

# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

P.O. Box 61  
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A304117B  
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## News Update – December 2006 - January 2007

**Yarra Tram's Staff Calendar Offer:** Enclosed with this mailout is an offer to purchase a copy of the 2007 Yarra Trams Calendar. All proceeds go to Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital. Your support is encouraged. Calendars can be purchased for \$7.50 including postage (A\$11.50 for NZ).

### From the Chairman

Following the COTMA Conference, it has been one of catching up, attending rail safety meetings, general museum work and taking a few days off. Conference organising takes a lot of time and results in other matters being put aside. Fortunately we had a great team for the Melbourne 2006 conference. Like all events, it had its hassles; the hotel accommodation charging has left a few things desired. We are busy catching up on this side at the moment. However thanks to the organising team: Rod Atkins, Stephen Butler, Carolyn Dean, Warren Doubleday, Richard Gilbert and Craig Tooke for a great event. Also thanks to our sponsors, in particular Yarra Trams and Austbreck and the various venues we visited during the tour who put on a great show to demonstrate to the visitors what they are doing. The Bragg presentations were great, often a great source of mirth but showing how our Member's volunteers are working away to preserve their tramcars and heritage street tramways.

The attendance of Geoffrey Claydon Vice President of the National Tramway Museum UK and Mikael Lund, Chairman of the Danish Tramway Museum and the proud custodian of "The Royal Tram", SW6 965 added to the conference. Unfortunately Winstan Bond, former Treasurer of the National Tramway Museum UK was unable to attend due to a medical issue. His paper *Achieving Sustainability for Independent Museums* presented by Howard Clark was well received and resulted in a lot of discussion. It is well worth reading, as Winstan's thoughts apply to all of us.

Finally the conference achieved its aims, networking, building relationships. There is a great deal of knowledge throughout the tramway museums and the COTMA Conference is an excellent way of spreading this knowledge.

### COTMA Conference November 2006

General feedback from the attendees to the Melbourne 2006 Conference was that it was enjoyable and successful overall. The papers from the conference have been placed on COTMA web site and can be downloaded, along with the photo of the group at Haddon and the various conference reports. Just over 120 people registered for the various events, with about 95 attending on each of the first five days. The formal conference dinner was attended by 125 delegates and guests.

The CEO of Yarra Trams, a major Conference sponsor spoke at the Conference Dinner of the future vision for Yarra Trams. A feature of the dinner was the presentation of the COTMA Achievement Awards. These awards have been made at the last four bi-annual conferences. The awards are not competitive, but are to set standards of achievement that their fellow peers can recognise, flag and inspire others to equal or better. For the first time in 2006, a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) was made to the organisation that the judges considered had made the most significant achievement.

*The EAR Award* in 2006 was awarded to the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association for the Preservation and Restoration of VR No. 41. As part of the award, a \$500 cheque was presented,

made possible by Austbreck Pty Ltd, suppliers of tramway current collection equipment. The Award itself consisted of a cap and cone tramway ear and section of trolley wire mounted onto a piece of polished timber. Achievement Awards were made to: Ballarat Tramway Museum - "Meeting Challenges" - Rebuilding the electrical sub-station and publishing "The Golden City and its Tramways" and the Wellington Cable Car Museum - Restoration and display of Cable Grip Car No. 3.

A list of the COTMA papers, with presenter names is presented on page 4 of this *News Update*. The electronic version of this newsletter has hyperlinks to the COTMA web site.

The next Conference is Launceston 2008. Planning for the conference has already begun. A downloadable expression of interest form is available from the COTMA Web site, under the Conference tab. It will be a contrast to one being held in a city with one of the world's largest tramway systems, to a small museum in a lovely city and with a great and very dedicated volunteer workforce. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **The COTMA Executive**

Following the Conference General Meeting, the Executive Committee is:

Chairman	Warren Doubleday - Ballarat Tramway Museum
Deputy Chairman	Henry Brittain – Wellington Tramway Museum
Executive Officer	Craig Tooke – Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Assoc.
Asst. Exec. Officer	Rod Atkins – Tramway Museums Society of Victoria
Treasurer	Howard Clark – Sydney Tramway Museum
Australian Museum Liaison Officer	Ian Seymour – Australian Electric Transport Museum.
New Zealand Museum Liaison Off.	Clinton Pearce – Western Springs Tramway – MOTAT.

### **Executive Meeting – Auckland**

The next COTMA Executive meeting will be in Auckland, January 27, 2007. Planning the future activities of COTMA will be a major discussion item, taking into account the feedback received during the conference. A copy of the draft agenda has been attached to the electronic version of this *News Update*. Thoughts on agenda items and any additional items are welcome.

### **Rail Safety Group Formed**

One of the outcomes of the COTMA Conference General Meeting was the formation of a COTMA Rail Safety Group representatives/officers/responsible persons to enable discussion and sharing of information between those who look after rail safety matters within the various Member Museums/operations. With the introduction of new rail safety systems in both New Zealand and Australia, the workload on those responsible for undertaking the documentation has already been daunting. Sharing of information and asking for assistance or finding out if someone has solved a problem or drafted a very good document will help to make life easier. A copy of the list has been attached to the electronic version of this *News Update*. Please advise the Chairman of any changes or additions. Members not currently affected by "Rail Safety" have not currently been included, but are more than welcome to be included if they wish.

### **Welcome Wanganui NZ**

The Tramways Wanganui Trust, of Wanganui New Zealand was welcomed as a new Affiliate Member by the Conference General Meeting. The Spring 2006 issue of New Zealand's *Tramway Topics*, gave an excellent update on this heritage tramway project, which was made possible by Dave Harre's team who excellently restored/rebuilt the body of Wanganui No. 12. A 21E truck was acquired from a museum in Minnesota USA during early 2005. It is currently being fitted to the tram. COTMA has strongly supported the Trust in acquiring the necessary electrical/mechanical equipment from a VicTrack held suitable body.

## **Regulators Understanding of Electric Street Tramways**

One of the outcomes from discussions with the various Australian Museum Members was the lack of knowledge amongst Rail Safety Regulators, Victoria being the exception, of electric street tramways. They are not the same as railways, being capable of sharing the streets with other road users. This is a matter the COTMA Executive will be addressing through the various consultative forums.

