



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 – June 2007

From the Chairman

This issue of *News Update* has many web based links to documents, reports, alerts and the new Australasian Railway Association web based rail industry support site – Railmates. I recommend that you have a look at these documents, web sites, as they could well be of interest to you in your Heritage rail or Museum work. Don't forget you can also access the web from your local library and this Update from the COTMA web site – www.cotma.org.au

Enclosed with the mailed version of this News Update are two copies of the [Danish Tramway Museum's](#) English language brochure. Definitely put this museum on your list to visit or recommend it to friends to visit; a very friendly and worthwhile Museum to visit. The Royal tram (SW6 965) awaits!

In the Feb. issue of News Update, it was advised that a Members meeting in Sydney during the last weekend of October was proposed. It would appear that this may not be possible due to a clash of events in Melbourne that weekend. We will definitely know soon whether it is possible or not.

COTMA 2008 Conference - Launceston

The Launceston Tramway Museum is on schedule with the planning of the COTMA 2008 Conference. At this time, the Conference will be held during the second half of August 2008. The Conference will commence as usual on a Friday and the COTMA portion will complete the following Tuesday lunchtime. A post conference tour to the West Coast and Hobart will then follow allowing those attending to return home either Saturday evening or Sunday morning. They are planning a great conference. More details in the next News Update. If you have not already registered directly with the Launceston 2008 organisers for details, you can register by sending an email to <mailto:ltms2008@iprimus.com.au> The expression of interest form can be viewed on the COTMA web site at: <http://members.optushome.com.au/cotma/conference.html>

Annual General Meeting

The formal AGM of COTMA, required for statutory reasons to be held in Victoria will be held on Wednesday 8 August at 2pm, following the regular tramway consultative meeting in Melbourne with VicTrack. The purpose of the meeting is to accept the annual accounts of COTMA. A formal meeting notice is enclosed to Museum Members with this mailout.

ATHRA – Subscription Service to Newsletters and Alerts

The Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) web site now provides a subscription service to its Newsletters and Alerts. COTMA also provides news to ATHRA's newsletter as well as Trolley Wire. The link to the ATHRA subscription service is: <http://athra.asn.au/PHPlists/?p=subscribe&id=1>

ATHRA Alerts

There has been four [ATHRA Alerts](#) issued since the last News Update:

Alert Nos. 31 – 33 regarding Asbestos in Railway Rollingstock – April 2007

Alert No. 34 - NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations - [Ariah Park Fatality Report](#)

The investigation report into the fatal shunting accident at Arian Park is strongly recommended to be read by all those involved one way or another in the operation of heritage tramways and railways. ATHRA's key message in the Alert is; *"The inherent dangers in our activities must never be under-estimated"*.

Rail Joint Failure Results in a Manchester UK Derailment

A recent UK report of a March 2006 derailment tram of a Manchester tram is recommended to be read by those involved in track maintenance, The cause of the accident was the failure of a repaired section of track between two types of rail, which allowed the wheels to ride up the inner face of the rail and become derailed. It can be down loaded from http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms_resources/070416_R082007_Long_Millgate.pdf

UK Study into the Tramway Wheel and Rail Interface.

A very extensive survey report (Nov. 2006) of UK light rail / tramway systems wheel rail interface is available from the UK Office of the Rail Regulator on their rail safety research page of their web site: <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1184> The report, which comprises either three separate files or one large PDF file, looks at the UK tramway systems in very extensive detail, including maps, photographs. It discusses their practices in relation to the safety aspects of the wheel / rail interface and compares it to European systems. Included is a section on the National Tramway Museum at Crich and its heritage tramway operations. Even if you are not really interested about rails and wheels, the report is worth looking at for its general information.

For Sale

We have for sale, some surplus items from the Melbourne COTMA Conference; bags, caps and mugs. The number of these items are limited. Orders open 0900 Wednesday July 4, to give a chance for all to receive the offer.

Bag – 3 No. only - \$10 each.
Caps – 9 No. only \$12.50 each
Mugs – 10 No. only \$11 each

Costs of postage to be determined based on the actual order and are in addition to these prices.

Please send an email to the Chairman (tramwad@alphalink.com.au) or phone 03 9376 6882 (during business hours) to reserve your items. The final cost will be based on the actual packaging and postal costs to you.

Sharing our Stories – guidelines for Heritage Interpretation

Recently published by Museum's Australia WA Office is a comprehensive, but easily accessible document providing tools for planning and delivering a range of interpretation projects including walking trails, museum exhibitions and educational programs. It is aimed at anyone interested in interpretation from community groups, local and regional museums, heritage sites and state and local government bodies. [A free electronic copy](http://www.ntwa.com.au/sharingourstories/) can be downloaded using the link - <http://www.ntwa.com.au/sharingourstories/> or contact the Museums Australia (WA) office on 08 9427 2770 or email ma_wa@museum.wa.gov.au to purchase a copy.

Railmates



Recently launched by the Australasian Railway Association is a new web based rail supporters site – Railmates - www.railmates.com.au It is designed to assist the ARA is gathering political and general support for rail, passenger and freight including suburban light rail / tramways. Have a look at the web site, it has lots of great stuff and news and allows you to support rail by sending a message to your local politician.

Next News Update – August 2007.