



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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## Christchurch – Earthquake – COTMA Members Bulletin - 23 Feb. 2011

The shocking and moving photos and the news stories about the massive Christchurch Earthquake that struck on Wednesday 22 Feb. 2011 has upset us all and made us concerned about our friends in Christchurch and their personal wellbeing. From speaking to Graeme Belworthy (Tramway Historical Society President – Ferrymead) and Steve Lea of the Christchurch Tramway Limited, I have put the following notes together. Additional notes from Dave Carr and Dave Hinman via Trams Down Under. At the time of speaking to Graeme, it was raining which was not helping morale.

- So far no known deaths amongst the employees and volunteers or their families of both the tramways but not all news is in
- Sadly some have suffered significant damage to their homes
- No doubt some have suffered injuries
- The Christchurch City Depot has suffered some damage, mainly broken windows from the building next door.
- The city tram rollingstock has not been damaged, but three cars are stranded in the streets (some of the newspapers web photos have shown this) and it is likely it will be some time before they can get back to the depot due to the streets being closed to all other than to emergency crews
- The track and overhead has suffered some damage
- The Ferrymead tram barn is intact and the trams have suffered some “bruising” due to things hitting them while in the shed – lots of shelves, workbenches and items strewn around.
- Not expected that the City tramway will resume operations for about two months mainly due to the amount of demolition and clean up that has to be done in the City Centre.
- The Tramway Extension is likely to be put back some time due to the amount of damage to buildings along the route and the amount of clean up needed and the diversion of workers into getting the city infrastructure back operational again
- Major aftershocks continue.

Many of Christchurch’s beautiful heritage buildings have been lost or severely damaged, as shown by the newspapers and news outlets.

At the moment, the central city and suburbs have suffered major damage to the water, sewerage and power infrastructure, so much so that water is being brought in by trains and trucks into the city and then distributed to residents from the trucks. This is making life difficult for all.

Our thoughts go to our fellow tramway colleagues and their families at this very distressing time for them.

Warren Doubleday  
Chairman  
Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia