



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – January 2011

From the Chairman

During the last two months we have seen the extremes of weather throughout Australia. While the eastern side has been having extensive rains and major flooding, the western sector has seen a significant drought. As far as we know, none of COTMA members have been significantly affected by these weather events, other than for passengers carried or operating days. However, some of our volunteers may have been individually involved and our thoughts are with them.

Congratulations to Graham Stewart

Well known to COTMA Members is tramway and photographic book author, Graham Stewart. Graham was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit (Member) in the 2011 New Year Honours for services to historical research and photography. Our Congratulations to Graham.

COTMA Technical Library

Recently added to the COTMA web site is a Technical Library page, containing scans of many old manufacturer documents that are often now hard to find. This came about from the recent closure of the TransAdelaide Railcar depot at Adelaide and the resultant office clean-up has turned up a large number of documents that dated back to the first generation Adelaide Tramway system and then the development of the H1 class Adelaide tram. The documents were donated to the AETM by TransAdelaide. The AETM through the auspices of John Radcliffe has scanned these for a new COTMA web site section - the Technical Library. This is now available on the COTMA Web site. Our thanks to John. Since the initial launch, some other documents have been added as well. Further Technical documents are requested from Members and readers, especially if you have already scanned them.

Added to the Library page is a list of drawings that are available to COTMA Members upon request. The ex-MMTB drawings are owned by VicTrack and under our licence agreement can only be made available through actual printed copies. For the supply of prints of these drawings, please contact the Chairman and arrangements can be made for printing and costs advised.

ATHRA Training Docs – Tram Drivers

ATHRA Alert No. 52 (http://www.athra.asn.au/alerts/ATHRA_Alert_52.pdf), Training and Assessment Documentation was issued during early January, Included within the documentation is one set of documents for tram drivers. While most of COTMA Members have long established Tram Driving programmes, we would recommend to all our Members that they review the documents and check that they have covered all the required aspects of the competency assessments. The Mentors Questions and Answers is a particularly helpful document for those Mentoring student drivers.

Comments back to the ATHRA Chairman close on Monday 14th February 2011.

US Association of Railway Museums 2010 Conference

Available on the US Association of Railway Museums web site are the presentations of their 2010 Conference - www.railwaymuseums.org They include Museum Planning for Emergency Events, Faithfulness to Original Fabric, Tending to Historic Buildings and Reality check on Your Collections. Some of the files are quite large, so be careful if you have limited download capacity.

Communicating with Facebook

The use of Facebook and Twitter was discussed at the September 2010 COTMA Conference. David Brown of PETS has set up a Facebook Page for PETS and we encourage other COTMA Members to do the same. As David notes it is the way the younger generation is communicating with each other. If we were doing what we did in the 1970's when setting up our Museums and had it been available then, we would be using it too.

David advises that PETS has a Facebook page for the Society as a whole: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Perth-Electric-Tramway-Society/106586276057586> and a separate page for information about *Tracks by the Swan*: <http://www.facebook.com/TracksByTheSwan>

After reaching 25 fans for a page you get to choose a shorter or more appropriate name for the page, which you can see PETS have managed to do for the Tracks page.

Wellington Tramway Museum's is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wellington-Tramway-Museum/107545055942344> and The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria's is <http://www.facebook.com/MelbourneTramwayMuseum>

There are possibly other museums with a Facebook presence, but David has not been able to find them. He suggests that information about Facebook pages of member museums be added to the COTMA and individual Members "Links" pages.

David notes in his message that it would also be appreciated if a message from COTMA to Member museums could include a request to include these extra links on the appropriate page of their web site. All Museum members who are Facebook members are encouraged to visit these tramway Facebook pages and click on the "Like" button. The museums could include a message to this effect in their member newsletter, and/or in member emails.

Expanding tramway museum links and profile via Facebook is another way in which we might possibly make contact with some of the younger generation who we would like to encourage joining us, i.e., us generally as the tramway preservation movement.

If you have set up a Facebook page, please let the Chairman know, so the link can be added to the COTMA web site. The Facebook links for Perth, TMSV and Wellington have been added to the web site, so you can check them out – see www.cotma.org.au/links.html

Your Personal Collection

Have you made provision for the care of your personal collection, when your pass on? Many collections have been "binned" by relatives when they clean up, not realising it could be of value to your Museum or another collecting institution. Please give it some thought and perhaps a bequest as well to assist to house and manage your collection.

