



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – August 2006

From the Chairman

The sudden passing of Graeme Breydon, Chairman of the Emerald Tourist Railway Board (Puffing Billy) is a major loss to the Tourist and Heritage rail sector. Graeme was also active in the TMSV for many years and had an excellent knowledge of the tramway sector as well. Graeme has been ably representing the sector in our interests to the various rail and OH&S regulatory bodies and for the ARA itself. He will be missed by all of us. On behalf of us all, we convey our condolences to his family and friends.

COTMA Conference November 2006

Bookings for the Conference to commence on Friday 17 November 2006 are being received. Planning is well advanced with the detailed timetable being prepared. The booking forms can be downloaded from the COTMA web site and returned to the COTMA PO Box – see above. Don't forget bookings close on Friday 6 October, after that a late conference booking and payment fee of \$50 applies. Any enquiries about the Conference booking form, or obtaining a copy by post should be made direct to Warren Doubleday: E-mail: tramwad@alphalink.com.au. Phone (+61 3) or (03) 9376 6882 or FAX (=61 3) or (03) 9372 6641.

Achievement Awards – Closing Soon.

This is the final reminder for submission of your Achievement Awards nominations. They are due to be with the judges by the end of September 2006. Submissions can be posted directly to the judging panel c/- of the COTMA PO Box or emailed directly to Rod Atkins home email: ozrod_au@yahoo.com. Details were given in the December 2005 *News Update*. Past winning projects can be viewed on the COTMA web site under the Achievement Awards tab.

BRAGs (or what has your Museum Achieved since the last COTMA Conference)

Would Members please ensure that you return the enclosed form to Rod Atkins – the Brag co-ordinator by the middle of October to ensure you have a slot during the conference to present your video, DVD, slides, or PowerPoint presentation. Please limit your presentation to no more than 10 mins.

NTC Model Act, Regulations etc.

By now most Australian Members will have attended either the National Transport Commission (NTC) workshop on the new Model Act and Regulations for Rail Safety or the Association of Tourist Railway's Victorian weekend seminar on the Victorian Act and Regulations which are different to those proposed by the NTC.

COTMA has submitted a detailed document reviewing many aspects of the draft regulations and regulatory impact statement. One of our principle concerns is about the scalability of the draft regulations. That is, making them workable for all rail organisations irrespective of size and not being overbearing, providing unworkable situations or requiring excessive documentation for smaller organisations. The NTC does recognise that an unwanted impact of the new regulations are that they could put rail heritage organisations out of business due to their nature. Volunteer burnout and walking away is a real possibility. Our main concerns are with the Security Management Plan and Emergency Plans which have been written around the requirements for large suburban heavy rail systems and competency training and assessments for workers. The

latter would apply almost entirely to everyone in your Museum. COTMA has suggested a basis for exemptions, although these are not allowed for by the model Act. A copy of our submission can be found on the COTMA Website.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Western Springs Tramway and MOTAT for the commencement of work on the 600m long extension from the zoo entrance to MOTAT 2 Aviation site in Western Springs, Auckland. The NZ Prime Minister, Helen Clark took place in the ground breaking ceremony on Friday 11 August 2006. For the full news story and a photo of the Prime Minister on a rather old looking excavator see <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK0608/S00115.htm>

Watch your Copper!

With the high price of copper, your copper based materials are a potential target for thieves. Both the Minnesota Streetcar Museum's Excelsior line and Vancouver's British Columbia Electric Railway have recently lost copper rail bonds along the length of their lines. Overhead has been stolen in the past too.

TDT Australia

We have been advised that the proposed draft competency units for tram driving should be finalised during September and that we will be involved in the process to complete this. We understand that a detailed revision of the layout will be part of this finalisation. A copy of our submission on the draft documents is available on our website, (see June 2006, News Update).

COTMA AGM

The COTMA Annual General Meeting, necessary for our incorporated status, was held at the end of a recent meeting at VicTrack's offices on 16 August 2006. The only business item was the formal adoption of the Annual Financial Report. A copy of the Annual Report is enclosed. An electronic copy was emailed to all Members recently.

IATM Newsletter

The latest issue of the IATM newsletter (No. 30) in electronic form can be requested from the Chairman. It is about a 2.5MB file, so a little large to distribute with this News Update. It has articles on: Protecting our Museums in 2006, Railway Patrimony in Portugal, COTMA News and if you are interested, a short article on Count Zeppelins R-Planes.

Web site

On the web site link for this Newsletter are the comments provided to the NTC on their recent draft regulations and the response received from the Victorian Department of Infrastructure following COTMA's comments on their proposed regulations which have since come into force.

Ticket Punches

Looking for a traditional style tram ticket punches? David Cawood of Western Springs Tramway (MOTAT) advises that they can be purchased directly from the manufacturer in the US. The suppliers web site is www.punchticket.com David advises that they were quoted US\$23.00 plus P&P, which works out to around NZ\$36 (A\$30) before P&P for the 1 ½" reach #5 punch.

Attachments – *electronic version only*

Attached to the e-mail or electronic version of this issue of the News Update is the latest Member address list. Yes we have issued it again. New Zealand now has a new system of postcodes and the NZ addresses have been revised for this.

Next News Update – October 2006.