



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – February 2012

From the Chairman

At the recent meeting of the COTMA Executive held in Auckland late January, the following matters were considered:

- COTMA Financial situation and Membership fees – propose to leave Membership fees as current.
- Consideration whether COTMA should change its name – propose to leave as is.
- Assistance to Members with parts and tramcars being made available by VicTrack; and future planning for this and of storage of a limited quantity of parts.
- The Web site and its use.
- Distribution of news letters between member organisations – recommend doing by e-mail – e-mail lists to be updated and re-distributed.
- A volunteer achievement award – further work to be done on this prior to the conference.
- Affiliate Membership – possible new Australasian Members and whether other foreign Museums could become Affiliate Members – the rules do allow for this.
- 2012 Conference arrangements, Partners tour and the Post Conference tour.
- Competency Assessments, medicals, regulation and other general matters.

Vacancy - Chairman

One topic that was discussed at the Executive meeting was that of a new COTMA Chairman from 2012 onwards. The current Chairman, Warren Doubleday advised at the 2010 Conference General Meeting that he would no longer make himself available for election as Chairman from 2012, having occupied the chair for the last 10 years. Warren re-confirmed this. At this time, a possible replacement Chairman has not been identified or a person indicating interest in taking the job on or come forward. Warren indicated he would be happy to continue to maintain the COTMA web site. Under the COTMA Rules, Warren will continue to be an Executive Member for the first 12 months as Immediate Past Chairman.

The Chairman would be happy to discuss the role with any Museum member who could be interested in taking on the position.

2012 COTMA Conference

Arrangements for the Conference, Partners Tours and Post Conference tour as detailed in past issues of the News Update are proceeding. Ian Seymour of the AETM, the host Museum is busy finalising costs and the booking form. As soon as it is available, News Update recipients will be advised by E-mail and copies will be posted out to Museums and those people who have requested a copy by post. Booking forms will also be available from the COTMA web site. The dates again are: Thursday 16th August running through to Tuesday 21st of August. See the COTMA website: <http://cotma.org.au/conference.html> for further details.

Call for Papers

Reminder the Call for Papers for the forthcoming Adelaide conference closing on 12 March 2012. See: <http://cotma.org.au/conference.html> for details.

2012 COTMA Awards

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.

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.

Rockhampton Tramway seeking QR Headlight

Archer Park, Rockhampton are trying to locate a headlight for their C17 locomotive No. 988. If anyone can assist, please contact Dennis Sheehan on sheehand@rcc.qld.gov.au.

Also please note that the Purrey Steam tram commenced its 2012 operating season on Sunday 12th February following the annual summer maintenance shutdown.

The new Work Health and Safety Acts

The rollout of a model Work Health and Safety Act across Australia is starting to happen. This act specifically involves volunteers, especially if you employ (for reward) a person. It is strongly recommended that a representative from your Museum attend any seminar/training course that brings your organisation up to date on this matter.

COTMA Technical Library

Don't forget the COTMA Technical Library, available on the COTMA website - <http://cotma.org.au/library.html> We are always looking for more documents to go onto the library, so if you have any and are able to scan them to a pdf format or able to loan the document to get it scanned, they would be most welcome.

The Australian Charities and Not-for Profit Commission (ACNC):

Janet Walton, Secretary of the Mornington Railway Preservation Society in Victoria recently reported to the Association of Tourist Railways that a consultation meeting was held in Melbourne on 7 Feb 2012. On July 1st, the ATO will transfer to the Commission the list of Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR). Reviews will be conducted in the next twelve months to ascertain if charitable groups are still eligible for this status. Groups who are registered as a DGR do not need to do anything at this stage. However, after the end of the financial year 2012-13, groups will need to report to the Commission about their income, expenditure and how fundraising proceeds are spent.

News since December 2011

Since the last news update, we know of the following events amongst COTMA Members.

1. Formal opening of the extensions to the Bendigo Tram Depot by the Bendigo Trust.
2. Opening by the Mayor of Christchurch of the Tramway Historical Society's new depot to house the trams that were evacuated from the City following the earthquake.
3. Tramways Wanganui Trust launching their restored to operational service, tram No. 12, and driving it out of the shed on a short length of track.

4. Brisbane Tramway Museum celebrating the Great Strike of 1912 when the tramways ceased operation for five weeks over the right to belong to a union and wear a union badge. An associated book, “*One American too Many*” has been published by The Workshops Rail Museum and it is a great read with many good photographs. See <http://www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au/Shop/Books/Books+about+Queensland/One+American+Too+Many>

Our apologies to the Perth Electric Tramway for overlooking the launch on Sunday 9 October of E class tram No. 66, after many years of reconstruction.

Congratulations to all.

Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation

The first APHTRO (**Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation**) conference will be held in Solo, Indonesia from 7 to 11 June. Everyone with an interest in heritage railways and museums will be warmly welcomed. Booking is opened now, the details and booking form are on following page. <http://aphtroconference.web.fc2.com/>

French Tramway Atlas – A definitive Guide to Trams in France

The dynamic reappearance of trams back on French streets has even impacted in Australia. A recent publication, albeit in French could be a useful publication to those interested in tramways around the world. For a link to the pdf file advertising the book, [click here](#) or it can be downloaded from the COTMA News Update tab – under the Feb 2012 newsletter.

And finally

Attached to the update for Museums are the up to date member address and e-mail list and the last financial report.

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



Wanganui No. 12 is driven out of the depot building on 23 Jan. 2012. Photo Dave Hinman.