## **NTC Model Act, Regulations etc.**

One of the most controversial matters in the Australian NTC Model Bill and Regulations for the Tourist and Heritage rail sector is the competency and assessment process. The need for clarification and understanding on how this works is gradually being done as all parties understand how the education system itself works. The timeframe for the competency and assessment process implementation – two years from 1/7/2007 - with a 12 month review process to be undertaken by the NTC is unlikely to be sufficient for our sector. Financial assistance will be needed for training assessors, preparation of model competency assessment documents. Some may be available through Government training schemes; Some identification of these have been given, but they need to be followed up further.

The various state Governments are now in the process of formulating their own Rail Safety Bills, except Victoria, based on the National model and later on, the required regulations. Victoria already has a Bill and Regulations in place, but they will require harmonisation with the National Model. It will be important that each Member monitors their own local consultation processes and takes part in them. Concerns should be relayed back to the COTMA Executive as well.

Constructive feedback from you is important, to understand the problems you are having either internally in meeting these new regulations, or in dealing with those in authority.

## **TDT Australia - Tram Driver Competency Assessment Criteria**

Work on the suite of documents for tram driver competency assessment by TDT Australia needs a little more follow up work, following a meeting with Yarra Trams, in order to finalise them and make them complementary to each other. It is hoped that these will be formalised by the end of February 2007.

## **ATHRA Meeting**

The next General Meeting of the Association of Tourist & Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) will be held in Perth 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The venue will be the Revolutions Conference room at Whiteman Park, the home of the Perth Electric Tramway Society. Representative from ATHRA Associate members and from Australian tourist and heritage rail groups are welcome to attend as observers. An extensive programme of site visits to Pemberton, Hotham Valley, the Rail Transport Museum at Bassendean, Bennett Brook Railway and PETS as well as dinner, winerys etc is being organised by Paul Rollason ([serpar@bigpond.com](mailto:serpar@bigpond.com)). If you are interested, please let Paul know by 9<sup>th</sup> February to ensure a place. Details will soon be available from the ATHRA web site: [http://www.athra.asn.au/next\\_meeting.htm](http://www.athra.asn.au/next_meeting.htm)

## **Thornbury Depot - Melbourne**

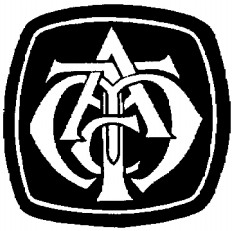
Its gone! Yes not a sign left of this former small tram depot. Prior to demolition the overhead fittings, troughing, point and crossing castings and some other material was removed by VicTrack for COTMA Members who had requested this material. Thanks to VicTrack for arranging this. The other former Melbourne tram depot to be demolished soon, Coburg, has been checked and there are no salvageable tramway materials left in it.

## **Next News Update – February 2007.**

The following COTMA Conference papers and reports have been placed on the COTMA website; [www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au) under the proceedings tab. The list of papers available on the web site are:

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Title</b>
Warren Doubleday COTMA Chairman	<a href="#">COTMA Chairman's Perspective</a>
Geoffrey Claydon Vice President, National Tramway Museum Crich UK	<a href="#">Umbrella Organisations: Their Nature and Value</a>
Russell Jones Chairman – The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria	<a href="#">Fares Please: An Economic History of the MMTB</a>
Colin Perfect Conservation Architect – Wellington NZ	<a href="#">Conservation Plans – are they of value for restoration work on tramway and other historic vehicles?</a>
Garry Wood Vice President – Ballarat Tramway Museum	<a href="#">Picking Up the Pieces – the rebuilding of Ballarat Tramway Museum's Traction Power Supply following its destruction in 2004.</a>
Winston Bond Former Treasurer, National Tramway Museum Crich UK	<a href="#">Achieving Sustainability for Independent Museums</a>
Craig Tooke COTMA Executive Officer.	<a href="#">Rebuilding VR 41 to a modern serviceable condition</a>
Bob Pearce Secretary – Perth Electric Tramway Society Richard Gilbert Vice President – Ballarat Tramway Museum	<a href="#">Attracting Members to the Management Team</a>
David Critchley Events Co-ordinator Sydney Tramway Museum	<a href="#">Planning Events and Special Days</a>
Alan Smith Wellington Tramway Museum	<a href="#">The Corporate Memory of the Museum as a Strength for the Future.</a>
John Binns President Launceston Tramway Museum	Building the Launceston Tramway Museum
Trevor Burling Wellington Tramway Museum and FRONZ	<a href="#">Dealing with Proposed Legislation Changes – The Small Rail Participant Perspective.</a>
Warren Doubleday	<a href="#">Rail Safety Issues in Australia</a>
Panel Forum	<a href="#">Panel forum on rail safety issues</a>
<b>Reports</b>	
<a href="#">Chairman's Report</a>	
<a href="#">Executive Officer's Report</a>	
<a href="#">Trolley Wire Report</a>	
<a href="#">Tramway Topics Report</a>	
<a href="#">Group Photo at Haddon</a>	Photo by <i>Jeremy Honeyman</i>

Electronic version users can click on the hyperlink to access the document directly.



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## News Update – February - March 2007

### From the Chairman

The recent Executive meeting in Auckland was very useful in planning COTMA's future activities and in catching up on Western Springs Tramway's progress in the construction of their new line at MOTAT. Opportunity was also taken to visit our newest member at Wanganui and seeing the excellent progress they are making and also visiting Wellington Tramway Museum and discussing various matters. While in Auckland we had a ride on the excellent *Rainforest Express Railway* and also a trip to the well known and renowned Glenbrook Vintage Railway. For myself, it was a good trip in renewing friendships in New Zealand and for seeing where COTMA can work with our Members to support their activities. Two other former NZ tramway cities were visited too – Gisborne and Napier.

### Executive Meeting – Auckland

The COTMA Executive meeting held in Auckland on 27 January 2007 was very successful. Attended by all the Executive Members, along with Chris Cameron, General Manager Western Springs Tramway, Paul Dillicar, President of the FRONZ and Greg Sutherland of STM. The meeting discussed a very full agenda including looking at the objectives of COTMA. Details on subjects will be discussed and explained in later news updates and a number of initiatives will be put in place over the next 12 months or so to help to improve our services to our Members.

The Executive inspected the new extension of the Western Springs Tramway to MOTAT 2. At the time of the visit, trackwork had been completed and the installation of the overhead was about to commence. The first test tram (Auckland 248) ran to MOTAT 2 on 27 Feb. It is anticipated that formal opening will be during Mid March. We met with a number of WST's volunteers on both days and had dinner with them on the Saturday evening at a nearby restaurant travelling by ex Melbourne tramcar SW6 906. Thanks to the WST for their hospitality.

