



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

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News Update – September 2004

Membership Renewals

Invoices for COTMA Membership will be forwarded shortly by the Treasurer for 2004. The invoices for this year were delayed until the membership rates were reviewed by the Conference General Meeting. The rates determined by the General Meeting are:

Members Large museums - \$200
Members Small museums - \$125
Affiliates - Commercial - \$150
Affiliates - Non Commercial - \$75

Melbourne W's on the Move Again

As many of the readers will know; from rumours, web sites, news etc, Melbourne W's are on the move again – not more tramcars in the streets, but from Preston to Newport East Block – the W tram car store. The bulk of the W's which are stored in the plate shop at Preston Workshops are to be moved to Newport. The move has been made necessary by the need to vacate this area so that Siemens can refurbish the building in order to undertake warranty work on the Combino fleet. COTMA has closely liaised with VicTrack over this move and has identified a number of trams for allocation or future allocation to Members who have requested complete W class tramcars.

Standards Australia

We noted in the last issue of the News Update, that COTMA had obtained membership of the Committee known as ME-079 who are reviewing AS 4292. Richard Clarke, the Chief Engineer of the Sydney Tramway Museum will be our representative. Richard has had prior experience on the Standards Australia Committee. If you would like to make any comments, observations on the workings of AS4292, please forward them directly to Richard at 12 Kens Road Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 or by email to rickclar@ozemail.com.au We have already sent him those received from PETS.

Museum Fleet Listing Form

COTMA is often asked, just how many tramcars do your Members have and the nature of our collections. In the past we have collected some of this information, but it soon gets out of date and it has never been put onto a database. Even our individual web sites are not always up to date – new collection items etc.

Kym Smith of Bendigo Tramways has taken on the task of compiling a database, including the nature of equipment fitted to each tram. We know that this will be a big job. Enclosed with the mailout is a blank form and sample form that shows the nature of the information that COTMA would like to hold. It is very comprehensive, maybe too much, but its completion would probably be worthwhile for the Museum itself let alone by others. By knowing who has what, we can see who has similar equipment and who may be able to provide an answer to a problem that another Member has or who is missing equipment. Even if Museums could just complete the basic data, it would be a great start. Kym can be contact on restore.tram@impulse.net.au or at the Bendigo depot - (03) 5442-2821.

Incorporation and the Rules of Association

The COTMA organisational rules that were passed at the Conference General Meeting have been approved by the Consumer Affairs Office of the Victorian Department of Justice. However, they noted that our rules did not have procedures or clauses for the disciplining of members, a grievance procedure, voting by proxy and register of members. In accordance with the Act, they have deemed that these additional rules, based on the Model Rules will now apply. We will need to formalise these at a future General Meeting. In the next issue of the News Update, we will forward to Members an updated copy of the rules

Executive Meeting Adelaide

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is proposed to be in Adelaide at the St Kilda Tramway Museum on Saturday 19 March 2005. If you would like any items to be discussed or considered by the Executive, can you please advise either the Chairman - Warren Doubleday, or the Australian Museum Liaison Officer – Ian Seymour, or the New Zealand Museum Liaison Officer - David Cawood.

Melbourne Tramway Centenary

The year 2006 sees the centenary of electric trams in the metropolitan area of Melbourne – the St Kilda Brighton Electric Street Railway, being the first. COTMA in association with the Department of Infrastructure have commenced discussions on how to celebrate this important Melbourne event. The 2006 COTMA Conference will be in Melbourne.

Next AGM – June 2005

The next COTMA AGM will be on a weekend in June 2005 in Melbourne. It will probably be in the second half of the month. It will be based at Hawthorn. We are considering that it will be a one and a half day function, with a speaker, tour and an informal dinner somewhere.

Chairman's Notes

One of the challenges volunteer museums face is Museum collection management skills knowledge. This is a common problem throughout the general museum sector, not just in the heritage tram and rail part. Time to attend courses, workshops etc can be often be a problem. How to do things, what is the best way to do it or what equipment do I need is an often asked question.

The *Australian Museums On-Line* web site - www.amol.org.au – has some excellent on line courses:-

- *Capture your Collection* - a course to assist small museums to digitise their collections
- *The Internet for small cultural institutions*
- *Be Prepared* - develop and implement a Disaster Preparedness Plan
- *Significance Training* – apply the concept of significance in a range of museum contexts
- *Museum Methods* – a practical manual for managing small museums.

Distribution of COTMA News Updates

Two printed copies of the News Update are forwarded by mail to each Member Museum and an email copy as well. We trust that one of these copies finds its way onto a notice board or the mealroom table at our Member Museums and that the email copy is forwarded onto your members directly for information.

If any of its readers would like a copy directly emailed to them, can they please advise us by sending an email to cotma@email.com or tramwad@alphalink.com.au