



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update June 2016

From the Chairman (*Dave Hinman*)

Hi everyone.

We are half way through 2016 already and this year's COTMA Conference in Christchurch is getting closer - registrations are now open and in addition to the main conference event, a partners' programme plus pre and post conference tours are on offer. Central Christchurch was hard hit by the earthquakes of 2010-11 but with the rebuild now rapidly progressing this will be a great time to see the city as it recovers and regenerates, including the contribution of and challenges faced by its recently expanded heritage tourist tramway. "Regeneration" (and it can have a variety of meanings) has been chosen as the underlying theme for the conference.

Details of the conference and related events are reproduced elsewhere in this Update and also on the COTMA website – click on - <http://www.cotma.org.au/conference.html>

I was in Auckland over NZ's Queen's Birthday weekend, having attended the annual FRONZ (Federation of Rail Organisations of NZ) conference, and enjoying four days of great weather and visiting and riding the Glenbrook Vintage Railway, MOTAT and the Driving Creek Railway at Coromandel. New work place health and safety legislation (Health and Safety at Work Act 2015) came into effect on April 4, and with representatives of NZ's rail regulators (New Zealand Transport Agency) in attendance at the conference, not surprisingly much of the discussion and presentations were around this topic as we grapple with how this relates to existing safety obligations under the Railways Act 2005 and work through any differences that apply when staff are employed compared to those having a totally volunteer regime. The legislation had evolved from two major incidents involving multiple fatalities a few years ago – the Pike River Mine disaster on the West Coast and the Hot Air Ballooning tragedy at Carterton. An accident in 2015 at the Driving Creek narrow gauge railway, Coromandel where an infant fell from the train on to the bridge and then through a gap in the bridge walkway and off the bridge but miraculously survived, was the subject of a detailed presentation and there was also brief mention of the recent tram runaway incident at the Sydney Tramway Museum. The need to clearly understand the causes and future mitigations for any serious incident on a railway or tramway is evident given the possible repercussions for other operators.

But it was not all hard work and serious stuff and it was great to catch up in museum and social environments with our Wellington and Auckland tramway colleagues together with a guest appearance from Peter Hyde (Brisbane).

Trams 47 (Wellington), 44 (Auckland) and at the rear, Steam tram 100 (Sydney/Wanganui) busy transporting passengers between the two MOTAT sites

Photo – DLA Turner



COTMA CONFERENCE 2016 – CHRISTCHURCH

[Update 18 June 2016]

Conference Dates: 13- 17 October 2016

REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for the conference. Go to www.cotma.org.au/conference.html and Click on [Booking Form Word Version](#) or [pdf version of the Booking Form](#). The registration form also includes a link to details of central city hotels where discounted rates have been negotiated. Click on [hotel information](#) Bookings to be made directly with hotels. Note: because of the loss of or damage to many of the city's hotels due to the 2011 earthquakes, there is still a shortage of hotel accommodation in Christchurch. Early booking is recommended.

PROGRAMME (AS AT JUNE 2016)

Thurs 13 Oct 2016

Afternoon – COTMA Executive Committee meeting

Evening - Registration, drinks and nibbles at Novotel, Cathedral Square

Fri 14 Oct

Morning - conference opening, Keynote speaker Andre Lovatt, CEO ChCh Arts Centre Trust and Chairman of Regenerate Christchurch, followed by Urban Transport Regeneration in NZ

Afternoon - Visit by tram to ChCh Arts Centre - significant heritage restoration project, followed by conference sessions

Evening - dinner, with museum presentations, at Novotel

Sat 15 Oct

Morning - Ferrymead Heritage Park - conference sessions, then visit to Lyttelton, including harbour cruise.

