



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – March 2010

From the Chairman

I attended the launch of Christchurch double decker No. 26 by the Tramway Historical Society (THS) at Ferrymead, Christchurch on Saturday 23 January. The launch was an excellent event with No. 26 towing two trailers and decorated similar to the day it took part in the opening of the Christchurch trams in 1905. Congratulations to the THS for the work they undertook on this tram and the great weekend which featured the use of the steam tram on the following day. While in Christchurch, I observed the works on the extension of the Christchurch City Tramway that has now commenced in earnest and the reconstruction of Invercargill Birney tramcar No. 15. This work is being carried out jointly by the staff of the Christchurch Tramway, the Heritage Tramways Trust and volunteers of the THS. The tramcar has been virtually completely dismantled and reconstruction work is now well underway.

Howard Clark and myself visited Wanganui on Friday 29 January and visited the Tramways Wanganui Trust at their workshops, to view the progress on the reconstruction of Wanganui Electric Tram No. 12. VicTrack made available to them, through COTMA late in 2007, electric tram No. W5 796 for its mechanical and electrical equipment. This equipment would enable them to make No. 12 tram operational again using a four wheel ex Brussels bogie or truck that they purchased from the USA. Equipment installation has almost reached completion using the ex Melbourne equipment. The co-operation they have received from other COTMA Members, especially within New Zealand has been outstanding and this reconstruction is an excellent example of COTMA Members achieving their goals through the assistance of VicTrack.

COTMA Conference 2010

Conference planning has reached the point where bookings for the conference will soon be open. A detailed update conference is attached to this news update and is available from the website under the conference tab - www.cotma.org.au/conference.html

Australian Rail Safety Regulatory News

An update given to the ATHRA March 2010 meeting on Australian Rail Safety Regulatory News is available on the COTMA web site, under the [News section](#) – along with this newsletter.

Past Conference Papers on the COTMA Website

Two further COTMA Conference Proceeding papers have been added to the COTMA website – Ballarat 1975 and Sydney 1976. Further papers have been scanned and will be added to the website over the next few months. Reading the papers, reports and workshops gives a fascinating insight into our past and where we have come from.

Executive Meeting

Items discussed at the recent COTMA Executive meeting in Wellington on 30 January were:

- Membership matters and issues that members are having with various authorities, their progress and in one case – growth issues.
- The website – currently shared with the Ballarat Tramway Museum. COTMA to make arrangements to move to its own service provider.
- Revision of the VicTrack protocol – see separate item
- Revision of the COTMA Rules to bring it into line with the revised Victorian

Incorporated Associations Act – the public officer is now to be the Secretary rather than another person; clarifications regarding the keeping of minutes.

- The forthcoming COTMA Conference. Bryce Pender the Conference Co-ordinator presented a detailed report to the Executive. The report was well received by the Executive who congratulated him for his work.
- Possible Conference Papers – some excellent concepts have been received.
- Tramway Equipment Matters – including a co-ordinator for new manufactured items to enable the long term requirements of members to be met.
- Liaison with other Umbrella bodies – AHTRA, FRONZ, ARA and Yarra Trams.
- Members Matters such as Rail Safety Regulation, involvement in RISSB Committees and Competency Assessments.

COTMA Web site

Since the revamp of the COTMA web site last September, visitor numbers have increased 40 to 50% over the previous version. Links to COTMA Members and information links are often accessed. Further improvements, time permitting are planned over the next 12 months. Feedback always welcomed. The web page also provides information links about conservation, museum practices as well. If you find any difficulty with any of our links, please let us know and we will repair them. Keeping them up to date is a problem.

Conference - Member Presentations (BRAGS)

A reminder to those preparing presentations (BRAGS), either DVD or PowerPoint presentations to the forthcoming Conference, the Conference organisers are requesting that they be kept to 10 mins max and that they be sent to the organisers at least two weeks in advance, so they can be checked for equipment compatibility etc. This is important and will guarantee their correct presentation. The organisers are considering a DVD production from the conference which will contain all the presentations. It will be important that no copyright music or materials is used in the presentations unless you have the written authority to do so.

Excellence Awards

Don't forget these are due with the judges by 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. It is proposed, subject to sufficient and worthy entries, that a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) will be made to the organisation that the judges considered had made the most significant achievement. This award will carry a cash prize of \$500. Submissions can be for tramcar or other vehicle restoration, infrastructure, management, collection management, special events or any field of endeavour that you would think suitable for recognition of an achievement. Submissions are to be sent to COTMA PO Box 61, Carlton South Vic 3053 and/or by email 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.

