

# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

[www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)

## News Update January 2021



### About the President

Dave Hinman had some health concerns for a few weeks. He is still undergoing tests, and is now in much better condition, but is taking a break from a few tasks while he recovers. I'm sure that all museums will join me in wishing Dave a speedy and complete recovery.

Mal Rowe - Secretary

### Your To-Do List

- ✓ Put the COTMA conference in your diary for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of September.
- ✓ Plan and budget for collection of any trucks allocated to you under the Victorian retired trams strategy project.

### From the Secretary

COVID lockdowns and other demands on time have meant that there has been a longish period between editions of COTMA News Update, with the previous issue having been distributed in August of last year. However quite a lot has been happening.

Some museums have re-opened after the COVID pandemic showed some signs of slowing, but all are being cautious. There is considerable extra work – especially in cleaning – involved in re-opening.

Ballarat Tramway Museum has two new trams available for service. W2 407 (pictured above) is on loan from the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association and Geelong No 2 – a 1912 Duncan & Fraser product - is in the care of BTM after years of painstaking restoration by a private owner.

Work with VicTrack in managing the re-purposing of the 200+ trams at Newport has continued, although progress has been delayed by COVID restrictions of travel and movement of trams. VicTrack are being supportive and we expect to have some significant announcements soon. Requests for parts from museums and others are being processed – with the biggest task being managing requests for the (very bulky and heavy) trucks and truck components. See the note later in this edition of News Update.

Mal Rowe – Secretary, COTMA

### Annual general meeting

The 2020 COTMA AGM was held on two days, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 via the Zoom remote conferencing application due to COVID-19 issues in Victoria.

The meeting confirmed the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and received and adopted the Financial Statement and Auditors report. In addition, the meeting approved the closure of the 'Acquisitions Fund' which has never been required. The money in the fund is to be absorbed into general funds. We also

approved moving from accrual accounting to cash accounting to simplify our accounting procedures and in recognition of the simple nature of our accounts.

## COTMA conference in Ballarat 2021

Ballarat Tramway Museum will host the 2021 conference to align with their 50th anniversary celebrations on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 and with the support of Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association.

An early draft of the program – subject to change - has the following schedule:

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>: Registration and a social evening.
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>: Regional train and Bus tour with COTMA Awards Night in the evening.
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup>: Museum Reports, Conference General Meeting – including parts management progress.
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>: Visit to MTPA at Haddon and Ballarat Tramways with BTM 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner in the evening.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Ballarat Tramway Museum 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup>: Visit to Bungaree available to enable inspection of storage facilities and trams at the BTM offsite storage facility.

There will be no technical presentations, but we hope to fit in Museum Reports throughout the schedule. This program is a draft and subject to change.

Alternative activities for partners will be offered on Friday and Sunday. The partner and delegate program on Saturday will include activities of wide appeal.

It is anticipated that some pre-conference activities in Melbourne will be arranged by Melbourne based people and it is expected that some delegates may wish to follow up the conference with visits to new tram systems up the east coast of Australia.

We will probably run the following conference two years later – in 2023 - when the conference is expected to be hosted by MOTAT in Auckland.

## Parts Management - trucks

This project has slowed a bit due to COVID restrictions but is now getting back to full speed.

In 2020 COTMA members were invited to apply for trucks from Newport for immediate removal because there is no capacity to store trucks in Victoria. This was an expected situation and is covered in our parts policy - in clause 1.8 of that document.

By mid-year, applications were in hand for 15 pairs of trucks and these have all been allocated by the Committee, based on the advice of the parts management group. Of those 15 pairs, 9 have been actually allocated by number and 6 more have still to be allocated. This is due to delays in the removal of trucks from trams due to COVID related slowdowns. There is no proposal to review these allocations and they will be made available to museums as they are released by VicTrack. Only one pair of trucks has actually left Newport, but it is expected that more will start moving soon.



In September 2020, an urgent reminder was sent out to Member Museums asking them to put in applications for trucks. The response was a bit overwhelming – with an additional 50 pairs of trucks requested!

COTMA committee has approved a fair and transparent process to allocate priorities for trucks, based on the

applications received and the criteria in the parts management policy. One of the criteria is that parts are not being allocated for building up local stocks of spares. This does mean that some parts of some applications will be at the bottom of the list and will only be met if all other requests are met first.

We do not know exactly how many pairs of trucks we will be able to obtain, but it is unlikely to be 65 pairs in total.

