



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – October 2009

From the Chairman

The next COTMA Conference, to be hosted by the Wellington Tramway Museum is a little under 12 months away. Preparations are well advanced as can be seen from the report with this News Update. Please consider attending, for Conferences bring our Museum workers together and some would say help us to make us more enthusiastic to continue on preserving Australasian urban tramway heritage. Networking is invaluable and life long friendships are made. All tram heritage workers are invited to attend the Conference and with tours of New Zealand tram museums being incorporated and cheaper air fares to NZ, it is well worthwhile putting now into your diary. The conference formally commences in Wellington on Thursday Sept. 16.

The COTMA Executive had planned to meet during October / November 2009, but with the Queensland Rail Heritage Conference and other events, personal matters, the meeting has been deferred to Jan/Feb. 2010 and is proposed to be held in Wellington NZ.

This News Update has lots of information in it, so please ensure that your fellow workers who may not see it, at least scan it for something that may impact on their work or responsibilities. In the News Updates, COTMA often refers to the Internet for documents and sources by providing links to relevant websites, so as to provide information to Members. These links are correct at the time of publication, but can become "broken" over time due to web site changes. Always check back with the parent web site itself, if this occurs and to see if you can find the original document.

Training and Assessment

The Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) training and assessment packages that have been noted in the last couple of COTMA updates have been well received by the sector and Regulators. Although comments have closed, these will be made available for heritage rail operators to prepare or to review their own training and assessment documents in the future. Funding will be sought to extend the range of documents in coming months. For those who missed these documents, they can be seen on the ATHRA website as part of ATHRA Alert #43 and in particular <http://www.athra.asn.au/training.htm>

Review of NTC Health Assessment Documents

Thanks to those who provided feedback on the NTC Health Assessment review documents. These have been incorporated into the ATHRA submission which can be seen on the NTC website. ATHRA has been invited to be part of the continuing review process itself. The various submissions to the NTC can be viewed on:

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/RFCCommentsView.aspx?DocumentId=1883>

COTMA AGM

The COTMA AGM was held as scheduled on Wed. 19th August during the regular meeting with VicTrack. The main purpose of the meeting was to accept the Annual Financial Statement and the Auditor's Report. Items coming out of the meeting for further attention are to investigate the use of a cash management account, undertake a stocktake of the ex Adelaide items prior to 31 March and the need for a change to the Associations Rules in order to meet the recent changes to the Victorian Incorporation Act. A copy of the Annual Financial Statements is enclosed with this mailout.

COTMA Conference 2010

Preparations for the COTMA Conference 2010, to be held in Wellington, commencing Thursday 16 September are well underway. An update from Bryce Pender the Conference Convenor of the Wellington Tramway Museum, is enclosed with the mailout. Can Members please ensure that a copy is left in the meal rooms, placed on noticeboards for your workers to see it. All are welcome to attend. The update can be viewed at; www.cotma.org.au/conference.html

Topmill Pty Ltd Productions

Members may receive contact from Topmill Pty Ltd concerning the production of a book on tram museums in Australia. Topmill produce the annual tram calendar. It is understood that they are planning a book that will feature trams in the various museum collections. This is a good way to publicise the sector and your co-operation is encouraged.

COTMA Awards and Update Presentations

Don't forget to start thinking about the COTMA Achievement Awards. Submissions will be due by the end of June 2010 to enable judging. All readers should consider these and who is going to prepare the submission/s to ensure that we receive something from all Members. The worst thing to do is not to put one in, because you thought someone else was going to do it!

Also the Museum update presentations (Braggs), or what your museum has done since the last COTMA Conference – don't leave these to the last minute either. See COTMA Conference Update for further information.

Brochure's to Museums

Another worthwhile task for a nominated person; arranging to send your brochure to other COTMA Museums for visitors to pick up and possibly visit on another day. Archer Park Rockhampton and the Friends of Hawthorn Depot are always willing to distribute brochures on behalf of COTMA Members as are many others. Yes, the tricky bit is actually mailing them, but don't forget that someone could be visiting and they can drop them off, as long as they have allowed room in their luggage of course.

