



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – December 2005



Roger Salen of Ballarat Tramway Museum – 2004
Ballarat Courier Photo

**Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year
to all our
Member's workers
and their Families.**

From the Chairman

Well 2005 has almost finished. This year has seen the start of two new Rail Safety systems in both Australia and New Zealand. Next year will see the commencement of the implementation of these by the various regulators.

COTMA made a submission to the National Transport Commission's draft Rail Safety Act, complementing that of ATHRA. A copy of this submission is available on the COTMA web site in the Documents section. Another change will be in the area of training. At this stage we don't know the full implications of this, but expect changes in this area too. All we can hope is that we are given sufficient time to implement these changes and have very good practical guidance information rather than the high level stuff that is often dished out.

Congratulations to the Wellington Tramway Museum celebrations for their 40th anniversary of operations on 17 December 2005 with a re-enactment of the opening day.

COTMA Achievement Awards

It is less than a year to go before the next COTMA Conference and it is time to start to consider what your Museum's submission will be for the COTMA Achievement Awards. The final date for submissions will be the end of September 2006. Following the June 2005 AGM, it was agreed that as well as individual Achievement Awards, there will be a single *Award of Excellence*. This would be the 'Winner of Winners'. Submissions can be for restoration, infrastructure, management, special events or any field of endeavour that you would think suitable for an award.

It is proposed to have a perpetual shield or equivalent on which the winners of the *Award of Excellence* would be inscribed on a biannual Conference basis, plus a medal (or small trophy) for permanent display by the recipients.

At the Auckland Conference, Achievement Awards were made to:

- Australian Electric Tramway Museum – *Northern Depot and Administration Building*
- Ballarat Tramway Museum – *Ballarat Begonia Festival 2004 – “Moving People”*
- Perth Electric Tramway Society – *Mainline Re-sleeping Project*
- 1912 Boon Tram for Wanganui Society – *Conservation Plan for Electric Tram No. 12.*

Disposal of H Class Cars ex Adelaide

Congratulations to COTMA Museums who successfully tendered for their preferred H class trams. COTMA has also obtained most of the spare parts. The distribution of the trams is thought to be as follows:

357	SPER	371	PETS
358	SPER	372	PETS
361 (Operational)	Holdfast Bay Council	373	TMSV
363	Wesley Australian Train Movers (WATM)	375	WATM
364	AETM	376	Glossop High School (GHS)
365 (Operational)	An Adelaide Hills B&B	377	Wolsely SA
368	Tramcar W2 568	378	GHS
369	Bendigo Tramways	379	WATM

COTMA Website updated

The COTMA website has been updated and extended. Most of the proceedings from the Auckland Conference have been added, a new Documents section is added giving links to documents that have been referenced in these news updates, a new section re COTMA Achievement awards, membership lists and links revised. Some further work will be done over Christmas to update the Membership websites as well. If you have any comments, please contact the Chairman – via the website!

2006 Centenary in Melbourne’ COTMA Conference

As reported in the last COTMA News Update, planning for Nov. 2006 Conference proceeds to schedule. We should have the draft programme available on the website during Jan, an indication of the costs during Feb and the formal brochure out for distribution during March. Bookings will open immediately.

A call for Papers/workshops is enclosed in this mailout. We have a couple of presenters already, but we will be looking for more. Any suggestions will also be welcome.

W6 965 to Copenhagen

Following up on this item from the last issue of News Update, the presentation of this tram to the Danish Consul General by the Victorian Minister of Transport on 10 November went very well. The Chairman, of Danish Tramway Historical Society’s Museum, Michael Lund was also present and was very impressed with the tram. The tram will be housed at their Museum. It will be their second air braked car. Howard Clark and Greg Sutherland of the STM facilitated the process with the Victorian DOI. Rod Atkins has been assisting with arranging the shipping of the tram on the Danish shipping line Mersk. He has also been assisting MOTAT with the shipping of W6 906 to Auckland early in 2006.

Next News Update – Feb 2006.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I wish you all and your families the best for Christmas and the coming New Year. May the rails be smooth.

Warren Doubleday - Chairman