

SESSION: THE FUTURE OF TRAMWAY TOPICS**PANEL: CHAIRMAN: Dr. JOHN RADCLIFFE**

ALAN SMITH (Wellington Tramway Museum)

Tramway Topics is produced on behalf of all tramway museums in New Zealand by the Wellington Tramway Museum. It covers its costs, and therefore does not require any financial assistance from the other museums. The costs are met by sales and subscriptions from museum members.

The Wellington Tramway Museum is happy at this stage to continue with producing the magazine.

BRUCE GAMBLE (MoTaT)

Bruce is the new editor of Tramway Topics, and considers that some changes may be necessary following a survey which was done to gauge the needs of readers.

In his view Tramway Topics still needs to record tramway history in New Zealand, as well as looking to the future, especially in terms of new developments that may occur.

The magazine is produced on a computer using MS Publisher '97.

There have been some delays in producing issues of the magazine, but Bruce is steadily catching up.

He feels that the magazine needs to appeal to a much wider readership than just tramway museum members.

QUESTION: Murray Sanders (Tramway Historical Society).

Does magazine intend to continue with overseas news, which he feels is important.

ANSWER: The magazine is New Zealand focused, but a suggestion is that overseas content could be in the vicinity of 15%.

QUESTION: Bob Pearce (Perth Electric Tramway Society)

Articles and distribution

ANSWER: Items on the preservation scene in New Zealand are submitted by representatives of the respective societies. As well as this articles which research the history of tramways in New Zealand are submitted by individuals.

QUESTION: Bill Kingsley (Ballarat Tramway Museum)

Bill considers that Tramway Topics is essential reading. It gives and good insight into the activities of the museums, as well as giving interesting background reading.

COMMENT: Bob Merchant (Sydney Tramway Museum)

It seems feasible that items appearing in Trolley Wire could be published in Tramway Topics and v.v. on a reciprocal agreement basis.

Mike Kerr (Tramway Historical Society).

Standards have been greatly improved over the last two issues. The information received is greatly appreciated.

The editors of both magazines are considering providing information on subscriptions to Tramway Topics and Trolley Wire which will be placed in each others magazines, with the possibility of a combined subscription allowing access to both.