Brass Screws

Two sources of Brass Screws in Australia have been recently advised to us. This is a follow on from the September 2008 News Update which contained other supplier information. Thanks to Howard Clark of STM and Tim Blythman of Bendigo.

Sydney Tramway Museum advises - the supplier they recently used was an Anthony Cowan, 0417 717 472, who operates under the name Bronze & Brass Fasteners, bronzeandbrass.sales@me.com, and his web site is www.bronzeandbrassfasteners.com.au
Bendigo Tramways advises that their supplier is Keable's of A'Beckett St. Melbourne - <http://www.keable.com.au/>

Next News Update – March 2011.



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Christchurch – Earthquake – COTMA Members Bulletin - 23 Feb. 2011

The shocking and moving photos and the news stories about the massive Christchurch Earthquake that struck on Wednesday 22 Feb. 2011 has upset us all and made us concerned about our friends in Christchurch and their personal wellbeing. From speaking to Graeme Belworthy (Tramway Historical Society President – Ferrymead) and Steve Lea of the Christchurch Tramway Limited, I have put the following notes together. Additional notes from Dave Carr and Dave Hinman via Trams Down Under. At the time of speaking to Graeme, it was raining which was not helping morale.

- So far no known deaths amongst the employees and volunteers or their families of both the tramways but not all news is in
- Sadly some have suffered significant damage to their homes
- No doubt some have suffered injuries
- The Christchurch City Depot has suffered some damage, mainly broken windows from the building next door.
- The city tram rollingstock has not been damaged, but three cars are stranded in the streets (some of the newspapers web photos have shown this) and it is likely it will be some time before they can get back to the depot due to the streets being closed to all other than to emergency crews
- The track and overhead has suffered some damage
- The Ferrymead tram barn is intact and the trams have suffered some “bruising” due to things hitting them while in the shed – lots of shelves, workbenches and items strewn around.
- Not expected that the City tramway will resume operations for about two months mainly due to the amount of demolition and clean up that has to be done in the City Centre.
- The Tramway Extension is likely to be put back some time due to the amount of damage to buildings along the route and the amount of clean up needed and the diversion of workers into getting the city infrastructure back operational again
- Major aftershocks continue.

Many of Christchurch’s beautiful heritage buildings have been lost or severely damaged, as shown by the newspapers and news outlets.

At the moment, the central city and suburbs have suffered major damage to the water, sewerage and power infrastructure, so much so that water is being brought in by trains and trucks into the city and then distributed to residents from the trucks. This is making life difficult for all.

Our thoughts go to our fellow tramway colleagues and their families at this very distressing time for them.

Warren Doubleday
Chairman
Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia



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News Update – March 2011

From the Chairman

The devastating news of Christchurch's February earthquake was a frequent discussion point at the recent Sydney Vintage Tramway Festival. Our thoughts remain with the Members, volunteers and staff of both the Tramway Historical Society at Ferrymead and the Christchurch Tramway in the city itself. Many have lost their homes or they have been substantially damaged as well. The damage to the city has been immense, not only in structural damage but to the very essence of the city. It will take many years for it to physically recover. I plan to visit Ferrymead during early May and catch up with the workers there.

In the meantime, the Sydney Vintage Tramway Festival, timed with the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Sydney tramway system was very well attended by COTMA members from around Australia and New Zealand, many who assisted the Sydney Tramway Museum on the day. Congratulations to all who were involved.

The Ballarat Tramway Museum is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of its formation at the end of May 2011. Further details will soon be available from the BTM web site; www.btm.org.au All these events are good opportunities for COTMA members to renew friendships and assist in the ongoing management of our own organisations.

2012 COTMA Conference

The 2012 COTMA Conference, hosted by the St Kilda Tramway Museum Adelaide (AETM) is planned to be held during August 2012. As soon as the proposed dates are known, an E-mail will be sent to all Members and friends and the web site updated. Post Conference and Partners are being organised by Richard Gilbert and Simon Green respectively.

COTMA Technical Library

The COTMA Technical Library has been well received by users. However further contributions are always welcome. If you have any tramway related technical document, that is not already in our library such as those in your Museum collection, personal collections included, and you would like to make it available to the wider tramway museum community, please contact the Chairman. Arrangements can then be made to make it happen.