### Health and Qualifications – Sharing of Information

One question that was discussed at the Conference General Meeting was the sharing of information between COTMA Members about the health assessments and qualifications of members or volunteers who wish to drive trams or undertake other "rail safety work" for another COTMA Member. COTMA encourages the sharing of this information, upon of course, the formal request of the member or volunteer concerned. It is recommended that such requests should be in writing and that information provided be sufficient to enable the other Museum to make a decision about the person's capabilities, qualifications and how the decision then fits into their own Safety Management System requirements. It is up to the second organisation how they consider this information, what further information if any, is required, what recognition of prior learning is accepted and/or further training is provided to the person concerned and then finally what competency assessment is done.

### Principles for Membership Relations

One of the documents that was considered by the Conference General Meeting in November 2006 was the *Principles for Membership Relations* which outlines Members expectations of COTMA, expected behaviours of Members and their people and expected aspirations of our Members. A copy of these is included in the mailout and also available on the COTMA web site.

### Street Smart: Streetcars and Cities in the 21st Century

Greg Sutherland of the Sydney Tramway Museum has brought to our attention a recent publication of Reconnecting America's latest book, *Street Smart: Streetcars and Cities in the*

*21st Century*. Edited by Gloria Ohland and Shelley Poticha, *Street Smart* goes in-depth into the modern revival of streetcars in America, from Portland's modern Inekon-Skoda streetcars to Kenosha, Wisconsin's heritage trolley. Neighbourhoods and dense, vibrant development have traditionally followed the streetcar line, a formula that still works today. Packed with pictures and illustrations, *Street Smart* is full of nuts-and-bolts information from practitioners, builders, and streetcar fanatics. Copies are \$US25 and can be ordered on-line from:  
<http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/html/TOD/StreetcarBook.htm>

### **Tram Driver Training**

The Transport Distribution Training organisation's document regarding Tram Driver Competency is currently undergoing the final approval process. It is expected to be published late March early April. In the meantime, thanks to Mike Crabtree of Crich, the UK based document, more written from what the student is expected to learn rather than from a competency based system is available on the Internet. The Confederation of Passenger Transport UK Light Rail Operators Committee produced a National Occupational Standard for Tram/Light Rail. The standard is written so that it is flexible enough to enable it to be applied to both modern light rail or heritage systems. This is the first time that the UK industry has sat down and produced such a standard since Blackpool commenced electric tramway operation in 1885! They produced the standard as a challenge to the health and safety authorities who were otherwise likely to impose a main line railway driving standard on Light Rail/ Tramway operators. This standard is freely available on [www.goskills.org](http://www.goskills.org), click on industry - light rail/tram and then on National Occupational Standards. That should take you to the 12 elements of the standard. Not all elements apply to all tramways so it is a bit of pick and mix to meet the requirements of individual systems (ie not all run in multiple, some don't have trolley poles etc.).

### **ATHRA Meeting**

The Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia's (ATHRA) next meeting is in Perth on the weekend of 16 to 18 March at Whiteman Park, the home of the Perth Electric Tramway. The COTMA Chairman along with other Member museum representatives will be attending this meeting.

There have been two ATHRA Alerts issued since the last News Update:

Alert No. 28 – [Draft Rail Safety Acts and Regulations](#)

Alert No. 29 – [UK Rail Accident Report – loco blowback – NYMR 2006.](#)

The first is an update on the new Acts now being formulated by the various States to meet the Model Rail Safety Acts. At the end of February, only SA had commenced the consultation phase on its Act.

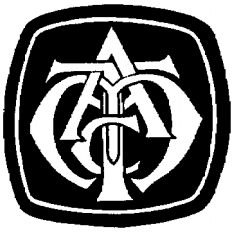
### **ARE Tour – The Best of Britain**

Enclosed with the mailout are flyers for the Association of Railway Enthusiasts tour scheduled for July to August this year, titled *The Best of Britain*. The tour includes a number of tramways in the UK, such as the Isle of Man, Blackpool, Crich and Manchester Metrolink. If you are interested, please contact the ARE directly.

### **Contact List**

The COTMA Membership contact list has been updated for new Member; *Tramways Trust Wanganui*, and *Glenreagh Mountain Railway* and the change in name from *1912 Boon Tram for Wanganui* to *Heritage Trams for Henderson*.

<p><b>2007 General Meeting for COTMA</b> will be held in Sydney on the weekend of 27/28 October 2007. This will be instead of a formal Annual General Meeting in Melbourne for the off-conference year. A low key statutory AGM will be held during June in Melbourne.</p>
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## News Update – April - May 2007

### From the Chairman

I am taking the opportunity, complete with walking stick, to attend the [FEDECRAIL](#) conference in Odense and Copenhagen during late April early May. It will be good to see what other peak organisation rail heritage bodies are discussing at their meetings. I am looking forward to building relationships with other volunteer based rail heritage organisations as well as visiting a number of rail heritage operations. While in Denmark, I will be visiting the Danish Tramway Museum and catching up with Mikael Lund who attended the 2006 COTMA Conference in Melbourne. I am planning to visit the tramway museums in Berlin, Innsbruck and Cologne. It will be very interesting to see what they are doing and what we can learn from them. More in the next *News Update*. Return to Melbourne is planned for 14 May 2007.

### Vale Jack Richardson

We recently learnt of the death of Jack Richardson, well known author / publisher of tramway books. Thanks to Paul Nicholson for the following details:

“Jack died in Brisbane on Tuesday 10 April 2007) after a long illness. We will remember Jack as a pioneer transport enthusiast publisher - Traction Publications. I had a close involvement with him when he took over publication *Green Over Red* from 1969 to 1972. He was involved in other magazines including "*Tram Tracks*", "*Electric Traction*" and "*Railways in Australia*". Jack's tramway titles were legendary - the *Destination* series especially - and his enthusiastic reporting of publication schedules – in preparation/ready soon/available shortly - became part of enthusiast folklore. Then there was the "Along the Line" series of pictorials. Not brilliant by today's standards but excellent value in their day and always priced with the limited budgets of the keen young enthusiasts in mind. Jack wrote many articles and like many enthusiasts of the era often used a pen name; C S Ley. He had an interesting career - in the Navy - and more recently operating a number of shops. I last saw Jack at a funeral in Brisbane in 2003 and before that at the Chinese shop he and his wife, Yin, operated in Canberra City.”