VicTrack protocol

The VicTrack Protocol (*Protocol for W Class Tram Equipment and Tramway Infrastructure obtained by COTMA Members from VicTrack*) has been revised by VicTrack to address issues raised by Bendigo Tramways. Would Delegates/Secretaries please bring this revised Protocol to the notice of their Management Committees/Boards. If there are any issues you wish to raise about this revised Protocol please advise The Chairman. This item is to be formally adopted at the September 2010 Conference General Meeting. A copy has been included in the mail out to Members only. Please respond by the end of May 2010 with any issues, otherwise it will be taken as you are in agreement with it.

Next News update – June 2010.



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – June 2010

From the Chairman

After eight weeks in Europe, visiting or seeing some 18 different tram systems and some trolley bus systems, it is back to work assisting to arrange the COTMA Conference for 2010 with Bryce Pender and his team from the Wellington Tramway Museum.

There are quite a few matters that need attention from Member tramways noted in this News Update. Can you please bring them to the attention of your Board/Management Committee. – See the bottom of page two for the **Do List**.

COTMA Conference 2010

Bookings for the Conference are starting to flow in along with those for the pre and post conference tours. A copy of all conference booking documents have been sent to all Members and those participants who receive advice by either email or the postal system. A copy is also available on the web.

The web site contains the latest information, however if you have any queries regarding the conference please email Bryce at: cotma2010@paradise.net.nz
Pre Conference – visiting Christchurch and travelling by train and ferry to Wellington - email Warren Doubleday at warren@wads.id.au
Post Conference – travelling from Wellington to Auckland via Foxton, Wanganui and New Plymouth please email Richard Gilbert at acre@alphalink.com.au

Conference General Meeting

The Conference General Meeting (CGM) is an important part of the Conference where all Members have the opportunity to raise matters that affect COTMA from either their Museum/Tramway or relevant to COTMA as a whole. The Agenda is being put together and if you have any topics that you consider that should be discussed, please advise the Chairman. Could members please advise the Chairman by August 31 who their formal delegate will be, to enable papers to be sent to them in advance of the Conference General Meeting.

One item that will be discussed and considered is a change to the Rules of the Association to bring them into line with the new Associations Incorporation Act in Victoria. The proposed changes are relatively simple and are in summary:

1. The Executive Officer to act as the Secretary and the Public Officer of the Association. (add this to the list of duties of the Executive Office, Rule 5(1) d)
2. Reword the Rule 8, Minutes to read as follows:
 - (1) The Executive Officer shall be responsible for ensuring the keeping of accurate minutes of meetings of the Council, the Executive and the Operations Committees.
 - (2) A Representative shall be entitled to access the Minutes of the Council and Committees at any reasonable time on application to the Executive Officer.

If you have concerns with the proposed changes, can you please advise the Chairman. A copy of the current Rules of the Association can be accessed on our web site under the documents tab.

Australian Rail Safety Regulatory News

Through ATHRA, COTMA is keeping a watching brief on the Australian Regulatory Environment, both in the move towards the Single Regulator and the changes to the Medical Standards and associated processes. Please contact us if you have any concerns with the operation of your local Rail Safety Regulatory processes. We may be able to assist in addressing these.

COTMA Website Past Conference Papers on the COTMA Website

During March, further past conference proceedings were added to the COTMA web site. All conferences held between Ballarat (1975) and Auckland (1984) and Ballarat (2000). Auckland (2004) and Launceston (2008) are now available on the Conference Proceedings page. Adelaide 1986 and Sydney 1988 have been scanned and are pending being organised for loading onto the website. That leaves six more conference proceedings to be scanned. Thanks to John Radcliffe for undertaking the task of scanning these. They are a great record of the work of COTMA.

Conference - Member Presentations (BRAGS)

Don't forget your Member Presentation – Brags – are due with the conference organisers two weeks before the conference and should be kept to 10 mins max. See the March News Update for further details – available from the web site if you can't find it.

Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the Tramway Historical Society, Christchurch for winning the 2010 Tramway Restoration Award for Christchurch Double Decker No. 26 and to the Western Springs Tramway for winning the PS Heighton Excellence Trophy at the recent FRONZ Conference.

