



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

P.O. Box 61
Carlton South Vic. 3053
www.cotma.org.au
A304117B
ABN 81 315 085 479

News Update – December 2006 - January 2007

Yarra Tram's Staff Calendar Offer: Enclosed with this mailout is an offer to purchase a copy of the 2007 Yarra Trams Calendar. All proceeds go to Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital. Your support is encouraged. Calendars can be purchased for \$7.50 including postage (A\$11.50 for NZ).

From the Chairman

Following the COTMA Conference, it has been one of catching up, attending rail safety meetings, general museum work and taking a few days off. Conference organising takes a lot of time and results in other matters being put aside. Fortunately we had a great team for the Melbourne 2006 conference. Like all events, it had its hassles; the hotel accommodation charging has left a few things desired. We are busy catching up on this side at the moment. However thanks to the organising team: Rod Atkins, Stephen Butler, Carolyn Dean, Warren Doubleday, Richard Gilbert and Craig Tooke for a great event. Also thanks to our sponsors, in particular Yarra Trams and Austbreck and the various venues we visited during the tour who put on a great show to demonstrate to the visitors what they are doing. The Bragg presentations were great, often a great source of mirth but showing how our Member's volunteers are working away to preserve their tramcars and heritage street tramways.

The attendance of Geoffrey Claydon Vice President of the National Tramway Museum UK and Mikael Lund, Chairman of the Danish Tramway Museum and the proud custodian of "The Royal Tram", SW6 965 added to the conference. Unfortunately Winstan Bond, former Treasurer of the National Tramway Museum UK was unable to attend due to a medical issue. His paper *Achieving Sustainability for Independent Museums* presented by Howard Clark was well received and resulted in a lot of discussion. It is well worth reading, as Winstan's thoughts apply to all of us.

Finally the conference achieved its aims, networking, building relationships. There is a great deal of knowledge throughout the tramway museums and the COTMA Conference is an excellent way of spreading this knowledge.

COTMA Conference November 2006

General feedback from the attendees to the Melbourne 2006 Conference was that it was enjoyable and successful overall. The papers from the conference have been placed on COTMA web site and can be downloaded, along with the photo of the group at Haddon and the various conference reports. Just over 120 people registered for the various events, with about 95 attending on each of the first five days. The formal conference dinner was attended by 125 delegates and guests.

The CEO of Yarra Trams, a major Conference sponsor spoke at the Conference Dinner of the future vision for Yarra Trams. A feature of the dinner was the presentation of the COTMA Achievement Awards. These awards have been made at the last four bi-annual conferences. The awards are not competitive, but are to set standards of achievement that their fellow peers can recognise, flag and inspire others to equal or better. For the first time in 2006, a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) was made to the organisation that the judges considered had made the most significant achievement.

The EAR Award in 2006 was awarded to the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association for the Preservation and Restoration of VR No. 41. As part of the award, a \$500 cheque was presented,

made possible by Austbreck Pty Ltd, suppliers of tramway current collection equipment. The Award itself consisted of a cap and cone tramway ear and section of trolley wire mounted onto a piece of polished timber. Achievement Awards were made to: Ballarat Tramway Museum - "Meeting Challenges" - Rebuilding the electrical sub-station and publishing "The Golden City and its Tramways" and the Wellington Cable Car Museum - Restoration and display of Cable Grip Car No. 3.

A list of the COTMA papers, with presenter names is presented on page 4 of this *News Update*. The electronic version of this newsletter has hyperlinks to the COTMA web site.

The next Conference is Launceston 2008. Planning for the conference has already begun. A downloadable expression of interest form is available from the COTMA Web site, under the Conference tab. It will be a contrast to one being held in a city with one of the world's largest tramway systems, to a small museum in a lovely city and with a great and very dedicated volunteer workforce. We look forward to seeing you there.

The COTMA Executive

Following the Conference General Meeting, the Executive Committee is:

Chairman	Warren Doubleday - Ballarat Tramway Museum
Deputy Chairman	Henry Brittain – Wellington Tramway Museum
Executive Officer	Craig Tooke – Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Assoc.
Asst. Exec. Officer	Rod Atkins – Tramway Museums Society of Victoria
Treasurer	Howard Clark – Sydney Tramway Museum
Australian Museum Liaison Officer	Ian Seymour – Australian Electric Transport Museum.
New Zealand Museum Liaison Off.	Clinton Pearce – Western Springs Tramway – MOTAT.

Executive Meeting – Auckland

The next COTMA Executive meeting will be in Auckland, January 27, 2007. Planning the future activities of COTMA will be a major discussion item, taking into account the feedback received during the conference. A copy of the draft agenda has been attached to the electronic version of this *News Update*. Thoughts on agenda items and any additional items are welcome.

Rail Safety Group Formed

One of the outcomes of the COTMA Conference General Meeting was the formation of a COTMA Rail Safety Group representatives/officers/responsible persons to enable discussion and sharing of information between those who look after rail safety matters within the various Member Museums/operations. With the introduction of new rail safety systems in both New Zealand and Australia, the workload on those responsible for undertaking the documentation has already been daunting. Sharing of information and asking for assistance or finding out if someone has solved a problem or drafted a very good document will help to make life easier. A copy of the list has been attached to the electronic version of this *News Update*. Please advise the Chairman of any changes or additions. Members not currently affected by "Rail Safety" have not currently been included, but are more than welcome to be included if they wish.

