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**COUNCIL OF TRAMWAY MUSEUMS OF AUSTRALASIA INC**  
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1998 TO THE 14TH CONFERENCE**  
**OF TRAMWAY MUSEUMS - CHRISTCHURCH N.Z.**

It is with pleasure that I present this report for the period following on from the previous Conference meeting held in Hobart, Tasmania, on 4 September 1996.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Following the election of the Launceston Tramway Museum and Rockhampton City Council (Steam Trams) as full members and Portland Cable Trams as an associate member and the loss of Motor Coach Museum Trust our membership number have grown to 16 and 2 affiliates.

**OFFICE BEARERS**

No changes were made to the executive structure at the Hobart Conference General Meeting and those continuing in office were as follows:

Chairman	Lindsay Richardson
Deputy Chairman	Bill Kingsley
Executive Officer	Richard Gilbert
Assistant Executive Officer	John Lambert
Treasurer	Carolyn Dean
Australian Executive Member	Howard Clark
New Zealand Executive Member	David Hinman
Immediate Past Chairman	John Radcliffe

Robert Paroissien was re-elected as Honorary Auditor.

The Operations Group in Victoria under the Chairmanship of Bill Kingsley continues to carry out a valued role. The other Members of the group are Richard Gilbert, Carolyn Dean, Craig Tooke and John Phillips who replaced Andrew Hall following his re-location to Sydney. Since the Hobart Conference the group has met on three occasions and dealt with substantial agendas and I extend appreciation on behalf of all COTMA Members to this group.

**Meetings**

The 1997 Annual General Meeting was held in Melbourne at the Newport Steamrail Workshops and attended by 4 Members of the Executive and 7 representatives of Members. At that meeting advice was received that our legal officer, Tony Sell, could not continue in office. An approach had been made to Campbell Duncan to take on this office to which he agreed and was endorsed by the meeting.

**Policy Issues**

No meetings have been held with Public Transport Commission executives since the last Conference. Given the splitting of the tramway system into two parts operating as Swanston Trams and Yarra Trams under the umbrella of the PTC and with the intention of the State Government to fully privatise the tramway operation in the near future it leaves matters in a state of flux insofar as COTMA is concerned.

Having said that, however, it could well be that the opportunity will arise for a review of the need of the stored W class trams and associated equipment into the future. COTMA through its Melbourne based Executive Members and others with connections will need to



keep a close ear to the ground and move rapidly to establish contact with key players in the event that a disposal or part or all of the stored tram fleet becomes a probability.

COTMA Operations Group will be in a prime position to flag to member Museums through the Executive Officer any opportunity to participate in any equipment redundancy which may arise. This need to act rapidly when situations arise is highlighted by what I believe to be a last opportunity for some time to acquire the W2 wheel tyres located at Preston.

### **Notable Events**

The renaissance of tramways within the cities of the COTMA member base has brought a new dawn for the enthusiast. First it was our host city, Christchurch, in February 1995, which is operated on a commercial and museum basis. Next it was Sydney with a commercially operated Light Rail system on the fringe of the CBD with state of the art articulated tramcars, but most importantly with the expectation of extensions of the system from its present terminus at Wentworth Park to Lilyfield and also into the heart of the CBD to Circular Quay via Pitt Street and return to Central Station via Castlereagh Street.

There was other good news associated with the development of this system with the involvement of the Sydney Tramway Museum and the hiring of their track scrubber car to the SLR on commercial terms. Should the CBD route be developed to Circular Quay it is to be hoped that an opportunity will be available to the Museum for operation of some of its heritage cars along this precinct.

Not to be outdone the Queensland Government (yes, it is election year) unveiled on 25 February last an ambitious \$210 million light rail system for the City of Brisbane and extending to inner suburban areas with an expected route length of 15Km and expected to be completed within the next 3 years. This fascinating project seems set to embrace the Brisbane Tramway Museum Society in funding the restoration of up to 20 former Brisbane trams at a facility to be developed at their Ferny Grove site with the intention that these new cars would provide service operations on Sundays on the new system by BTMS. For members of that Society these developments must be akin to holding onto the live end of an electric cattle prod.