### ATHRA Meeting

The recent Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia ([ATHRA](#)) meeting in Perth on the weekend of 16 to 18<sup>th</sup> March was very successful. COTMA attendees were; Warren Doubleday, Chairman; Ian Seymour, Australian Museum Liaison Officer; Peter Hyde, BTMS; and Mike Stukely and Lindsay Richardson of PETS. The meeting was held at Whiteman Park. The meeting was extremely productive and, apart from building strong relationships with people from Western Australia, set in motion some key developments for ATHRA. For the sector as a whole, the issues of regulations, rules, training and assessment continue to hold a key focus. COTMA continues to work closely with ATHRA and is providing comment on NTC produced guidelines and other regulatory documents; for example a submission to the NSW draft Rail Safety Act concerning exemption from the potential prosecution of volunteers workers.

Projects coming out of the ATHRA meeting will be the promotion of the United Kingdom *Thief Watch* programme and working together with the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand ([FRONZ](#)) to expand their *Supplier Guide* for all Australasian rail organisations. A copy of the current guide, maintained by Bruce Shalders of the Canterbury Railway Society (Ferrymead) is appended to the electronic version of this News Update.

There has been one ATHRA Alert issued since the last News Update:

Alert No. 30 – [Derailments - How the Various Factors can Line Up](#)

## **NTC Draft Guidelines**

The draft NTC guideline documents can be downloaded from the NTC web site at <http://www.ntc.gov.au/Default.aspx?page=A02209228301080020>. Submissions on these guidelines close on 6 May 2007. COTMA will be working with ATHRA to provide comments on these documents as necessary.

## **Openings**

The extension to [MOTAT](#) 2 from the Zoo, recently completed by the Western Springs Tramway Auckland will be formally opened by the New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The [Canterbury Railway Society](#) (Ferrymead Heritage Park, Christchurch) have advised that they will be inaugurating the electric railway at Ferrymead on Saturday June 9 2007. This follows the FRONZ Conference in Dunedin the previous weekend. Congratulations to both organisations for a great achievement.

## **Wheels for MMTB No. 15 Trucks**

One item that was brought up at the recent Melbourne COTMA Conference was the supply of new wheels for MMTB No. 15 trucks. Given that the current condition of the wheels of ex Melbourne trams being made available to COTMA Museums through Victrack are generally very poor, that is nearly worn out, we have made some preliminary enquiries on costs for new wheels. Initial enquiries have been made through EDI Newport Workshops who undertake the truck maintenance work for Yarra Trams. The estimated cost for the supply of a wheel (solid 28" or 711mm) is \$1200 each and about \$3500 to machine and fit to an existing axle. That is, it would cost in the order of \$24,000 to fit an existing bogie tram with new wheels. As always, volume is likely to reduce costs and alternative methods to fit the wheels to axles are likely to be available, with some Members having this capacity to do in-house.

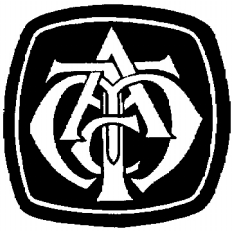
At this time, the COTMA Executive would like to know how many set of wheels (that is 8 wheels per tram) for No. 15 trucks, Members would be interested in obtaining. This information will give us a lead in obtaining a price range for purchasing the solid wheels by themselves at this stage.

**POSSIBLE MEMBER ACTION:** Would Members please advise the [Chairman](#) by the end of May 2007 of the number of sets of No. 15 truck wheels that they would be interesting in obtaining for their trams. If these wheels would fit or are suitable for other trucks, then these can be included as well, but they should be flagged as such.

## **COTMA 2008 Conference - Launceston**

Planning is well underway for the 2008 conference by the Launceston Tramway Museum. Preliminary details should be able to provided in the next News Update.

**Next News Update – June 2007.**



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## News Update – June 2007

### From the Chairman

This issue of *News Update* has many web based links to documents, reports, alerts and the new Australasian Railway Association web based rail industry support site – Railmates. I recommend that you have a look at these documents, web sites, as they could well be of interest to you in your Heritage rail or Museum work. Don't forget you can also access the web from your local library and this Update from the COTMA web site – [www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)

Enclosed with the mailed version of this News Update are two copies of the [Danish Tramway Museum's](#) English language brochure. Definitely put this museum on your list to visit or recommend it to friends to visit; a very friendly and worthwhile Museum to visit. The Royal tram (SW6 965) awaits!

In the Feb. issue of News Update, it was advised that a Members meeting in Sydney during the last weekend of October was proposed. It would appear that this may not be possible due to a clash of events in Melbourne that weekend. We will definitely know soon whether it is possible or not.

### COTMA 2008 Conference - Launceston

The Launceston Tramway Museum is on schedule with the planning of the COTMA 2008 Conference. At this time, the Conference will be held during the second half of August 2008. The Conference will commence as usual on a Friday and the COTMA portion will complete the following Tuesday lunchtime. A post conference tour to the West Coast and Hobart will then follow allowing those attending to return home either Saturday evening or Sunday morning. They are planning a great conference. More details in the next News Update. If you have not already registered directly with the Launceston 2008 organisers for details, you can register by sending an email to <mailto:ltms2008@iprimus.com.au> The expression of interest form can be viewed on the COTMA web site at: <http://members.optushome.com.au/cotma/conference.html>

### Annual General Meeting

The formal AGM of COTMA, required for statutory reasons to be held in Victoria will be held on Wednesday 8 August at 2pm, following the regular tramway consultative meeting in Melbourne with VicTrack. The purpose of the meeting is to accept the annual accounts of COTMA. A formal meeting notice is enclosed to Museum Members with this mailout.

### ATHRA – Subscription Service to Newsletters and Alerts

The Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) web site now provides a subscription service to its Newsletters and Alerts. COTMA also provides news to ATHRA's newsletter as well as Trolley Wire. The link to the ATHRA subscription service is: <http://athra.asn.au/PHPlists/?p=subscribe&id=1>

### ATHRA Alerts

There has been four [ATHRA Alerts](#) issued since the last News Update:

Alert Nos. 31 – 33 regarding Asbestos in Railway Rollingstock – April 2007

Alert No. 34 - NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations - [Ariah Park Fatality Report](#)

The investigation report into the fatal shunting accident at Arian Park is strongly recommended to be read by all those involved one way or another in the operation of heritage tramways and railways. ATHRA's key message in the Alert is; *"The inherent dangers in our activities must never be under-estimated"*.

