



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – April 2012

2012 COTMA Conference – Booking Forms – Thursday 16th August to Tuesday 21st.

Since the distribution of the last COTMA News Update, the booking forms for the August 2012 Adelaide Conference, the Partners tour and the Post Conference Tour have been made available through the Web site or posted out to those we know who are not on e-mails. Copies have also been sent to Member Museums. If you know of a friend who may not have seen the booking forms, please pass a copy onto them or let us know and we will get a copy to them.

For Conference details and forms please see: www.cotma.org.au/conference.html

If you have any queries regarding the conference, please contact Ian Seymour, the Conference Convenor at adelaidecotma2012@gmail.com

A late fee of \$50 applies to bookings received after 20th June 2012 and bookings close on 6th July 2012. Please book early as this will assist the Conference organisers in their planning.

An excellent Partners tour program has been arranged by Simon Green; and Richard Gilbert has planned another wide ranging post conference tour.

Thanks to all those involved in organising the conference, partners tour and post conference tour.

A wide range of conference papers have been received, including a number to be presented by Adelaide Metro staff who were responsible for the recent extension to the Entertainment Centre.

We look forward to seeing you again and renewing friendships.

COTMA Conference Quiz and Brags

The Quiz masters are preparing another set of devilish questions to keep us entertained and test both our general and tramway knowledge. If you don't like their answers, then you had better come equipped with the facts. Smart phones, tablets, computer systems, "dialling a friend" or even "twitter" to obtain the answers will be not be allowed to be used.

Brags or what you have been doing over the last the two years since last conference are due with the conference organisers prior to the conference itself. Don't forget brags are limited to 10 minute duration, except for the conference Museum host whose presentation may be up to 15 mins long. The longest over the 10 mins, will be a round of drinks for all. This makes it fair on all parties, especially those are under 10mins.

2012 COTMA Awards

Don't forget that entries for the COTMA Excellence Award are scheduled to close on 30 June 2012. Many Museums have done some excellent work over the last two years and it would be a pity to see these go unrecognised. The Award is non-competitive. They are an excellent way of recognising the achievements of your workers.

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Subject to sufficient and worthy entries, a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) will

be made to the organisation that the judges considered have made the most significant achievement. This award will carry a cash prize of \$500.

Submissions are to be sent to COTMA PO Box 61, Carlton South Vic 3053 and/or by email cotma@cotma.org.au giving details, up to three pages of the achievement with photographs etc., attaching any supporting documents that you feel are relevant.

WATTRAIN Conference

The World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains 2012 Conference will be held in Leeds and York commencing Saturday 29 September and finishing on Saturday 6 October. An excellent value for money program has been arranged. For details of the program and booking form see http://www.athra.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/WATTRAINBooking_Information.Final.pdf Closing dates for bookings are 31 July.

Vale Frank Moag

Frank Moag, one of the founders of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society recently passed away, aged 96. STARPS Publicity Manager Andrew Tester provided the following about Frank's long association, firstly with Parramatta Park and then Valley Heights.

Frank was a founding member of STARPS, playing an integral part in securing the preservation of Steam Tram Motor 103A and building the fledgling Steam Tram & Railway Preservation Society Co-operative Limited from its infancy into the Society it is today.

With the establishment of the Society's Tramway operation in Parramatta Park in the mid 1950's, Frank was actively involved in the building of the Society's collection and the behind the scenes administration of the Society from its humble beginnings through to June 1993 when the Society was devastated by the tragic fire which ultimately ended operations in Parramatta Park.

Frank stuck by the Society and motivated other Society members in a determined effort to ensure the Society's existence continued into the future. Unable to re-establish within Parramatta Park, the Society was invited to exploratory talks with the Valley Heights committee which Frank attended. These talks resulted in an understanding between the two groups which has since flourished into a unique bond.

This union between the two groups resulted in Frank joining the Valley Heights Museum, although his devotion remained with the Steam Tram society his support to Valley Heights will not be forgotten.

News since February 2012

Leon Parker of the Hobart City Council provided the following photographs of their new tramway shed – the 4th to be constructed by COTMA Members over the last 12 months of so. Leon advised that he will be retiring from Council towards the end of the year.



From the Chairman

The Chairman, Warren Doubleday will be absent, travelling in Europe from Wed 25 April and returning on Wed 6 June. Part of the planning is to attend the FEDECRAIL Conference in Sweden during early May. The first tramway system to be visited is Antwerp and the last Paris. There are a couple of Museum operations planned to be visited as well. Contact will be via E-mail please but service may be a bit slow.



Antwerp – PCC type tram leaves the station plaza with the magnificent heritage railway Antwerp Central station in the background – 28-4-2012

COTMA AGM

As it will be necessary to hold an AGM date prior to the Conference itself in order to meet our incorporation requirements, this is planned to be held at the meeting with VicTrack Wednesday 1 August at Hawthorn Depot, 12Noon. Formal notification will be given at a later date.

Next News Update – July 2012. (All links working at time of publication)