



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – January - March 2006

From the Chairman

This issue of the News Update covers a large number of items, partially due to my recent ill-health. As we all know, changes in the safety regulatory environment in both New Zealand and Australia is either affecting us already or shortly will be doing so. COTMA has been involved in the Australian National level and at the Victorian state level. We are happy to try to assist various Member Museums in their local regulatory areas upon request. Coming out of these changes will be many impacts on our Members over the following few years.

One of the most important areas, though it often gets overlooked it seems in the rush to meet the latest regulatory requirement, is the area of Conservation and Collection Management. Without our collections being maintained in a presentable or an operable condition, we are not maintaining one of our basic aims of providing a personal taste of history to our visitors in being able to experience a journey on an operable tram or trolley bus. At the same time, our photographic collections etc enable the visitor to see past urban transport systems that once served their cities.

Assistance of Conserving collections can be obtained from various sources on the web. COTMA's web site has links through both the [Documents](#) and [Museums Links](#) pages to these organisations such as [Australian Museums On Line](#) (AMOL) web site, [Collections Australian Network](#) who will replace AMOL overtime and the [Australian Institute for Conservation of Cultural Materials \(AICCM\)](#).

Copyright (Australia)

Copyright can be tricky, especially those involving digital technologies. A recent publication *Copyright and Cultural Institutions: Short Guidelines for Digitisation 2005* addresses these issues. It has checklists, flow charts, good explanations of the problems and some of the pitfalls you can encounter. Published by the Centre for Media and Communications Law of the University of Melbourne and the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia, it can be downloaded from <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/cmcl/publications/guidelines.htm> The existence of this document should be brought to your attention for those who publish either in print, film, sound or on the web for your Museum.

COTMA Achievement Awards

Don't forget your Museum's nomination for the COTMA Achievement Awards to be made at the forthcoming conference. Submissions are due by the end of September 2006. Details of the awards were provided in the December 2005 Newsheet which can be downloaded from the COTMA web site if you can't find it. The website also provides details of past awards – [Achievement Awards](#).

Disposal of H Class Cars ex Adelaide

The bulk of the spare parts ex TransAdelaide obtained by COTMA has been picked up by AETM and stored at their St. Kilda site. At the end of March, TransAdelaide had yet to release any of the operable tramcars obtained by the various Australian Museums, although all the non-operable cars, except for the Restaurant tram have been collected by their new owners. The delay in releasing these cars is due to problems in the delivery process of the new tramcars from Europe.

COTMA Website

The COTMA Website is currently being kept up to date with Newsletters, links for useful resources, fellow representative organisations, papers from the Auckland 2004 Conference and the forthcoming Melbourne conference. One of the pages recently added was the past recipients of the COTMA Achievement Awards. The *COTMA Museums* will be updated shortly. The address for the COTMA web site is <http://www.cotma.org.au>

2006 Centenary COTMA Conference in Melbourne

Members and past participants will by now have received a Circular, Call for Papers and a Draft Programme for the forthcoming COTMA Conference 2006. Bookings will be either by the web site or postal to those who return to the form requesting this form of booking by 1/8/06. The circulars can be downloaded from the website if you wish to see them – see the *Conference Details* page. Booking sheets etc. should be available during May. Quite a few offers for Papers have been received.

Next Executive Meeting 8 April

The next meeting of the COTMA Executive will take place on Saturday April 8 at Hawthorn Depot. The agenda is quite extensive. A draft copy of the Agenda is included in the e-mail version sent to Members of this Newsheet. If Members have any items that they consider should be included or discussed, or have comments to make please contact Ian Seymour or Henry Brittain.

IATM News

John Radcliffe, our representative for the International Association of Transport Museums has advised that the next IATM Conference, to be held in - YORK, UK between 9-17 June 2007, titled "TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION MUSEUMS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT" The Conference Organising Committee Chair is Andrew Scott, Director of the UK National Railway Museum, and who was also for many years curatorial advisor to the National Tramway Museum at Crich. Other members are Professor Colin Divall (University of York, and who was at the recent Tamworth Railway Museum Conference) and Birgitta Wistoff (IATM President). Other organisations involved in the conduct of the conference will be the National Museum of Film and Theatre, Post Office Heritage and the Heritage Railway Association.

Papers are now invited addressing the theory and/or practice of one or more of the following topics:

- The role of Volunteers
- Operating in a political environment
- The sustainability of Museums over the longer term
- Generating income
- Partnerships between museums with related bodies

Proposals for an individual paper must include a short 200-300 abstract, a brief (no more than one side of A-4) of the author(s) and an e-mail address for subsequent correspondence. The deadline for initial submissions is 30 June 2006. Participants will be required to register by 9 April 2007 to secure their place on the program.

Submissions should be sent to Martyn Halman, IATM Conference Facilitator, National Railway Museum, Leeman Road York YO26 4XJ UK, martyn.halman@nmsi.ac.uk

FRONZ Conference for 2006

The next conference of the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand next conference will be held in Nelson June 2 to June 5. The [FRONZ website](#), provides links to the conference program and bookings pages. The program is a busy one, with many issues that can affect or be of interest to all of us being discussed. FRONZ papers from their past two conferences are available on their web site.

Trams to Copenhagen and Auckland

COTMA Assistant Executive Officer Rod Atkins has recently been involved in the shipping of two ex Melbourne W class trams overseas and of a rotary converter packed into a container to the Christchurch based, Tramway Historical Society. Not as easy as one would think – a lot of paperwork and organisation involved. Rod ably assisted VicTrack in enabling these donations to tramway museums:

SW6 965 to Copenhagen

Readers may have seen recent Press stories about SW6 965 going to Denmark as a gift to Prince Frederick and Crown Princess Mary. The tram will be housed at the Danish Tramway Historical Society's Museum about 65km southwest of Copenhagen. For details of their museum see www.sporvejsmuseet.dk. The Sydney Tramway Museum, introduced the Museum to the Victorian Government and assisted with negotiations for the gift of the tramcar. The tram has since been delivered to Denmark via Yokohama Japan where it changed ships. The Museum's excellent web site has some great photos of it being transport and finally running in snow on their line.

SW6 906 to Auckland

The Western Springs Tramway who operates the tram service at the Museum of Transport and Technology, Western Springs Auckland recently acquired SW6 906 to meet an increasing demand for transporting school children as part of MOTAT's educational programme in fully enclosed tramcars. It will also ease the pressure on their historic fleet. The tram left Melbourne late Feb. and arrived at the Museum on 1 March 2006. It was powered up that afternoon around the depot/MOTAT area. Their February newsletter, *The Controller* had some great photos of it passing through central Auckland.

Rotary Converter to Christchurch

After a long period of waiting for the various processes to be clicked into place, a container containing the former Rotary Converter from Glenhuntly depot was delivered to Christchurch based Tramway Historical Society. This donation by VicTrack and Yarra trams was facilitated by COTMA Executive Officer Craig Tooke. This converter will form an important part of the Society's long term goal to construct a steam driven power station at their Ferrymead location. Thanks to all those involved, especially to Kevin Taig who packed the container for shipment to NZ.

Omnibus Society Wellington Webpage

Recently added to the Museum Links page within the COTMA web site was the [Omnibus Society](#) of Wellington home page. Well worth visiting for those bus enthusiasts, with up to date news on what is happening in NZ and fleet lists etc.

Next News Update – late April or early May 2006.