ATHRA is considering an equivalent railway based service as well. The cost of storing files on a web site server and downloading costs have dropped dramatically in recent years, therefore we are taking advantage of this situation as well.

ATHRA News

Many of our members will have seen the March 2011 ATHRA newsletter issued via ATHRA to its members; it can be accessed via the ATHRA web site.

Comments received on the ATHRA Training documents are currently being incorporated within the document and following completion should be made available to members for customisation for their own situation. It is considered that many of our Members will have current documents that will incorporate the Skill Council Competency Standard requirements, but when you revise your documents, the layout concepts provided in the ATHRA materials may be of benefit in taking your training document formats into a more comprehensive set that includes information for Mentors.

Another outcome of the ATHRA meeting is the proposal of the development group who developed the Rail Industry Safety and Standards (RISSB) Boiler Code for Steam Locomotives (soon to be published) is the proposal to prepare Guideline documents that can be used in the maintenance of railway locomotives and rollingstock. Ian Seymour has expressed interest in forming a group of people to prepare a similar tramcar maintenance document through RISSB.

Theft of Copper and other Materials

Theft of copper from tramcars – some years ago, the Sydney Tramway Museum lost copper tramcar wiring on stored tramcars. A similar cautionary event from Europe courtesy of the March 2011 FEDECRAIL newsletter:

“Some members may have heard of the recent theft at the Electric Museum Tram of Amsterdam. Copper thieves had a free play during one or more nights and stripped several historic trams, up to a worth of say €200. However, the damage was estimated at maybe as much as €100,000. This is typical for the kind of relation between stolen (copper) material and the situation left behind.

Several members will have installed burglar and fire alarms. In the past I used to think that a burglar may “just” be taking away a valuable item with the “good” intention to sell the same, so a burglar alarm would be less needed than a fire alarm. Fires destroy; they do not offer anything back to the market. But given the amount of damage and the negative intentions of copper thieves towards the historic and cultural values, I think that both alarms are equally relevant. Furthermore you may want to inspect your premises also in their remote corners on a very regular basis so as to spot thefts at an early stage.”

Forthcoming Conferences of Interest

2011 IATM Conference

John Radcliffe advises that the 2011 International Association of Transport Museum Conference will be hosted by Dr Sam Mullins, Director of the London Transport Museum, Covent Gardens, London, from June 26 to July 1 2011. The Conference brochure can be downloaded from the COTMA Web site (under the Newsletters Tab – along with the suggested hotels and booking form). Early Bird Registrations close 15/4/2011. COTMA is a member of the IATM.

2011 – Nordic Tramway Museums

The Museum Tramway Associations of Norway are planning to host the Nordic Tramway Conference 2011 in Bergen Norway Sept. 16 to 18, 2011. Bergen has recently opened a new tramway network. Further details from the Chairman (cotma@cotma.org.au) if you are interested.

International Rail Safety Conference – Melbourne

The International Rail Safety Conference is scheduled to be held in Melbourne between Sunday Oct 16, 2011 and Friday 21, 2011. For the first time, the conference will include Tourist and Heritage rail operations and Light Rail. Field visits are planned to Puffing Billy and Bendigo (trams). Further information from www.irsc2011.org The ATHRA AGM and Meetings will be held on Sat Oct 15 and Sun. Oct 16 in Melbourne prior to the IRSC Conference.

WATTRAIN Conference – 2012

The World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains (WATTRAIN) is planning to hold a conference in York England from Wed. Oct 3 to Friday Oct 6. A preconference visit to the National Tramway Museum at Crich is planned as well. See <http://www.wattrain.vintagecarriagetrust.org/news.htm> for further information.

Next News Update – May 2011.



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News Update – June 2011

From the Chairman

During the Easter period and early May, I visited the south island of NZ and experienced great sunny weather on the west coast – isn't it like this all the time? I was very impressed in the recent work of the Department of Conservation in the investment of interpreting former industrial sites, such as [Brunner](#) near Greymouth and the [Denniston](#) Incline. Some excellent work here and the web sites are well worth visiting.