## Perth Electric Tramway Society receives Trolleybus Overhead Equipment from former Wellington system.

The Council of the Perth Electric Tramway Society (PETS) noted in a COTMA Report that recovered overhead material from the former Wellington Trolleybus System was to be made available from Wellington Tramway Museum. Enquiries were made to obtain some of the recovered trolleybus overhead equipment for our proposed trolleybus loop at Whiteman Village. When we were told that material was available, a sketch was sent to Allan Neilson, Vice President, Maintenance & Engineering and discussions commenced in earnest.

The material was to include Section Insulators (SI), Trolleybus Crossings and Turnouts (Frogs), Sweeps (Segments) and the biggie, a Trolleybus Overhead Protection Unit (TBOP).

We asked that the TBOP be supplied with its cabinet {It's possible that the unit will be used in a remote location to the carbarn}, which of course added to the overall cost of transport. The artwork on the cabinet is rather special as well and will be kept intact.

Here's the TBOP in Wellington.

Several cities are now running programs to paint traffic light control boxes in various themes to improve the appearance of the municipality.

Another example showing Hawthorn Tramways Trust No 8 is outside the Melbourne Tram museum at Hawthorn.

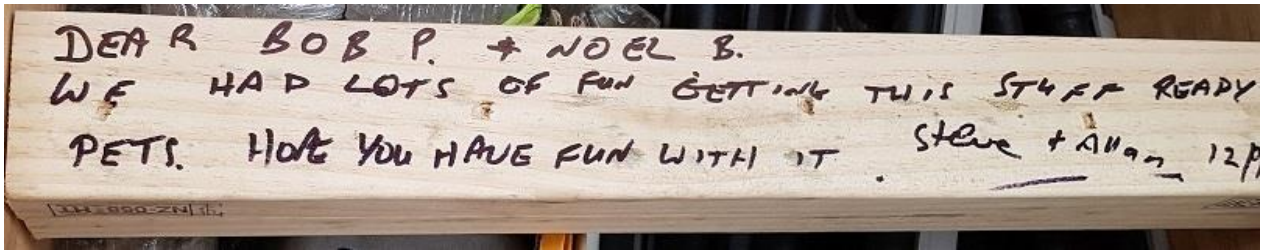


PETS engaged the services of Sadleirs Logistics (based in Perth) to transport the material from WTM to PETS. Allan and his team packed the material in one crate, while the TBOP was mounted and secured to a pallet, both of which had to be made using timber suitable for import into Australia. The crate and pallet were despatched in October and arrived at Whiteman Park in November after its journey by ship and road, safe and sound.

Our sincere thanks go to Allan Neilson, Steve Porter and everyone at WTM for the help and assistance with the sorting, packing and preparation for transport.



The consignment arrives. The Lindsay Richardson Body barn with WAGT E Class 64 is behind.



The message from Steve Porter (President WTM) and Allan Neilson (Vice President Maintenance & Engineering) to Noel Blackmore (Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Advisor) & Bob Pearce (Secretary).

... and there's more ...

Some other overhead equipment was imported from USA for the new car barn doors and is similar to that used in Christchurch at the City Car barn.



Bob Pearce, Secretary, PETS

### Any News?

Museum News in COTMA News update is always of interest. If you have something to tell us, then we would be delighted to hear at [cotma@cotma.org.au](mailto:cotma@cotma.org.au)

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## News Update May 2021



### From the President

Hello from Christchurch.

I hope you are all well and surviving the ups and downs we continue to experience as COVID 19 rolls on. It has been great to see the Trans Tasman bubble finally in place though there continue to be issues, particularly in Victoria.

In November last year I was struck down by a stress related illness which has affected my brain functions, and this has meant a need to cut back on my activities in a number of areas, including tramway.

Accordingly, I have reluctantly decided not to stand for a further term as COTMA President and will step down at the COTMA CGM in September. I have been on the COTMA Executive for quite a few years and became Chairman (as the position was then called) 7 years ago following the sudden resignation of the late Ian Seymour. I have enjoyed the role and will continue to serve the Executive and its new President as best I can.

I have also resigned from the position of Tramways convenor of FRONZ, which will take effect from that organisation's AGM next week. I will continue in my role as secretary of the Tramway Historical Society in Christchurch.

On to other matters. This edition of the update will address the issue of succession planning and urge groups to consider encouraging some of their younger members to put their names forward for office on the COTMA Executive. This is an issue of course not just related to COTMA, it is something we need to tackle within our Societies as well. Other matters include details about the September conference, now to be held in Ballarat from 15- 20 September, and will include the 50th anniversary of the Ballarat Tramway Museum on the Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - don't forget to get your entries in for the COTMA Achievement Awards.

And finally there has been progress on the tram disposal programme at Newport, Victoria. Our thanks to Mal Rowe and Tony Smith for the great work they are doing there.