Entries for the COTMA Excellence Award were scheduled to close on 30 June 2010, but this date has been extended to Sunday 18 July 2010. Many Museums have done some excellent work over the last two years and it would be a pity to see these go unrecognised. The Award is non competitive. Subject to sufficient and worthy entries, a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) will be made to the organisation that the judges considered have made the most significant achievement. This award will carry a cash prize of \$500. They are an excellent way of recognising the achievements of your workers.

Submissions are to be sent to COTMA PO Box 61, Carlton South Vic 3053 and/or by email 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.

VicTrack Protocol

Following through on the March News Update regarding this topic, no issues have been identified by any members with the draft document. We will advise VicTrack accordingly shortly. The COTMA web site contains the current versions, not the revised draft version.

Members Do List:

1. Advise the Chairman who the delegate for the Conference General Meeting (CGM) will be by 31 August 2010
2. Advise of any Agenda items that you consider will need to be discussed at the CGM
3. Finalise and submit your nomination for the COTMA Excellence Award by Sunday 18 July 2010.
4. Ensure your Brag will be received by the conference organisers early September – at least two weeks in Advance.

Next News update – August 2010 – this will contain notification of the CGM and Agenda.



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News Update – August 2010

From the Chairman

Volunteers are the backbone of the Australasian tramway preservation movement and it is good to see them being recognised by Government and industry alike; as recently received by Craig Connelly of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society. COTMA like our other umbrella organisations within the rail heritage sector makes similar awards to organisations; not currently to the volunteers themselves. Is it time that we started to recognise our volunteers formally ourselves? This will be discussed at the forthcoming coming Conference meeting.

Congratulations to Craig Connelly, Chairman and Works Manager for the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society at Valley Heights. He received an award in the category of "Leadership, Management or Organisational Development" in the NSW Office of Rail Heritage 2010 Volunteer Awards on 26 July. The Awards were presented by the NSW Minister for Transport and Rail Corp Chief Executive. Craig has had a long involvement with STRPS from the time of the Parramatta fire to today, shepherding the organisation through the many changes in safety legislation and site development at Valley Heights.

I look forward to meeting our New Zealand tramway Members and their workers once again during the forthcoming Conference. The Conference is the time to re-establish our networks of contacts and to assist our Museums to progress.

COTMA Conference 2010

Bookings for the Conference are scheduled to close on 31 August. Details of the Conference remain on the web site. Both the Preconference tour to Christchurch and Picton and the Post Conference tours to Wanganui, New Plymouth and Auckland are now closed. Good interest was received with many of the participants travelling in either one or both of the tours.

If you wish to participate and have not booked into the Conference please contact the organiser Bryce Pender on cotma2010@paradise.net.nz

Conference General Meeting

The formal Notice and the Agenda for the Conference General Meeting is included within this mail out. If Members have any additional items they wished to be discussed at the CGM would they please advise the Chairman; warren@wads.id.au (Note the new E-mail address for the Chairman)

Conference - Member Presentations (BRAGS)

Don't forget your Member Presentation – Brags – are due with the conference organisers two weeks before the conference and should be kept to 10 mins max.

COTMA Annual General Meeting

The required AGM of COTMA was held on 4th August 2010 in Melbourne as scheduled. The meeting considered the Treasurers and Auditors Report, which both were accepted. A copy of the Annual Financial Statement is included within the Mail out.

Next News update – October 2010



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – November 2010

From the Chairman

This News Update is primarily focused around the most important event on the COTMA calendar, the bi-annual Conference. Although the September 2010 Conference is now passed, a lot of things are happening which is keeping us well occupied. This News Update has been delayed due to the Chairman's ongoing involvement in the move towards a Single Rail Safety Regulator in Australia. However, over the next few months, a number of the outcomes of the recent Conference General Meeting (CGM) will be implemented.

