



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

## News Update – March 2010

### From the Chairman

I attended the launch of Christchurch double decker No. 26 by the Tramway Historical Society (THS) at Ferrymead, Christchurch on Saturday 23 January. The launch was an excellent event with No. 26 towing two trailers and decorated similar to the day it took part in the opening of the Christchurch trams in 1905. Congratulations to the THS for the work they undertook on this tram and the great weekend which featured the use of the steam tram on the following day. While in Christchurch, I observed the works on the extension of the Christchurch City Tramway that has now commenced in earnest and the reconstruction of Invercargill Birney tramcar No. 15. This work is being carried out jointly by the staff of the Christchurch Tramway, the Heritage Tramways Trust and volunteers of the THS. The tramcar has been virtually completely dismantled and reconstruction work is now well underway.

Howard Clark and myself visited Wanganui on Friday 29 January and visited the Tramways Wanganui Trust at their workshops, to view the progress on the reconstruction of Wanganui Electric Tram No. 12. VicTrack made available to them, through COTMA late in 2007, electric tram No. W5 796 for its mechanical and electrical equipment. This equipment would enable them to make No. 12 tram operational again using a four wheel ex Brussels bogie or truck that they purchased from the USA. Equipment installation has almost reached completion using the ex Melbourne equipment. The co-operation they have received from other COTMA Members, especially within New Zealand has been outstanding and this reconstruction is an excellent example of COTMA Members achieving their goals through the assistance of VicTrack.

### COTMA Conference 2010

Conference planning has reached the point where bookings for the conference will soon be open. A detailed update conference is attached to this news update and is available from the website under the conference tab - [www.cotma.org.au/conference.html](http://www.cotma.org.au/conference.html)

### Australian Rail Safety Regulatory News

An update given to the ATHRA March 2010 meeting on Australian Rail Safety Regulatory News is available on the COTMA web site, under the [News section](#) – along with this newsletter.

### Past Conference Papers on the COTMA Website

Two further COTMA Conference Proceeding papers have been added to the COTMA website – Ballarat 1975 and Sydney 1976. Further papers have been scanned and will be added to the website over the next few months. Reading the papers, reports and workshops gives a fascinating insight into our past and where we have come from.

### Executive Meeting

Items discussed at the recent COTMA Executive meeting in Wellington on 30 January were:

- Membership matters and issues that members are having with various authorities, their progress and in one case – growth issues.
- The website – currently shared with the Ballarat Tramway Museum. COTMA to make arrangements to move to its own service provider.
- Revision of the VicTrack protocol – see separate item
- Revision of the COTMA Rules to bring it into line with the revised Victorian

Incorporated Associations Act – the public officer is now to be the Secretary rather than another person; clarifications regarding the keeping of minutes.

- The forthcoming COTMA Conference. Bryce Pender the Conference Co-ordinator presented a detailed report to the Executive. The report was well received by the Executive who congratulated him for his work.
- Possible Conference Papers – some excellent concepts have been received.
- Tramway Equipment Matters – including a co-ordinator for new manufactured items to enable the long term requirements of members to be met.
- Liaison with other Umbrella bodies – AHTRA, FRONZ, ARA and Yarra Trams.
- Members Matters such as Rail Safety Regulation, involvement in RISSB Committees and Competency Assessments.

### **COTMA Web site**

Since the revamp of the COTMA web site last September, visitor numbers have increased 40 to 50% over the previous version. Links to COTMA Members and information links are often accessed. Further improvements, time permitting are planned over the next 12 months. Feedback always welcomed. The web page also provides information links about conservation, museum practices as well. If you find any difficulty with any of our links, please let us know and we will repair them. Keeping them up to date is a problem.

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

A reminder to those preparing presentations (BRAGS), either DVD or PowerPoint presentations to the forthcoming Conference, the Conference organisers are requesting that they be kept to 10 mins max and that they be sent to the organisers at least two weeks in advance, so they can be checked for equipment compatibility etc. This is important and will guarantee their correct presentation. The organisers are considering a DVD production from the conference which will contain all the presentations. It will be important that no copyright music or materials is used in the presentations unless you have the written authority to do so.

### **Excellence 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 and worthy 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](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**

The VicTrack Protocol (*Protocol for W Class Tram Equipment and Tramway Infrastructure obtained by COTMA Members from VicTrack*) has been revised by VicTrack to address issues raised by Bendigo Tramways. Would Delegates/Secretaries please bring this revised Protocol to the notice of their Management Committees/Boards. If there are any issues you wish to raise about this revised Protocol please advise The Chairman. This item is to be formally adopted at the September 2010 Conference General Meeting. A copy has been included in the mail out to Members only. Please respond by the end of May 2010 with any issues, otherwise it will be taken as you are in agreement with it.

**Next News update** – June 2010.