



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – February & March 2008

From the Chairman

The Chairman, without a walking stick this time, is off to Europe of 9 April and returning, if all goes to plan on 2 June at 4am! I will be attending the Fedecrail Conference in Salzburg and visiting a number of Austrian and European tourist railways and tramways. Included in my planning are visits to Crich, York and a number of tramway cities and locations; as well as discussions with our counterparts on how they are faring and coping with ever increasing Government regulation and control. Although I will be accessing my emails on occasions, please copy e-mails to the Executive Officer, tookec@bigpond.com to assist in an early response.

ATHRA Canberra Meeting

A very successful meeting of the Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) was held in Canberra 14 to 15 March 2008. The Chairman attended the meeting along with Peter Hyde and Ian Seymour representing their state bodies. Presentations were given by the NSW Rail Safety Regulator, the Australasian Railway Association and the Rail Industry Standards and Safety Board, the latter primarily about the progress on the development of a boiler code for railway steam locomotives. While this code may only be important for a few COTMA Members, it does show the industry support for the sector in ensuring we are able to operate professionally.

The preliminary results of the recent survey of the tourist and heritage sector about the impact of Section 68 (Competency Assessment) of the National Transport Commissions Model Bill should be known in early April. There was a good response from the sector and the general thrust of the responses was that any requirement to use Registered Training Organisations to do training and competency assessment would put us out of business financially.

2008 COTMA Conference

Arrangements for the Conference are proceeding. All participants of recent conferences should have received either an e-mail or a letter advising preliminary conference details and the post conference tours. Multiple copies have also been sent to Members for display at Museums, depots, etc. Conference details and Registration sheet are available on the COTMA web site – <http://members.optushome.com.au/cotma/documents/Proposed%20Program%20for%20COTMA%202008%20Conference.pdf>

- **Conference General Meeting**

The Conference General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 August. A draft agenda will shortly be forwarded to each Member and additional items for the agenda or discussion are welcome.

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

As in past conferences, we will be having sessions that enable your Museum to tell the rest of us what you have been doing since the last Conference. Presentations can be video, DVD, slides, or PowerPoint. Please limit your presentation to no more than 10 mins.

- **Achievement Awards**

Don't forget these are due with the judges by 30 June 2008. The Awards are not competitive, but are to set standards of achievement that their fellow peers can recognise and inspire others to equal or better. Most importantly they offer an opportunity to recognise the achievements of your workers. It is proposed, subject to sufficient entries, that a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and

Recognition) will be made to the organisation that the judges considered had made the most significant achievement. This award will carry a cash prize of \$500.

Submissions can be for tramcar or other vehicle restoration, infrastructure, management, collection management, special events or any field of endeavour that you would think suitable for recognition of an achievement. Submissions are to be sent to COTMA PO Box 61, Carlton South Vic 3053 and/or by email cotma@cotma.org.au giving details, up to three pages of the achievement with photographs etc, attaching any supporting documents that you feel are relevant. Details of past winners can be seen on the COTMA web site - <http://members.optushome.com.au/cotma/awards.html>

Executive Meeting

A successful meeting of the Executive was held during Mid Feb. at Valley Heights, the home of COTMA Member, the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society. We were welcomed and very well looked by Society members who had Sydney Steam Tram 103A in steam and gave us journeys along their line. Most of the principle outcomes of this meeting are included within this news update.

Tram Equipment Protocol with Victrack

VicTrack assisted by the Executive has developed a draft protocol regarding equipment that has been donated to COTMA Members by VicTrack. The protocol provides a basis for the use, transfer between members and any disposal of the equipment. This will shortly be sent to all Members for formal consideration and is proposed to be finalised at this year's Conference General Meeting. It is expected that each Member accepting tram equipment and tramway infrastructure items from Victrack will formally accept the Protocol.

Overseas Shipping

Shipping something to or from overseas? Please let COTMA Assistant Executive Officer Rod Atkins know, especially if using containers or shipping tramcars. Rod can advise on how to arrange, the paper work aspects, costs and if another Museum is shipping something as well to the same place, thus co-ordinating shipments.

Wood Blocks

Available upon request are a number of wood blocks that were formally used in the Preston Workshops complex floors. Sydney Tramway Museum have requested some and this has been agreed to by VicTrack. You would be responsible for loading, transporting and any issues arising from subsequent use. If Members would like to be considered for further supplies, please contact Rod Atkins by email (ozrod_au@yahoo.com).

Name Change - Archer Park

The Archer Park Museum advised late January 2008 that it has changed it's formal name from, *Archer Park Station & Steam Tram Museum* to ***The Archer Park Rail Museum***.

No. 15 Truck Wheels – Do you need any?

Western Springs Tramway is considering the acquisition of new wheels or blanks - 28" (711mm) dia. for Melbourne No. 15 trucks and is seeking information about costs and availability. This is a good opportunity to see if we can order in bulk. If other Members wish to follow this through, can they please advise Ian Seymour of your potential needs. This will help in ascertaining the likely demand for these and follow through on likely costs. Please advise Ian Seymour directly on ian.seymour@dsto.defence.gov.au If any member has investigated this matter already, can they please let Ian know as well.

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