I visited the Tramway Historical Society at Ferrymead during their Monday work night to catch up with their activities recovering from the major February earthquake and their fund raising progress. Ferrymead itself is back operational. Their recent newsletter, [Tracts](#), gives the latest information on their progress towards this important goal. One matter that really struck home was the cost of putting up such a building, would be about 60% of the cost in Australia. Your support for this important project is certainly strongly supported.

Travelling around Christchurch the following day struck home the amount of damage incurred both to old and new buildings. The central part of the city, the size of the Melbourne CBD still remains locked down, though it is getting smaller. Damage is significant. For those COTMA Conference participants, the Windsor Hotel though was demolished on Friday 10 June, along with many other buildings in the vicinity.

Dave Hinman, Secretary of the THS advises that although the city itself is still out of bounds, the red zone is progressively getting smaller. There is a lot more work to do, including demolition of major buildings before the city can be re-opened, with significant aftershocks still occurring, even as this report was being written on Monday 13 June. The damage to the City Tramway itself, though relatively minor is low on priority for repairs when many people are still without working services such as sewerage. The reconstruction effort will be huge and at this time many residents, including THS members are still living in damaged homes awaiting insurance assessment etc.

The City of Christchurch is currently undertaking a community consultation process on what the city should be like in the future. One thing under consideration is a light rail project – have a look at their web site and in particular - <http://www.shareanidea.org.nz/move/>

At the THS itself, progress on the Birney tram continues and it is hoped to have it under test soon. There is the possibility that it may journey to Auckland Harbour side Tramway which the operators of Christchurch Tramways were awarded the initial operating rights for the new tramway loop being built there.

For the City Tramway staff many no longer have a job, though John Smith and Steve Lea are involved in setting up the operation of the Auckland City Tramway that is planned to be opened early August.

Other NZ news is that at the recent FRONZ Conference, Western Springs Tramway (MOTAT) were awarded the Tramcar Restoration Award for Wellington 147.

Also in the news has been Wanganui where a Project Team has been established by Council to get No. 12 operational and building a section of track for it.

Your support for THS's fund raising appeal is strongly encouraged and we wish all our friends in Christchurch the best for recovering from this major disaster. Thanks to all those who have contributed so far.

2012 COTMA Conference

The hosts of the 2012 Conference, the St Kilda Tramway Museum (AETM Adelaide) have advised that the conference dates will be Thursday 16th to Tuesday 21st of August 2012. Put these dates in your diary. Further details as they become available. As previously announced, Richard Gilbert and Simon Green of the Ballarat Tramway Museum are proposing to run the Post Conference Tour and Partners tour respectively.

Personnel in the News

Well known Bendigo Tramway personality Dennis O'Hoy was recently awarded the Ray Tonkin Award for protecting heritage. Dennis has spent over 40 years working on heritage projects in the Bendigo area. The award was created by the Heritage Council of Victoria to recognise the role volunteers play in preserving cultural heritage.

W Class tram Refurbishment

Readers of Government press releases and other tramway related documents may have seen an item about the refurbishment of the Melbourne W class trams. A firm of consultants have undertaken a safety refurbishment study for Yarra Trams. One of the City Circle Trams, No. 957 has gone to Bendigo Tramways for prototype refurbishment. The Chairman and Assistant Executive Officer, Rod Atkins was asked to give their view on the refurbishment as part of the consultation process undertaken by the Consultants. Our views mainly centred on what the historical appearance of the trams and what they should look like and not necessarily what they currently look right now after many years of modifications and repairs.

Disaster Recovery

The FRONZ Journal of May 2011 contains an item on a survey amongst Not for Profit organisations whether they had recovery plans following disasters. Only about half the organisations had such a plan. Recovery plans generally covered key contact, backup of important documents and procedures for restoring IT. Such plans are not often circulated to Board members or were tested for compliance. Something that COTMA Members should consider and ensure that appropriate plans are in place, circulated and tested.

