



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

Conference Review Questionnaire - Report

48 participants in the 2016 COTMA conference in Christchurch who provided email addresses were invited to complete a survey with regard to the conference. 20 responses have been received and the response is overwhelmingly positive.

Q1 The first category includes **general presentations on museum development, management and marketing**. These included: "Christchurch Regeneration, and the Arts Centre Restoration Project", "Ferrymead Park Regeneration", "Sustainable heritage is about more than just the money", "Welcome Aboard Group/Christchurch Tramway – Our Earthquake Recovery", "The Danish Tramway Museum - expansion, challenges and opportunities – on a European background."

The average score on this question was 89% - with a spread (standard deviation) of 10% (84% to 94%)

** This and Technical Presentations got the highest approval rating and the lowest spread of opinion.

Q2 The second category is on **historical matters**. These included: "Public transport evolution in Christchurch - did we miss the bus?", "Tramway Treasures – some surprises from the NZRLS Archives", "It all started 60 years ago in New Zealand".

The average score on this question was 79% - with a spread (standard deviation) of 21% (69% to 89%)

This and Museum presentations received high approval ratings but with a wide spread of opinion.

Q3 The third category is **technical presentations** on tram and equipment restoration. These included: "Hills Car 24 Restoration Project", "Tram painting techniques –current best practice or traditional methods?", "Trials and Tribulations when Your Traction Power Supply Fails - experience of a catastrophic power outage at the Wellington Tramway Museum and what we can all learn from this", "Reporting a Serious Incident to Authorities"

**** The average score on this question was 90% - with a spread (standard deviation) of 12% (84% to 96%)**

This and General Presentations got the highest approval rating and the lowest spread of opinion.

Q4 There were 15 scheduled museum and related presentations at the last COTMA plus a couple of 'extras' not scheduled but accepted as of interest at the time. Please rate the importance of the museum presentations. with a score of 1 to 5 – where 1 is low interest and 5 is high interest.

The average score on this question was 81% - with a spread (standard deviation) of 18% (84% to 96%)

This and Historical matters received high approval ratings but with a wide spread of opinion.

Q5 Please rate the importance of the 'other short' presentations like Melbourne Update, Light Rail for Auckland and NZ conductresses a score of 1 to 5 – where 1 is low interest and 5 is high interest.

The average score on this question was 69% - with a spread (standard deviation) of 22% (58% to 80%)

This group received the lowest approval ratings – and with a wide spread of opinion - but were still approved on average by over two thirds of participants.

Q6 The conference included a variety of activities including tram and trolley bus driving, an Arts centre tour, a tour of Lyttelton, a visit to the Air Force Museum and behind the scenes at Ferrymead. Please rate these as a group - low means too much time is spent on these activities and high if you would have liked more time on these activities (so 3 is 'just right'!)

The average score on this question was 73% - with a spread (standard deviation) of 22% (62% to 84%)

There was a preference for more time on visits and tours.

Q7 The dinner is usually a highlight of the conference. It was busy at Christchurch, and included several presentations including achievement awards. There was no trivia quiz – a regular event in past years.