Enjoy the read Dave Hinman

### *Your To-Do List*

- ✓ *Book your attendance at the COTMA conference and associated events Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of September.*
- ✓ *Submit your award applications for the conference*
- ✓ *Think about who from your group may learn from / contribute to leadership of COTMA*
- ✓ *Consider who you might team up with to share costs and parts from truck sets.*

## From the Secretary

Succession planning is key to survival of any organization. As you will have read in the message from Dave Hinman above, he has decided not to nominate for the role of President at the next Conference General Meeting.

I have been a member of COTMA committee for nine years and Secretary for the last three. I have also led the process of COTMA's involvement in Victoria's "Retired Tram Strategy" – which has been quite intensive ... and continues to be.

Someone on 'facebook' once described COTMA committee as an 'old boys club'. I don't think it was intended as a celebration of our maturity ... but it is pretty accurate in defining the demographic!

Now is the time for us to get some new blood into the COTMA committee. The committee has sometimes been a place for senior and experienced members of the tramway museum fraternity – and has benefited from that experience. However, it can also be a training ground for younger members who will go on to become key members of management committees for museums.

Please consider the possibilities for your museum to nominate members to COTMA committee. I would be happy to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each committee member: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Australian Museum liaison officer, New Zealand Museum liaison officer or a 'Ordinary member'. COTMA is an association incorporated in Victoria, so the Secretary must be a Victorian resident.

In general. The committee roles are not that demanding.

I'm available to be nominated for another term but would not expect to nominate again after that – for a term that would take me to 78 years of age! I would be happy to continue as Secretary for the next two-year term or to take another role while supporting a new Secretary to grow into the role.

I look forward to meeting and working with new friends in the COTMA executive committee.

Mal Rowe – Secretary, COTMA

## Conference and Annual general meetings

The COTMA Conference General Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be combined this year on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. This is possible because the dates and location meet our reporting requirements as an Incorporated Association.

Appropriate notices will be sent out to members. Agenda items will include:

- Annual and Conference reports including financial and auditor's reports.
- Election of Office Bearers for the next two-year term.
- Setting membership fees and a change to due dates so that membership fees are paid in advance instead of in arrears.
- Application for Full Membership for any Associate Member desiring and eligible for full membership.

If you have any items which you would like added to the Conference General Meeting Agenda, then please advise the Secretary (Mal Rowe) with a brief note on the matter for discussion.

## COTMA conference in Ballarat 2021

Ballarat Tramway Museum will host the 2021 conference to align with their 50th anniversary celebrations on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 and with the support of Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association. There will be three parts:

1. The COTMA conference running from the evening of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of September to Saturday night 18<sup>th</sup> of September when we will join the Ballarat Tramway Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration dinner.
2. An all-day heritage transport celebration at Lake Wendouree on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of September.
3. A one-day post-conference tour taking in regional rail heritage sites nearby and including travel in Australia's fastest trains.



The conference will include the usual catch up with people sharing our interests, reports from member museums, visits to both Ballarat Tramway Museum sites (Lake Wendouree and Bungaree) and a visit to the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Society operating museum at Haddon near Ballarat.

There will be the usual COTMA awards night dinner in addition to a dinner celebrating Ballarat's 50 years.

The **Sunday** celebrations are free to all. A package of extras including transport to and from and a cocktail dinner planned for Ballarat members and friends will be offered to COTMA conference attendees.

The post conference one-day tour on **Monday** will visit the part of the Lake Goldsmith steam collection at Beaufort railway station good shed and 'the railway station with a town attached' at Maryborough. Travel will be by train and bus and the last train journey will allow participants to stay on the train to go to Melbourne.

**Full details and booking forms will be on the COTMA website soon.**

It is anticipated that some pre-conference activities in Melbourne will be arranged by Melbourne based people and it is expected that some delegates may wish to follow up the conference with visits to new tram systems up the east coast of Australia.

## RISSB draft standard on management of Light Rail movements

The Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board has issued a Draft Standard - AS7601.1 - Light Rail Road Interfaces - Part 1 - Management of Light Rail Vehicle Movement for comment. This can be downloaded and viewed at <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwLtsrwXXMbBNTVZXRptgVcjbKn> This Standard is to provide a consistent approach to the use of signals used in the operation of light rail networks. This Standard specifically covers signalling used on light rail networks. This Standard does not provide guidance or instruction on road signals used for road traffic purposes.

This draft has been forwarded to those Members who operate trams in the street or have level crossings for review and determine whether COTMA needs to make a formal comment. Recommended that Members review the standard and forward comments back to the Secretary by mid June.

## Parts Management

### *Newport trucks*



The Parts Working Group and COTMA committee have consolidated and ranked the request for trucks out of Newport.

