



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – September 2012

COTMA Executive

The COTMA Executive Committee following the Adelaide 2012 Conference General Meeting is:

Ian Seymour – Chairman
Dave Hinman – Deputy Chairman
Rod Atkins – Executive Officer
Mal Rowe – Assistant Executive Officer
Howard Clark – Treasurer
Peter Hyde – Australian Museums Liaison Officer
Clinton Pearce – New Zealand Museums Liaison Officer
Warren Doubleday – Immediate Past Chairman

From the Chairman

Hello Member Groups and Members of COTMA. I have been asked to write a few words about myself, having been given the honour of election to the position of Chairman of COTMA at the Adelaide 2012 Conference.

I have met many of you all, over the years, from either visiting your museums or you visiting St Kilda, but I may be just a name to others. I joined the AETM mid-way through 1979 and have been very active nearly every weekend since, either on traffic, or behind the scenes on the maintenance and restoration of our fleet and infrastructure.

I am a Fitter and Turner by trade and have used my trade skills to advance St Kilda, and also to assist other groups, either physically or by the passing on of knowledge. I have been very active in obtaining workshop machinery for the museum to achieve a good level of self-sufficiency in maintenance and restoration at St Kilda, plus assisting other groups with machining requirements. I have been General Manager at St Kilda from the early 80's and a couple of years ago was elected to the position of President.

I am also involved with the South Australian Railway and Tramway umbrella group, Heritage Rail S.A, currently holding the position of Secretary, and I am also involved with the national group ATHRA (Association of Tourist Heritage Rail of Australia) as the second S.A representative.

I was very happy to catch up with many of you again at the Conference and meet some new faces as well. As you can see I am busy on all fronts but will hope to catch up with you at your museums as time permits.

From the Executive Officers Desk

One thing that happens in life that we have no control over is change. I certainly was not expecting to be elected to this role when I departed Melbourne for the Adelaide Conference last month. I have now worked with Warren Doubleday for over ten years. I intend to make sure he is kept in the expanded COTMA family mix moving into the future assisting the base committee.

On return to Melbourne I was greeted with the unfortunate news that Mike Ryan from VicTrack had been made redundant with ten other staff as a result of Public Service cut backs in Victoria

Government circles. Mike has been a great asset to our cause and has organized a number of trams and parts to member Museums down the years. Mike is going to be missed at VicTrack and we now will have to build up a new recourse with whoever takes over Mike's areas of responsibility. Therefore you will all have to patient on any requests for parts or tram orders in the coming months.

Communications – I have been updating my Email address book as a priority with all corrections and additions. If you need extra people in your organization added to the COTMA emailing list, please tell us. If you are not getting emails and other are, please come back to us immediately.

My post conference follow up has started. I am currently checking through all the issues raised in Adelaide and the organization rules review will be one of the next emails to go out.

If you receive any requests to your museum when equipment comes available, please answer back to the sender. A Yes or a No or your looking into the request is appreciated. No reply is not an answer and does not help us determine if the message is getting through to those who need to know in your organization. Rod's email is: ozrod_au@yahoo.com

My email address is always open even if I am not available 24/7 as I work full time. I look forward to a close working relationship each and every one of you and will need your expertise with some issues as you would well understand in times ahead.

A copy of the latest Member address list with emails is attached to this News Update for the formal Members emails only. Please check your Member email and address listings.

COTMA Conference Report

This is an edited report, written by Warren Doubleday for the Ballarat Tramway Museum's August newsletter, Fares Please!

The 21st Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia (COTMA) Conference was held in Adelaide from Thursday 16 August to Tuesday 21 August. Hosted by the Australian Electric Transport Museum, whose tram museum operations are based at St Kilda, Adelaide. Attending were 17 different tram and rail museum operators from around Australasia. The Conference Venue was the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, located almost directly opposite the Adelaide Railway Station with the new tramline to the Entertainment Centre right outside the door too.

A welcome cocktail function was held on the opening night where friendships amongst the COTMA family were renewed once again. The Conference was formally opened by The Hon. Pat Conlon, S.A. Minister for Transport and Infrastructure who spoke about the construction of the extension of Adelaide's tram line from Victoria Square to the Entertainment Centre, its revitalisation of the centre of Adelaide and its role in the future development of the city. The Electrification of the Adelaide suburban system is proceeding although it has been delayed by funding issues, as are other extensions of the tramway system.