As if this wasn't enough for the "true blues" amongst us came the news that the Australian Capital City of Canberra has proceeded past the contemplation stage to the development of a discussion paper for the introduction of a heritage tramway to the area of Civic within the central area of Canberra. It was again pleasing to note the participation of the Sydney Tramway Museum in the ongoing discussion group. What exciting times we live in !

### **Member Museums**

Again over the past two years there has been a mix of steady and sustained progress by most Museums in both our countries. The developments that take place in our Museums are well chronicled in the journals "Trolley Wire" and "Tramway Topics" and I do not propose to itemise individual Museum developments, acquisition or other happenings other than to say how pleasing it is to see the progress being achieved towards the development of operating tramways by our new members, Launceston Tramway Museum and Portland Cable Trams.

An aspect that our Museums should reflect on is what if any impact will be felt from those cities that develop light rail or heritage tramways on the patronage of Tramway Museums located in those cities. Perhaps we can glean some information on trends of patronage at Ferrymead since the City Tramway commenced operations.



I have accepted voluntary early retirement from State Rail to take effect from the end of August 1998 so *Trolley Wire* will become a daytime job instead of one carried out at night and on weekends. This change should also assist in having the magazine prepared for printing earlier, and it should appear early in the month displayed on the cover instead of at the end of that month as at present.

In closing I would like to place on record my thanks to the many correspondents and photographers who provide news of their museum each quarter. Without their input *Trolley Wire* would not be the success it is.

Thank you

Bob Merchant  
Editor, *Trolley Wire*

**MINUTES OF THE 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE ARTS CENTRE, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND**  
**ON TUESDAY 2 JUNE 1998 AT 9.15AM**

**Present:** Lindsay Richardson (Chairman), Bill Kingsley (Deputy Chairman), Richard Gilbert (Executive Officer), Carolyn Dean (Treasurer), Dave Hinman (New Zealand Representative), John Radcliffe (Immediate Past Chairman)

**Representatives:**

David Verrier	-	Tasmanian Transport Museum Society
Bob Merchant	-	Sydney Tramway Museum
John Phillips	-	Ballarat Tramway Museum Society
Alan Smith	-	Wellington Tramway Museum
John Pennack	-	Australian Electric Transport Museum, Adelaide
Bruce Gamble	-	Museum of Transport and Technology, Auckland
Bob Pearce	-	Perth Electric Tramway Society
Graeme Richardson	-	Tramway Historical Society, Christchurch
Dennis Bell	-	The Bendigo Trust
Jim Webber	-	Rockhampton City Council and Heritage Museum
Philip Archer	-	Launceston Tramway Museum Society
Peter Hyde	-	Brisbane Tramway Museum Society
Rod Atkins	-	Tramway Museum Society of Victoria
Steve Lea	-	Christchurch Tramway Limited
Warren Doubleday	-	Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society

**Apologies:** John Lambert - Brisbane Tramway Museum Society  
 Craig Tooke - Melbourne Tramway Preservation Society  
 Dean Filgate - Portland Cable Tramway  
 Jim McCrum

**Affiliates and Observers:**

Howard Clark	-	Sydney Tramway Museum
Keith McGavin	-	Wellington Tramway Museum
Gus Weir	-	Wellington Tramway Museum
Barry Ollerenshaw	-	Wellington Tramway Museum
Trevor Dennhardt	-	Perth Electric Tramway Society
Donald Campbell	-	Sydney Tramway Museum
Brendon Carter	-	Tramway Historical Society