All applications received in the first half of 2020 had already been approved and truck sets will be made available to museums as they come out from under trams at Newport.

Requests received after June 2020 have been ranked according to project, timelines and proposed use. Applications for 'spare trucks for stock' have the lowest ranking and allocation will depend on the number of trucks that are finally available.

It is likely that some requests may be able to be 'combined' between different groups – for example, a request for just motors and axle boxes combined with a request for wheelsets with reasonable tread could be fulfilled with just one truck set.

11 sets (pairs) of trucks have already gone to museums: 1 to Liston, 2 to Bendigo, 3 to Ballarat, 1 to MTPA, 2 to ATM and 2 to Sydney.

8 of those pairs of trucks were shipped out in one morning on March 1<sup>st</sup> thanks to a joint crane hire arrangement coordinated by Tony Smith of MTPA. **Thanks Tony!**

This enabled the crane 'minimum callout charge' to be shared between participating groups with substantial savings. This model is worth considering for other groups as trucks become available.

Ballarat Tramway Museum have sent two sets of MMTB No 15 trucks 'beyond repair' to Newport. This has enabled us to retrieve good trucks from beneath trams which would have otherwise gone to new non-museum owners with the good trucks. **Thanks BTM!**

### *Motor for Perth*

COTMA will provide a motor to enable PETS to get their H type trams going. The motor is one of several purchased by COTMA at the time of the withdrawal of the H type trams. AETM have offered to quote to test the motor before shipping and prepare it for the journey west.

### *Z1 spares*

After a long delay due to COVID issues, Yarra Trams have provided a wide range of new or refurbished spare parts to COTMA members who requested them for Z1 trams in their collections (Sydney Tram Museum, Melbourne Tram Museum and Liston Transport Heritage Park).

## Victoria: Rail Heritage board established.

The Victorian government has released a 'blueprint' for coordination of the Tourist and Heritage Rail sector, including establishing a new voice for the sector, the Tourist and Heritage (T&H) Sector Coordinating Board, which aims to help organisations share information and support each other. The Blueprint is available at: <https://www.victrack.com.au/projects/key-projects/tourist-and-heritage-rail-blueprint> and updates on progress will be posted to the same web page.

Mal Rowe and Joy Hocken of Portland Tramways have been invited by VicTrack to join the interim board. Mal is involved in working groups looking at Constitution (with Joy and others) and Rolling Stock Heritage Policy (with others).

The new board (final name yet to be decided) will deal with all heritage rail in Victoria including tramway museums and static rail / tram museums and will be run by organisations in the sector. It is not a replacement for the roles of either COTMA or ATHRA but will have a coordination role for Victorian efforts.

## Moveable Heritage

Engineering Heritage Australia has made a useful contribution to the debate on museums and moveable heritage. It can be downloaded from: <https://tinyurl.com/c6rw5rz7>

## Ballarat Display Building

Work is well underway on the construction of a new Museum display building, to the south of the existing depot. Current progress can be viewed at <https://btm.org.au/project.html>

Planning for the Tramway Celebration Day, Sunday 19 September is well underway. This event marks the end of the SEC tramway operations in Ballarat. A grant has been received from the City of Ballarat to assist in the funding of this event.



Ballarat Tramway Museum has recently received a Victorian Government grant of \$1.2M to enable repair to 600m of the 1905 vintage track beside Lake Wendouree.

## Christchurch restoration and refurbishment

### *Mornington cable car*

Mornington Cable car 103 is making great progress.

THS restorations often involve substantial dismantling, repair and re-assembly so that the trams are almost like new. This is a recent example.

Dave Hinman photo



## Hills car 24

With the completion of roof and end cabin repairs to the City Tramway's Dunedin No. 11, and its return to town, work has resumed on Christchurch Hills Car no. 24, which had seen little activity over most of the past two years because of HTT's commitments to the City Tramway's tram renovation programme.

HTT is now making good progress on the restoration. Current work is focussing on the saloons and end motorman's cabins.



## Wellington: A Fiducia comes home.

Wellington 244 is now at the Wellington Tramway Museum after spending 57 years in storage at MOTAT. MOTAT decided that 244 was surplus to their requirements and their gift of 244 brings the Kapiti Coast fleet of "Fiducias" to 5.



## Any News?

Museum News in COTMA News update is always of interest. If you have something to tell us, then we would be delighted to hear at [cotma@cotma.org.au](mailto:cotma@cotma.org.au)

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## News Update August 2021



Even Melbourne's newest trams are affected by COVID-19 !

### From the Secretary

Hello from lockdown (again) in Melbourne.

This edition of COTMA News Update is brief – mostly focused on events and changes to events due to COVID restrictions.

