



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Incorporated

Executive Officers Report - Tuesday 14th October 2014

Hi Everyone,

It has been a very challenging period over the last two years within COTMA's Museums and its members.

The support from government, semi-government departments and transport operators has been curtailed due the current economic trading conditions and new policies in play. But it has been pleasing to see the continued inter museum co-operations and to see projects that have led to some very successful outcomes being undertaken and completed in this period.

It has been disappointing to lose several smaller museum groups out of COTMA over this period. These have all been non electric tram groups, therefore there is a need for us to review how to keep similar groups in our organisation by making their inclusion more relevant to their needs. On the up side we have added two new groups from New Zealand to the fold in the same period.

The Executive committee has met on three occasions since the last conference. The sudden resignation of our Chairman Ian Seymour earlier this year did leave us in a challenging situation. Ian's contribution to COTMA and rail industry will be sorely missed. Dave Hinman as Deputy Chairman has managed the Chairman's responsibilities since that time. The rest of the committee has also been most supportive of each other in moving towards this Sydney Conference. There has also been two Annual General Meetings in Melbourne over this period to approve the financial reports and fulfil our legal requirements under the Incorporations Act.

The number of questions and issues brought to the committee has been very low over this period. I hope this is a sign of the continued strong working relationships that has prevailed in recent times which have resulted in some very successful projects being undertaken and the sharing of information and resources to the benefit of all involved.

The change in the Victorian landscape that started just as we returned from the Adelaide Conference has been very dramatic. The departure of Mike Ryan from VicTrack and restructuring in VicTrack has left a large hole in our discussions with government and Yarra Trams. The assistance of Adrian Ponton at PTV – Heritage Registra has been most constructive but very limited in what he can do for the COTMA museums outside his immediate control, those being accredited operating Victorian museum groups. This is an area where continued dialogue will continue to assist all our Members over time.

I can't thank enough the efforts and the time both Committee and everyone else have contributed to the ongoing roll of COTMA over the last two years.

Rod. Atkins,