



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

News Update – April 2009

From the Chairman

While things may seem to be quiet on the COTMA front, lots of things have been happening in the background that can affect all of us. These are in particular the review of the Rail Safety guidelines for Tourist and Heritage Rail organisations, Training and Competency Assessment, relationships with VicTrack, Moveable Australian Heritage, a single Rail Safety Regulator for Australia and the review of the National Transport Commission. The Executive met in Adelaide during the last weekend of February to discuss these items along with others. Many thanks to Ian Seymour for co-ordinating the meeting and discuss.

Myself, I will be in Europe from April 20 to late May, attending the FEDECRAIL Conference in Luxemburg and doing some travelling in Europe and the UK. However the e-mail service will continue, though with slow periods.

Executive Meeting

At the recent meeting of the Executive in Adelaide at the St. Kilda Tramway Museum, a number of items were discussed.

Richard Clarke, Chief Engineer of the Sydney Tramway Museum is involved in the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) preparation of a standard for Level Crossings. Warren Doubleday is involved in the preparation of a guideline for Emergency Response Planning and the revision of the Tourist Heritage Rail Safety Guidelines. It is important that Members who are interested in these topics and RISSB work in general monitor the ARA Fortnightly Updates, ATHRA Alerts and other materials coming out for example from the offices of the various Rail Safety Regulators or your State Rail Heritage Association.

The COTMA / VicTrack Protocol for W Class Tram Equipment which was agreed to at the last conference is available on the website under the Documents tab.

COTMA Conference and awards were discussed, see separate topic for this.

Next Exec meeting proposed in Brisbane, Oct/Nov. 2009.

The Executive has accepted the offer of Bob Pearce of PETS to act as a Co-ordinator of new tramcar parts. That is, if a person thinks that the part/s that they are obtaining quotes for could be useful at the same time to other Members, Bob will act as the Co-ordinator between the originating Museum and other COTMA Members. More details on how this will work soon.

COTMA parts storage facility, it was agreed that we would continue to provide a service for storing W class parts as necessary, but are not proposing to store parts for Z class trams etc. A storage container will be purchased if necessary to store W class parts at Bungaree.

SMS Guidance for Tourist and Heritage Rail Operators

The Australian Rail Safety Regulators' Panel has released for public consultation the draft Safety Management System Guidance for Tourist and Heritage Railway Operators. The Rail Safety Regulator in each state and territory will forward the material to all affected industry stakeholders in their jurisdiction. The guidance material addresses each element required within a Safety Management System and provides assistance with the requirements to achieve compliance. For more details see [ATHRA Alert #41](#).

It is important those who are involved in the preparation and maintenance of Safety Management Systems review this document, even if your current document is compliant with your States current Act. The more input back to the Regulators the better. The closing date for the review was originally 22 April but it has been extended to 22 May following representations from ATHRA.

Passing of Dave Lee

Those who knew Dave Lee of MOTAT, Auckland, were saddened to learn of his passing on 13 February from a heart attack. Dave came from Sheffield to New Zealand in 1968 and was a Western Springs Tramway (WST) member ever since. Dave was 70, a bundle of energy and a very competent Engineer who had a great knowledge of tram engineering. He will be missed. Our Condolences to WST and his family.

ATHRA Meeting

The recent Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) meeting was held in Queenscliff Victoria. Attending for their respective state rail heritage organisation were Warren Doubleday, Ian Seymour and Peter Hyde. Matters specifically of interest to COTMA Members were:

- Training and Assessment – see item below
- Rail Safety Update – ATHRA Rail Safety Update report available from the COTMA web site – see Latest News Tab

Some excellent presentations on marketing, working with your local tourist associations and wild fire preparedness, were made.

Training and Assessment –

ATHRA will shortly be releasing for comment via an ATHRA Alert a series of draft training packages, including one for Tram Drivers. The packages have been developed by David Rumsey & Associates, a Training Development Consultant through funding provided to ATHRA by the former Standing Committee of Transport Rail Group. The documents have been prepared for the “common” electric tramcar and thus will need to be tailored to your fleet and operational procedures. They comprise seven different elements:

- Mentors Guide
- Lesson Plan and Workbook
- Knowledge Checklist
- Mentors Q&A
- Performance Checklist
- Customisation Guidelines
- Tram Driver Competency Units – Lesson Plan and Workbook Map.

The Competency units have been mapped against the Transport and Logistic Training Package for tram drivers. COTMA provided input to this package that made it relevant to our sector, not just that of the commercial operators.

The Australian Rail Safety Regulators have taken a keen interest in the preparation of these documents and the methodology adopted by each Heritage Rail Operator to assess the competence of their workers. While this project is seen as a start in defining more competencies for the sector, it is important that those who responsibility is for training and assessment review these documents and provide feedback to David. Although you may have a very good training and assessment package in place already, these will be a useful check to see whether you have covered all the necessary aspects of a current good practice system and can show an Auditor that your programme meets the required competency packages. These documents may also be useful to our New Zealand Members, though regulatory requirements are different.

When the ATHRA Documents become available, the Alert will be resent to each COTMA Member. Thanks to those COTMA organisations who made their training documentation available to ATHRA.

COTMA Conference 2010

Wellington Conference 2010 – Planning to date – is for the conference to commence on Thursday evening 16 September 2010. From Friday conference sessions and activities will include a visit to WTM and dinner nearby, Trolleybus Tour and Conference General Meeting. A pre-conference visit (largely self arranged) will be arranged to Christchurch as will a post conference tour that finishes in Auckland the following weekend. Accommodation will be in Wellington city area. The organisation is being led by Bryce Pender of the Wellington Tramway Museum.

The conference is timed for the last weeks the school term so it is hoped that those with young and school aged children can be encouraged to attend.

For further information or to register an expression of interest please email Bryce on cotma2010@paradise.net.nz

The following conferences will be Sydney 2012 and Adelaide 2014.

COTMA Brags and Awards

Given the move for the Conference Brags sessions and workshops towards video presentations or PowerPoint, it is planned to have these given to the Conference organisers 2 weeks or so before the start of the Conference to ensure that they are shown in the right screen format and compatible with the equipment showing them.

One disappointing outcome from the Launceston Conference was the number of submissions for the COTMA Awards. While the two submissions received were very worthy, there were a number of projects done by Volunteers which went un-recognised. The Executive will be reviewing the award system soon and make this information available to all Members.

Rockhampton Celebrations

The Archer Park Station and Steam Tram Museum, Rockhampton, are celebrating an anniversary on the 5th June this year with 100 years of the Purrey Steam Trams running in the streets of Rockhampton. They will be having a wine and cheese night on Friday the 5th June followed by a Carriage Shade Capers Day on Sunday the 6th, we will be asking that everyone come in period costumes of the early 1900's, and maybe a reduced admission on that day also. The Purreys commenced running in Rockhampton on the 5th June 1909 and ceased on the 24th June 1939.

The Museum's latest newsletter can be download from the COTMA Website, see "[Latest News](#)" tab.

Queensland Rail Heritage Conference

The Workshops Rail Museum located at Ipswich is planning a Railway Heritage Conference, Opportunities and Challenges from Thursday 15 October to Saturday 17 October 2009. These dates are subject to change. The conference is intended to provide an important forum to exchange ideas, share experiences and contribute to the ongoing debate about the future of railway heritage. You can register your interest on the Queensland Museum's web page: http://www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/events/railway_heritage.asp

Information Documents that may be of use to COTMA Members

Brill Truck Catalogue: Through the courtesy of the Wellington Tramway Museum, the 1920 Brill truck catalogue has been scanned by Craig Tooke and is available on request via the Chairman. It is a large file.

Electric Railway Journal – www.archive.org (the archives site) has available for downloading the McGraw Hill publication Electric Railway Journal, from Volume 42 (1915) through to Volume 75 (1931). To find these journals and other tramway (known as a railway in the US) documents, use the search function at the top of the web page.

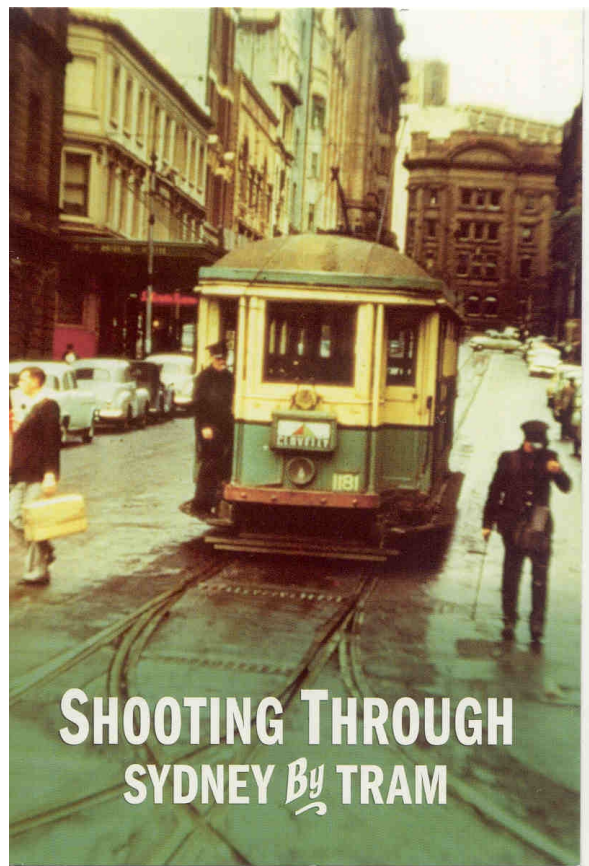
Electric Railway Handbook - During the heyday of first generation electric trolley systems in America, a comprehensive handbook covering virtually every technical aspect of street railways was compiled by Albert S. Richey, a professor at the Worcester (MA) Polytechnic Institute. This work has long been considered the touchstone reference document of the field and is highly relevant to present day heritage streetcar and modern streetcar lines. In 1989 the Association of Railway Museums republished the book as a reference for museums preserving street railway equipment. They subsequently converted the book to PDF format. Click on the below link to see this work but be prepared for a significant download time as the file is approximately 27 megabytes in size:

- [Electric Railway Handbook - Albert S. Richey](#)

File courtesy of the www.heritagetrolley.com web site maintained by the Seashore Trolley Museum on behalf of the American Public Transport Association:

Shooting Through Sydney By Tram

The Historic Houses Trust of NSW, in association with the Sydney Tramway Museum is holding an exhibition titled “*Shooting Through Sydney By Tram*” from April 4 to October 18, 2009 at the Museum of Sydney, Cnr of Bridge and Phillip Streets Sydney. Postcards advertising this exhibition are enclosed with the mailout. A hardcover pictorial book, RRP \$24.95, 128pp, 170 x 127mm prepared by Caroline Butler-Bowdon, Annie Campbell and Howard Clark complements the exhibition. Other souvenir items are also available. Full details from shop.hht.net.au



Further information from: http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/exhibitions/exhibitions/sydney_by_tram

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