One new thing to come out of this challenging situation is the rise of online video conferencing. It enables us to meet in real time via the internet. COTMA committee are getting quite used to this and have met more often than is usual.

I encourage you to join in the COTMA events – AGM, CGM and Awards coming up in the next couple of months.

If you have ideas of what else we might do online I'd be happy to discuss.

Mal Rowe

### Your To-Do List

- ✓ *Book your attendance at the COTMA conference ONLINE on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of September.*
- ✓ *Look out for the final date for award presentations ONLINE in October.*
- ✓ *Think about who from your group may nominate for to leadership of COTMA*

*Consider who you might team up with to share costs and parts from truck sets.*

### Conference and Annual general meetings

As announced, COTMA and Ballarat Tramway Museum decided that it is not practical to run the planned COTMA conference this year and it has been CANCELLED.

However, an ONLINE COTMA Annual General Meeting and Conference General Meeting **will go ahead**.

The AGM and CGM will be commence at 1:30pm AEST on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of September, as a "Zoom" virtual meeting. Please give thought to who will be your representative for voting purposes and how they will access the Zoom meeting.

Meeting Notices and details of how to join the Zoom meeting will be forwarded soon.

Agenda items will include:

- Annual and Conference reports including financial and auditor's reports.
- Election of Office Bearers for the next two-year term.
- Setting membership fees and a change to due dates so that membership fees are paid in advance instead of in arrears.
- Application for Full Membership for any Associate Member desiring and eligible for full membership.

There may be an opportunity for anyone able to attend the meetings face-to-face in Victoria to do so, or more likely to get together in the evening over a meal.

Contact Mal Rowe [secretary@cotma.org.au](mailto:secretary@cotma.org.au) with any questions.

## Award presentations

Award Presentations for the period 2019 to 2021 will be made ONLINE in mid-October (probably on October 15th), including Achievement and Volunteer awards. Achievement award submissions have been received from four museum groups and are in the hands of the judges. Six volunteer award submissions are also in hand and will be automatically awarded on the date of the awards.

## Museum Reports

One of the highlights of each COTMA conference is Museum Reports (aka “Brag Tapes”). We are considering scheduling these over a series of ‘Zoom’ sessions whereby one or two museums could bring us up to date on what they are doing in a virtual environment over several sessions – spaced out on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Mal Rowe and Warren Doubleday would be pleased to have your thoughts on this idea. Do you like it, or would you prefer to hold off until we can meet again face-to-face?

## Zoom account

The restrictions of pandemic lockdowns have severely limited our opportunities to meet face to face over the last year or more. COTMA committee and some member museums have moved to on-line conferencing using the Zoom application. COTMA have taken out a subscription to Zoom Pro, which allows us to host one group meeting at a time with up to 100 people and allows collaboration if you need, without worrying about time limits or having to start another meeting. This account can be used by any member museum for your own purposes at no cost. If you would like to use this, please contact Mal Rowe with details of the date, time, and duration of your meeting (to avoid clashes). Mal will provide the login details.

If you want to explore what’s possible, see:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-tutorials>

## Parts Management

Work on the trams at Newport in Melbourne has been slowed significantly by the COVID restrictions but is expected to pick up over the second half of 2021. One issue arising from the pandemic is that shipping containers are ‘in the wrong places’ all over the world. As a result shipment of trucks and other parts to THS in Christchurch have been delayed.

There are different needs for truck parts across museums. Museums operating Melbourne trams with No 15 trucks are always on the lookout for good wheelsets, while other museums are more interested in motors. There is an opportunity for cooperation in sharing the bits and pieces. Contact Mal Rowe if you think you might be interested in such a deal.

## Ballarat Tramways Museum 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Ballarat Tramways Museum is still hoping to be able to run a celebration day of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of September to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation and to launch Geelong No 2 into traffic after many years of restoration by a private individual. The event will be lower key than was planned before the latest lockdown in Victoria but will still have a lot to interest tramway museum people.

Check their Facebook or web page close to the day – the event is at risk of being another COVID casualty!
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## News Update September 2021



Part of an Arthur Sreeton painting - with trams - collection of Art Gallery of NSW

### From the Secretary

It was a real pleasure to catch up with so many COTMA people at our meetings via Zoom on 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

Arising from those meetings, I am pleased to welcome Liston Transport Heritage Park as a full member and to welcome three new members to the COTMA executive. Vincent Chan is taking on the role of New Zealand Museum Liaison Officer and Tony Weston and Roy Winslow are joining the executive.

Dave Hinman has stepped down as President and Henry Brittain has stepped up to that role.

Dave will remain a member of the Executive as Immediate Past President.