The following sessions, which are available for download from the COTMA web site, http://cotma.net.au/documents/adelaide_2012/Conference%202012%20Papers%20List.htm under the Conference Proceedings tab, looked at the construction of the tram line extensions, the redevelopment of the Glengowrie Workshops, the ordering of the new trams and electric trains and the construction of the South Road Overpass. These were well received by the attendees.

All the tramway museums at the conference presented their brags or reports over two days, comprising either videos or PowerPoint presentations. This gives other museums an excellent update on everyone else's work.

The following day, Saturday, saw the completion of the presentations, followed by a visit to the St Kilda Tramway Museum. On the Sunday it was by special railcar to the National Railway Museum's platform within their Port Adelaide facility, followed by a tram ride using both types of Adelaide trams and a visit to the Glengowrie depot which has been extensively refurbished and extended to handle the larger tramcar fleet.

Monday saw a bus trip via Seaford looking at the work to extend the rail line from Noarlunga Central to Seaford; and then onto Victor Harbor to ride the horse tram. After lunch we rode the 1928 Brill Railcar towing a Centenary Car of SteamRanger from Victor Harbor to Strathalbyn for dinner at a local hotel prior to returning to Adelaide. Tuesday was the final day of the Conference at which the Conference General Meeting was held. This meeting saw the retirement of Warren Doubleday as Chairman of COTMA after 10 years in the role. Ian Seymour of AETM has taken over the position. Ian is the current President of AETM and is well known by Australasian COTMA Members and for his work.

Simon Green of Ballarat organised and ran the well-received Partners tour which was attended by 10 partners and enjoyed by all. Richard Gilbert also of Ballarat, arranged and ran very successfully the Post Conference tour to Moonta, Kadina, Barossa Valley, Murray Bridge and Angaston which took three days with over 30 participants.

On behalf of all the attending COTMA members we thank the Conference Organisers and in particular Ian Seymour for his excellent work for the Adelaide 2012 Conference. The networking amongst the COTMA family was excellent as always.

The next COTMA Conference will be in Sydney during 2014.

Web site

The COTMA web site has been updated for all the conference papers and discussions under the conference proceedings tab – www.cotma.org.au/proceedings.html Also available are the COTMA conference reports of the Chairman and Executive Officer along with that of the IATM.

A photo of the group at the Glengowrie depot can be viewed on the website as well, along with some photos of the event. See www.cotma.org.au/conference.html

COTMA Achievement Awards

The COTMA "EAR" Award for 2012 was made to the Perth Electric Tramway Society for their book "Tracks by the Swan – The Electric Tram and Trolley Bus era of Perth, WA". Congratulations to all involved.

Conference Quiz Results

One enjoyable part of the conference is the quiz session put together by Bob Pearce (PETS) and David Critchley (STM). The 2012 conference quiz is available on the web site at the following location:

http://cotma.net.au/documents/adelaide_2012/COTMA%20quiz.pdf

The table results were:

Table

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | first - 29 pts |
| 5 | 2nd - 26 and half pts |
| 7 | 3rd - 25 pts |

- 6 4th - 22 and half pts
- 4 5th - 21 pts
- 3 6th - 20 pts
- 2 7th - 15 and half pts

A creditable performance from all concerned and shows that knowledge of the various tram-trolleybus matters, and general knowledge as well, is alive and well.

Photographing your Collection Items and Arranging a Museum Collection Storage

In a recent Museums Australia Vic branch newsletter for Accredited Museums were two practicable on-line training videos that may be useful to these involved in managing collections.

The first involved photographing your collection items and the second in about organising your store especially when large items are involved. They can be accessed from the following link:

<http://www.mavic.asn.au/resources/practical-training>

One American Too Many

The Workshops Rail Museum, in conjunction with David Burke, author, recently published 'One American Too Many', the story of Boss Badger, the electrification of Brisbane's trams a century ago and the general strike of 1912. RRP \$29.95.

It is a fascinating read, and well worth having on your bookshelf or you shop. Wholesale enquiries to: Leonie Peasey, Retail Manager, The Roundhouse Shop, The Workshops Rail Museum, Queensland Museum, PO Box 2234, North Ipswich Queensland Australia 4305. Phone 07 3432 5100or leonie.peasey@qm.qld.gov.au. Also see www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au

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