



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

## News Update – February 2012

### From the Chairman

At the recent meeting of the COTMA Executive held in Auckland late January, the following matters were considered:

- COTMA Financial situation and Membership fees – propose to leave Membership fees as current.
- Consideration whether COTMA should change its name – propose to leave as is.
- Assistance to Members with parts and tramcars being made available by VicTrack; and future planning for this and of storage of a limited quantity of parts.
- The Web site and its use.
- Distribution of news letters between member organisations – recommend doing by e-mail – e-mail lists to be updated and re-distributed.
- A volunteer achievement award – further work to be done on this prior to the conference.
- Affiliate Membership – possible new Australasian Members and whether other foreign Museums could become Affiliate Members – the rules do allow for this.
- 2012 Conference arrangements, Partners tour and the Post Conference tour.
- Competency Assessments, medicals, regulation and other general matters.

### Vacancy - Chairman

One topic that was discussed at the Executive meeting was that of a new COTMA Chairman from 2012 onwards. The current Chairman, Warren Doubleday advised at the 2010 Conference General Meeting that he would no longer make himself available for election as Chairman from 2012, having occupied the chair for the last 10 years. Warren re-confirmed this. At this time, a possible replacement Chairman has not been identified or a person indicating interest in taking the job on or come forward. Warren indicated he would be happy to continue to maintain the COTMA web site. Under the COTMA Rules, Warren will continue to be an Executive Member for the first 12 months as Immediate Past Chairman.

The Chairman would be happy to discuss the role with any Museum member who could be interested in taking on the position.

### 2012 COTMA Conference

Arrangements for the Conference, Partners Tours and Post Conference tour as detailed in past issues of the News Update are proceeding. Ian Seymour of the AETM, the host Museum is busy finalising costs and the booking form. As soon as it is available, News Update recipients will be advised by E-mail and copies will be posted out to Museums and those people who have requested a copy by post. Booking forms will also be available from the COTMA web site. The dates again are: Thursday 16th August running through to Tuesday 21st of August. See the COTMA website: <http://cotma.org.au/conference.html> for further details.

### Call for Papers

Reminder the Call for Papers for the forthcoming Adelaide conference closing on 12 March 2012. See: <http://cotma.org.au/conference.html> for details.

## **2012 COTMA Awards**

Entries for the COTMA Excellence Award are scheduled to close on 30 June 2012.

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. They are an excellent way of recognising the achievements of your workers.

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.

Submissions are to be sent to 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.

## **Rockhampton Tramway seeking QR Headlight**

Archer Park, Rockhampton are trying to locate a headlight for their C17 locomotive No. 988. If anyone can assist, please contact Dennis Sheehan on [sheehand@rcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:sheehand@rcc.qld.gov.au).

Also please note that the Purrey Steam tram commenced its 2012 operating season on Sunday 12th February following the annual summer maintenance shutdown.

## **The new Work Health and Safety Acts**

The rollout of a model Work Health and Safety Act across Australia is starting to happen. This act specifically involves volunteers, especially if you employ (for reward) a person. It is strongly recommended that a representative from your Museum attend any seminar/training course that brings your organisation up to date on this matter.

## **COTMA Technical Library**

Don't forget the COTMA Technical Library, available on the COTMA website - <http://cotma.org.au/library.html> We are always looking for more documents to go onto the library, so if you have any and are able to scan them to a pdf format or able to loan the document to get it scanned, they would be most welcome.

## **The Australian Charities and Not-for Profit Commission (ACNC):**

Janet Walton, Secretary of the Mornington Railway Preservation Society in Victoria recently reported to the Association of Tourist Railways that a consultation meeting was held in Melbourne on 7 Feb 2012. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the ATO will transfer to the Commission the list of Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR). Reviews will be conducted in the next twelve months to ascertain if charitable groups are still eligible for this status. Groups who are registered as a DGR do not need to do anything at this stage. However, after the end of the financial year 2012-13, groups will need to report to the Commission about their income, expenditure and how fundraising proceeds are spent.