Mal Rowe

### Your To-Do List

- ✓ Put the COTMA award presentations ONLINE on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> of October in your diary.
- ✓ Send details of your members who have passed on to Mal Rowe by October 15.
- ✓ Plan and prepare your Museum Report to share online with other COTMA members.
- ✓ Advise Mal of any needs for fittings from Z or A class trams.

### From the President

Hello and welcome to my first newsletter as President of COTMA.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Henry Brittain and I am an Honorary Life Member of the Wellington Tramway Museum which is located on the Kapiti Coast in New Zealand. I have had a lifetime interest in trams and joined my Museum in 1965 so have had 56 years' experience in all aspects of Tramway operations. I am the current Secretary having been appointed to this position in 2009 after stepping down from the position of President which I held for twelve years and bring all this experience with me.

In addition to the above I am the FRONZ (Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand) Tramway Convenor and up until being appointed to the position of COTMA President, held the position of New Zealand COTMA Convenor. Earlier in my career I held the position of Vice President of COTMA from 2002 to 2010.

Although I have assumed my Presidency at a time of uncertainty owing to the COVID disruptions I have every confidence that our organisation is of sound heart and that the legacy of our 47 years will see us through. While we may have to revert to meeting by Zoom and other forms of electronic communication the Executive will continue to fully represent our members.

In finishing I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Dave Hinman over the past years and the support he has received from the other members of the Executive who have collectively provided a very professional input into our interests.

Henry Brittain, President, September 2021

## Conference and Annual general meetings

The Annual General Meeting and Conference General Meeting of COTMA were held on-line on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of September, with 10 formal delegates and 13 other museum members in attendance. The 2021 COTMA report will be posted to the COTMA website. Some new members were added to the COTMA Executive. See: <https://www.cotma.org.au/executives.html>

The AGM was adjourned on that day and will resume at a date to be announced via Zoom, when the financial documents are ready for approval.

The Auditor and Secretary have decided that a Zoom meeting will be a better option under our rules, rather than the email circulation we suggested at the AGM.

The next COTMA Conference will be held two years from now and will be hosted by MOTAT in Auckland.



## Award presentations and recognition of members who have passed

Award Presentations for the period 2019 to 2021 will be made ONLINE on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of October, including Achievement and Volunteer awards. Achievement award submissions have been received from four museum groups and are in the hands of the judges. Volunteer award submissions are also in hand and will be automatically awarded on the date of the awards. Times are as follows (including allowance for daylight saving):

- WA 10:00 am
- SA 12:30 pm
- Vic/NSW/Tas 1:00 pm
- Queensland 12:00 noon
- New Zealand 3:00 pm



Please send the names of your members who have passed on in the last three years, and whom you would like recognized at the Awards session, to Mal Rowe by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of October.

## Museum Reports

One of the highlights of each COTMA conference is Museum Reports (aka “Brag Tapes”). We plan to schedule these over a series of ‘Zoom’ sessions commencing on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November – at the same times as listed above for the Awards session. Museums can bring us up to date on what they are doing via Zoom over several sessions – spaced out on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Reports must be in Power Point format and of small enough size to allow sharing via Zoom – videos will not be possible. Duration should be no more than 12 minutes. Time will be available after each presentation for questions and answers ... and even applause! The presentations must be sent to Mal Rowe before the session.

## Parts Management

COTMA have been offered some parts that are being removed from Melbourne Z3 and A class trams as part of their current refurbishment. These parts will be stored in case they are needed for future restoration to original appearance. Items include gongs with solenoid clappers (electronic gongs are being fitted) and some external light fittings. Original destination displays are not included – they are long gone. Please advise Mal Rowe if you anticipate requiring some of these items so that we know how many we should request. Please respond by October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Ballarat Tramway Museum new museum building

The Ballarat Tramway Museum's new Museum building is essentially completed. The building was planned to be formally completed and handed over to the Museum during the week ending 24 September, though a partial lockout of the building construction industry in Melbourne and Ballarat has delayed things. For details of the internal layout and photos of progress during construction visit [www.btm.org.au/project.html](http://www.btm.org.au/project.html) The design of the interpretation fit out has commenced. It is expected that all going well, the trams will be moved in and the fit-out done by early 2022. The accompanying photo shows the buildings from the Wendouree Parade side and how the buildings have been brought together using the BTM logo. It will be a while before all the necessary track work is completed.



