



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update September 2014

From the Chairman (*Dave Hinman*)

Hi everyone.

It is September already and the 2014 COTMA Conference in Sydney is coming up fast - now just over a month away. The Sydney Tramway Museum team, led by David Critchley, has invested a huge amount of effort into putting together what is going to be a very interesting and very relevant conference for the benefit of the tramway museums of Australia and New Zealand, and the long term future of our tramway heritage. In addition to the great programme of events and visits planned for Sydney, there's a pre-conference tour in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, with the highlight being experiencing the new Gold Coast Light Rail system, officially opened on 20 July this year.

And yet there's more.

After the conference and led once again by tour organiser extraordinaire Richard Gilbert, a post conference tour featuring quite a bit of rail travel, a good look around Australia's national Capital, Canberra and also visits to rail museums in the rural countryside of New South Wales, the choice of staying in country pubs and then finishing with a trip on the XPT to either Sydney or Melbourne.

Sounds great, and Dot and I are really looking forward to being back in Australia once more and being part of all these activities. There's 11 of us, including partners, coming over from Christchurch. Bodes well for a lively and well attended gathering!

But... its been rather a shock and a real disappointment to discover that other museums and cities have not so far been nearly as supportive, with the total number registered so far not quite reaching 40 people!. At the last conference in Adelaide there were 60 registrants, plus partners, with 30 attending the post conference tour.

So what's to be done?

This Update focuses on the conference and we really urge all groups to get back to their members and encourage some more last minute support. The late registration surcharge has been waived, we have given a little more time for preparing reports and lodging award submissions, and the organisers are prepared to consider partial registrations for those unable to attend all 5 days of the conference. Hunt around - you may still find there are cheap deals to be had for both transport and accommodation.

2014 Conference – Sydney 9-14 October 2014 - It's not too late to book

Details of the COTMA Conference, including the detailed conference program, the Partners Program and the Booking forms are still available on either the COTMA Website– see <http://cotma.org.au/conference.html> or the Sydney Tramway Museum conference page - <http://www.sydneysteamuseum.com.au/cotma/> .

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

Please note, in order to encourage more participants, it has been agreed that the late registration fee be waived, but don't leave it too much longer as final numbers will be needed for catering and other logistical purposes.

Pre and Post Conference Tours - Final Call

Details about these great tours, and booking forms are also available on the COTMA and Sydney Tramway Museum websites. Go to <http://cotma.org.au/conference.html> or <http://www.sydneysteamwaymuseum.com.au/cotma/activities.shtml>

Call for Conference Papers - Final Call

A reminder that the theme of this year's Conference is '**Your Tramway Museum in 2024 – A ten year plan**', and that the Conference organizing 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, if not already done, as soon as possible and no later than 14 September. 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 organizers no less than 14 day prior to the start of the Conference.

COTMA Awards - Final Call

There is still time to get your awards applications in but you need to get moving. We have extended the deadline to **Sunday September 21**, and have added a new volunteer award, as discussed at the last CGM. Details further below.

For the **COTMA Achievement awards** it's about describing a project you have completed in the past 2 years, and we know that many of you have done some excellent work over this time. The top winner will receive the inaugural "**Bill Kingsley Award**" - the new name for the EAR (Excellence and Recognition) award which acknowledges Bill's outstanding service to the tramway museum cause including his work on the establishment and development of COTMA. The criteria for judging this supreme award include the following: Degree of difficulty, Quality of outcome, Value to community, Historical accuracy and the award carries a trophy and a cash prize of \$500.

Submissions are to 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, with photographs etc, and attaching any supporting documents that you feel are relevant.

1. The new deadline for submission is **Sunday 21 September**. If you are intending to put in for an award can you please *immediately* advise the Executive Officer, Rod Atkins email ozrod_au@yahoo.com , or ph. (61) 0407 537 980
2. Also, this year, as agreed by the 2012 Conference General Meeting, we are introducing a new category of award, the **Volunteer Achievement Awards**. These will be given on the recommendation and advice from any member group as 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 Assistant Executive Officer, 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(s) has/have made to your group. Closing date is **Friday 26 September**.

Conference CGM

Notice of 21st Conference General Meeting

Tuesday 14th October 2014

The 21st Conference General Meeting of the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia will be held at the Rendezvous Hotel Cnr. George and Quay Streets Sydney N.S.W on Tuesday 14th October 2014 at 11.00 am.

The following business will be transacted during this meeting:

1. Confirm the Minutes of the previous Conference General Meeting.
2. Receive and adopt the Executives Committee Reports of the proceedings of the Council since the previous General Meeting.
3. Elect the Executive and the Auditor until the next CGM.
4. General Business
5. Make arrangements for future Conferences of the Council.

If you have items of General Business, please advise them in advance to the Executive Officer.

Rod. Atkins
Executive Officer
6th September 2014
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