### **Rail Joint Failure Results in a Manchester UK Derailment**

A recent UK report of a March 2006 derailment tram of a Manchester tram is recommended to be read by those involved in track maintenance, The cause of the accident was the failure of a repaired section of track between two types of rail, which allowed the wheels to ride up the inner face of the rail and become derailed. It can be down loaded from [http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms\\_resources/070416\\_R082007\\_Long\\_Millgate.pdf](http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms_resources/070416_R082007_Long_Millgate.pdf)

### **UK Study into the Tramway Wheel and Rail Interface.**

A very extensive survey report (Nov. 2006) of UK light rail / tramway systems wheel rail interface is available from the UK Office of the Rail Regulator on their rail safety research page of their web site: <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1184> The report, which comprises either three separate files or one large PDF file, looks at the UK tramway systems in very extensive detail, including maps, photographs. It discusses their practices in relation to the safety aspects of the wheel / rail interface and compares it to European systems. Included is a section on the National Tramway Museum at Crich and its heritage tramway operations. Even if you are not really interested about rails and wheels, the report is worth looking at for its general information.

### **For Sale**

We have for sale, some surplus items from the Melbourne COTMA Conference; bags, caps and mugs. The number of these items are limited. Orders open 0900 Wednesday July 4, to give a chance for all to receive the offer.

Bag – 3 No. only - \$10 each.  
Caps – 9 No. only \$12.50 each  
Mugs – 10 No. only \$11 each

Costs of postage to be determined based on the actual order and are in addition to these prices.

Please send an email to the Chairman ([tramwad@alphalink.com.au](mailto:tramwad@alphalink.com.au)) or phone 03 9376 6882 (during business hours) to reserve your items. The final cost will be based on the actual packaging and postal costs to you.

### **Sharing our Stories – guidelines for Heritage Interpretation**

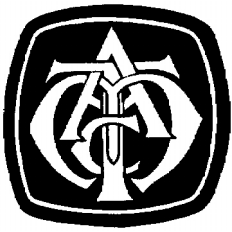
Recently published by Museum's Australia WA Office is a comprehensive, but easily accessible document providing tools for planning and delivering a range of interpretation projects including walking trails, museum exhibitions and educational programs. It is aimed at anyone interested in interpretation from community groups, local and regional museums, heritage sites and state and local government bodies. [A free electronic copy](http://www.ntwa.com.au/sharingourstories/) can be downloaded using the link - <http://www.ntwa.com.au/sharingourstories/> or contact the Museums Australia (WA) office on 08 9427 2770 or email [ma\\_wa@museum.wa.gov.au](mailto:ma_wa@museum.wa.gov.au) to purchase a copy.

### **Railmates**



Recently launched by the Australasian Railway Association is a new web based rail supporters site – Railmates - [www.railmates.com.au](http://www.railmates.com.au) It is designed to assist the ARA is gathering political and general support for rail, passenger and freight including suburban light rail / tramways. Have a look at the web site, it has lots of great stuff and news and allows you to support rail by sending a message to your local politician.

**Next News Update – August 2007.**



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

P.O. Box 61  
Carlton South Vic. 3053  
[www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)  
A0030417B  
ABN 81 315 085 479

## News Update – July/August 2007

### From the Chairman

#### 1. Donations and Loans of Historical Assets and Items

In many museums or heritage organisations, the problem of who exactly owns what; was it donated or loaned or of who donated it sometimes arises. The lack of records or written agreements, especially where loans are involved can come back and haunt you. While it may be considered that who owns your locomotive, carriage or tram is not a safety matter, it is becoming a matter that the Regulators are now taking an interest in – do you have a written agreement re its use, maintenance etc?

A recent court case over a Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad donation of a locomotive to the Lackawanna Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society (RLHS) in 1939 highlights the need for written agreements on who owns what and how. In 1952 the RLHS offered the locomotive (a humpback locomotive) for permanent exhibition to a then-private Missouri Museum which was subsequently taken over by the Museum of Transportation owned by the St Louis County. The Appeals court returned the case to the District Court for a review of its decision. The matter is still ongoing. The case has resulted in a lot of expense for both parties.

For a discussion that roams around a bit on the matter, see “Railway Preservation News” website: [http://rypn.sunserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=23615&postdays=0&postorder=asc&topic\\_view=flat&start=15](http://rypn.sunserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=23615&postdays=0&postorder=asc&topic_view=flat&start=15), or for the actual court decision: <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/opndir/07/08/063662P.pdf> Have your legal dictionary to hand.

#### 2. Accident Reports (See Page 2)

This newsletter features two items reporting on tramway accidents on heritage tramways. These could be important to your organisations operations. They should be reviewed and considered by your Safety / Operations managers and staff.

#### Chairman’s Recent Visit to Denmark

For a report on the Chairman’s recent visit to Denmark for the FEDECRAIL Conference see [ATHRA’s latest newsletter](#).

#### Annual General Meeting – Report

The Annual General Meeting of COTMA – necessary to satisfy Victorian Incorporated Association requirements was held as scheduled on Wednesday 8 August 2007 at VicTracks offices. A copy of the Annual Financial Report is enclosed with the mailed version of this newsletter.

#### ATHRA Alerts

There has been one Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) alert issued since the last News Update: It concerns the death of a person undertaking shunting duties on a UK heritage railway. Don’t forget you can directly subscribe to the [ATHRA website](#) for these alerts and newsletters. [ATHRA Alert No. 35](#) - Fatal Accident Report – UK Heritage Railway July.

## **UK Study into the Tramway Wheel and Rail Interface.**

In the last News Update (June 2007), we noted the extensive [report](#) on this subject. Mike Crabtree of the Tramway Museum Society, Crich, advised that regarding the heritage tramway section based on the NTM at Crich, he was the author of this section. Further work is now being done on this subject by Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). In particular the aim is to establish wear pattern characteristics on both tram and track and when to take remedial action on both a cost effective base or safety requirement - does a partially worn wheel settle down and stabilise a pattern wear and is there a crucial point when it is prudent to re-turn the profile?

