



COTMA Conference General Meeting Wellington 2010 Executive Officer's Report

I recently had the opportunity of reading my report given to the year 2000 conference held at Ballarat and reflect on where we have come over the past ten years.

In that report I predicted that trams were shortly to be released to our member museums and how the standards of restoration and operation were improving.

Well both of these key points have come to pass with trams being made available to Perth, Haddon, Sydney, Auckland and Bendigo. Parts from trams have also been made extensively to a number of our member museums.

This has largely come about through our relationship with VicTrack and acknowledgement by both VicTrack and Yarra Trams that our museums operate their entities with very high levels of professionalism and the donation of trams and parts is seen as very worthwhile.

This in many respects contrasts unfortunately to our railway museums that collectively are very disjointed and thus seen in some quarters this way.

On the restoration front marvellous achievements have been made over the past two years in particular by Auckland, Adelaide, Sydney and Christchurch museums who have achieved restoration results inconceivable reflecting ten or even twenty years ago.

Likewise through co-operation who would have thought we would see Sydney trams running in Adelaide and Auckland.

Our organization continues to foster these achievements and we can be very proud of what we are doing.

I wish to express my thanks to the members of the Executive Henry, Rod, Howard, and Ian & Clinton for their outstanding effort over the past two years in the running of COTMA.

Many hours are put in behind the scenes by member of the Executive in organizing for things to occur and in particular my Assistant Executive Rod Atkins who has spent many hours organizing the transport of trams and parts all around Australia and overseas.

None of this can of course occur unless an organization has good leadership and this is the case with COTMA under the outstanding leadership of Warren Doubleday.

Many may not be aware of the extent of Warren's involvement which includes in addition to COTMA representing our interests on the Rail Safety Regulator's panel and the Association of Tourist Railway's.

The wisdom and leadership afforded to COTMA by Warren is appreciated by all and I wish to add my personal appreciation to him and applaud his efforts.

Finally I wish to express my thanks to Mike Ryan from VicTrack and the various Officers of Yarra Trams who continue to support our efforts.

The future continues to present many challenges and changes such as the introduction of a Nation Rail Regulator.

We will continue to achieve many great things despite these changes and challenges and I look forward to the next two year's with confidence.

Craig S. Tooke
Executive Officer
12th September 2010