Afternoon - Experiencing Ferrymead tramway and other parts of Ferrymead Heritage Park. Refreshments at local hostelry, dinner own arrangements

Sun 16 Oct

Morning - Ferrymead Heritage Park - conference sessions, then visit to Wigram Air Force Museum (behind the scenes tour and lunch)

Afternoon - Christchurch tramway visit

Evening - Conference Dinner - presentations and awards, at Christchurch Gondola

Mon 17 Oct

Morning - Ferrymead Heritage Park - conference sessions and COTMA General Meeting, including lunch

Afternoon - free time at Ferrymead. Post conference tour commences

PARTNERS' PROGRAMME

Details are still being finalised, but the programme will include:

- An all day trip to Akaroa, the historic Banks Peninsula town and small port, originally settled by French Colonists in 1840 and today renowned for "its French atmosphere, historic buildings, magnificent harbour and passion for fine food", 75 kilometres from Christchurch.
- A Saturday morning visit to the Farmers' market at the city's main port of Lyttelton then joining delegates for a harbour cruise and lunch.
- Time at Ferrymead Heritage Park (much more than just trams!)
- Using a day pass tram ticket to explore shopping precincts and other visitor attractions in the central city, including the museum, art gallery, botanic gardens, and Arts Centre.
- Visiting the historic "Tannery" - a recently established boutique shopping, dining and arts emporium in a rebuilt former early industrial complex at Woolston.
- A morning tea at Westfield Mall en route to the acclaimed Air Force Museum and function centre at Wigram. This visit includes lunch.
- The programme includes Thursday, Friday and Sunday evening functions with the conference delegates, including the Conference Awards dinner at the Port Hills Gondola on Sunday evening.
- Yet to be announced Heritage week functions may also be an option if time and interest permits.

PRE CONFERENCE TOURS

At this stage we are suggesting a couple of options for self-organised tours, but with arrangements made for visits to key attractions at nominated times. Both would commence in Auckland and conclude in Wellington with the option of either flying direct to Christchurch or ferry to Picton and train to Christchurch. We have yet to find a volunteer willing to organise a full package tour.

Full details as they currently stand are in a separate draft schedule.

Please advise us of your interest and preferences to enable planning – the contact details are on the draft schedule.

The link for this is: <http://cotma.org.au/documents/christchurch2016/preconferencetour.pdf>

POST CONFERENCE TOUR

Once more being organised by Richard Gilbert, this year's tour focuses on the South Island's West Coast, and is for 5 days, commencing on Monday 17th and concluding on Friday 21st October. Details of the tour are now available.

The link for this is: <http://cotma.org.au/documents/christchurch2016/postconferencetour.pdf>

OTHER EVENTS IN CHRISTCHURCH

It has recently been announced that the City's Annual Heritage Week will this year run from 14-24 October. We will be looking to see if any events during the time of the conference could potentially be included in the conference or partners programmes, and if you are planning to have extra time in Christchurch later, there may be events on which may be of interest. Details will be available from late June - see www.ccc.govt.nz/heritageweek

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

If anyone wishes to present a paper on a topic of interest, preferably aligning to the "regeneration" theme, please advise the conference organisers as soon as possible. They would also like an indication of how many groups are intending to do presentations of their activities over the past two years - limited to 10 minutes per group. Please contact the organisers by email at cotma2016@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

COTMA AWARDS – TO BE MADE AT THE 2016 CONFERENCE IN CHRISTCHURCH

COTMA member museums achieve miracles – and that deserves recognition.

COTMA's Achievement awards have been made since the 2000 biennial conference. The Achievement awards are not competitive, but are to set standards of achievement that their fellow peers can recognise, flag and inspire others to equal or better. There may be any number of achievement awards at a conference.

For the first time in 2006, a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) was made to the organisation that the judges considered had made the most significant achievement.

In 2014, the EAR Award was retitled "The Bill Kingsley Award" to acknowledge Bill's outstanding service to the tramway museum cause, including his work on the establishment and development of COTMA

We know that many of you have done some excellent work over this time.

The criteria for judging the awards are:

- Degree of difficulty,
- Quality of outcome,
- Value to community,
- Historical accuracy

Each criterion is given a score out of 5 by three judges and high scoring projects receive an achievement award marked by a certificate.

The three judges are Graham Stewart, Dr John Radcliffe and Carolyn Cleak.

The top scoring submission is the winner of the Bill Kingsley award, which carries a certificate, a trophy and a cash prize of \$500.

Closing date for submissions is the 31st of August 2016.

Submissions can be sent to COTMA PO Box 61, Carlton South Vic. 3053 and/or by email to cotma@cotma.org.au giving details of the achievement in no more than three A4 pages, plus photographs etc, and attaching any supporting documents that you feel are relevant.