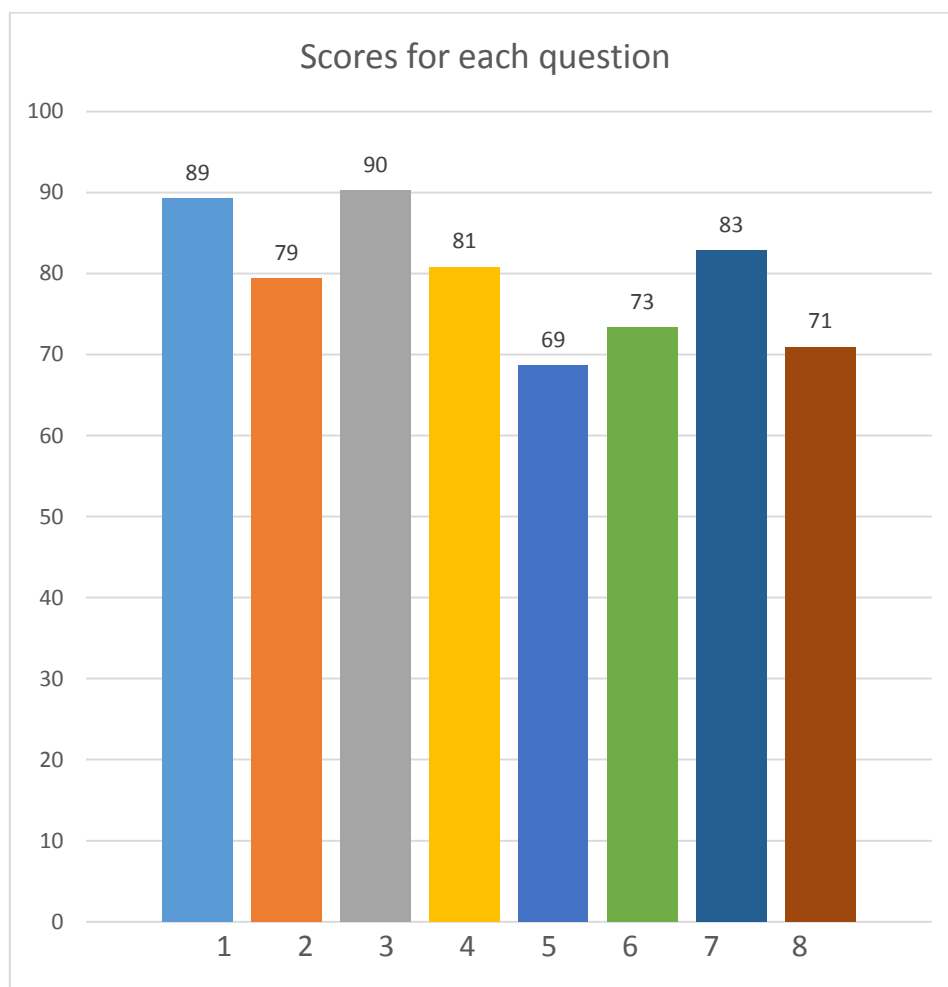
The average score on this question was 83% - with a spread (standard deviation) of 21% (72% to 95%)

** The dinner was popular – but not with all. There were no comments that gave reasons.

Q8 The combined cost of the conference, accommodation and travel is not small. While we have limited control over costs, we would value your comments on the balance between low cost at one end and good quality and content at the other.

The average score on this question was 71% - with a spread (standard deviation) of 21% (60% to 82%)

The preference was for quality rather than cost cutting, but with a quite wide spread of opinion.



Comments or suggestions

- C1 I liked it all - but I'm easily pleased
- C2 This was my first attendance at COTMA conference and I found it well worth while
- C3 A very well run conference.
- C4 It was a pleasure to attend and exchange views and experiences with colleagues in the 'industry'. Hope to be able to attend in Perth
- C5 We should be gauging if the overall interest in having conferences is dying off, attending numbers of people dropping and if museums are interested in hosting future conferences.
- C6 As it's the only transport museum conference in ANZ the Sydney Bus Museum thinks it is worth attending, Perhaps some way of being an associate member?
- C7 This was a well structured, organised and delivered COTMA conference. I enjoyed all aspects of the program and, where the subject, visit, activity was not of great interest to me, I was able to undertake other, related activities. I would not presume to offer suggestions on improvements as, I am sure the Perth COTMA event will have its own 'flavour' and entertainments. COTMA 2016 was a winner for me.
- C8 I thought the Christchurch conference was very good - with a good balance between the various activities and presentations.
- C9 A Great conference, is always good to hear about and see what other groups are doing, and to discuss with other groups the trials and issues and fun of operating Trams in this day and age. cheers
- C10 It's always a problem, but somehow time is wasted standing around at the museum waiting for information on what's happening next - just being grumpy?