Keith Kings	-	Tramway Museum Society of Victoria
Peter Kahn	-	Sydney Tramway Museum
Duncan McVicar	-	Perth Electric Tramway Society
Frank Edwards	-	Perth Electric Tramway Society
Christopher Steele	-	Australian Electric Transport Museum
Michael Kerr	-	Tramway Historical Society
Peter Letheby	-	Australian Electric Transport Museum
Chris Andrews	-	Australian Electric Transport Museum
Les Withington	-	Tasmanian Transport Museum Society
Martin Grant	-	Perth Electric Tramway Society
Max Taylor	-	Tramway Historical Society
Ken Stockdale	-	Sydney Tramway Museum
Keith Stodden	-	Tramway Museum Society of Victoria
Jill Moorhead	-	The Bendigo Trust
John Shanks	-	Tramway Historical Society
Peter Stock	-	Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society

### 1. Past Friends

Bob Pearce referred to the untimely passing of Noel Gibbs from Haddon

The meeting stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for Noel.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

**It was resolved:** That the minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting of the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia, held on 25 May 1997, as circulated at the meeting, be confirmed subject to the inclusion of an apology received by the Perth Electric Tramway Society, an apology from Bill Kingsley representing the Wellington Tramway Museum, and the minutes recording that the heading "Patterns" should have been included under the heading Matters Arising.

(Hyde/Phillips)

### 3. Business Arising from the Minutes

#### a). Pro Bono

Mahlab had been advised the costs if this listing; however, it had been concluded that it was not worth proceeding further.

#### b). Record of Patterns

PETS had supplied a lengthy list of former M&MTB patterns belonging to COTMA and held at Bylands. There were patterns from No. 9 trucks from W3 and W4 cars.

The Operations Committee proposed to determine the location and storage of these patterns. A list of other patterns held was to be circulated to all museums by Ric Francis.

#### c). 2001 Tram Interchange

Peter Kahn commented on the possibility of there being a gathering of trams in Melbourne to mark the new Millennium. He noted that a tram low loader may be needed. The suggestion was that there could possibly be an interchange of trams between museums and also an assembling of representative tramcars from other cities to run in Melbourne.

It was agreed that, if the idea were to proceed, funding and someone to drive the project would be needed. It was also suggested that the costs of this project are probably prohibitive in view of the distances involved.

**d). Welcome to Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society Representative**

Peter Stock, the representative of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society, Parramatta Park, was welcomed to the Conference.

**e). Contract with PTC**

This matter was held over for discussion on a future occasion.

**f). Annual Sticker**

The Meeting considered a recommendation from the Operations Committee: "That an annual sticker, framed, be presented by COTMA to each museum to record the membership of that museum."

**It was resolved:** That the recommendation of the Operations Committee be adopted.

**(Bell/Atkins)**

**g). Archives**

Bill Kingsley spoke expressing concerns over the archival records of the MET/M&MTB now that the tramway system was being privatised.

Mr Kingsley advised that the records held by the Preston Workshop are safe and will remain there. However, there are further records at the Public Records Office and at the Newport Workshops. The official Depository of Archives for the M&MTB is at the Museum run by Norm Maddock at the Malvern Tram Depot.

John Phillips spoke of the PTC Photographic Archives of over 40,000 negatives of which he was in charge and which was being relocated to the former PTC office building. Some other archival records which have been held in the Photographic Archive are to be relocated to the Department of Infrastructure at Nauru House.

Members were urged to be vigilant to ensure that archive material was kept secure.

**4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement**

The Treasurer presented her Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 1998 and answered questions from the floor.

The Treasurer recommended that the COTMA Membership Fees for the 1998/99 year be reduced to one-half with the exception of Affiliates in view of the lack of opportunity to purchase spare parts from the PTC.

Speakers, however, emphasised the need for COTMA to be able to move quickly to secure spare parts and archives in the present uncertain situation.



The recommendation moved by J Phillips and seconded by D Bell "That the fees to large and small museum groups for the 1998/99 year be reduced to one-half with the exception of Affiliates" was put to the meeting and was declared LOST.