Individual members of museums also deserve recognition.

Individual **Volunteer Achievement Awards** may also be presented at the conference. They are based on the recommendation and advice from any member group – without any selection process outside the nominating museum.

We see individual recognition is best handled at local group level. Please send your nomination(s) for outstanding contributions by your most valued volunteer(s). No more than two nominations per museum group please.

Nominations for Volunteer Achievement Awards are to be sent to the Deputy Chairman, Mal Rowe at email mal.rowe@gmail.com, should be on no more than one A4 page and should describe in some detail the contribution your nominated volunteer.

Closing date for submissions is the 31st of August 2016.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO COTMA RULES

As mentioned in the COTMA News Update last December, we need to update the rules under which we operate.

COTMA is an association incorporated in Victoria and is subject to the law of that state. Changes in that law over the last few years have included the development of a set of 'Model Rules'. Under the law, if any part of our rules are different to the Model Rules, then it is the Model Rules that apply. It is clear that it makes more sense to only have one set of rules, so the COTMA Executive Committee has adapted the model rules to suit our needs in a draft new set of rules.

To simplify the adaptation of the model rules, we have accepted the terms President, Vice President and Secretary in place of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Officer.

The major issue vis-à-vis the model rules is that we are an association with other associations as members, whereas the model rules assume members are 'real people'. In this aspect we followed the approach used by the Association of Tourist Railways in Victoria, who have a similar model.

In the new rules, the term constituent is used to indicate a person who is a member of a member museum. We have used the term 'member' for the museum itself.

We have also set a requirement that members (i.e. museums) must have a provision that their assets may not be distributed to members to meet regulatory requirements that assets don't go to individuals, but allow COTMA to give assets to members (i.e. museums)

As far as possible, we have maintained the status quo in terms of our actual procedures and processes. The document must firstly be approved by members at the next CGM then submitted to Consumer Affairs Vic.

A copy of the draft is being circulated with this newsletter.

The Executive Committee recommends that the new rules be adopted.

The old rules are on the COTMA website at:

http://www.cotma.org.au/documents/cotma_admin/COTMA%20rules%200604%20approved%20a1.pdf
or <http://tinyurl.com/gvbm4kr>

Please read through the draft prior to voting on the matter at the Conference General meeting in October.

The new rules are on the COTMA website as well – see

http://cotma.org.au/documents/cotma_admin/ProposedCOTMARules2016.pdf

Please direct any queries to the deputy chairman (Mal Rowe) at mal.rowe@gmail.com in the first instance.

SYDNEY TRAMWAY MUSEUM COLLISION INCIDENT

On Sunday 15th May 2016, Sydney Tramway Museum (STM) experienced a collision between 1904 restored J class car 675 and Nagasaki 1054. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has commenced an investigation into this accident which is being undertaken by officers of the NSW Office of Transport and Safety Investigations (OTSI). The investigation is expected to take several months.

The circumstances are that 675 was parked in the street section near the Museum picnic area when unmanned and uncontrolled it began a roll downhill some three hundred metres before coming into collision with 1054 on the concrete track near the Loftus TAFE. The driver of 1054, Scott Curnow had the presence of mind when he saw 675 approaching to stop his tram and safely evacuate the passengers and crew before the impact. We can be grateful for this quick action on Scott's part as no injuries were sustained. It appears that a chock placed under the wheel of 675 was overridden when the car lost air.

Since this event STM has implemented a number of additional safety features and restricted the use of certain cars, pending the findings of and recommendations from the investigation.



The damage to 675 is severe with the open apron (no. 2 end) suffering major damage to the front and floor bearers and damage to the floor areas in the first three compartments. The car was impounded but has since been released to STM pending arrangements for its repair. 1054 was not impounded and suffered small impact damage to the front apron. (Howard Clark)

ATHRA ALERT



Association of Tourist & Heritage Rail Australia Inc
ABN 19 755 744 868
PO Box 49 Turners Beach TAS 7315

ATHRA Alert 1st June 2016

On Sunday 15th May at the Sydney Tramway Museum an unattended rail vehicle rolled away onto the main line and collided with another rail vehicle operating a scheduled service.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has commenced an investigation.