International Rail Safety Conference – Melbourne

The 2011 International Rail Safety Conference is being held in Melbourne between Sunday October 16 and Friday 21. For the first time, it will include topics on heritage and light rail safety. The web site is: <http://irsc2011.org/>

Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission

Announced in the 2011 Federal Budget was the establishment of an Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission who will have the sole responsibility for determining charitable public benevolent institutions and other not-for-profit status for all Commonwealth (read taxation) purposes. Our New Zealand counterparts will say, ahh Australia is following again. For more information have a look at Mill Oakley Lawyers web news item at <http://email.tontomail.com/t/ViewEmail/r/AD14214130F266E4/52CB404474CA6EABF6A1C87C670A6B9F>

Next News Update – August 2011. (All links working at time of publication)

Photos from Christchurch – The Windsor Hotel Area, a place where many of us have stayed during COTMA events has gone. The first photo appeared in the Christchurch Newspaper, *The Press* on Monday 2 May – the Windsor is on the left hand side of the photograph. Some of the buildings in this photograph have since been demolished. The next two photographs were supplied by Dave Hinman on Friday June 10, the day the Windsor was demolished. Many other iconic buildings in Christchurch will sadly suffer the same fate. The Windsor's web site, advises that no injuries were received to staff or guests.





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News Update – August 2011

From the Chairman

Since the last News Update, there have been many events and some news in our area of interest. Sadly we lost former Councillor Darlene Haigh of Hobart after poor health during August, but on a brighter note saw the opening of the Auckland Dockline tramway. Darlene attended a number of COTMA Conferences and was a driving force behind the reconstruction of a number of former Hobart tramcars. The COTMA AGM was recently held to formally receive the Annual Financial Statement. This will be forwarded to Members in hard copy during the second half of September for their information. Thanks to all those who were able to attend on the day.

The Executive is working with VicTrack to assist in the further allocation of the few remaining trams from Preston Workshops which needs to be cleared to allow for further redevelopment work. The remaining tramcars are in pretty poor condition. If any Member has any interest can they please contact Rod Atkins who is co-ordinating this. Rod's email address is: ozrod_au@yahoo.com or contact via the COTMA web site – www.cotma.org.au

2012 COTMA Conference

The organisation of the conference and associated events are proceeding. The conference dates are: - Thursday August 16 2012 through to Tuesday 21 August in Adelaide. The conference hotel will be the Mercure Grosvenor, opposite the railway station and adjacent to a tram stop. Further details about the conference planning will be in the next News Update. Simon Green is undertaking the planning of the Partners tour and Richard Gilbert the Post Conference Tour.

Richard has provided the following outline of the Post Conference tour of 3 nights, 4 days and finishes in Adelaide Friday afternoon 24 August.

The Post Conference tour will leave the AETM Museum after the conclusion of the host activities and will travel to Kadina for an overnight stay. The purpose of this destination is to spend time on the 'Copper Coast' absorbing the rich Cornish/Copper history of this region. The next day sees a visit to Wallaroo and Moonta to see the many historic sites, including railway sites, and then to enjoy a 50 minute tour on the 2 foot gauge tramways touring the mining history of the Moonta copper mine.

From Moonta, we travel back through Kadina to arrive at our unusual and interesting motel, Barossa Junction, at Tanunda for two nights. This motel comprises accommodation in converted railway carriages and dinner is served in a replica Dining Car. The Bar Car is another vehicle in the complex.

Now in the Barossa Valley, the next day sees a choice of attending a Cooking Demonstration and lunch with TV Cooking personality, Maggie Beer or a full visit of the heritage buildings and a wine tasting at Seppeltsfield. A free afternoon is then provided in the delightful Barossa town of Angaston.

Next day our coach takes us over the Adelaide Hills to the flatter plains of Murray Bridge for a river cruise on the Murray River before a quick return to Adelaide on the freeway. This tour takes in railway and tramway history: visits the Copper Coast, Clare Valley, Barossa Valley, historic towns in the Adelaide hills and a river cruise on the Murray River, and an excellent micro-brewery.

Forthcoming Events

Ballarat Tramway Museum is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the closure of the SEC Tramway system in Ballarat on Sunday 18 September. For further details visit their website on www.btm.org.au

Perth Electric Tramway Society is planning to formally launch WAGT Tram No. 66 on Sunday 9 October at 10am - Whiteman Park.

National Rail Safety Regulator

Progress on the implementation of the National Rail Safety Regulator (NRSR) for Australia continues. On the tramway side, the Australian Intergovernmental Agreement for the Regulator, states that the proposed "NRSR will regulate all rail operations as defined in the national rail safety law, noting that light rail and tram network(s) operating outside of the heavy rail network will only be provided regulatory coverage by the NRSR where a (state) jurisdiction has indicated a preference for it to do so."