### **Seaton derailment**

The derailment of a tram on the narrow gauge heritage tramway at Seaton UK was reported in - [http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms\\_resources/070703\\_R212007\\_Seaton%20Tramway.pdf](http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms_resources/070703_R212007_Seaton%20Tramway.pdf) The report concluded "The immediate cause of the derailment was the left hand switch of the points lying open, which may have been caused by the placing of an object between the switch and stock rail by persons unknown. A contributory factor was the lack of visual indication to the driver of the switch position at the approach to Seaton station. Another contributory factor was the design of the weighted lever at the points, which provides the opportunity for unauthorised persons to open the switches and place a stone between the switch and stock rail". **Australasian Operators with weighted turnouts are advised to read the report and review their operations.**

### **Christchurch Accident Report**

In November 2006, an ex Melbourne W2 operating on the Christchurch Tramway ran over a track safety cone (witches hat) protecting adjacent road roads. This in turn managed to be jammed under the tram and then open the air release valve to the air cylinders resulting in the loss of air braking capacity. The tram then collided with the rear motor vehicle in a line of cars stopped for a traffic signal. The impact pushed the car forward into a nose-to-tail collision with two cars ahead of it. The tram sustained minor damage and three motor vehicles were extensively damaged. There were no injuries. A safety issue identified was the lack of consultation between Christchurch City Council, its contractor and Christchurch Tramway Limited. The location of the air dump valve under the running board was also an issue. The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.taic.org.nz/rail/06-112.pdf> **Operators with air-valves in similar locations as the involved tram should reconsider their location. Other considerations that should be reviewed are the need for consultation regarding any adjacent works to the track and driver's awareness of swept path and knowledge of emergency braking procedures.**

### **For Sale and Available upon request**

Included within this mailout and on the email version is a separate sheet advertising items available for pickup or sale. These are:

- Melbourne Conductors bags, ticket wallets and journal covers – advertised during 2006.
- COTMA cups, bags and caps from the 2006 Conference – advertised in June.

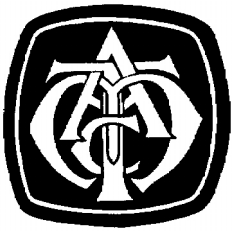
### **Exhibition Guide – MA guide**

A very good small publication on putting together exhibitions, including on-line exhibitions is available from the Museums Australia National office. Visit Museums Australia web site for ordering and information: <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/publications.php> Price \$28.50.

### **Oct Exec Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Melbourne on Saturday October 27 at Hawthorn Depot. Would you please advise the Chairman of any matters you would like to be included on the Agenda.

### **Next News Update September/October 2007.**



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## News Update – September/October 2007

### From the Chairman

In a recent submission prepared jointly with the Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA), to the NSW Rail Safety Regulator commenting on their draft regulations, it was noted:

“The costs in terms of volunteer hours to prepare the necessary documentation can be very large. One operator has advised us that it has already undertaken 1200 hours of work to bring their operation into compliance with the National Accreditation Package. They will have to now spend many additional hours now to bring their SMS into compliance with these Regulations.

The cost impact to the organisation in having their volunteer time diverted from other tasks such as physically carrying out conservation/maintenance work, preparing funding requests or operating trains to earn the necessary funds can be very large in the overall proportion of available volunteer hours. This can make small volunteer organisations no longer viable not only in dollar terms, but in labour availability. Suitable remuneration and labour compensation or through exemption will required to be addressed.”

While the figure of 1200 hours may be a surprise to many, though not to those actually doing the work, it just shows how many hours of work are involved in order to keep up with the ever changing regulatory environment. COTMA along with ATHRA are trying to get the message across to the Regulators just how much work is involved in all of this. Keeping records of the hours of work involved will be of benefit to us.

Any Member wishing to see the ATHRA submission to the NSW Regulator, please contact the Chairman via E-mail – [tramwad@alphalink.com.au](mailto:tramwad@alphalink.com.au) COTMA provided a supporting letter.

### Welcome

Welcome to the Australian Railway Historical Society (Vic Div) as an Affiliate member. The ARHS is the owner of VR53 which was recently restored to operating condition and used on the COTMA Conference 2006 tour. They also own two other VR tram bodies.

### Address List

Appended to the electronic version of this News Update is an up to date address list of COTMA Members and Executive Officers, with email addresses etc. Note the change of mailing address for the AETM St Kilda and email address for Western Springs Tramway.

### A Nordic COTMA

Howard Clark, COTMA Treasurer, during mid September attended the Nordic (Scandinavian COTMA) Tramway conference in Oslo and was made very welcome by all. This followed an invitation by Mikael Lund, Denmark during Howard's private trip to Sweden which coincided with the Conference. Howard reported that they gave him a half hour slot and he presented an item on COTMA and its activities.

There were at least eight different cities represented at the conference. There were profuse apologies to Howard at the start that the language of the conference was local. He responded by saying that our interest in tramways was a universal language and that he was pleased and

honoured to be there; to applause. In fact he was able to follow the gist of most presentations, and of course with assistance from Mikael, when a joke was made and some technical details..

The commonality is amazing in many ways, as for instance the Helsinki group had restored an old drop centre timber car which had been built into a house on an island near Helsinki about 70 years ago.

The 2008 conference is in Helsinki during mid September.

### **ATHRA meeting Report**

The September ATHRA meeting in Adelaide was well attended by the various State Organisations Associate Members, the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) the SA regulator; and the NSW Regulator representatives for part, although the NSW umbrella organisation was not represented. COTMA was represented by the Chairman. Peter Hyde and Ian Seymour also attended the meeting, as representatives of their state organisations. .

The meeting covered many topics, including Rail Safety, Competency Assessment and training. The ARA, through its Standards making body, the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB), presented an update on its work and the preparation of a "Code of Practice for Boilers on Steam Locomotives" for railway locomotive boilers. ATHRA will be a major stakeholder along with other locomotive operators. All parties will be able to contribute and be involved, as part of the RISSB process. The Code will also provide guidance to boiler inspections as well.

ATHRA's newsletter, *Cinders and Ashes*, currently in production, will have a comprehensive report on the meeting. It can be subscribed to directly by following the links on <http://www.athra.asn.au/newsletter.htm> Past issues can also be viewed or downloaded.

ATHRA is now recognised by the Regulators and Industry as representing the Tourist and Heritage Rail Sector in Australia, The close working relationship between COTMA and AHTRA is showing benefits. The next AHTRA meeting is in Canberra, during mid March 2008. All sector workers are welcome to attend.

### **Tram Equipment for NZ COTMA Members**

COTMA, working with VicTrack, has seen three COTMA NZ members recently acquire equipment for their needs.