Their reference number is **RO-2016-006**.

Recommended Actions:

It would be prudent for all operators to

- (i) Review current operating procedures relating to parking/stabling of rail vehicles as these may have been drafted some time ago and may require modification to be appropriate at the present time.
- (ii) Ensure that operational staff are aware of the requirements and consistently act in accordance with procedures.
- (iii) Bring this Alert Notice to the attention of all volunteers and staff.

Peter Ford

ATHRA

Ph 0412 414 447 or email vice-president@athra.asn.au

OTHER NEWS - Australia

Bendigo

Dennis O'Hoy is no stranger to a gong - having been a key mover and shaker on the Bendigo Tramways since the SEC days. Now he gets a gong of his own - being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in this year's Queens Birthday Honours list. The AM is recognition for his work to preserve of Bendigo's heritage, and his service with La Trobe University. Congratulations Dennis from all at COTMA



Melbourne

Melbourne's first 'modern trams' the Z1 class (and the almost identical Z2 class) have been withdrawn from operation - with the last run being an enthusiast trip on April 23rd.



The pic shows the two last cars - 52 and 71, near Hawthorn Depot.

Only three are preserved in museums - TMSV has 5, Hawthorn has 81 and Sydney has (Z2) 111. It is understood that Yarra Trams are holding (Z2) 101 in serviceable condition for the time being. Z1 number 1 was destroyed in a fire a couple of years ago.

The Z3 trams, which remain in service, are of similar appearance but are different in just about every mechanical and electrical aspect.

Mal Rowe

OTHER NEWS – New Zealand

Auckland - Ian Stewart



MOTAT stalwart, Ian Stewart, and older brother of tramway historian and photographer Graham Stewart has died aged 89. Ian was one of a small group of men who established the Old Time Transport Preservation League in the late 1950's at their site at Matakoho, 150 kms north of Auckland with the objective of saving heritage New Zealand trams for posterity. This in turn led to the move to The Museum of Transport & Technology (MOTAT) in 1963, and of which Ian was one of the founders. For many years he served as Chairman of the museum's tramway division and successfully argued for and led the construction of the dual gauge line which now links the two MOTAT sites.

New Zealand - Tram body Acquisitions – from Northland to Southland!

Near Whangarei, at the Packard and Pioneer Museum, can now be found, in temporary storage, the body of former Auckland 1930 Class 'Big Car' No. 235. This tram has been acquired by Dr Vincent Chan, of the well-known MOTAT Chan family, for eventual restoration to operating condition. It had been used as a sleep out and for storage in a Dargaville garden for nearly 60 years. Vincent has now also acquired former Melbourne SW2 tram 436 from Andrew McKenzie, who had brought it to NZ in 1998 and after having suffered vandalism in recent times, it has now been moved to secure storage in **Masterton**.



Auckland No. 235 at Dargaville 2015



Melbourne SW2 436 on the move March 2016

In Christchurch the first of 27 standard 4 wheel trailers, No. 126, built by Boon and Co. in 1917 has been relocated from a farm property on Banks Peninsula to Ferrymead, where for the time being it will remain outside demonstrating its post-tram format as a holiday cottage.



126 as new in 1917



126 on arrival at Ferrymead, May 2016

And in Invercargill, another Birney tram has been found - last of the Invercargill trams, no. 16, and identical to 15 now restored and operating in Christchurch. No. 16 was sold in 1951 and went to Te Anau as a sleep out, where it was photographed by John Radcliffe when touring NZ as a student in 1960. It had vanished by the time the THS began hunting for tram bodies in the late 1960s, but last year was found at the Davaar sheep and cattle station, where it had been moved to in 1965. It has now been donated and moved to Invercargill's Bill Richardson Transport World, and HWR Group Director Jocelyn O'Donnell has stated that the tram will be completely refurbished and would form part of the museum's extensive collection of trucks, cars, bikes, tractors, contracting equipment and other transport related memorabilia. (From *Southland Express* 3 April 2016) THS are in contact with the museum and are helping with information about the conservation of the tram.



Birney 16 in 1960



Birney 16 in 2016

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NEXT UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2016