



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

## News Update – December 2009

### From the Chairman

On behalf of the COTMA Executive, I wish all our Members and readers Season Greetings and that 2010 is a great year for all.

On the tramway scene in Australasia, we are seeing a number of new street tramways appear or existing ones being extended in both the commercial or public transport or heritage arenas. With Christchurch extending its heritage tramway, Adelaide and Melbourne systems continuing to expand and a new tramway system planned for the Gold Coast area of Queensland. Australasian tramway systems are following the world wide awakening. With the new operator in Melbourne for Yarra trams, further changes are planned for the system, which is now (in terms of track kms) the largest system in the world. On behalf of the COTMA Executive, we wish to thank TransdevTSL the former operators of Yarra Trams for their assistance in the past and look forward to establishing a good working relationship with the new operators – KDR (Keolis Downer EDI Rail).

### COTMA Conference 2010

Planning for the 2010 Conference is proceeding well. A formal Invitation / Registration should be available towards the end of the first quarter or early the second quarter of 2010. Arrangements remain the same as detailed in the last COTMA News Update. For full details see the COTMA website Conference Page - [www.cotma.org.au/conference.html](http://www.cotma.org.au/conference.html) The organisers will have their own website to enable direct booking for the conference itself and with links to the conference hotel for bookings. Principally the Conference will be opened on Thursday 16 September and run through to Tuesday 21 September. A post conference tour to Auckland travelling via Wanganui and New Plymouth to arrive in Auckland the following weekend is being separately planned.

A pre-conference partly self arranged tour will also be proposed. Our current thinking is that we will meet in Christchurch on Monday evening 13<sup>th</sup> September, visit the Tramway Historical operations at Ferrymead that night – their work night. On Tuesday 14, visit the City Tramway and Ferrymead and then travel the following day via the Tranzcoastal and Ferry to Wellington so we are in Wellington for the conference opening the following evening. Depending on the numbers of potential travellers, we should be able to arrange a discount fare on the train/ferry. We will make suggestions for hotels in Christchurch.

Further details if available earlier will be shown on the COTMA website.

### Australian Regulatory News

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) recently agreed to the establishment of a single Rail Safety Regulator to be based in Adelaide and is planned to be established by 2013. The Parliamentary Act to enable this will be based in South Australia. Head office will be in SA with offices in each state. The various states will have an Act that points to the SA Act somehow. This however, still allows each state to have their own peculiarity. COTMA through the Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) will be following the establishment of this regulator closely and is likely to be represented on consultative panels in conjunction with the Australasian Railway Association. Members help and assistance in commenting on documents will be sought.

A number of COTMA members provided input into the National Transport Commission's review of the Australian Medical Standards. ATHRA has been represented on the review of these standards. One of the outcomes has been the recognition of the impact that these standards are having on the heritage sector.

## **Past Conference Papers on the COTMA Website**

The Adelaide 1977 and Ballarat 2000 Conference papers have been added to the COTMMA website under the Proceedings tab. Further papers will be added as they are scanned.

## **Training and Competency Documentation**

A number of COTMA Members provided feedback to ATHRA on the ATHRA Training documents, including tram driving. These have been reviewed and will be incorporated into the documentation shortly. Members can see the first version of these documents on the ATHRA web site – [www.athra.asn.au/training.htm](http://www.athra.asn.au/training.htm)

## **The 2009 National Survey of Volunteering Issues**

[Download the report: PDF \[ 1.3MB\]](#)

The annual National Survey of Volunteering Issues conducted by Volunteering Australia provides an insight into the issues that affect volunteering in Australia. The 2009 survey attracted a record number of participants with more than 3,700 respondents taking part, ensuring a wide cross section of opinions was received from individual volunteers, volunteer involving organisations and companies with employee volunteer programs.

Key findings of the report found that:

- 'Being accepted as a valuable team member', 'personal thank you' and 'feedback about my contribution' are the most significant methods of recognition that volunteer respondents reported made them feel valued as a volunteer.
- more than one third (36%) of volunteers reported they had not had any recognition for their good work in the last month of their volunteering.
- 'Knowing that my contribution would make a difference' is most important to volunteers in their decision to volunteer (selected by 80% of volunteer respondents).
- 30% of organisations surveyed have not been able to access adequate information about the protection of volunteers under occupational health and safety legislation.
- 44% of volunteers reported that out of pocket expenses affect their ability or desire to volunteer, with fuel (84.6%) and telephone charges (65.4%) being the two most common cost problems.
- only 17% of volunteers reported that their organisation offered full reimbursement of their out of pocket expenses.

The question to be asked is – How relevant are these outcomes applicable to your organisation?

## **Odd spot - The Other COTMA's**

A web site search shows that there are some other COTMA's as well.

- City of Taunton Management Association - Taunton is an English city.
- Congregation of Taste-Making Aficionados - they have the cotma blogspot sewn up!

## **Executive meeting**

The next Executive meeting of COTMA is Saturday 30 January 2010 in Wellington. If any Member has any item they wish to raise or have discussed at the meeting, can they please advise the Chairman.

**Next News update** – February 2010.