Welcome Wanganui NZ

The Tramways Wanganui Trust, of Wanganui New Zealand was welcomed as a new Affiliate Member by the Conference General Meeting. The Spring 2006 issue of New Zealand's *Tramway Topics*, gave an excellent update on this heritage tramway project, which was made possible by Dave Harre's team who excellently restored/rebuilt the body of Wanganui No. 12. A 21E truck was acquired from a museum in Minnesota USA during early 2005. It is currently being fitted to the tram. COTMA has strongly supported the Trust in acquiring the necessary electrical/mechanical equipment from a VicTrack held suitable body.

Regulators Understanding of Electric Street Tramways

One of the outcomes from discussions with the various Australian Museum Members was the lack of knowledge amongst Rail Safety Regulators, Victoria being the exception, of electric street tramways. They are not the same as railways, being capable of sharing the streets with other road users. This is a matter the COTMA Executive will be addressing through the various consultative forums.

NTC Model Act, Regulations etc.

One of the most controversial matters in the Australian NTC Model Bill and Regulations for the Tourist and Heritage rail sector is the competency and assessment process. The need for clarification and understanding on how this works is gradually being done as all parties understand how the education system itself works. The timeframe for the competency and assessment process implementation – two years from 1/7/2007 - with a 12 month review process to be undertaken by the NTC is unlikely to be sufficient for our sector. Financial assistance will be needed for training assessors, preparation of model competency assessment documents. Some may be available through Government training schemes; Some identification of these have been given, but they need to be followed up further.

The various state Governments are now in the process of formulating their own Rail Safety Bills, except Victoria, based on the National model and later on, the required regulations. Victoria already has a Bill and Regulations in place, but they will require harmonisation with the National Model. It will be important that each Member monitors their own local consultation processes and takes part in them. Concerns should be relayed back to the COTMA Executive as well.

Constructive feedback from you is important, to understand the problems you are having either internally in meeting these new regulations, or in dealing with those in authority.

TDT Australia - Tram Driver Competency Assessment Criteria

Work on the suite of documents for tram driver competency assessment by TDT Australia needs a little more follow up work, following a meeting with Yarra Trams, in order to finalise them and make them complementary to each other. It is hoped that these will be formalised by the end of February 2007.

ATHRA Meeting

The next General Meeting of the Association of Tourist & Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) will be held in Perth 16th to 18th March 2007. The venue will be the Revolutions Conference room at Whiteman Park, the home of the Perth Electric Tramway Society. Representative from ATHRA Associate members and from Australian tourist and heritage rail groups are welcome to attend as observers. An extensive programme of site visits to Pemberton, Hotham Valley, the Rail Transport Museum at Bassendean, Bennett Brook Railway and PETS as well as dinner, winerys etc is being organised by Paul Rollason (serpar@bigpond.com). If you are interested, please let Paul know by 9th February to ensure a place. Details will soon be available from the ATHRA web site: http://www.athra.asn.au/next_meeting.htm

Thornbury Depot - Melbourne

Its gone! Yes not a sign left of this former small tram depot. Prior to demolition the overhead fittings, troughing, point and crossing castings and some other material was removed by VicTrack for COTMA Members who had requested this material. Thanks to VicTrack for arranging this. The other former Melbourne tram depot to be demolished soon, Coburg, has been checked and there are no salvageable tramway materials left in it.

Next News Update – February 2007.

The following COTMA Conference papers and reports have been placed on the COTMA website; www.cotma.org.au under the proceedings tab. The list of papers available on the web site are:

Presenter	Title
Warren Doubleday COTMA Chairman	COTMA Chairman's Perspective
Geoffrey Claydon Vice President, National Tramway Museum Crich UK	Umbrella Organisations: Their Nature and Value
Russell Jones Chairman – The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria	Fares Please: An Economic History of the MMTB
Colin Perfect Conservation Architect – Wellington NZ	Conservation Plans – are they of value for restoration work on tramway and other historic vehicles?
Garry Wood Vice President – Ballarat Tramway Museum	Picking Up the Pieces – the rebuilding of Ballarat Tramway Museum's Traction Power Supply following its destruction in 2004.
Winston Bond Former Treasurer, National Tramway Museum Crich UK	Achieving Sustainability for Independent Museums
Craig Tooke COTMA Executive Officer.	Rebuilding VR 41 to a modern serviceable condition
Bob Pearce Secretary – Perth Electric Tramway Society Richard Gilbert Vice President – Ballarat Tramway Museum	Attracting Members to the Management Team
David Critchley Events Co-ordinator Sydney Tramway Museum	Planning Events and Special Days
Alan Smith Wellington Tramway Museum	The Corporate Memory of the Museum as a Strength for the Future.
John Binns President Launceston Tramway Museum	Building the Launceston Tramway Museum
Trevor Burling Wellington Tramway Museum and FRONZ	Dealing with Proposed Legislation Changes – The Small Rail Participant Perspective.
Warren Doubleday	Rail Safety Issues in Australia
Panel Forum	Panel forum on rail safety issues
Reports	
Chairman's Report	
Executive Officer's Report	
Trolley Wire Report	
Tramway Topics Report	
Group Photo at Haddon	Photo by <i>Jeremy Honeyman</i>

Electronic version users can click on the hyperlink to access the document directly.