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## News Update December 2021



Auckland's Dockline tramway will close at the end of 2022 – 2016 photo by Mal Rowe

UPDATE IS FOR ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS.  
PLEASE FORWARD IT TO ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS

### From the President

As the year draws to a close it is timely to reflect on the past twelve months. 2021 has been a year of disruption with the COVID 19 Pandemic having a significant effect on our collective Tramway activities. Most of us will have experienced lock down in its varying modes as they place community restrictions on our operations. This has resulted in not only a loss of revenue but also the opportunity of undertaking the myriad of other Tramway related activities that are so necessary in keeping our Museums functioning. Given these conditions, it is very pleasing to see that many COTMA groups in Australia and New Zealand are coping and with the good will of their respective members, offering a service to visitors.

What has been of concern was our inability to hold our usual bi-annual conference again this year due to the constraints of COVID. I hope that our next conference, planned to be held in Auckland in 2023 will proceed free of any impediments.

COTMA has seen changes to our Executive during the past twelve months. Outgoing President Dave Hinman stood down for health related issues and our Treasurer, Howard Clark has taken a break from this position for similar reasons. Our Auditor, Hugh Ballment has agreed to take over the reins of Treasurer and I welcome three new members to the Executive; Tony Weston and Roy Winslow plus Vincent Chan as the New Zealand Liaison Officer. I must also commend those other members of the Executive, Mal Rowe, Rod Atkins, Warren Doubleday and Peter Hyde who have played an integral role in undertaking all of those duties that COTMA demands. I give them my sincere thanks.

One of the casualties of 2021 was the inability of COTMA to bring some finality to the allocation and disposal of the spare parts made available from the disposal of redundant trams and tram bodies from the Melbourne system. Despite the enormous amount of work put in by our Secretary, Mal Rowe, we have not made the progress we would have liked and look forward to being able to

resume this important role for members. I would also like to acknowledge Warren Doubleday for his regular newsletters that keep our members up to date as these form an important channel of communication, especially in the absence of this year's Conference.

I wish everybody seasonal greetings and the hope that 2022 will allow us to return to our pre COVID level of activities and enjoyment of our tramway interests.

Kindest Regards,

Henry Brittain, President

2 December 2021

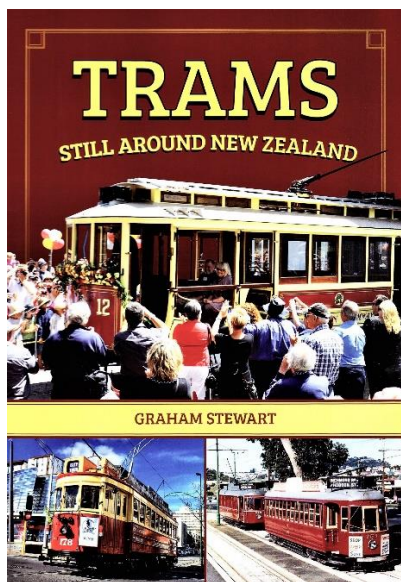
## AGM and Financial reports

The Annual General Meeting resumed on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of November via Zoom. The meeting approved the accounts, noting only minor changes in our position since the last AGM – primarily because COVID has limited activity.

The meeting accepted the resignation of Hugh Ballment as Auditor due to him taking on the role of Assistant Treasurer while Howard Clark takes some leave. It would be a conflict of interest for Hugh to carry both responsibilities. We are not required to have our accounts audited due to the relatively small size of our annual transactions. Thanks Hugh for stepping in to assist!

Membership renewals will be sent out soon. As decided at the Conference General Meeting, the invoices will be for \$1 covering the period ending March 31, 2021 plus the normal subscription (which depends on the size of the museum) covering the period to March 31, 2022.

## Graham Stewart's final Book - Trams still around NZ



With 27 books to his credit, well-known author Graham Stewart has announced it is the end of the line. In his last book. Graham has completed in-depth research to deliver a well-illustrated coverage of the remaining trams in New Zealand.

*Trams Still Around New Zealand* is true to its title, detailing the existence of 99 trams; 85 New Zealand trams and 14 trams from Australia now resident in NZ. Between the covers the reader will discover that the tramcar in New Zealand is far from a street vehicle of the past. Already the tram has returned to the streets of Auckland and Christchurch. Coverage is given to each of the trams now running within the boundaries of transport museums in New Zealand, those that are in storage but not yet running, with coverage also of trams still used as baches (sheds or shacks to Aussies!) around New Zealand. Each tram portrayed has its history outlined with generous photographic coverage of each tram in

original condition, as stored, and finally as restored if that has occurred. Also featured are the Wellington and Dunedin cable-cars. Wrapping up this most interesting book is a broad coverage of the various tramway societies and groups.

A4 portrait format, Over 600 black & white and colour photographs, 160 pages, Soft-bound

Price NZ\$49 including postage within NZ

Price NZ\$65 including postage to Australia

Available from the publisher; New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society Inc.