**It was resolved:** That the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements be adopted

(Phillips/Pearce)

## 5. Acquisitions Sub Fund

Bill Kingsley reported on the sum of \$1,200 now held for the acquisition of spare parts from the MET. The question was whether this fund should now be consolidated into general COTMA funds for special purposes.

**It was resolved:** That this fund now be transferred to the General Fund of COTMA but that the six contributing museums be offered their money back in the first instance and that the residual balance be transferred to the general funds of COTMA.

(Merchant/Atkins)

The Annual General Meeting of COTMA concluded at 10.15am.

### **MINUTES OF THE 13TH COTMA GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTS CENTRE, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND ON TUESDAY 2 JUNE 1998 AT 10.15AM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRAMWAY MUSEUMS OF AUSTRALASIA (INC)**

**Present:** Lindsay Richardson (Chairman), and the 43 Members and Representatives of Member Groups, and Affiliates present at the 4th Annual General Meeting.

#### **1 Minutes of the 12th Conference General Meeting held at Hobart on 4 September 1996**

**It was resolved:** That the minutes of the 12th Conference General Meeting be taken as read.

(Merchant/Verrier)

#### **2 Business Arising**

##### **a) Overseas Museums**

**It was resolved:** That kindred bodies associated with COTMA be referred to as "Kindred Organisations".

(L. Richardson/Merchant)

##### **b) Operation Safety Committee**

It was reported that Craig Tooke was working on safety systems. The Wellington Tramway Museum was thanked for providing a copy of its safety system.

##### **c) Museums Association - Special Interest Group**

It had previously been suggested that COTMA should generate a special interests group under Museum Australia. John Radcliffe spoke further suggesting that there was little merit in pursuing this matter further at this stage.

Peter Kahn suggested that a wider "transport" grouping to include railway and bus preservation interests might be valuable in the absence in Australia of any group equivalent to the National Federation of Rail Societies in New Zealand.

In response, Dr Radcliffe pointed out that it depended on who was prepared to "drive" such a grouping and what benefits would be secured by pursuing this.

It was agreed not to pursue this matter further.

**d) Hobart Commemorative Video Tape**

John Phillips advised that video tapes of the Hobart Conference were available for \$A30.00 posted.

**e) List of Museum Experts**

Bill Kingsley reported that it had proved very hard to achieve the definitive list of tramway experts that was being sought and recommended that this exercise now be discontinued.

The meeting agreed with this recommendation.

**f) Proposed Amendments to Constitution and Definition of "Tram"**

It was agreed that this matter be held over for discussion at a future meeting.

**g). 'B' Van at Bylands**

Richard Gilbert reported on this matter.

It was agreed to remove spare parts from the van and to allow the TMSV the opportunity to use the van for storage. Keith Kings has provided a complete list of spare parts stored in the van and belonging to COTMA. All parts and patterns are to be removed to a new storage barn to be built on BTPS land at Bungaree.

**h) Internet Site**

Richard Gilbert reported that Warren Doubleday had provided an Internet listing of all COTMA groups.

**It was resolved:** That COTMA establish an internet site and that Warren Doubleday of BTPS be appointed to maintain this site.

**(Pearce/Smith)**



i) **Production of a Calendar**

Bob Merchant suggested that COTMA should not pursue the production of a Tramway Calendar as Top Mill Press was producing a calendar again for the 1999 year retailing at a price of \$9.95.

j) **Museum Information**

Bill Kingsley thanked the individual museum groups for their assistance in providing information on their organisations to the Operations Committee.

k) **COTMA Descriptive Handout**

It was reported that Craig Tooke was co-ordinating this project.

l) **Legal Officer**

**It was resolved:** That this Conference General Meeting recognises and appreciates the assistance provided by Tony Sell of TMSV over many years as Honorary Legal Officer to COTMA and that the Council's sincere appreciation be conveyed to Mr Sell for his willing voluntary assistance over many years.

m) **Hobart Proceedings**

David Verrier advised that the proceedings of the Hobart Conference would be available in the next few months.

n) **Midalia Steel**

The meeting was advised that the firm of Midalia Steel, a firm in Welshpool, Western Australia, is able to supply tramway grooved rail from a supplier in France to museum groups if the order is tacked onto an existing order for newly rolled tramway rail from a commercial operator.

