



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update June 2014

From the Deputy/Acting Chairman (*Dave Hinman*)

2014 is galloping on and we are half way through the year already. With plenty happening and more pending it's time for another COTMA News Update, and once again my thanks to Warren, now back home after a recent European visit, for undertaking its production and distribution.

With the 2014 COTMA conference now just over three months away, it's time to get your bookings under way and your museum's presentations sorted - see details below. For interstate and overseas travel there are cheap options available which may not last and some of us have already started purchasing these.

Peter Hyde and I were among the 104 participants at the annual conference of the Federation of Rail Organisations of NZ (FRONZ) held at Wanganui over NZ's Queen's Birthday Weekend. Tramway groups were well represented but were of course outnumbered by our many heritage and tourist railway colleagues as well as national rail operator, Kiwi Rail and the NZ regulator, the NZ Transport Agency, Rail Safety Team. Both of these organisations were major presenters, as well as being conference sponsors. In addition to the formal conference presentations, some of the highlights included lunch and tram rides at the Wellington Tramway museum for those of us travelling via Wellington, a tramway groups' discussion meeting (7 organisations represented) and the FRONZ Awards evening where the annual Tramways Award went to Mornington (Dunedin) cable trailer no. 111 submitted by the Tramway Historical Society (Ferrymead). Most memorable (and significant) however had to be the opportunity for first rides on the newly completed Wanganui Tramway, after a great afternoon Wanganui River trip on the wonderfully restored P.S. Waimarie. It began with some impromptu but well orchestrated street theatre in the form of a tram re-railing demonstration, (inadvertently) arranged for us while we were out on the water and with actors including some of us from other tram groups. Then, as daylight faded it was a brief return to the atmosphere of the early 20th century as tram no. 12 (nicknamed "Mable") slowly trundled along the 180 metres of new line from the tram shed to the Waimarie wharf and return. This was on the Sunday afternoon/evening and the official opening was to follow on the Monday morning. That day showed Wanganui's great support for the tram project, with crowds of people, vintage cars, buses and a traction engine in attendance, a fly past by the local aero club and the Waimarie steaming past with whistle blowing as the ribbon was cut and the first official run commenced. Some 1200 paying passengers were carried on that first day! Our congratulations to the Tramways Wanganui Trust and its supporters for reaching this great milestone.

Finally, congratulations to Jeremy Kays and his team with the formation and formal incorporation of the Hobart Tram Restoration & Museum Society Inc, plus the welcome news from Christchurch this week of the re-instatement of funding by the cash-strapped City Council for completing a first stage of the long awaited tram extension.

2014 Conference – Sydney October 2014

Details of the COTMA Conference are now available on the COTMA Website including the detailed conference program, the Partners Program and the Booking form – see <http://cotma.org.au/conference.html> or the Sydney Tramway Museum conference page - <http://www.sydneytramwaymuseum.com.au/cotma/> for more details on the program and the booking forms as well.

If you would prefer, it is possible to scan and email the form back to David Critchley directly rather than posting.

For any questions regarding the conference arrangements and bookings, please E-mail: David Critchley— eclass436@gmail.com

Pre and Post Conference Tours

Richard Gilbert and Peter Hyde are busy finishing off the Pre and Post conference tour arrangements and the booking form for these should be available by mid-July. The approximate cost for the post conference tour will be \$550 to \$600 and about \$280 for the pre-conference tour. The method of booking is currently being sorted out and will be advised in the tour program. As soon as these are available they will be made available on the COTMA and STM websites. Please keep checking in.

See the COTMA or the STM website for the outline details of these tours.

2014 COTMA Awards

Once again the awards will be presented at Sydney COTMA conference in October on the night of the formal Dinner. Many Museums have completed excellent projects in the last two years which would qualify to be nominated for these awards. Please remember these projects don't have to just tramcar restorations and the like to qualify to be nominated. Book productions and Conservation Reports have won the major award on previous occasions.

