



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – August 2004

COTMA Executive

Following the Conference General Meeting, the Executive Group of COTMA is now:

Chairman – Warren Doubleday - Ballarat Tramway Museum
Deputy Chairman – Henry Brittain – Wellington Tramway Museum
Executive Officer – Craig Tooke – Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association
Assistant Executive Officer – Rod Atkins – Ballara Tramway Museum
Treasurer – Howard Clark – Sydney Tramway Museum
Australian Museum Liaison Officer – Ian Seymour – Australian Electric Traction Museum
New Zealand Museum Liaison Officer – David Cawood – Western Springs Tramway

If you wish to contact the Executive, you will find their email addresses on the COTMA web site and their mailing addresses on the enclosed address list for COTMA Members.

Retiring from Executive roles were Bill Kingsley as Immediate Past Chair and Lindsay Richardson as Treasurer. The thanks of the Members for their work was heartily expressed at the Conference General Meeting.

Bill, the convenor of the first conference in Ballarat 1975, became the founding Executive Officer of COTMA. Over the next 29 years, Bill has had an involvement for one way or another with the COTMA's management. His vision, drive and work over those years has seen COTMA survive and grow as an active and respected representative body, in particular when many doubted its need or value.

Lindsay, the President of the Perth Electric Tramway Society for many years, took over from John Radcliffe as Chairman of COTMA in 1996. He ably led COTMA for six years as Chairman, before partially retiring to become Treasurer in 2002 for a further two years. Lindsay over those years, as Chairman and Treasurer has given wise counsel, strong support and leadership to COTMA, its Officers and Members.

Chairman's Notes

The past month has seen a number of the 2004 Auckland Conference matters addressed, though with some still remaining. One of the advantages of the Internet, is that you can find out what our equivalent organisations are doing through their newsletters etc. At the Auckland conference one of the matters raised in the "What can COTMA do for you Museum", was the issue of: *What are our ethics of work?* FEDECRAIL, the European Federation of Museum and Tourist Railways website can be found at www.fedecrail.org On the website, in draft form, pending adoption at their 2004 conference is [The Riga Charter](#), the European Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Heritage Railways in Operation.

This document is derived from the work of ICOM, UNESCO through the Athens Charter of 1931 and the Venice Charter of 1964, it equivalent in Australia, can be found in the Burra Charter of 1988. These charters look at the principles of conserving places of cultural significance. The Riga Charter is the rail transport heritage version and gives an excellent understanding of Heritage Rail's principal reason and basis for our work. I would recommend all museums to review the document and to make it known amongst their members. FEDECRAIL is to be congratulated for their work, in particular their President David Morgan.

MOTAT Funds

At the Auckland Conference, it was announced that two funds would be set up by the MOTAT Society who have provided initial funding of \$5000 to each of the following funds:

The Dr. Bruce Gamble Conservation Fund, with the objectives.

- To provide assistance and funding for the training of MOTAT staff members and volunteers in conservation techniques.
- Make Awards, where appropriate, for excellence in the conservation of items of historical significance.

The Stewart Family Memorial Library Fund has been set up to provide archive facilities for storing historical documentation on trains and trams. This facility will be a sub-section of the very large and extensive MOTAT Technical Library. The main library also has another sub-section, The Walsh Memorial Library, which houses the aviation archives.

Liaison

During the last month, The Chairman and Executive Officer met with the Victorian Director of Rail Safety. The notes of this meeting have been distributed to all Members via email. One of these outcomes was the follow up by the Director with Standards Australia, regarding representation on the Committee known as ME-079 who are reviewing AS 4292. A letter has since been sent to Standards Australia and a favourable response received.

A meeting has also been held with the Chief Executive Officer of the Australasian Railway Association regarding membership. An application will be shortly forwarded to them. One of the objectives of the ARA is be fully representative of all Australian rail organisations.

TMSV Membership

At the Auckland 2004 CGM, the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria application for membership was accepted and they rejoin us as an Associate Member. COTMA welcomes back the TMSV and looks forward to working together with them to help them in achieving their goals.

Who are the Members of COTMA?

Enclosed with this News Update is a list of COTMA Member names and their mailing addresses. One of the traditions of COTMA has been to send your newsletter to all the other COTMA Members. This may have fallen off over time due to not knowing who was a Member or overlooking a new Member etc. Could all Members check their newsletter address lists to see that all COTMA members are included on your list.

The swapping of newsletters goes a long way towards achieving the objective of extending the information flow between museums. Don't forget that Trolley Wire and Tramway Topics need your news too.

Drawings ex Preston

In the Executive Officer's report, we reported that COTMA had negotiated with the Victorian Department of Infrastructure for digital scanning of surplus MMTB/PTC drawings ex Preston. The drawing list comprises some 62 pages. This is by no means all the drawings. Many remain in use by the tramway system and are yet to be done or made available. The drawing list will soon be able to be downloaded from our website. In our agreement with the Victorian Department of Infrastructure, we can only provide actual prints of the files, not a digital image upon a written or email request. A copy of the digital list of the drawings will be included in the email that goes out to our Members with this News Update.

Forthcoming Events (Contact each organisation for further details – or advertise here too!)
Sydney Tramway Museum – Annual Dinner – 18/9/04 and Edwardian Trams Day – 24/10/04.
Ballarat Tramway Museum – AGM and Review of Collection Policy Workshop – 3/10/04.