One of the interesting outcomes of the CGM was how COTMA will deliver news to our members in the future and how our various Museum members are moving to the digital era through no longer posting newsletters and placing them on web sites etc. Some are moving towards the digital era in other ways as well – using Facebook and Twitter. This will have impacts on those Members and those workers who are not on the Internet, though we notice more and more are becoming connected. Adjustment to the various communication mediums will be a challenge that we have to take on. (See also Item titled – Future Distribution of News Updates)

COTMA Conference 2010

The COTMA Conference 2010 hosted by the Wellington Tramway Museum, ably lead by Bryce Pender, was very successful and enjoyable. Although New Zealand itself was experiencing extreme weather events, for virtually all the conference, we avoided them. Participants who journeyed to Christchurch, about a week after the major earthquake there enjoyed the great hospitality of the Tramway Historical Society and Christchurch Tramway Limited. The Post Conference road trip from Wellington to Auckland via Wanganui and New Plymouth was very enjoyable. While at Wanganui, we viewed progress by the Tramways Wanganui Trust on work on Wanganui No. 12, discussed with them, their future proposals and featured in the local newspaper. The final event for those who travelled to Auckland was the launch of Wellington Double Deck Tram No. 47 by the Western Springs Tramway at MOTAT, where the Chairman was honoured to do the formal launch and cut the ribbon. Thanks to Richard Gilbert for doing some excellent planning and arrangements for the trip.

For a detailed report, visit www.cotma.org.au/news/cotma2010.html for the Chairman's report written initially for the Ballarat Tramway Museum. It contains a number of photographs as well.

Feedback on the conference itself is always welcomed. Some feedback has already been gathered and fed back to the Wellington Tramway Museum. The COTMA Conference Guideline has been updated as well. Feedback, please to Warren Doubleday, Chairman at warren@wads.id.au

COTMA Conference 2012

Forward planning for future COTMA Conferences had the 2012 Conference scheduled for Sydney. The Sydney Tramway Museum advised that they would like to delay the Conference to 2014 to give time for further expansion both at Loftus and tramways in the City itself. They suggested that AETM, St Kilda Tramway Museum, Adelaide consider taking 2012 on instead of 2014 as currently planned. After consideration by the AETM Board, they have advised that they will run the 2012 Conference in Adelaide, though the timing is yet to be determined. Thanks to AETM agreeing to do the swap. Further details as they become known.

Conference Proceedings

Ten of the papers presented to the Conference have been placed on the web site. The remainder will be done as they are completed. Discussions about individual papers will also be placed on the web site as soon as they are written up. Visit www.cotma.org.au/proceedings.html The Conference reports and the group photograph of the Conference participants at the Wellington Tramway Museum are also available at the same web link.

The Executive

The COTMA Executive remains largely the same as previously. Henry Britain of the Wellington Tramway Museum stepped down as Deputy Chairman after eight years in the position. Many thanks to Henry for his work and advice. Dave Hinman of the Tramway Historical Society (Christchurch) has taken on the job and we welcome him aboard.

Executive Office Details are:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman | Warren Doubleday |
| Deputy Chairman | Dave Hinman |
| Executive Officer | Craig Tooke |
| Assistant Executive Officer | Rod Atkins |
| Treasurer | Howard Clark |
| Australian Museums Liaison Officer | Ian Seymour |
| New Zealand Museums Liaison Officer | Clinton Pearce |

The web site has been updated for these changes and changes to contact arrangements.

Conference General Meeting

Saturday morning during the Conference was set aside for the COTMA Conference General Meeting where the Executive presented their reports, past and future planned activities were discussed. Major outcomes were:

- Proposed changes to the Rules were accepted
- Future COTMA News Updates and documents will be issued electronically, that is not by mail. Each Museum to print off for the meal rooms.
- Museum Members are to be encouraged to send their newsletters to each other via email rather than hard copy.
- Review at the next Conference the name of the Council itself.
- COTMA Achievement Awards to be reviewed to include Recognition of our volunteer workers.
- Approval to purchase a storage container for parts held at Bungaree by the Ballarat Tramway Museum on behalf of COTMA.

Conference – Excellence and Recognition “EAR” Awards

An important part of any Conference is the recognition of the work that COTMA Members undertake. For 2012, the following Certificates were presented:

- Australian Electric Transport Museum – Restoration of Bogie Open Combination Tram No. E118
- Ballarat Tramway Museum – Community Partnership – Horse Tram Operations
- Tramway Historical Society – Christchurch Tramway Board Electric Tram No. 26
- Western Springs Tramway – Wellington Double Decker Tram No. 47 “Big Ben”

The winners of the 2010 Excellence and Recognition “EAR” Award was:

“Both the Ballarat Tramway Museum and Western Springs Tramway”

For PowerPoint presentation of the Awards and associated photographs see the COTMA web site, www.cotma.org/awards.html

Future Distribution of News Updates

As noted elsewhere in this News Update, was the decision to move to electronic distribution rather than physically mailing copies to each Member. The Newsletter is already e-mailed to Members, those who have attended past conferences and have provided an e-mail address and to others who COTMA liaises with.

