



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

[www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)

## News Update – June 2010

### From the Chairman

After eight weeks in Europe, visiting or seeing some 18 different tram systems and some trolley bus systems, it is back to work assisting to arrange the COTMA Conference for 2010 with Bryce Pender and his team from the Wellington Tramway Museum.

There are quite a few matters that need attention from Member tramways noted in this News Update. Can you please bring them to the attention of your Board/Management Committee. – See the bottom of page two for the **Do List**.

### COTMA Conference 2010

Bookings for the Conference are starting to flow in along with those for the pre and post conference tours. A copy of all conference booking documents have been sent to all Members and those participants who receive advice by either email or the postal system. A copy is also available on the web.

The web site contains the latest information, however if you have any queries regarding the conference please email Bryce at: [cotma2010@paradise.net.nz](mailto:cotma2010@paradise.net.nz)  
Pre Conference – visiting Christchurch and travelling by train and ferry to Wellington - email Warren Doubleday at [warren@wads.id.au](mailto:warren@wads.id.au)  
Post Conference – travelling from Wellington to Auckland via Foxton, Wanganui and New Plymouth please email Richard Gilbert at [acre@alphalink.com.au](mailto:acre@alphalink.com.au)

### Conference General Meeting

The Conference General Meeting (CGM) is an important part of the Conference where all Members have the opportunity to raise matters that affect COTMA from either their Museum/Tramway or relevant to COTMA as a whole. The Agenda is being put together and if you have any topics that you consider that should be discussed, please advise the Chairman. Could members please advise the Chairman by August 31 who their formal delegate will be, to enable papers to be sent to them in advance of the Conference General Meeting.

One item that will be discussed and considered is a change to the Rules of the Association to bring them into line with the new Associations Incorporation Act in Victoria. The proposed changes are relatively simple and are in summary:

1. The Executive Officer to act as the Secretary and the Public Officer of the Association. (add this to the list of duties of the Executive Office, Rule 5(1) d)
2. Reword the Rule 8, Minutes to read as follows:
  - (1) The Executive Officer shall be responsible for ensuring the keeping of accurate minutes of meetings of the Council, the Executive and the Operations Committees.
  - (2) A Representative shall be entitled to access the Minutes of the Council and Committees at any reasonable time on application to the Executive Officer.

If you have concerns with the proposed changes, can you please advise the Chairman. A copy of the current Rules of the Association can be accessed on our web site under the documents tab.

## **Australian Rail Safety Regulatory News**

Through ATHRA, COTMA is keeping a watching brief on the Australian Regulatory Environment, both in the move towards the Single Regulator and the changes to the Medical Standards and associated processes. Please contact us if you have any concerns with the operation of your local Rail Safety Regulatory processes. We may be able to assist in addressing these.

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

During March, further past conference proceedings were added to the COTMA web site. All conferences held between Ballarat (1975) and Auckland (1984) and Ballarat (2000). Auckland (2004) and Launceston (2008) are now available on the Conference Proceedings page. Adelaide 1986 and Sydney 1988 have been scanned and are pending being organised for loading onto the website. That leaves six more conference proceedings to be scanned. Thanks to John Radcliffe for undertaking the task of scanning these. They are a great record of the work of COTMA.

## **Conference - Member Presentations (BRAGS)**

Don't forget your Member Presentation – Brags – are due with the conference organisers two weeks before the conference and should be kept to 10 mins max. See the March News Update for further details – available from the web site if you can't find it.

## **Excellence Awards**

Congratulations to the Tramway Historical Society, Christchurch for winning the 2010 Tramway Restoration Award for Christchurch Double Decker No. 26 and to the Western Springs Tramway for winning the PS Heighton Excellence Trophy at the recent FRONZ Conference.

Entries for the COTMA Excellence Award were scheduled to close on 30 June 2010, but this date has been extended to Sunday 18 July 2010. Many Museums have done some excellent work over the last two years and it would be a pity to see these go unrecognised. The Award is non competitive. Subject to sufficient and worthy entries, a formal "EAR Award" (Excellence and Recognition) will be made to the organisation that the judges considered have made the most significant achievement. This award will carry a cash prize of \$500. They are an excellent way of recognising the achievements of your workers.

Submissions are to be sent to COTMA PO Box 61, Carlton South Vic 3053 and/or by email [cotma@cotma.org.au](mailto: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.

## **VicTrack Protocol**

Following through on the March News Update regarding this topic, no issues have been identified by any members with the draft document. We will advise VicTrack accordingly shortly. The COTMA web site contains the current versions, not the revised draft version.

## **Members Do List:**

1. Advise the Chairman who the delegate for the Conference General Meeting (CGM) will be by 31 August 2010
2. Advise of any Agenda items that you consider will need to be discussed at the CGM
3. Finalise and submit your nomination for the COTMA Excellence Award by Sunday 18 July 2010.
4. Ensure your Brag will be received by the conference organisers early September – at least two weeks in Advance.

**Next News update** – August 2010 – this will contain notification of the CGM and Agenda.