

Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update

July 2023



Delegates at the last COTMA conference at Perth, September 2018

Photo: Mal Rowe

**UPDATE IS FOR ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS.
PLEASE FORWARD IT TO ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS**

Your To-Do List

- ✓ **Let the COTMA organisers know if you have a paper / presentation for the Conference – by Friday 14th of July!**
- ✓ *Make bookings for the COTMA conference and activities you might add before or after the conference.*
- ✓ *Write up your achievements over the last couple of years for submission for the COTMA achievement awards and prepare your Museum Report to share with other COTMA members before August 24th*
- ✓ *Let the organisers know about any presentation you might like to make – in person or via a poster / screen display at the conference*
- ✓ *Send details of your members who have passed on to Mal Rowe by September 8th*

From the President – Henry Brittain

WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND AND COTMA 2023.

Five years between COTMA Conferences is a long time and I look forward to welcoming you all to this year's conference to be held in Auckland in early October. It will be great to be able to renew old acquaintances, meet new people and share the friendship and common interest we all enjoy.

MOTAT have created a very interesting and comprehensive Conference programme and this will allow all of us to experience the many varieties of trams, both electric and steam, that they have in Auckland at the Western Springs and the Dockline tramways. Various experts will also be presenting and sharing their expertise in Conference sessions including modern standards and how they relate to Heritage items.

Enrolment details for the Conference are enclosed elsewhere in this newsletter and I encourage all Tramway enthusiasts to follow the link and submit their form now.

COTMA 2023 will be an exciting event and one not to be missed.

Conference plans – latest details

The 2023 COTMA conference will be held in Auckland from 5th to 9th of October 2023, hosted by The Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) and the Western Springs Tramway. The main venue will be the New Zealand Maritime Museum and the program will include visits to MOTAT and other places of interest.

The program, booking form and a call for papers are online at:

<https://www.cotma.org.au/conference.html>

Photo: Mal Rowe



The organisers have been able to keep the fee at the same level as in 2018 (a bit less if you take account of currency exchange rates).

Final program details will be updated on that site as they are finalised

If you are planning to attend the advice is to **book now** for travel and accommodation.

Dockline Tramway

The Dockline Tramway in Auckland has been given yet another life extension and will still be operating during the COTMA Conference. This may be your last opportunity to have a ride – or perhaps your first opportunity to ride an ‘improved Birney’ - ex-Melbourne X1 number 466.

Photo: Mal Rowe



Partner Tour

MOTAT will not run a full partner tour but will provide information on various activities for partners around Auckland. The registration fee for partners, which allows them to attend most conference activities, is only \$NZ250.

Make a presentation (... be quick):

One of the aspects the conference that is always appreciated is the opportunity to learn from others. The conference organisers have issued a call for papers which ‘Tell the Story - Kōrerotia te pūrakau’ of some aspect of tramway connected matters. They might cover any items of technical, safety, conservation, preservation philosophy etc. If you have something to share – techniques / resources / skills – then please submit to: COTMA2023@motat.org.nz with ‘Papers presentation’ in subject line **by Friday 14th of July**. More details are on the COTMA conference web page.

COTMA Awards

It's time to start to think about what your tramway will be submitting for your COTMA Achievement Award nomination and any of your volunteers who you think should be recognised by COTMA for individual volunteer work at a level superior to that which is recognised at a local museum. **The closing date is August 24th, 2023.** For details of the awards see <http://cotma.org.au/awards.html> for details of the award and judging criteria.

Post Conference Tour

Richard Gilbert is again running one of his famous post conference tours in New Zealand, commencing the day after the conference on Tuesday 10th of October. Participants will need to stay on in Auckland on the night of Monday 9th and the tour will conclude in Christchurch on the evening of Tuesday 17th of October.

Details are included in the Detailed program available on the COTMA Conference web page.

Price is currently being finalised and bookings are being managed by Stefany Knight of Wellington Tram Museum. Check the website for details at: <https://www.cotma.org.au/conference.html>

Annual General Meeting

We are required to run our AGM within 6 months of the close of our financial year (which ends at the end of March). This year's AGM will be held at Melbourne Tram Museum on Saturday 12th of August, commencing at 4pm. It will basically be a formality to receive the Financial Report for year ending 31 March 2023. A formal notice of the meeting details will be sent to all members. Major reports covering the last couple of years will be presented at the Conference General Meeting in Auckland.

COTMA committee members

The Conference General Meeting is when the committee to run COTMA for the next two years are elected. New members are more than welcome – chat to any current committee member or your museum leadership about it.

Parts Management

Work continues to retrieve, store and catalogue the growing collection of tram parts held in trust by COTMA for member museums. So far, 24 pairs of trucks have been acquired from Newport in Victoria and 21 of those have been sent to museums. More are to come.

We are in the planning stages on management and storage strategies for smaller parts – up to compressor size.



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