As part of this decision, this issue will be the final to be mailed out, unless we are requested specifically to continue to mail it to a specific Member Museum. For arrangements to ensure that the newsletter are received by a Member, just in case your service provider falls over or something else goes wrong, we would like to have a second email address for each Member. We already have many covered by two or more contacts at each Member, so we will individually request a second address where necessary.

One of the reasons why we have continued to physically send mail by post was to assist those who are not on an e-mailing list was to actually see our News etc. on the meal room table or notice board. We will be asking that a copy of each News Update is formally printed by the nominated person and placed on the Notice Board or meal room table.

Another way of distributing our News Updates is on-forwarding the News Updates to your worker distribution lists. COTMA strongly encourages this method.

If any reader would like to be placed on the COTMA e-mail list, please advise the Chairman, Warren Doubleday, warren@wads.id.au

Sydney 50 years celebration

Sydney Tramway Museum will be celebrating at the annual Sydney Tramway Festival on the last weekend of February 2011, the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Sydney system. Event details given in the attached press release of 19 November 2010.

Odd Spot?

The reproduced newspaper clipping on page 4 is a story about an Australian Tax Office ruling and Fringe Benefits Tax. Probably does not apply to too many of us. Item courtesy of Alan Bradley – Ballarat Tramway Museum.

www.archive.org

John Smatlak of the Orange Empire Railway Museum California, recently sent to us a copy of an article from the Electric Railway Journal of 1918 about the Sydney Tramway system. The web site, www.archive.org holds a great number of items about electric tramways (streetcars, electric railways). The Australian version, www.archive.org.au (Pandora, Australia's Web Archive operated by the National Library of Australia is also another web site well worth visiting and searching for tramway items.

Next News update – all going well – January 2011

ACTIONS:

1. Advise in writing please, that if (Museum Members) need to continue to receive News Updates by mail.
2. Make arrangements for the future distribution of News Updates to your workers and/or print the emailed file for the Depot Noticeboard or mess room table.



Tram tax exemption off track

Michaela Whitbourn

The Australian Taxation Office has ruled what many engineers already know: a tram is not a car.

The ruling means that trams aren't covered by an exemption to fringe benefits tax that applies to company-owned cars.

Adding to the annals of obscure tax decisions, the Tax Office said that "a flanged-wheel passenger-carrying vehicle which runs on a tramway" — that is, a tram — is not a motor vehicle. Giving workers the keys to the tram for pre- or post-work jaunts is a one-way ticket to fringe benefits tax.

Trams were "propelled by a motor", sure, but to meet the hoops-of-fire statutory definition of a motor vehicle they needed to travel on roads.

"A tram is by design a *rail* vehicle," the Tax Office noted. In a metaphysical moment, it added that the existence of trams that travelled on tracks laid on roads did not a road vehicle make: "This co-existence only arises from the sharing of that public space," it said. "Outside that shared space trams do not travel on roads and road vehicles do not travel on tramways."

KPMG tax partner Andy Hutt appreciated the logic of the decision, if not its application.

"It's quite hard to think about the context in which [the taxpayer] is asking about this," Mr Hutt said. "It appears to be about a tram driver getting to use a tram on the weekends to do recreational trips up and down the line, with family or something."

"It seems quite unlikely."

Mr Hutt said the tax exemption in dispute was more commonly used when employees such as delivery drivers used work vehicles taken home each day for personal errands.

"The effectively private use of that [vehicle] can be exempt from FBT. What you see more commonly is employees of tram companies getting to ride for free."



The preconference group photo at terminus of the narrow gauge (600mm) Blenheim Riverside Railway. The bridge in the background is the Picton to Christchurch main rail line which was closed due to land slip. Our tour group had to travel by coach instead. Photo Bill Cox, who made our Blenheim visit very worthwhile and enjoyable.



Colin Zeff (Western Springs Tramway) and Simon Green (Ballarat Tramway Museum) with their certificates and the EAR Award itself. Standing alongside is the Chairman Warren Doubleday. A second EAR Award trophy was needed this year. Photo Peter McCallum.



Dave Hinman at the keyboard of the Grand Piano at the Grand Hotel Wanganui. Photo Warren Doubleday