

Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update January 2021



About the President

Dave Hinman had some health concerns for a few weeks. He is still undergoing tests, and is now in much better condition, but is taking a break from a few tasks while he recovers. I'm sure that all museums will join me in wishing Dave a speedy and complete recovery.

Mal Rowe - Secretary

Your To-Do List

- ✓ Put the COTMA conference in your diary for Friday 17th to Monday 20th of September.
- ✓ Plan and budget for collection of any trucks allocated to you under the Victorian retired trams strategy project.

From the Secretary

COVID lockdowns and other demands on time have meant that there has been a longish period between editions of COTMA News Update, with the previous issue having been distributed in August of last year. However quite a lot has been happening.

Some museums have re-opened after the COVID pandemic showed some signs of slowing, but all are being cautious. There is considerable extra work – especially in cleaning – involved in re-opening.

Ballarat Tramway Museum has two new trams available for service. W2 407 (pictured above) is on loan from the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association and Geelong No 2 – a 1912 Duncan & Fraser product - is in the care of BTM after years of painstaking restoration by a private owner.

Work with VicTrack in managing the re-purposing of the 200+ trams at Newport has continued, although progress has been delayed by COVID restrictions of travel and movement of trams. VicTrack are being supportive and we expect to have some significant announcements soon. Requests for parts from museums and others are being processed – with the biggest task being managing requests for the (very bulky and heavy) trucks and truck components. See the note later in this edition of News Update.

Mal Rowe – Secretary, COTMA

Annual general meeting

The 2020 COTMA AGM was held on two days, 21st and 28th of August 2020 via the Zoom remote conferencing application due to COVID-19 issues in Victoria.

The meeting confirmed the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and received and adopted the Financial Statement and Auditors report. In addition, the meeting approved the closure of the 'Acquisitions Fund' which has never been required. The money in the fund is to be absorbed into general funds. We also

approved moving from accrual accounting to cash accounting to simplify our accounting procedures and in recognition of the simple nature of our accounts.

COTMA conference in Ballarat 2021

Ballarat Tramway Museum will host the 2021 conference to align with their 50th anniversary celebrations on Sunday 19th of September 2021 and with the support of Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association.

An early draft of the program – subject to change - has the following schedule:

- Wednesday 15th: Registration and a social evening.
- Thursday 16th: Regional train and Bus tour with COTMA Awards Night in the evening.
- Friday 17th: Museum Reports, Conference General Meeting – including parts management progress.
- Saturday 18th: Visit to MTPA at Haddon and Ballarat Tramways with BTM 50th anniversary dinner in the evening.
- Sunday 19th Ballarat Tramway Museum 50th anniversary celebrations.
- Monday 20th: Visit to Bungaree available to enable inspection of storage facilities and trams at the BTM offsite storage facility.

There will be no technical presentations, but we hope to fit in Museum Reports throughout the schedule. This program is a draft and subject to change.

Alternative activities for partners will be offered on Friday and Sunday. The partner and delegate program on Saturday will include activities of wide appeal.

It is anticipated that some pre-conference activities in Melbourne will be arranged by Melbourne based people and it is expected that some delegates may wish to follow up the conference with visits to new tram systems up the east coast of Australia.

We will probably run the following conference two years later – in 2023 - when the conference is expected to be hosted by MOTAT in Auckland.

Parts Management - trucks

This project has slowed a bit due to COVID restrictions but is now getting back to full speed.

In 2020 COTMA members were invited to apply for trucks from Newport for immediate removal because there is no capacity to store trucks in Victoria. This was an expected situation and is covered in our parts policy - in clause 1.8 of that document.

By mid-year, applications were in hand for 15 pairs of trucks and these have all been allocated by the Committee, based on the advice of the parts management group. Of those 15 pairs, 9 have been actually allocated by number and 6 more have still to be allocated. This is due to delays in the removal of trucks from trams due to COVID related slowdowns. There is no proposal to review these allocations and they will be made available to museums as they are released by VicTrack. Only one pair of trucks has actually left Newport, but it is expected that more will start moving soon.