<https://railsoc.org.nz/publication-catalogue/>

This book will sell out quickly – don't put off ordering it!

## COTMA President's Award Presentation

The COTMA President's Award is awarded occasionally to mark our appreciation of an outstanding contribution to tramway preservation.

At the 2021 conference it was awarded to Warrington Cameron for the recovery and restoration to full working order of Melbourne Electric Supply Company tram No 2.

The certificate was presented during the Ballarat Tramway Museum Annual General Meeting on Sunday 21 November.

Warrington admitted that he originally acquired the tram as a potential children's playhouse.



Mal Rowe presents the President's Achievement Award to Warrington Cameron.

Photo by Helen Rowe.



Warrington aboard his excellent reconstruction of Geelong No. 2, restored to operating condition. The tram was originally built by Duncan and Fraser of Adelaide for the Melbourne Electric Supply Company (MESCo) in 1912.

Photo: Paul Mong.

## COTMA Technical Library

The Sydney Tramway Museum recently supplied a large tranche of Technical Documents, primarily General Electric materials for the COTMA Technical Library. These have now been added see:

[www.cotma.org.au/library.html](http://www.cotma.org.au/library.html)

The library is a very extensive collection of historical documents that cover tramway equipment. Documents cover many technical aspects of equipment that is fitted to our Museums' tramcar fleet. It is the most frequently visited part of the COTMA website.

Well worth checking out the link. Lots of interesting historical documents. We are always on the lookout for more tramway documents that we can add. Please contact [warren@cotma.org.au](mailto:warren@cotma.org.au)

## New display depot at Ballarat

The Ballarat Tramway Museum took occupancy of its new Museum building in early October. Some trams have already been moved into the new display hall.



Looking from the doors at the trams already moved into the new building on 22 Nov 2021. Fit out of displays is underway. The windows in the wall at right open onto meeting rooms and a large archive storage area. Photo: Mal Rowe

## Awards for Achievement

The significant achievements of member museums were recognized at the COTMA Awards presentation on 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021, conducted on-line.

### Bill Kingsley Award

The Bill Kingsley Award for outstanding achievement in the restoration to running order of Wellington tramcar No 17 was won by Wellington Tramway Museum. The tram is currently being commissioned and readied for operations.



Photo supplied by WTM

### Other achievements

Other achievements awards were made to AETM (Adelaide) for achievement in its program of infrastructure and track replacement and upgrading projects and to Ballarat Tramway Museum for achievement in promoting and funding its track reconstruction project. The Tramway Historical Society (Christchurch) was recognized for their restoration and renewal of restaurant tram 411.

### Volunteer award presentations

COTMA makes awards to individual volunteers based on the recommendation of member museums. Only 4 per museum are available each year. At the 2021 CGM the following volunteer awards were made:

*Australian Electric Transport Museum*

Chris Bennett and Colin Seymour

*Perth Electric Tramway Society*

William (Bill) Allnutt VI

Ian Kelly

Stuart Darbyshire

Ian Sidebottom

*Tramway Historical Society*

Brian Andrew

Larry Day

*Wellington Tramway Museum*

Keith McGavin

Bill Alnutt VI and Stuart Darbyshire are seen at right receiving their awards in reality at the PETS Christmas break-up.

Photo: supplied, PETS



## End of the line (again) for Dockline Tramway

The Dockline Tramway in the Wynyard Quarter of Auckland was put in to encourage visitors and assist in selling the real estate. After several closures and re-opening, the Auckland Planning Committee has decided to close it and relocate the assets to MOTAT. The trams have been managed and operated by MOTAT in recent times. According to a press release in "Our Auckland", the tramway will continue to operate on Sundays only until the end of 2022.

## Kitson in steam again



Alex and the Kitson

DLA Hunter photo

Alex Hunter reports (from Ferrymead Tram Tracts).

On Saturday 30th October a fire was lit in the THS 'spare boiler' for their Kitson steam tram.

This was the first time that this boiler was operated to full working pressure since 1952, when it was used for soil sterilisation at the Orchards in Ferry Rd.

On 24 November, Marcus Stocks of SGS Inspections Ltd came by to witness the live steam test of the boiler and test all the various fittings. It passed with flying colours and a new boiler certificate was issued for 12 months.

## Something missing?

Did your museum fail to get a mention?

Museum News in COTMA News update is always of interest.

If you have something to tell us, then we would be delighted to hear at [cotma@cotma.org.au](mailto:cotma@cotma.org.au)

... and remember:

UPDATE IS FOR ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS.  
PLEASE FORWARD IT TO ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS

*Happy  
Christmas and  
best wishes for  
2022*

