



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – May/June 2005

From the Chairman

The tasks and issues our Museums face today, often seem endless and unsurmountable, so much do we hear volunteers say “why bother” or “we will be closed down soon”. They forget the battles that the Museum founders faced in setting up their Museums in the first place and obtaining tramcars and equipment and then getting it to operable order on an operational tramway. Some of the equipment was in working order, a lot of it was not. While COTMA cannot solve all the problems its Members face, it often can help and assist in one way or another.

In these days, it is easy to forget why we are existence in the first place – to preserve and operate tramway heritage. Our tramway heritage is significant, but the question could be asked; how significant? Two publications that are available from the web, may help you or your grant writers or conservation (tramcar restoration) staff to assess significance.

The first is a Heritage Collections Council publication in association with Museum & Galleries Foundation of NSW training package “[Training Significance](#)”. It is a large document, available to be down loaded from the Australian Museum On Line web site, soon to be phased over to the Collections Australia Network. While a large document, it has plenty of worked examples and gives a very good background to significance assessment. The package contains a set of modules and resources that can be used by collecting institutions (and that includes your Museum), trainers and learners to understand and apply the concept of significance in a range of museum contexts.

Another document is “*A Methodical Approach to Assessing the Significance of Railway Artefacts*”. It can be found on the Fedecrail web site, conference proceedings for the [Llandudno 2003 Conference](#). The paper by Richard Gibbon, the Head of Engineering Collections at the National Railway Museum in York, UK, looks at scoring various criteria as a group activity. It is quite interesting reading and only four pages long. It is found on pages 31 – 34 of the proceedings.

COTMA Conference – Melbourne 2006

If you are interested in coming along to the COTMA Conference, November 2006, you can register your interest on the [COTMA web site – Conference section](#). We would be grateful if your Museum Webmasters could link our Website to theirs and the Conference registration as well.

Succession planning

One of the items that was noted as a need in the Auckland Conference workshop on “What can COTMA do for your Museum”, was the problem with aging memberships. While COTMA cannot solve this problem for you, it can provide some thoughts on the problem and that of Succession Planning.

The Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society at Valley Heights NSW, has tackled this issue with a workshop held in association with the Museums and Galleries Association of NSW. The outcome of this workshop was reprinted in STARPS March 2005 new sheet. The front cover of this issue is attached to this News Update. Good work.

International Web site of Interest

A web site Museums may wish to send some details of their Museum to is www.touristrailways.com

AS4292 – Part 1 Revision (ME79 Committee) – DR05168

Don't forget that submissions on part 1 of AS 4292, the Railway Safety Management Part 1: General Requirements (Revision of AS4292.1 – 1995) close on Friday June 17. Please send your comments to COTMA's Committee Representative Richard Clarke. (rickclar@ozemail.com.au). This is important, it is your once-only chance to influence this document for probably the next 10 years. COTMA's Chairman has prepared some thoughts on this as well and these have been circulated to Australian Museum members for their comments and support if they are not sending in a separate submission.

COTMA AGM – 25 & 26 June 2005

RSVP's for those attending the COTMA AGM at Hawthorn depot on 25/26 June have been good with representation from most states and an excellent number from NZ. The details of the event as published in the last News Update remain generally as planned. Please RSVP by Sunday 19 June 2005 either returning the form attached to the last newsletter to the COTMA Post Office Box or by emailing your details etc to the Chairman, Warren Doubleday (tramwad@alphalink.com.au). All active members of our Museum Members are welcome to attend. The minutes of the last AGM, held just after the COTMA Conference General Meeting are enclosed with this newsletter and an e-mail copy,

If you can't find the last newsletter form and programme outline, it can be found on the COTMA web site.

For those Museum delegates attending the meeting, it is an excellent opportunity to bring some brochures of your Museum to leave at Hawthorn and/or swap with other Museums so bring plenty along.

The Agenda for the meeting will be distributed by email to those who are coming to the meeting who email addresses we know and to Museum Members about a week before the meeting along with any other paperwork.

STARPS Now on the Web

Following the request for Museums to check their details on the COTMA website in the last News Update STARPS advised of some web-site, address updates (now on the COTMA Web site) and soon after their web site location. They can be found on <http://infobluemountains.net.au/locodepot/>. Can individual Museum webmasters please update your Museum's website for this additional Museum link.

Electronic Attachments to the News Update

There are three electronic attachments not distributed with the hardcopy of this News Update, but are included in the email version. Our apologies if you have already seen these.

- 1) ATHRA Newsletter issued May 2005
- 2) A list of Australian Accredited Rail Organisations – prepared by ATHRA May 2005*
- 3) Profile of Tourist and Heritage Railway & Tramway Sector in Australia*

* As COTMA's Chairman had a part to play in the preparation of these documents, if you spot any errors about your museum, please advise him at tramwad@alphalink.com.au

Do you need Advertisement follow up

The advertisement for some MV 101 A, AN, AR and AX Motor Pinions or Composite brake shoes for Melbourne Trams in the last issue of the News Update has resulted in a number of orders for composite brake blocks, but none for pinions. Please get in touch with [Bob Pearce](#) of PETS for these items ASAP.

Next Issue – early July 2005 following the AGM