In September 2020, an urgent reminder was sent out to Member Museums asking them to put in applications for trucks. The response was a bit overwhelming – with an additional 50 pairs of trucks requested!

COTMA committee has approved a fair and transparent process to allocate priorities for trucks, based on the

applications received and the criteria in the parts management policy. One of the criteria is that parts are not being allocated for building up local stocks of spares. This does mean that some parts of some applications will be at the bottom of the list and will only be met if all other requests are met first.

We do not know exactly how many pairs of trucks we will be able to obtain, but it is unlikely to be 65 pairs in total.

Perth Electric Tramway Society receives Trolleybus Overhead Equipment from former Wellington system.

The Council of the Perth Electric Tramway Society (PETS) noted in a COTMA Report that recovered overhead material from the former Wellington Trolleybus System was to be made available from Wellington Tramway Museum. Enquiries were made to obtain some of the recovered trolleybus overhead equipment for our proposed trolleybus loop at Whiteman Village. When we were told that material was available, a sketch was sent to Allan Neilson, Vice President, Maintenance & Engineering and discussions commenced in earnest.

The material was to include Section Insulators (SI), Trolleybus Crossings and Turnouts (Frogs), Sweeps (Segments) and the biggie, a Trolleybus Overhead Protection Unit (TBOP).

We asked that the TBOP be supplied with its cabinet {It's possible that the unit will be used in a remote location to the carbarn}, which of course added to the overall cost of transport. The artwork on the cabinet is rather special as well and will be kept intact.

Here's the TBOP in Wellington.

Several cities are now running programs to paint traffic light control boxes in various themes to improve the appearance of the municipality.

Another example showing Hawthorn Tramways Trust No 8 is outside the Melbourne Tram museum at Hawthorn.

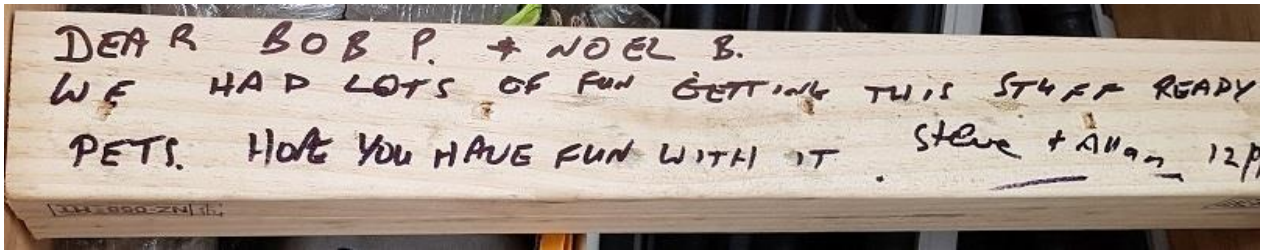


PETS engaged the services of Saddleirs Logistics (based in Perth) to transport the material from WTM to PETS. Allan and his team packed the material in one crate, while the TBOP was mounted and secured to a pallet, both of which had to be made using timber suitable for import into Australia. The crate and pallet were despatched in October and arrived at Whiteman Park in November after its journey by ship and road, safe and sound.

Our sincere thanks go to Allan Neilson, Steve Porter and everyone at WTM for the help and assistance with the sorting, packing and preparation for transport.



The consignment arrives. The Lindsay Richardson Body barn with WAGT E Class 64 is behind.



The message from Steve Porter (President WTM) and Allan Neilson (Vice President Maintenance & Engineering) to Noel Blackmore (Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Advisor) & Bob Pearce (Secretary).

... and there's more ...

Some other overhead equipment was imported from USA for the new car barn doors and is similar to that used in Christchurch at the City Car barn.



Bob Pearce, Secretary, PETS

Any News?

Museum News in COTMA News update is always of interest. If you have something to tell us, then we would be delighted to hear at cotma@cotma.org.au