## **News since December 2011**

Since the last news update, we know of the following events amongst COTMA Members.

1. Formal opening of the extensions to the Bendigo Tram Depot by the Bendigo Trust.
2. Opening by the Mayor of Christchurch of the Tramway Historical Society's new depot to house the trams that were evacuated from the City following the earthquake.
3. Tramways Wanganui Trust launching their restored to operational service, tram No. 12, and driving it out of the shed on a short length of track.

4. Brisbane Tramway Museum celebrating the Great Strike of 1912 when the tramways ceased operation for five weeks over the right to belong to a union and wear a union badge. An associated book, "One American too Many" has been published by The Workshops Rail Museum and it is a great read with many good photographs. See <http://www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au/Shop/Books/Books+about+Queensland/One+American+Too+Many>

Our apologies to the Perth Electric Tramway for overlooking the launch on Sunday 9 October of E class tram No. 66, after many years of reconstruction.

Congratulations to all.

### **Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation**

The first APHTRO (**Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation**) conference will be held in Solo, Indonesia from 7 to 11 June. Everyone with an interest in heritage railways and museums will be warmly welcomed. Booking is opened now, the details and booking form are on following page. <http://aphtroconference.web.fc2.com/>

### **French Tramway Atlas – A definitive Guide to Trams in France**

The dynamic reappearance of trams back on French streets has even impacted in Australia. A recent publication, albeit in French could be a useful publication to those interested in tramways around the world. For a link to the pdf file advertising the book, [click here](#) or it can be downloaded from the COTMA News Update tab – under the Feb 2012 newsletter.

### **And finally**

Attached to the update for Museums are the up to date member address and e-mail list and the last financial report.

**Next News Update – April 2012.** (All links working at time of publication)



*Wanganui No. 12 is driven out of the depot building on 23 Jan. 2012. Photo Dave Hinman.*



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## News Update – April 2012

### **2012 COTMA Conference – Booking Forms – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Since the distribution of the last COTMA News Update, the booking forms for the August 2012 Adelaide Conference, the Partners tour and the Post Conference Tour have been made available through the Web site or posted out to those we know who are not on e-mails. Copies have also been sent to Member Museums. If you know of a friend who may not have seen the booking forms, please pass a copy onto them or let us know and we will get a copy to them.

For Conference details and forms please see: [www.cotma.org.au/conference.html](http://www.cotma.org.au/conference.html)

If you have any queries regarding the conference, please contact Ian Seymour, the Conference Convenor at [adelaidecotma2012@gmail.com](mailto:adelaidecotma2012@gmail.com)

A late fee of \$50 applies to bookings received after 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and bookings close on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Please book early as this will assist the Conference organisers in their planning.

An excellent Partners tour program has been arranged by Simon Green; and Richard Gilbert has planned another wide ranging post conference tour.

Thanks to all those involved in organising the conference, partners tour and post conference tour.

A wide range of conference papers have been received, including a number to be presented by Adelaide Metro staff who were responsible for the recent extension to the Entertainment Centre.

We look forward to seeing you again and renewing friendships.

### **COTMA Conference Quiz and Brags**

The Quiz masters are preparing another set of devilish questions to keep us entertained and test both our general and tramway knowledge. If you don't like their answers, then you had better come equipped with the facts. Smart phones, tablets, computer systems, "dialling a friend" or even "twitter" to obtain the answers will be not be allowed to be used.

Brags or what you have been doing over the last the two years since last conference are due with the conference organisers prior to the conference itself. Don't forget brags are limited to 10 minute duration, except for the conference Museum host whose presentation may be up to 15 mins long. The longest over the 10 mins, will be a round of drinks for all. This makes it fair on all parties, especially those are under 10mins.

### **2012 COTMA Awards**

Don't forget that entries for the COTMA Excellence Award are scheduled to close on 30 June 2012. 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. They are an excellent way of recognising the achievements of your workers.

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be made to the organisation that the judges considered have made the most significant achievement. This award will carry a cash prize of \$500.