At this time, it is known that the Victorian Government proposes to retain regulation of tramways. To do this, it is understood that the Victorian Government will develop a "Tramway Safety Act". It is proposed to use the concepts of the Single Rail Safety Regulator Act, rather than an update of the current Vic Rail Safety Act. What the other states will do in this regard is not known, though probably most will move the tramways over to the Single Regulator.

Tramways exclusively horse operated are excluded from the Act, as are amusements, those used only for static displays and hobby railways.

If you have any questions or have potential problems arising out the NRSR, can you please contact the Chairman at warren@wads.id.au

Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission

Further to the report in the last issue of News Update concerning this new Regulator planned to come into action on 1/7/2012, for further information see Commonwealth Government's Press Release dated 10 May 2011 – via

<http://ministers.treasury.gov.au/DisplayDocs.aspx?doc=pressreleases/2011/077.htm&pageID=003&min=brs&Year=&DocType=0>

It is not known what impact it will have on COTMA members, but watch this space and any other not-for-profits websites, as it could have a substantial impact if you lose your tax free status.

Brandford Electric Railway Storm Damage

The Brandford Electric railway, Connecticut suffered extensive storm surge damage to its depot area and its vehicles as a result of Hurricane Irene. See <http://www.bera.org/irene.html> for a report on this event. We wish them all the best in recovering from this event.

Auckland Opening

COTMA welcomes the addition of another heritage based tramway operation, this time in Auckland. Congratulations to those involved from Auckland, Christchurch and Bendigo. A number of COTMA members attended the opening. For their web-site see, <http://www.aucklandtram.co.nz/Welcome>

Next News Update – November 2011. (All links working at time of publication)



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News Update - December 2011

Season Greetings and a Happy 2012 to all our members and readers – may the trolley wheels (or skids, pantographs) keep turning smoothly for you!

From the Chairman

With the increasing use of litigation to resolve problems within organisations and more and more regulation, the life expectancy and work of an organisation and their members can be impacted upon with little warning. In Australia, there are currently three regulatory changes that are reported upon in this News Update that could impact on our Australian Members. These are changes to Rail Safety Regulation, the introduction of a new Australian Charities and Not for Profit Regulator and changes to the Work Health and Safety Legislation that now includes the work of volunteers. While these are still work in progress, they could unduly affect your museum if you are not aware of them.

Forthcoming Executive meeting – agenda items

The COTMA Executive is meeting in Auckland on Sunday January 29, 2012 to discuss COTMA organisational matters, including the forthcoming Adelaide Conference organisation. If any member has an item that it would like to be discussed by the Executive, can you please let the Chairman know by an e-mail to warren@wads.id.au by early January.

2012 COTMA Conference

The organisation of the COTMA Conference for Thursday August 16 to Tuesday August 21 2012 is going well. A draft Agenda of the program is attached to the News Update. The Post Conference tour remains as previously advised in the August issue of News Update. Simon Green is finalising a program for the Partners Tour and this should be available soon. When available it will be posted to the COTMA website under the Conference Tab, along with booking arrangements.

2012 COTMA Awards

Don't forget that the bi-annual COTMA "Excellence and Recognition" Awards are to be presented at the Conference Dinner. Award submissions will need to be with judges by 30th June 2012. Further details in the next Newsletter, but please give some consideration to what your achievements have been since the last conference and start planning your submission for those excellent projects you have achieved.

Useful Documents from the Web

While searching for details of an old Westinghouse Controller, the following Google library document was spotted. It is Google copy of "Westinghouse Electric Street Car Equipments" of 1896. Fascinating stuff and well worth having a look at. The link to the book is:

http://www.google.com.au/books?id=M59EAAAIAAJ&ie=ISO-8859-1&redir_esc=y The link opens up the Google Library page and shows other similar themed documents that are available for access.

VicTrack Meetings

VicTrack has been holding regular meetings with COTMA Victorian Members over the last 10 years. These are generally held in Melbourne each quarter. Attending are the representatives of Victorian Museum operators, Sydney Tramway Museum and if possible Ian Seymour of the St Kilda Tramway Museum Adelaide. When it has co-incided with visits, representatives from NZ, Brisbane and Perth have attended as well. The next meeting is in Melbourne on Wed. 22 Feb.