Auckland to keep their W's operational and Wanganui to enable their 1912 Boon built tram to be returned to actual operation in the near future. Electrical and mechanical parts were provided to the Tramways Wanganui Trust through the dismantling of a suitable ex Melbourne tram at Bendigo Tramways. The Trust sent to people to Bendigo to assist and to find out how the whole jigsaw goes together again on a tram. Rod Atkins has been arranging the usual container transportation services that are needed to send this equipment to NZ. The Tramways Wanganui Trust have recently launched a web site on this excellent community based project. It can be seen at: <http://tramwayswanganui.org.nz/index.php>

Craig Tooke and Rod Atkins have been busy working on arranging shipping of a surplus tramway power transformer and other equipment from Melbourne to Christchurch for the Tramway Historical Society's heritage power station project. This follows on from last year's shipment of a surplus rotary converter to Christchurch. It is taking a fair bit of work as preparing for shipment an eight tonne object that requires an open top container is not as easy as it sounds.

### **Heritage Registration of NMETL 13 / MMTB V214**

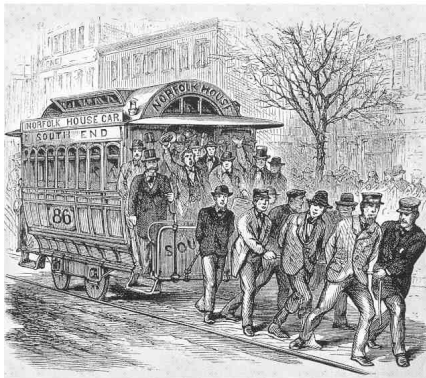
Heritage Victoria has recently advertised the proposal to formally add to the State Heritage Register crossbench single truck tram, The North Melbourne Electric Tramways and Lighting Company No. 13, also known as MMTB V214. The Chairman, along with other COTMA Members have been working with VicTrack (the tram's owner) and Heritage Victoria on the submission

and the structure of the permit exemptions – eg the maintenance and repair of wearing components. This is the first rail heritage vehicle to be considered for formal heritage recognition in Victoria.

### Helping each other with information

Got a maintenance problem or restoration query that you can't quite find a solution for, don't forget to ask fellow COTMA members who may know the answer or some good ideas. An email to the Chairman will be referred onto others who may be able to find or offer a solution. This worked well recently when Denmark had a query re gears and Auckland was trying to find dimensional information on motors etc.

### Horse Flu



Horse Flu? - well yes it affected one of our Members recently; the Victor Harbor Horse Tram service. They ceased operations for a few days following the outbreak of the equine flu in Australia. Fortunately SA has remained free of this easily transmitted flu. It reminded Peter Hyde, President BTMS during the ATHRA conference in Adelaide of the Great Epizootic of 1872 in which horse tram services were maintained in Boston because of the drivers and conductors offering to pull the horse trams by hand. The US Library of Congress image from page 24, of William D. Middleton, *The Time of Trolley*, Kalmbach Publishing Co, Milwaukee Wisconsin 1967.

### How to Lose a Volunteer in 7 Days

What group couldn't do with a bit more help? What group doesn't need more volunteers?

Attached to the email version of the News Update is article on what not do, or how to lose a volunteer in 7 days. It is from the September 2007 Newsletter of Our Community Matters [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au), a well worthwhile web site full of information. The article can also be downloaded from the COTMA web site, [www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au), latest news tab.

### Executive Meeting

The recent meeting of the COTMA Executive in Melbourne considered a number of matters. These included:

- Finalisation of the COTMA Strategic Plan (can be viewed on the COTMA web site)
- Planning for the Launceston COTMA Conference
- Relationships with VicTrack, ATHRA and FRONZ
- Rail Safety
- Training / Competency standards – TDT work
- Understanding of Street Tramways by the Regulator
- Disposal of redundant equipment – protocols and progress.

The next meeting of the Executive will held in Sydney, at this time proposed for the weekend of 9/10 February 2008.

### Melbourne Destination Boxes (Modern Ones – Non W)

Yarra Trams is currently changing over the type of destination boxes on its operating fleet (Z3's and A's) to a bright dot matrix type. This means that a number of older electronic destination type boxes we understand complete with controllers are available to COTMA members. Any Member interested in obtaining any of these, or for further information please contact Rod Atkins ([ozrod\\_au@yahoo.com](mailto:ozrod_au@yahoo.com)) by the end of December. Members will be responsible for arranging shipping.

## **Don't be Complacent**

An extract from the recent issue of Sidelines (No. 92) of the UK Heritage Railway Association is an important reminder regarding our responsibilities for learning from incidents, within Australia, New Zealand and overseas. These can be relatively easily found on various web sites of Safety Investigators and Regulators. COTMA has also provided links to these reports where relevant to our sector.

“During recent discussions with RAIB and HMRI it became clear that there are concerns that some railway and tramway undertakings may not be taking their obligations seriously enough. We would encourage all member Railways and Tramways to review ALL of the RAIB Accident reports, including those for the National Network, to see what lessons can be learnt from them (These reports are freely available on the web from: [www.raib.gov.uk](http://www.raib.gov.uk) under the section publications - Investigation Reports) It has been reported that when some railway or tramway operations not directly involved are discussing the recommendations of RAIB reports, a degree of complacency is apparent. Statements such as "Could not happen here", "Why didn't they obey the Rules", "we would never allow that" have been heard. On first hearing this is gratifying, as it shows that most undertakings take their operational obligations seriously. However upon reflection, and an examination of some of the reports which refer to incidents on substantial undertakings, there is just the possibility that this is demonstrating a degree of complacency. We would urge all railway and tramway undertakings to review their systems and procedures as well as their methods of ensuring compliance to those systems and procedures to ensure that they are sufficiently robust for the task.”

## **COTMA Conference 2008**

The 2008 COTMA Conference is being hosted by the Launceston Tramway Museum Society (LTM). It is planned to commence on Friday 22 August and conclude with the Conference General meeting on Tuesday 26 August. The conference will be based at Inveresk Precinct, the site of the former Tasmanian Government Railways workshops and railway yards. It is now the home of the LTM and the Queen Victoria Museum which includes many parts of the former workshops as exhibits in their own rights. While in Launceston, visits to Don River and other transport museums are being planned for.

Following the conference, a post conference tour is being organised, including visits to Wee Georgie Wood, West Coast Wilderness Railway, and the Tasmanian Transport Museum in Hobart. The post conference tour will conclude in Hobart the following weekend, August 30/31.

