



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – October 2004

ARA

Our application for Membership of the Australasian Railway Association has been recently forwarded to them. Emails requesting input into their work will be forwarded from COTMA to our Members. Please send any input directly to the ARA, or to the person who is arranging consolidation of input, eg ATHRA, with a copy to the COTMA Chairman and Executive Officer, so we know what is happening and who is saying what etc.

A paper seeking comment on a ARA Code of Practice Vol. 5 (Rollingstock) is attached to the electronic version of this mailout. Although this does not apply to Light Rail, please note the contents and the style of input. In the case of the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association, their restoration of VR No. 41 is being treated as a new item of rolling stock by the Victorian Department of Infrastructure Rail Safety Directorate.

Website

The COTMA website is being updated. The recent newsletters have been added to it, along with our Annual Reports. Can Members please check their entry details on the web site under their individual names and advise the Web Master, Andrew Cox directly of any changes, corrections etc. Your entry details and information is the responsibility of the individual Museum Member.

Melbourne Trams

As reported in the last issue of the News Update, the trams stored at Preston are being moved to Newport, though the original reason – Siemens warranty work on the Combino fleet is no longer valid. They will be doing that work elsewhere. However, VicTrack has determined that it will move all the W's to Newport that are no longer required, though at a slower pace.

W's that have been requested for Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Bendigo, Bylands, Heritrac have been identified and advised to VicTrack. Arrangements to ship or store these trams at Newport in the interim have been made.

Spare Parts

As Members would be aware, COTMA collected a number of trailer loads of W class brake components last year when the braking system change over was being done in Melbourne. If these were not transported directly to Member Museums, the equipment

was taken to either Haddon or Ballarat for storage. Attached to the electronic version of the mailout is the list of items at Haddon.

Rules of Association

It had been planned to send an updated copy of the rules of the Association with this mailout. Unfortunately due to time pressures and some flu problems etc, the updating and printing of the rules has not been undertaken as yet. Hopefully in the next issue.

Friends of Hawthorn Depot

Progress by VicTrack on formally setting up the *Friends of Hawthorn Depot* has been very slow – too much other Government priorities getting in the way. It will happen eventually.

ATRQ Newsletter

Forwarded with the electronic version of this Newsletter is the Association of Tourist Railways of Queensland Newsletter. In particular please note their success in obtaining a Public Liability Insurance as part of a National Scheme. Congratulations to ATRQ. Also is a report from the Chair of the Association of Tourist Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA).

Next Executive Meeting

In the last issue of the News Update, it was advised that the next meeting of the Executive will be March 2005 in Adelaide. Any items you would like to be placed on the Agenda for discussion please advise either the Chairman - Warren Doubleday, or the Australian Museum Liaison Officer – Ian Seymour, or the New Zealand Museum Liaison Officer - David Cawood.

From the Chairman

Is your Museum involved in the general Museum Community? I have found that many of the Tramway Museums seem to be fairly insular from the wider Museum Community. Taking part in your Regional or local Museum Community can be of great benefit to both parties. It can improve the understanding of what is involved in tram museum activities and the nature of the conservation work we do. Meeting paid workers or fellow volunteers with often similar Conservation problems can be useful. Finally through discussions, you can get ideas of how resolve problems or issues that you may be having. Being an active member of your local or Regional Museum Community is definitely recommended.

Next News Update

The next issue of COTMA News Update will be early Dec. 2004. Don't forget we are happy to advertise events etc for any Member Museum.