

Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

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 17th 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 20th 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 17th 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 20th 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 15th 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 2nd 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 22nd.

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 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.

