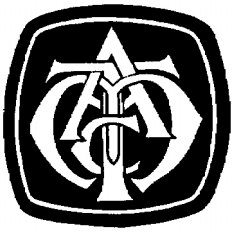
Ticket Punches

Looking for a traditional style tram ticket punches? David Cawood of Western Springs Tramway (MOTAT) advises that they can be purchased directly from the manufacturer in the US. The suppliers web site is www.punchticket.com David advises that they were quoted US\$23.00 plus P&P, which works out to around NZ\$36 (A\$30) before P&P for the 1 ½" reach #5 punch.

Attachments – *electronic version only*

Attached to the e-mail or electronic version of this issue of the News Update is the latest Member address list. Yes we have issued it again. New Zealand now has a new system of postcodes and the NZ addresses have been revised for this.

Next News Update – October 2006.



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News Update – September / October 2006

From the Chairman

A topic that is often discussed in the volunteer based tramway and railway heritage organisations is who is going to replace us when we have gone to the great tram depot. Succession planning is one of those areas that can still be thought about without having to go to print or prepare a document for a regulator. A good source of information about the topic and how to go about it can be found on the NSW Museum and Galleries web site - <http://www.mgnsw.org.au/> and in particular a paper which has some clues on the 2nd page - <http://www.mgnsw.org.au/files/resources/VSP-resources.pdf> It is a subject that often gets overlooked, but a topic that should be on your strategic planning agenda.

COTMA Conference November 2006

Bookings for the Conference are rolling in. A \$50 fee late booking fee applies after Friday Oct. 20, so get in now. The trouble with late bookings is that we cannot guarantee accommodation at the conference venue, The Batman Hill on Collins, due to a U2 concert in Melbourne that weekend. Booking confirmation letters for those bookings received by Oct. 17 should be sent back by post or e-mail by the end of the week of 20 October. We had hoped to have done this by now, but the pressure of Rail Safety and other representative work and people on holidays has delayed this.

Arrangements are well advanced. The on-line booking form, the programme and the papers list can be accessed on the COTMA Web site – www.cotma.org.au

So far we have representatives from virtually every operating Member, with a particularly good roll up of New Zealanders. The Conference should certainly fulfil one its goals of enabling people to meet each other and network. With the Rail Safety systems in both New Zealand and Australia coming into force, it is an opportunity to cry in your beer, vent your spleen and maybe find a way forward.

Don't forget to make your booking for a "brag" session. Places are limited due to time restraints.

On Tuesday morning, the Conference General Meeting will be held. A copy of the draft agenda is enclosed in this mailout. If you have any comments, additional items or items of General Business to be placed on this agenda, would you please advise the Chairman by 17 Nov. so the agenda can be finalised before hand so appropriate time can be allowed for. Items which involve papers for discussion at the CGM will be handed to delegates on arrival at the Conference, so they can review them prior to the meeting. This will include the minutes of the last CGM. These [Minutes](#) can be accessed from the COTMA web site: under the Auckland Proceedings tab.

NTC Model Act, Regulations etc.

Following on from the last newsletter, the biggest impact of these model regulations, for which the comments are currently being considered by the National Transport Commission will be competency requirements. If not planned and correctly handled by the various state regulators, it could result in rail heritage groups closing down with volunteers walking away in exasperation. The draft regulations as written could result in inordinate costs with little gain in overall safety.

Given the vary wide definition of a “Rail Safety Worker”, almost everyone involved in running a rail Museum group will need to formally assessed for competency using a Registered Training Organisation. This is a major concern to COTMA and to ATHRA (Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA)).

Discussions have taken place with the NTC and the chair of the Rail Safety Regulators Panel. Further work is to be undertaken. However, each Australian COTMA Member should be reviewing their situation and expressing concern via their state based Tourist and Rail Heritage body directly, so they can reinforce it locally to their Regulator. COTMA is working closely with ATHRA on this subject. It will be a topic for discussion at the Conference and no doubt at the CGM. Your knowledge of the likely impact on your organisation and what skills you already have within your organisation is essential.

TDT Australia - Tram Driver Competency Assessment Criteria

Following a meeting on Monday 9 October with the Transport Distribution Training Staff, work on the finalisation of these is nearing completion. The [comments](#) that COTMA made have been taken on board and we will see a document that will be useful for both the current tram/light rail operators in Australia and Museums as well. The finished documents should provide a very good guide as to the competency based assessments that you will need to undertake in the future. They do not provide a training package, just the end point. It is up to you how you do the training etc. Not all elements will need to be used, just the ones that are applicable to your operation. All going well, final draft copies will be available by the Conference.

ATHRA Meeting

The Chairman attended the ATHRA meeting held at the Workshops Rail Museum at Ipswich during early September. The meeting was well attended with representatives from the various Queensland organisations, the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) and for part of, the Queensland Rail Safety Regulator. Prior to the meeting, visits were made to a number of rail heritage operators, including the Brisbane Tramway Museum Society. Competency training was the liveliest topic of discussion during the meeting.

The building of relationships at the National level amongst the various state based rail heritage bodies, COTMA, the ARA and others has been a positive aspect of the push to have a national rail safety approach. We can only trust that the regulators enter into a constructive approach that allows for community based organisations preserving our rail heritage to thrive into the future and not to wither away.

Congratulations to Launceston

The formal opening of the Launceston Tramway Museum Society’s new display area within the Inveresk precinct took place on Saturday 23 September and was attended by the COTMA Chairman. The official opening was carried out by the Mayor of Launceston, Alderman Dean who spoke highly of the work done by the volunteers and that it would help to promote and acknowledge the role trams play in Launceston’s history. The area is within the former railway workshops and yard at Inveresk, which has been converted into a formal museum – Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and also a university precinct.

The display area is a credit to the skills of the volunteers and gives an excellent presentation of the trams themselves and the working life of those who crewed and maintained the service. It is probably one of the best displays of a tramway museum has yet done in Australia. The display shows many aspects of the working on the tramway, including two trammies playing cards. The next hurdle that the organisation needs to overcome is that of formal Accreditation to operate the tram.

Melbourne Centenary Celebrations

As readers and watchers of news groups and other news information will have seen, Melbourne is busy celebrating 100 years of electric trams. The Yarra Trams web site is well worth visiting and they have positively promoted the celebrations throughout their trams.

The Yarra Trams 100 years website is: <http://www.100yearstrams.com.au>

Victorian Member organisations took part in *Tram It 2006*, Sunday 8 October, organised by Yarra Trams at the Docklands. MMTB V class 214 made its first public re-appearance as *The North Melbourne Electric Tramway and Lighting Company* tramcar No. 13 after a repaint and some modification work. The windscreen remains. The day was fine, although the wind was cold. The event was well attended by the public.

Craig Tooke, the Executive Officer, has been on TV and radio recently, beating the tram preservation drum on behalf of COTMA.

The most recent event was Sunday 15 when Essendon Depot celebrates 100 years of electric tram operation. The Chairman was wearing an Essendon Historical Society top hat and some period clothes.

Thornbury Depot

COTMA has been working with VicTrack to recover usable materials, such as point work, overhead fittings etc from the former Northcote Depot. The Depot on the opposite side of St Georges Road, to Preston Workshops will soon be demolished to make way for an aged care development.

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NMETL 13 at Docklands 8 October. 2006. Photo Warren Doubleday