2012. At this time, the following tentative dates for the rest of the year are planned:- 23 May, 1/8 and 28/11.

At the last meeting on 8 December, hosted by Bendigo Tramways, topics discussed with disposal of trams at Preston, Newport, the Melbourne Tramway Study, trams being sent to PETS and MOTAT, and general matters relating to the operation of trams by COTMA and where VicTrack may be able to assist.

If any of your museum management are in Melbourne around these dates, please contact Warren to obtain the final meeting details. All COTMA member Museums' are most welcome to attend.

National Rail Safety Regulator

The establishment of a National Rail Safety Regulator during Jan. 2013 continues apace. Since the last News Update, the proposed Act, Regulations and other documents have undergone consultation. ATHRA has placed a number of submissions to both the National Transport Commission and the Project Office. One significant submission concerned cost recovery. AHTRA submitted that T&H non-profit operators should not pay fees, but that the fee payable should be a Community Service Obligation met by the relevant Jurisdiction. We understand that this will be recommended to the Transport Ministers in May 2012. Many other heritage issues remained to be resolved.

While all states and Territories signed off a Council of Australian Governments Intergovernmental agreement regarding Rail Safety Regulation and the establishment of the Regulator, (see http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2011-08-19/index.cfm) the Scope (see A2 of Schedule A) states that "*light rail and tram network(s) operating outside of the heavy rail network will only be provided regulatory coverage by the NRSR where a jurisdiction has indicated a preference for it to do so.*" This means that each jurisdiction must opt in its tramways. At this time, it is understood that Victoria and New South Wales plan to maintain regulatory coverage for tramways. So far, there has been no consultation with COTMA members in those states other than advice in general documents that this will occur. COTMA is endeavouring to gain some information on what this means for our members that operate tramways and how they will be regulated. Part of the problem, other than the in-principle decision, apparently little other work has been done.

Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission

Members will be aware from previous News Updates, the Commonwealth Government establishment of an Australian Charities and Non-profits Commission. The regulator's main role would be to register charities and provide a publicly searchable database of all registered charities. The Commission's web site is <http://acnctaskforce.treasury.gov.au> The most recent newsletter advises that they are working on the definition of a charity. Those organisations that have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status currently such as our museums, it is proposed that there will be no changes as the result of a statutory definition of a charity. However, it is expected by the Australian Taxation Office that you regularly check your status qualification and see that you have not changed your purpose and made changes to the nature of your operations - see www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit/content.aspx?menuid=0&doc=/content/34516.htm&page=9&H9

The new Work Health and Safety Acts

By the end of 2012, it is expected that all states will have harmonised Work Health and Safety legislation. The inclusion of volunteers in the definition of workers in s.7 of the Act ensures volunteers receive the same level of work health and safety protection as employees. A recent Volunteering Australia news item reports:

"However, concerns have been raised with Volunteering Australia about volunteers on Boards and Committees of Management being prosecuted in the event of failure to comply with a health and safety duty owed by them to another individual. Volunteering Australia has received advice from the Office of Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Workplace Relations and has held

discussions with officers from Safe Work Australia. We now understand that the intent of the Act is as follows:

1. Volunteer associations, whether they be incorporated or unincorporated, which are wholly made up of volunteers working for a community purpose, where none of the volunteers employ any workers, will not fall within the model WHS Act. Therefore volunteer directors, officers and workers of these associations cannot be prosecuted under the model WHS laws.
2. If a volunteer association, incorporated or unincorporated, employs any person to carry out work for the association, that association will owe health and safety duties to workers, including volunteers and will be subject to the provisions of the model WHS Act. However volunteer directors/officers will only have duties of workers/other persons at the workplace and cannot be prosecuted for any failure to comply with the duty of officers. The duty of workers and other persons at a workplace are similar to duties owed by volunteers/workers under current OHS legislation.

Safe Work Australia has prepared a series of Fact Sheets for volunteer organisations. These were published on the 7th of December and can be accessed from the following link:

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/AboutSafeWorkAustralia/WhatWeDo/Publications/Pages/VolunteerOrganisationsModelWHSActFactSheet.aspx>

These should be considered as mandatory reading by your Boards’.

COTMA Technical Library

The AETM the operators of the St Kilda Tramway Museum, Adelaide have requested a clarification be made regarding the use of the documents shown as supplied by them on the COTMA Technical Library web link.