3. **Reports**

a) **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented his report (copy included in the official Conference Proceedings) for the period since the last Conference in Hobart in 1996. The report was **received** with applause.

b) **Deputy Chairman's Report**

The Deputy Chairman reported orally on his activities since the last Conference, making particular reference to the work of the Operations Committee, of which he was Convenor.

The Deputy Chairman's written report (copy included in the official Conference Proceedings) was also presented.

The Deputy Chairman's reports were **received** with applause.

**c) Executive Officer's Report**

The Executive Officer, Richard Gilbert, presented his report (copy included in the official Conference Proceedings) on his activities since the last Conference.

The report was **received** with applause.

**d) Trolley Wire Report**

Bob Merchant presented the Trolley Wire report (copy included in the official Conference Proceedings).

The report was **received** with applause.

**e) Tramway Topics Report**

Bruce Gamble presented the Tramway Topics report

The report was **received** with applause.

**f) IATM and Conference Report**

John Radcliffe reported orally on the International Association of Transport Museums and on the newsletter received from this Association and suggested that it may now be appropriate to circulate this newsletter to museum groups.

Dr Radcliffe reported that the next Conference of the IATM was to be held in Adelaide.

The report was **received** with applause.

**4. Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

**It was resolved:** That the Executive positions of Deputy Chairman, Assistant Executive Officer, Australian Executive Member, New Zealand Executive Member and Immediate Past Chairman be added to those positions required by the Constitution.

**(Pearce/Merchant)**

**5. Election of Officers**

**a) Chairman**

At this point in the meeting, The Deputy Chairman assumed the Chair and called for the nominations for the position of Chairman.

Lindsay Richardson was nominated.

**(Merchant/Bell)**

There being no further nominations, Lindsay Richardson was declared elected to the position of Chairman on COTMA.

Mr Richardson then resumed the Chair.



**b) Deputy Chairman**

Nominations were invited for the position of Deputy Chairman. Bill Kingsley was nominated.

**(Archer/Hyde)**

There being no further nominations, Bill Kingsley was declared elected Deputy Chairman.

**c) Executive Officer**

Richard Gilbert advised that he was not seeking re-election.

The meeting was advised that Craig Tooke was interested and willing to undertake the role of Executive Officer.

Craig Tooke was nominated.

**(Phillips/Gamble)**

There being no further nominations, Craig Tooke was declared elected.

The Chairman thanked Richard Gilbert most sincerely for his work in the role of Executive Officer during the past four years.

**d) Assistant Executive Officer**

John Lambert was nominated for the position of Assistant Executive Officer.

**(Pearce/Hyde)**

There being no further nominations, John Lambert was declared elected.

**e) Treasurer**

Carolyn Dean was nominated for the position of Treasurer.

**(Merchant/Bell)**

There being no further nominations, Carolyn Dean was declared elected.

**f) Australian Executive Member**

Howard Clark was nominated for the position of Australian Executive Member.

**(Atkins/Merchant)**

There being no further nominations, Howard Clark was declared elected.

**g) New Zealand Executive Member**

Dave Hinman was nominated for the position of New Zealand Executive Member.

**(Gamble/Smith)**

There being no further nominations, Dave Hinman was declared elected.

**h) Immediate Past President**

This was a Constitutional appointment. John Radcliffe, the Immediate Past

President continues in this role.

**i) Non-Executive Appointments**

The following appointments were made:

IATM Representative - John Radcliffe

National Federation of Rail Societies (NZ) Liaison - Dave Hinman

National Tramway Museum (UK) Liaison - Craig Tooke

**6. Appointment of Auditor**

**It was resolved:** That Mr Robert Paroissien of Paroissien and Company be re-appointed Honorary Auditor of the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia (Inc).

