



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – January 2011

From the Chairman

During the last two months we have seen the extremes of weather throughout Australia. While the eastern side has been having extensive rains and major flooding, the western sector has seen a significant drought. As far as we know, none of COTMA members have been significantly affected by these weather events, other than for passengers carried or operating days. However, some of our volunteers may have been individually involved and our thoughts are with them.

Congratulations to Graham Stewart

Well known to COTMA Members is tramway and photographic book author, Graham Stewart. Graham was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit (Member) in the 2011 New Year Honours for services to historical research and photography. Our Congratulations to Graham.

COTMA Technical Library

Recently added to the COTMA web site is a Technical Library page, containing scans of many old manufacturer documents that are often now hard to find. This came about from the recent closure of the TransAdelaide Railcar depot at Adelaide and the resultant office clean-up has turned up a large number of documents that dated back to the first generation Adelaide Tramway system and then the development of the H1 class Adelaide tram. The documents were donated to the AETM by TransAdelaide. The AETM through the auspices of John Radcliffe has scanned these for a new COTMA web site section - the Technical Library. This is now available on the COTMA Web site. Our thanks to John. Since the initial launch, some other documents have been added as well. Further Technical documents are requested from Members and readers, especially if you have already scanned them.

Added to the Library page is a list of drawings that are available to COTMA Members upon request. The ex-MMTB drawings are owned by VicTrack and under our licence agreement can only be made available through actual printed copies. For the supply of prints of these drawings, please contact the Chairman and arrangements can be made for printing and costs advised.

ATHRA Training Docs – Tram Drivers

ATHRA Alert No. 52 (http://www.athra.asn.au/alerts/ATHRA_Alert_52.pdf), Training and Assessment Documentation was issued during early January, Included within the documentation is one set of documents for tram drivers. While most of COTMA Members have long established Tram Driving programmes, we would recommend to all our Members that they review the documents and check that they have covered all the required aspects of the competency assessments. The Mentors Questions and Answers is a particularly helpful document for those Mentoring student drivers.

Comments back to the ATHRA Chairman close on Monday 14th February 2011.

US Association of Railway Museums 2010 Conference

Available on the US Association of Railway Museums web site are the presentations of their 2010 Conference - www.railwaymuseums.org They include Museum Planning for Emergency Events, Faithfulness to Original Fabric, Tending to Historic Buildings and Reality check on Your Collections. Some of the files are quite large, so be careful if you have limited download capacity.

Communicating with Facebook

The use of Facebook and Twitter was discussed at the September 2010 COTMA Conference. David Brown of PETS has set up a Facebook Page for PETS and we encourage other COTMA Members to do the same. As David notes it is the way the younger generation is communicating with each other. If we were doing what we did in the 1970's when setting up our Museums and had it been available then, we would be using it too.

David advises that PETS has a Facebook page for the Society as a whole: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Perth-Electric-Tramway-Society/106586276057586> and a separate page for information about *Tracks by the Swan*: <http://www.facebook.com/TracksByTheSwan>

After reaching 25 fans for a page you get to choose a shorter or more appropriate name for the page, which you can see PETS have managed to do for the Tracks page.

Wellington Tramway Museum's is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wellington-Tramway-Museum/107545055942344> and The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria's is <http://www.facebook.com/MelbourneTramwayMuseum>

There are possibly other museums with a Facebook presence, but David has not been able to find them. He suggests that information about Facebook pages of member museums be added to the COTMA and individual Members "Links" pages.

David notes in his message that it would also be appreciated if a message from COTMA to Member museums could include a request to include these extra links on the appropriate page of their web site. All Museum members who are Facebook members are encouraged to visit these tramway Facebook pages and click on the "Like" button. The museums could include a message to this effect in their member newsletter, and/or in member emails.

Expanding tramway museum links and profile via Facebook is another way in which we might possibly make contact with some of the younger generation who we would like to encourage joining us, i.e., us generally as the tramway preservation movement.

If you have set up a Facebook page, please let the Chairman know, so the link can be added to the COTMA web site. The Facebook links for Perth, TMSV and Wellington have been added to the web site, so you can check them out – see www.cotma.org.au/links.html

Your Personal Collection

Have you made provision for the care of your personal collection, when your pass on? Many collections have been "binned" by relatives when they clean up, not realising it could be of value to your Museum or another collecting institution. Please give it some thought and perhaps a bequest as well to assist to house and manage your collection.

Brass Screws

Two sources of Brass Screws in Australia have been recently advised to us. This is a follow on from the September 2008 News Update which contained other supplier information. Thanks to Howard Clark of STM and Tim Blythman of Bendigo.

Sydney Tramway Museum advises - the supplier they recently used was an Anthony Cowan, 0417 717 472, who operates under the name Bronze & Brass Fasteners, bronzeandbrass.sales@me.com, and his web site is www.bronzeandbrassfasteners.com.au
Bendigo Tramways advises that their supplier is Keable's of A'Beckett St. Melbourne - <http://www.keable.com.au/>

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