Firstly the documents were made available by the Rail Commissioner / Public Transport Services, the operators of Adelaide Metro; the formal successor to TransAdelaide through the auspices of the National Rail Museum (NRM). The Public Transport Services Rolling Stock Engineering section formally made them available to the NRM as part of the relocation of the railcar depot from North Terrace to Dry Creek. The NRM Archives recognising the tramway nature of the documents, subsequently transferred them to the AETM Archives.

Secondly the provision of the drawings for COTMA web site was not authorised by the AETM at the time. However the AETM have since formally approved the supply of the documents for the COTMA Technical Library.

It is important that individual members do not act for or on behalf of their organisation without the knowledge and approval of their respective Committees or Board.

COTMA thanks all those involved for making these important documents available to our Members and friends. The provision of further documents are welcomed.

News since August 2011

Since the last News Update, many things have happened that involve the work of COTMA Members. Congratulations to all those involved in these achievements.

1. Opening The Auckland Dockline Tramway – on Saturday 8 August. For their website see <http://www.aucklandtram.co.nz/Welcome> Involved in the establishment of the tramway was Western Springs Tramway (MOTAT), Bendigo Tramways, Len Millar and Darren Hutchison’s Newstead Tramcars. The tramway itself is operated under contract by the same organisation who operates the Christchurch trams, Welcome Aboard and many well-known Christchurch identities are now working in Auckland.

2. The Tramway Historical Society of Christchurch have rebuilt Birney Invercargill No. 15 and it was tested on 29 October. Since then, THS has effectively completed the new storage shed to accommodate the trams that were displaced by the Earthquake. The latest issue of their Newsletter Tracts reports on the construction of the building and that some further funds are still needed to complete the work. News from the City itself remains sad with the Anglican Cathedral recently deconsecrated.
3. New or extended depot buildings at Bendigo and St Kilda Adelaide.
 - The contract for the extension of the depot building at Bendigo has been effectively completed with Bendigo Tramways occupying the building and moving all the trams back into the depot itself. This has been a big project. The new facilities were able to be inspected by those attending the recent VicTrack meeting.
 - The Australian Electric Tramway Museum, located at St Kilda Adelaide has completed and moved its tramcars into a new shed on the site of the original depot building.
4. The Ballarat Tramway Museum has completed an offsite storage building at its site at Bungaree and will shortly be moving tramcars into it.
5. The Tramways Trust Wanganui reached a milestone on 7 December when it was able to provide power to Wanganui No. 12 for the first time. An ex Ian Little motor generator set was used to provide power. All circuits have been tested and the motors were turning the right way. The tram is currently on blocks. On 9 December it was announced the Wanganui District Council had approved a loan of NZ\$400,000 that will allow stage one of the city's tram project to go ahead. The 100-year-old No 12 tram, which used to run through Wanganui's streets, was gifted back to Wanganui by David Harre in 2005. Wanganui Tramways Trust has spent the past six years restoring it fitting with assistance of COTMA and VicTrack through the assistance of providing operational equipment and with the other three NZ tramway museums providing technical assistance.
6. On 15 November, the Tasmanian Transport Museum in Glenorchy was recognised by Engineers Australia for its collection of transport items that have engineering heritage significance. The formal ceremony, which was attended by 160 guests, included an address from the Governor of Tasmania Peter Underwood. The transport collection began in 1962 with the donation of tram no 141 when Hobart's electric tram system was closed and the formation of the Tasmanian Transport Museum Society. In 1972 the Glenorchy City Council leased the site to the society, conveniently beside the main north-south railway, and the museum officially opened in 1983.

COTMA congratulates Chris Martin the President of the Tasmanian Association of Tourist Railways and Vice Chairman of ATHRA, for being awarded the John Monash Medal for his outstanding contribution to engineering heritage. Chris made an exceptional contribution to engineering heritage through championing the preservation of the historic Lake Margaret Power Scheme in Western Tasmania. In the face of its planned closure and replacement, he argued for its heritage significance, independently researched its history and cost effective conservation options and organised technical and political support for its outstanding heritage value as an operating heritage scheme. Chris is the President of the Redwater Creek Steam Railway as well. The Railway operates the annual Steamfest at Sheffield. This event was awarded the Community Event of the Year Award as part of the 2011 Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards – Congratulations to Chris and his team for their work.

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