

Executive Officer's Report 2011 – 2012

It is my pleasure to once again to report continued development and growth of our member museum's and of COTMA itself.

Over the past two years COTMA has continued to operate and function on a very satisfactory level, thanks mainly to the efforts of the Executive and the co-operation in our efforts from member museums.

We have seen further distribution of parts and trams from Melbourne thanks to our relationship with Victrack, in particular Business Manager – Heritage Mike Ryan.

I note know that we are fast approaching the saturation point regarding further acquisition of parts and or trams from Melbourne and I encourage any museum that still has requests to articulate these needs as soon as possible.

Sadly the past two years has seen the passing of a number of long term and significant contributors to tramway preservation and this has been felt by all.

In particular I would like to endorse the comments regarding the life and efforts of the late Bill Kingsley, a person who made outstanding contributions to tram museums and COTMA itself.

It is a fitting tribute to Bill that we rename the EAR award in recognition of his efforts.

I am sure all member museums will agree with this proposal.

The Executive is extremely encouraged to see applications from new member museums and growth of new tourist initiatives such as the Auckland Waterfront Tramway.

Members of the Executive have worked well and COTMA is in a sound financial position. I would like to place on record my thanks to Warren, Dave, Rod, Howard, Ian and Clinton all of whom have made great contributions.

The organisation is in a period of great change and in particular in regards to a change of Chairman.

For almost a decade despite his involvement in the running of Ballarat Tramway museum, and other organisations Warren Doubleday has been an absolute if you pardon the pun dynamo of power.

Warren I cannot express my personal appreciation of what you have done.

When the late Bill Kingsley indicated he wished to step down as Chairman those on the Executive thought long and hard regarding who we were going to ask to replace in and we came up with you as a suitable candidate.

Well what a choice was made!

Warren thank you and I am sure your contribution is appreciated and I am sure you will continue to be involved in COTMA and its activities.

Finally I wish to raise this issue of future Conferences. This present Conference has seen one of the lowest attendances ever and it is of concern.

The effort that goes into organising Conferences places a huge strain on those museums and members involved and we now have to question is the format right, are we marketing the Conferences right, do they run too long and are the becoming financially out of reach of members ?

Input from everyone would be appreciated.

In closing I am confident the new Executive will function well and continue advancing out cause.

I look forward to the next two years and the progress that this brings.

Craig Tooke
Executive Officer
10th August 2012