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### **WATTRAIN Conference**

The World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains 2012 Conference will be held in Leeds and York commencing Saturday 29 September and finishing on Saturday 6 October. An excellent value for money program has been arranged. For details of the program and booking form see [http://www.athra.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/WATTRAINBooking\\_Information.Final.pdf](http://www.athra.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/WATTRAINBooking_Information.Final.pdf) Closing dates for bookings are 31 July.

### **Vale Frank Moag**

Frank Moag, one of the founders of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society recently passed away, aged 96. STARPS Publicity Manager Andrew Tester provided the following about Frank's long association, firstly with Parramatta Park and then Valley Heights.

Frank was a founding member of STARPS, playing an integral part in securing the preservation of Steam Tram Motor 103A and building the fledgling Steam Tram & Railway Preservation Society Co-operative Limited from its infancy into the Society it is today.

With the establishment of the Society's Tramway operation in Parramatta Park in the mid 1950's, Frank was actively involved in the building of the Society's collection and the behind the scenes administration of the Society from its humble beginnings through to June 1993 when the Society was devastated by the tragic fire which ultimately ended operations in Parramatta Park.

Frank stuck by the Society and motivated other Society members in a determined effort to ensure the Society's existence continued into the future. Unable to re-establish within Parramatta Park, the Society was invited to exploratory talks with the Valley Heights committee which Frank attended. These talks resulted in an understanding between the two groups which has since flourished into a unique bond.

This union between the two groups resulted in Frank joining the Valley Heights Museum, although his devotion remained with the Steam Tram society his support to Valley Heights will not be forgotten.

### **News since February 2012**

Leon Parker of the Hobart City Council provided the following photographs of their new tramway shed – the 4<sup>th</sup> to be constructed by COTMA Members over the last 12 months of so. Leon advised that he will be retiring from Council towards the end of the year.



## From the Chairman

The Chairman, Warren Doubleday will be absent, travelling in Europe from Wed 25 April and returning on Wed 6 June. Part of the planning is to attend the FEDECRAIL Conference in Sweden during early May. The first tramway system to be visited is Antwerp and the last Paris. There are a couple of Museum operations planned to be visited as well. Contact will be via E-mail please but service may be a bit slow.



*Antwerp – PCC type tram leaves the station plaza with the magnificent heritage railway Antwerp Central station in the background – 28-4-2012*

## **COTMA AGM**

As it will be necessary to hold an AGM date prior to the Conference itself in order to meet our incorporation requirements, this is planned to be held at the meeting with VicTrack Wednesday 1 August at Hawthorn Depot, 12Noon. Formal notification will be given at a later date.

**Next News Update – July 2012.** (All links working at time of publication)



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## News Update – August 2012

### From the Chairman

The 21<sup>st</sup> COTMA Conference and the third for Adelaide commences on Thursday 16 August. There is a good roll up of attendees from NZ and our Australian Members. Thanks to Ian Seymour and his band of helpers for arranging the conference. The post conference tour and Partners tour have booked well and were effectively filled quickly. Thanks to Richard Gilbert and Simon Green for organising these.

Since our last COTMA News Update, the Tramway Museum movement has lost some of our Regular conference attendees; Bill Kingsley, Bruce Worthington and one of the founders of the Sydney Tramway Museum – Norm Chin and a founder of the Tramway Wanganui Trust – Martin Emmerson.

A Tribute to Bill Kingsley was prepared and published on the Website soon after I received news of his death. He was in good spirits when I last saw him just before I left to go to Europe in late April and looking forward to the Adelaide Conference. He had made preliminary arrangements. As one of the principal founders of COTMA, he will be remembered with a specific tribute at the Conference dinner. Bruce Worthington was an active member of the Sydney Tramway Museum and always in a jovial mode. The one thing a Conference tour organiser will remember about Bruce is he was always just in time and I mean just in time to join the tour bus. Bruce was not well at the time of the Wellington Conference and struggled through with ill health but he got there and had a good time to the best of his ability at those moments.