This year will be the inaugural "Bill Kingsley Award" for the top winner. This will replace the previous "EAR" Excellence and Recognition Award in previous years. The cut off for submissions will be end of August so that the judges have time to assess all the submissions. It is important that if you are preparing a submission you advise the Executive Officer so we can register the fact you are doing one, and chase you up if your running down to the wire to complete it on time. There is a cash payment prize for the winner together with a new trophy.

So start preparing and lets us know how you are going. As everyone has indicated at past conferences, the awards presentation is one of the anticipated highlights of the COTMA conference each time around.

Call for Papers

The theme of this year's Conference is **'Your Tramway Museum in 2024 – A ten year plan'**.

The Conference organising team is asking every Museum group to present a paper on this theme.

Where will your Museum be in 10 years' time? How are you going to achieve your aims and goals? Do you have a succession plan? What are the road-blocks that you might have to address? How are you going to meet the challenges and road-blocks? Do you have a future plan and is it freely available for everyone to see and follow?

Your Museum's presentation should be around 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions after the presentation. It must include a brief review of what has happened at your Museum since the last COTMA Conference (ie your brag session) and genuine discussion of where you want your Museum to be in 10 years' time and how you are planning to achieve this. Presentations may include PowerPoint, Prezi or other electronic elements.

Preliminary presentation details (including the author/s, proposed AV equipment required) must be notified to the Conference organizers no later than 1 August 2014. Full details of your presentation, including presenters and AV equipment required and a transcript or copy of the presentation should be submitted to the Conference organisers no less than 14 days prior to the start of the Conference.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of COTMA will be held on Thursday 17th July at Hawthorn Tram Depot 8 Wallen Road Hawthorn at 10.00 A.M. The primary reason for the meeting is to receive and accept the financial report for the period 2013/14. We know that many of you will not be able to attend, therefore please advise the Executive Officer of your apologies prior to the meeting, otherwise we look forward to seeing you on the day.

Some Recent Tramway Milestones

02 May - 50th anniversary of closure of NZ's last tramway system (Wellington)

19 May - Vic. State Government's 40-year urban blueprint - "Plan Melbourne" announced.

Proposes that most tram routes be separated from other vehicles by 2050.

28 May – Yarra tram announces plans to transform Preston depot to a facility to service the E class trams and to provide more depot space. For information on the planned layout visit

<http://www.yarratrams.com.au/media-centre/news/articles/2014/historic-depot-redevelopment-to-drive-a-brighter-tram-future/>

2 June - Official opening of first stage of heritage tramway at Wanganui

3 June - Canberra Light Rail announcement. Expressions of interest to be sought from tenderers for construction & operation from Civic to Gungahlin in first half of 2015.

11 June - Memphis Area Transit Authority [MATA] halted all of its heritage streetcar services indefinitely, to evaluate the future of the system in light of two fires that destroyed a pair of ex-Melbourne W2 class trams

16 June - Incorporation of Hobart Tram Restoration & Museum Society Inc.

18 June - Western Sydney (Parramatta) Light rail announcement - extension to go ahead.

25 June - Christchurch City council approved \$1.69M to allow completion of stage 1A of tram extension as far as High/Manchester Streets

26 June - Wellington Regional Council signed off on plan to scrap trolley buses in 2017

?? June 2014 - projected opening of GCLR, but appears to have been delayed due to a number of issues.

24 June – Yarra trams announce revised timetable for route 112 – to be split into two routes 11 and 12. This is to increase the number of trams running in Collins St. A number of part time short routes will be discontinued.

And as a page filler, the Editor indulges in a photograph from his recent EU trip.



Bad Schandau – a side of the road running four wheeler motor car and two trailers make their way from the upper terminus of the Kirnitzschatal Tramway in southern Saxony near the Czech border to the town terminus, May 2014. For more information see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirnitzschtal_Tramway



Just in case you were concerned – a common case of mixing up the two countries.

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