**(Atkins/Bell)**

**7. Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership or membership upgrading.

**8. Future Conferences**

**a) Year 2000 - Ballarat and Haddon**

This conference was to be held the week of Melbourne Cup, i.e early November 2000.

**b) Year 2002 - Brisbane Conference**

Peter Hyde extended an invitation to COTMA to come to Rockhampton and Brisbane in the year 2002.

**It was resolved:** That the year 2002 COTMA Conference be hosted in Brisbane by the Brisbane Tramway Museum Society and include a visit to the Rockhampton Steam Tram.

**(Hyde/Pearce)**

The above resolution was **carried** with applause.

**c) Year 2004 - Auckland Conference**

Bruce Campbell extended an invitation to COTMA to hold the year 2004 Conference in Auckland.

The AGM of the National Federation of Rail Societies (New Zealand) had expressed the desire to continue the practice of combined Conferences with COTMA. Dave Hinman asked COTMA to consider its stance on this matter. A problem was foreseen in that the first weekend in June was approaching the end of the financial year and was thus a very busy time for many people.

It was suggested that the NFRS be asked to consider a date other than the New Zealand Queen's Birthday Weekend.

**The concept of joint Conferences in New Zealand was supported.**



**d) Year 2010 - Launceston**

Philip Archer extended a tentative invitation to COTMA to meet in Launceston in the year 2010.

**9. General Business****a) Rail Heritage Trust in New Zealand**

Bill Kingsley outlined the function of the Rail Heritage Trust in New Zealand and wondered if there were a role for a similar organisation in Australia, especially in the tramway field, and whether there was a function for COTMA in this matter, i.e. a "Tram Heritage Trust".

It was suggested that this question be referred back to the Operations Committee for consideration.

**b) Tramcar Award**

Bob Pearce commented on the NFRS Awards in New Zealand for Excellence in restoration and suggested that a similar system to provide commendation awards for particularly meritorious restoration or preservation of vehicles and artifacts be considered for COTMA based upon a process of nomination and self-justification by member organisations.

It was agreed to refer this question to the Executive Committee.

**c) Lisbon Controllers**

John Shanks advised that K.10 controllers were probably not likely to be made available from CARRIS, but that THS would ultimately have to face making K.10 controllers and would be interested in discussing this with any other museum group requiring K.10 controllers in an endeavour to reduce the unit costs of manufacture.

**d) Museums Australia**

John Radcliffe advised that he had copies of the Museums Australia document "Caring for our Culture" available for member groups.

**e) Reciprocal Visiting Arrangements**

Bruce Gamble advised that tramway museum visitors were always welcome to visit MOTAT. Dr Gamble also suggested that a New Zealand contact person for the National Tramway Museum (UK) should be considered.

**f). Trolley Bus Overhead Parts**

Bruce Gamble advised that MOTAT has surplus trolley bus overhead parts available.

**g) Trolley Bus Maps of New Zealand**

Chris Steele advised that he had route maps of trolley bus systems (other than Christchurch) available for sale a \$5.00.

**h). SW6 Tram**

Rod Atkins expressed concern that the privately owned SW6 tram which was exported to New Zealand with Dacet approval from the Commonwealth Department of Communication and the Arts in Canberra had left the country without any reference to COTMA or to local interests. It was suggested that Federal authorities should be advised that COTMA would be an appropriate body to consult on such exports.

**i) Thanks to Tramway Historical Society**

The Chairman expressed the thanks of COTMA to the THS, and particularly to Bruce Dale and his organising team for a very smoothly run and well organised Conference which attendees had greatly enjoyed.

Bruce Dale formally presented to Lindsay Richardson and Richard Gilbert the coloured cartoon paintings of them which had graced the Conference sessions to retain as mementos of the Conference.

**10. Conclusion**

The Chairman looked forward to meeting all Conference attendees again in Ballarat for the 25th Anniversary Conference in the year 2000.

The Conference General Meeting was declared closed at 12.50pm.