The loss of these and other COTMA Museum workers will be remembered at the conference dinner.

### Tramcar Bell Cord

David Cawood's of Western Springs Tramway is often on the lookout for tramway materials; recently advising about Bell cord, or sewing machine belting. They found a supplier in New York and purchase two 90 foot rolls of the 5/16" round. [http://www.ebay.com/itm/90-FT-Leather-Treadle-Belt-Sewing-Machine-5-16-Round-/290497933267?pt=LH\\_DefaultDomain\\_0&hash=item43a306afd3](http://www.ebay.com/itm/90-FT-Leather-Treadle-Belt-Sewing-Machine-5-16-Round-/290497933267?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item43a306afd3)

Another supplier in Melbourne is Leffler leather in Macaulay Road Kensington, a Melbourne suburb. Their website is <http://www.leffler.com.au>. Ballarat Tramway Museum has obtained cord from them, it is not cheap, but they do have an excellent range of leather tools and equipment. Current price for 7mm diameter is about \$7/metre + GST.

### ATHRA Rail Safety News

The movement to a National Rail Safety Regulator within Australia continues. A report that was prepared for ATHRA members during July is attached, in case you have not seen it.

### Commonwealth Government & Charities Legislation

The federal government has referred its draft laws to establish a charities register to a parliamentary committee to hold hearings over the parliamentary recess. Assistant Treasurer, David Bradbury MP, has stated that the regulator will begin operations in October 2012. It will

affect all registered charities including historical societies registered for tax deductible purposes and operating in a not-for-profit situation.

## **COTMA AGM**

The COTMA AGM was held at Hawthorn Depot on 1 August 2012, as part of the regular meeting with VicTrack. The accounts were received and passed. They will be reported on at the forthcoming Conference General Meeting.

## **COTMA Conference General Meeting**

Specific topics for consideration at the forthcoming CGM, other than the usual reports and elections for the positions on the Executive will be:

- Distribution of COTMA and other Museum documents/newsletters
- Changes in the Regulatory Environment – Single Regulator in Australia and issues with some of the Regulatory approaches
- Training and Competency Assessment Standards
- Health Standards – 2012 – Australia and New Zealand
- A name change for COTMA
- COTMA Achievement Awards:
- Members visiting other COTMA Museums – any issues?
- Men's Shed and other ways for increasing your volunteer numbers.
- Social Media

If you have any additional topics you wish to add, please advise the Chairman, so they can be added to the Agenda.

## **An Underside Tram Washing Facility?**

Photographed by the Chairman during a May 2012 visit was this fountain incorporated within a tram junction in Oslo. The fountain is subdued when the tram passes over it. It acts as a roundabout at other times. Found when looking for a car parking space! Then took a tram.



Links correct at the time of publication.



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## News Update – September 2012

### **COTMA Executive**

The COTMA Executive Committee following the Adelaide 2012 Conference General Meeting is:

Ian Seymour – Chairman  
Dave Hinman – Deputy Chairman  
Rod Atkins – Executive Officer  
Mal Rowe – Assistant Executive Officer  
Howard Clark – Treasurer  
Peter Hyde – Australian Museums Liaison Officer  
Clinton Pearce – New Zealand Museums Liaison Officer  
Warren Doubleday – Immediate Past Chairman

### **From the Chairman**

Hello Member Groups and Members of COTMA. I have been asked to write a few words about myself, having been given the honour of election to the position of Chairman of COTMA at the Adelaide 2012 Conference.

I have met many of you all, over the years, from either visiting your museums or you visiting St Kilda, but I may be just a name to others. I joined the AETM mid-way through 1979 and have been very active nearly every weekend since, either on traffic, or behind the scenes on the maintenance and restoration of our fleet and infrastructure.

I am a Fitter and Turner by trade and have used my trade skills to advance St Kilda, and also to assist other groups, either physically or by the passing on of knowledge. I have been very active in obtaining workshop machinery for the museum to achieve a good level of self-sufficiency in maintenance and restoration at St Kilda, plus assisting other groups with machining requirements. I have been General Manager at St Kilda from the early 80's and a couple of years ago was elected to the position of President.