Accident Reports

From time to time, COTMA will send out references to reports to COTMA Rail Safety Officers about tram accidents investigations and reports, mainly UK ones from the Rail Accident Investigation Board. Two recent ones have concerned accidents that may have relevance to Museum operations are:

1. A collision between two trams at Blackpool during June 2009 due to the failure of an air hose to the brake relay valve. This was due to the hidden failure of a holding clip. See RAIB Bulletin: http://www.raib.gov.uk/cms_resources.cfm?file=/Bulletin%2008-2009.pdf
2. A derailment of a Manchester Metrolink tram during June 2008 – due to the failure of the rail's keep (flange way) which was due to the deterioration of the track itself. See report http://www.raib.gov.uk/latest_news/090917_pn_st_peters_square.cfm

Also available on the Victorian Department of Transport website is accident reports into Melbourne tram incidents. Most of these events are outside the scope of Museum operations. They can be viewed on:

<http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/DOI/Internet/Home.nsf/AllDocs/A66C66BEDA437D67CA2573A1001D0D79?OpenDocument#rail>

If we spot any report considered to have relevance we will send them out to Members, but if you see any, please let us know, just in case we don't see them.

COTMA Website

The COTMA website has been revamped, the address www.cotma.org.au remains unchanged. The old layout was well over 10 years old and needed to be updated. It has been kept simple and the previous information has been transferred over. One addition has been a set of four images from each Member who operates or is actively involved in COTMA affairs provided on most of the pages throughout the website. Currently six different sets, each featuring four Members are used. Most of the images have been taken off the Member's websites or from the Chairman's personal photographs. More are welcome, so we can have a bit of a change over from time to time. If readers spot any issues with the website, or wish to make suggestions or corrections please let the Chairman know on tramwad@alphalink.com.au

One change that has been made is to not provide information about the operational days and email contact details for each member. These can be obtained off the individual Member's websites themselves. Keeping these up to date is difficult and often best done in one spot.

Keeping up the weblinks themselves is difficult. We have noted that quite a few Member's linked COTMA via or old address when it was hosted by Andrew Cox via "optushome". These are being changed over by the individual webmasters – thanks guys. While looking at some web pages, we have noted that some of the links to museums can be older links that may still be functioning, but are not up to date. We trust the COTMA site itself is correct (as at 30/9), but please inform COTMA so we can advise Members via the News Update or directly to Museums if you note an old address.

Launceston Tramway Museum Society's Website

LTMS's website has been re-developed. The address is now: www.ltms.org.au/

Please advise your members and webmaster of this change.

Christchurch Update

The Christchurch Tramway extension has been approved by the City of Christchurch. News of the extension was reported in the staff newsletter for the Christchurch Tram Co. They reported:

"Despite worldwide economic doom, on a recent dreary June Friday the Christchurch City Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of spending \$11.5million to extend the present 2.5 km Christchurch heritage tramway. The project would more than double the tramway network taking the tramway in two stages as far as Barbados Street. Christchurch mayor Bob Parker said, "This is about doing something for one of our most important employers and economic assets this city has." "The recession was the right time to invest in infrastructure such as the tram extension," he said. While some councillors see the extended tramway as the beginnings of a modern light rail system, the emphasis will be on a heritage tourist tramway. Other Councillors spoke generously of the added value Tramway staff gave to the city's tourism. The extended tramway will serve principal retail sectors and, eventually the Polytechnic, Music Centre and Roman Catholic Cathedral. Construction of Stage One, as far as Poplar Lane, is well underway through the City Mall with old tramway point work being unearthed in the High Street and City Mall intersection. "

For progress photos visit their web site: - <http://www.tram.co.nz/> and view the tram extension page. Work could be well advanced when COTMA visits Christchurch prior to the September 2010 Conference.



Cashel and High St rails being laid.

(Christchurch Tramway's website)

Screws for Tramcars

Allan Cowan has advised that another source of traditional slot head screws for restoration work is <http://www.bronzeandbrassfasteners.com.au/current-stock-list/>. They are made in China. They can also possibly make screws to an order as well. We are not the only people suffering the same issues, specialist boat builders, fine cabinet makers do too.

Updated Address List

Enclosed within the mailout is an updated Member's Museum address and e-mail contact list. Changes are marked with a large arrowhead. Can those responsible for mail-outs of newsletters etc ensure that the address changes are noted. Electronic copies are available upon request.

Old Conference Proceedings

The COTMA Executive would like to place on the website, electronic copies of past conferences between 1975 and 1998 when only printed copies of the Proceedings were produced. John Radcliffe has supplied a PDF copy of the 1978 Adelaide Conference to us and this will shortly be placed on the website. To produce these efficiently and accurately requires a sheet feeder situation and we would like to obtain a surplus copy in order to remove it from the binding and then scan it. Please let the Chairman if you have any copies you would like to dispose of or pass onto another home.

Next News update – December 2009