Don't forget that your entry for the COTMA Achievement Awards will be due by the end of June 2008. More details in the next COTMA News Update.

Groups Tasmania will be handling the bookings and they will be offering accommodation at a range of places and prices from Pubs to four star hotels. Details will shortly be sent to past participants and those who have registered with the LTM. Conference details and links to the booking agency will soon be available on the COTMA web site: A registration of interest can be made by sending an email to the organiser - [ltms2008@iprimus.com.au](mailto:ltms2008@iprimus.com.au)

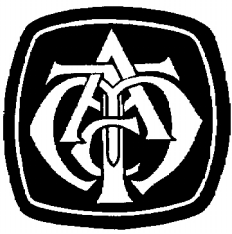
## **Call for Conference Papers**

A copy of the “Call for Conference” papers is attached to this News Update and the electronic Version.

## **Appended to Electronic Version of this COTMA News Update**

- Revised address list of COTMA Members.
- How to lose a Volunteer in 7 day
- Call for Papers for the 2008 COTMA Conference.

**Next News update** - December 2007.



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## News Update – November 2007 to January 2008

### From the Chairman

In November 2007, the NSW Rail Regulator, ITSRR, sought comment on a paper titled "Safety Regulation of Heritage Railway Operators". COTMA worked closely with the Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) on our responses to ITSRR. The paper discusses the barriers that Heritage Rail Operators encounter in trying to meet the ever increasing demands of the regulators and the problems of representation by umbrella bodies, particularly in NSW. Tramway Museums that operate heritage vehicles are faced with the same barriers. Copies of the submissions are available on the COTMA and the ATHRA [www.athra.asn.au](http://www.athra.asn.au) web sites. One of the concepts that was put forward by ATHRA was a "Deemed to Comply" safety system, in lieu of the existing regulatory system. This follows the Building Industry regulatory system. Copies of both papers have been distributed to those responsible for Rail Safety Management systems.

The overbearing regulatory system is robbing Museum personnel of the time that should be put into either preparing funding submissions, working on restoration etc. The continued existence of heritage rail organisations is threatened purely because of the impact of these regulations on the few that have the skills to prepare such documents and the resultant volunteer burnout. COTMA along with ATHRA is trying to mitigate the effects of these ever increasing demands. It is slow going, but we have made some headway over the last two or so years.

### 2008 COTMA Conference

Planning for the 2008 COTMA conference to be held in Launceston is continuing. The Launceston Tramway Museum Society (LTMS) had hoped to have information out before Christmas, but delays in finalising costs have occurred. Information should be available by early February 2008.

The dates however remain the same, opening Friday 21 August 2008 in Launceston and finish with the Conference General Meeting on Tuesday 26 August. A post conference tour finishes in Hobart on the weekend of 30 – 31 August. This tour will visits to the Wee Georgie Wood railway, the Wilderness Railway and Hobart. As soon as details are available, they will be placed on the COTMA web site, [www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)

### Call for Papers

We have received already some great proposals for papers for the forthcoming 2008 conference. We could do with some more however. This is an excellent opportunity to show and explain to other conference participants what your Museum is doing and transfer the skills and benefits to other member Museums.

A copy of the "Call for Conference" papers is attached to this News Update and the electronic Version. The closing date of 1/2/2008 has been extended to 15 Feb. but if you need a further extension, please advise the Chairman by e-mail as detailed on the enclosed sheet.

### Executive Meeting

The next Executive meeting will be held at the Steam Tramway and Railway Preservation Society depot at Valley Heights on Saturday 9 Feb. 2008. If any Members have any matter that they wish to raise, can they please advise the Chairman by the 6<sup>th</sup> of Feb.

## **Uniform Caps**

David Critchley of Sydney Tramway Museum has advised that a source of Uniform caps is Hills Hats of New Zealand. They are located in Petone near Lower Hutt, Wellington. The company was founded in the 1870's and it has a long tradition of quality. Their web site is <http://www.hillshats.co.nz>

## **Achievement Awards**

An important part of each conference are the COTMA Achievement Awards and following the success of the 2006 Conference, an "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) will be awarded again, subject to sufficient entries and will carry a cash prize of \$500. Entries will close with the judges on 30 June 2008.

The Awards are not competitive, but are to set standards of achievement that their fellow peers can recognise and inspire others to equal or better. Most importantly they offer an opportunity to recognise the achievements of your workers. For the first time in 2006, a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) was made to the organisation that the judges considered had made the most significant achievement.

Submissions can be for tramcar or other vehicle restoration, infrastructure, management, special events or any field of endeavour that you would think suitable for an award. Submissions are to be sent to the COTMA PO Box 61, Carlton South Vic 3053 and/or by email [cotma@cotma.org.au](mailto:cotma@cotma.org.au) giving details, up to three pages of the achievement with photographs etc, attaching any supporting documents that you feel are relevant. Details of past winters can be seen on the COTMA web site - <http://members.optushome.com.au/cotma/awards.html>

## **Congratulations to Wellington Tramway Museum**

The Wellington Museum received a great Christmas present when they were advised that they were successful in an application for \$317,000 from the NZ Lottery Grants Board. This will enable them to rebuild the 1981 rear storage building, renovation of 1974 barn and most importantly, the provision of a new Library /Archives / administration building which would, amongst other things, replace the Palace. For those who have not visited Paekakariki, the "Palace" is a rather run down small building that serves as meal room, members room and a host of other tasks.

## **Personal Moves**

Jeff Constantine has taken an opportunity following the completion of his contract with Portland Cable trams to move onto another challenging community volunteer management job, as the Manager of Coal Creek Heritage Village, Korumburra. We wish Jeff the best in his new job. Alan Rees has been appointed to the Manager's position in Portland.

COTMA members were saddened to learn of the death of Canon Lewis Nyman on 1 January. He attended a number of conferences and was a well known tram enthusiast, as well as an Army and Police Chaplin. Bob Merchant's cousin attended his funeral and a report is attached to the electronic copy of this New Update.

## **Blackpool Tram Fire Report**

Worth reading is the UK Rail Accident Investigation Branch investigation into a rather spectacular fire on 24 January 2007 in Blackpool. Tram 611, a prototype City Class tram, caught fire at one end and was substantially damaged. The cause of the fire has not been conclusively determined but appears to be possibly an electrical wiring fault. For the report, use the following link [http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms\\_resources/071127\\_R412007\\_Blackpool.pdf](http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms_resources/071127_R412007_Blackpool.pdf)