I am also involved with the South Australian Railway and Tramway umbrella group, Heritage Rail S.A, currently holding the position of Secretary, and I am also involved with the national group ATHRA (Association of Tourist Heritage Rail of Australia) as the second S.A representative.

I was very happy to catch up with many of you again at the Conference and meet some new faces as well. As you can see I am busy on all fronts but will hope to catch up with you at your museums as time permits.

### **From the Executive Officers Desk**

One thing that happens in life that we have no control over is change. I certainly was not expecting to be elected to this role when I departed Melbourne for the Adelaide Conference last month. I have now worked with Warren Doubleday for over ten years. I intend to make sure he is kept in the expanded COTMA family mix moving into the future assisting the base committee.

On return to Melbourne I was greeted with the unfortunate news that Mike Ryan from VicTrack had been made redundant with ten other staff as a result of Public Service cut backs in Victoria

Government circles. Mike has been a great asset to our cause and has organized a number of trams and parts to member Museums down the years. Mike is going to be missed at VicTrack and we now will have to build up a new recourse with whoever takes over Mike's areas of responsibility. Therefore you will all have to patient on any requests for parts or tram orders in the coming months.

Communications – I have been updating my Email address book as a priority with all corrections and additions. If you need extra people in your organization added to the COTMA emailing list, please tell us. If you are not getting emails and other are, please come back to us immediately.

My post conference follow up has started. I am currently checking through all the issues raised in Adelaide and the organization rules review will be one of the next emails to go out.

If you receive any requests to your museum when equipment comes available, please answer back to the sender. A Yes or a No or your looking into the request is appreciated. No reply is not an answer and does not help us determine if the message is getting through to those who need to know in your organization. Rod's email is: ozrod\_au@yahoo.com

My email address is always open even if I am not available 24/7 as I work full time. I look forward to a close working relationship each and every one of you and will need your expertise with some issues as you would well understand in times ahead.

A copy of the latest Member address list with emails is attached to this News Update for the formal Members emails only. Please check your Member email and address listings.

### **COTMA Conference Report**

This is an edited report, written by Warren Doubleday for the Ballarat Tramway Museum's August newsletter, Fares Please!

The 21<sup>st</sup> Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia (COTMA) Conference was held in Adelaide from Thursday 16 August to Tuesday 21 August. Hosted by the Australian Electric Transport Museum, whose tram museum operations are based at St Kilda, Adelaide. Attending were 17 different tram and rail museum operators from around Australasia. The Conference Venue was the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, located almost directly opposite the Adelaide Railway Station with the new tramline to the Entertainment Centre right outside the door too.

A welcome cocktail function was held on the opening night where friendships amongst the COTMA family were renewed once again. The Conference was formally opened by The Hon. Pat Conlon, S.A. Minister for Transport and Infrastructure who spoke about the construction of the extension of Adelaide's tram line from Victoria Square to the Entertainment Centre, its revitalisation of the centre of Adelaide and its role in the future development of the city. The Electrification of the Adelaide suburban system is proceeding although it has been delayed by funding issues, as are other extensions of the tramway system.

The following sessions, which are available for download from the COTMA web site, [http://cotma.net.au/documents/adelaide\\_2012/Conference%202012%20Papers%20List.htm](http://cotma.net.au/documents/adelaide_2012/Conference%202012%20Papers%20List.htm) under the Conference Proceedings tab, looked at the construction of the tram line extensions, the redevelopment of the Glengowrie Workshops, the ordering of the new trams and electric trains and the construction of the South Road Overpass. These were well received by the attendees.

All the tramway museums at the conference presented their brags or reports over two days, comprising either videos or PowerPoint presentations. This gives other museums an excellent update on everyone else's work.

The following day, Saturday, saw the completion of the presentations, followed by a visit to the St Kilda Tramway Museum. On the Sunday it was by special railcar to the National Railway Museum's platform within their Port Adelaide facility, followed by a tram ride using both types of Adelaide trams and a visit to the Glengowrie depot which has been extensively refurbished and extended to handle the larger tramcar fleet.

Monday saw a bus trip via Seaford looking at the work to extend the rail line from Noarlunga Central to Seaford; and then onto Victor Harbor to ride the horse tram. After lunch we rode the 1928 Brill Railcar towing a Centenary Car of SteamRanger from Victor Harbor to Strathalbyn for dinner at a local hotel prior to returning to Adelaide. Tuesday was the final day of the Conference at which the Conference General Meeting was held. This meeting saw the retirement of Warren Doubleday as Chairman of COTMA after 10 years in the role. Ian Seymour of AETM has taken over the position. Ian is the current President of AETM and is well known by Australasian COTMA Members and for his work.

Simon Green of Ballarat organised and ran the well-received Partners tour which was attended by 10 partners and enjoyed by all. Richard Gilbert also of Ballarat, arranged and ran very successfully the Post Conference tour to Moonta, Kadina, Barossa Valley, Murray Bridge and Angaston which took three days with over 30 participants.

On behalf of all the attending COTMA members we thank the Conference Organisers and in particular Ian Seymour for his excellent work for the Adelaide 2012 Conference. The networking amongst the COTMA family was excellent as always.

The next COTMA Conference will be in Sydney during 2014.

### **Web site**

The COTMA web site has been updated for all the conference papers and discussions under the conference proceedings tab – [www.cotma.org.au/proceedings.html](http://www.cotma.org.au/proceedings.html) Also available are the COTMA conference reports of the Chairman and Executive Officer along with that of the IATM.

A photo of the group at the Glengowrie depot can be viewed on the website as well, along with some photos of the event. See [www.cotma.org.au/conference.html](http://www.cotma.org.au/conference.html)

### **COTMA Achievement Awards**

The COTMA "EAR" Award for 2012 was made to the Perth Electric Tramway Society for their book "Tracks by the Swan – The Electric Tram and Trolley Bus era of Perth, WA". Congratulations to all involved.

### **Conference Quiz Results**

One enjoyable part of the conference is the quiz session put together by Bob Pearce (PETS) and David Critchley (STM). The 2012 conference quiz is available on the web site at the following location:

[http://cotma.net.au/documents/adelaide\\_2012/COTMA%20quiz.pdf](http://cotma.net.au/documents/adelaide_2012/COTMA%20quiz.pdf)

The table results were:

#### **Table**

1	first - 29 pts
5	2nd - 26 and half pts
7	3rd - 25 pts

- 6 4th - 22 and half pts
- 4 5th - 21 pts
- 3 6th - 20 pts
- 2 7th - 15 and half pts

A creditable performance from all concerned and shows that knowledge of the various tram-trolleybus matters, and general knowledge as well, is alive and well.

### **Photographing your Collection Items and Arranging a Museum Collection Storage**

In a recent Museums Australia Vic branch newsletter for Accredited Museums were two practicable on-line training videos that may be useful to these involved in managing collections.

The first involved photographing your collection items and the second in about organising your store especially when large items are involved. They can be accessed from the following link:

<http://www.mavic.asn.au/resources/practical-training>

### **One American Too Many**

The Workshops Rail Museum, in conjunction with David Burke, author, recently published 'One American Too Many', the story of Boss Badger, the electrification of Brisbane's trams a century ago and the general strike of 1912. RRP \$29.95.

It is a fascinating read, and well worth having on your bookshelf or you shop. Wholesale enquiries to: Leonie Peasey, Retail Manager, The Roundhouse Shop, The Workshops Rail Museum, Queensland Museum, PO Box 2234, North Ipswich Queensland Australia 4305. Phone 07 3432 5100or [leonie.peasey@qm.qld.gov.au](mailto:leonie.peasey@qm.qld.gov.au). Also see [www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au](http://www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au)

***Next News Update – December 2012.*** (All links working at time of publication)