

# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

[www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)

## News Update December 2023



Delegates at the COTMA conference in Auckland

Photo: Mal Rowe

UPDATE IS FOR ALL OF YOUR MEMBERS.  
PLEASE FORWARD IT TO ALL ON YOUR E-MAIL LISTS

### *Your To-Do List*

- ✓ Look out for the COTMA membership renewal notice over the next few weeks
- ✓ Mark June and July 2025 in your diary as dates to keep free for the next COTMA conference.

### From the President

Conference 2023 is now over and everybody has returned home. It was a most successful event and thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. MOTAT was an ideal host, made everybody welcome and presented a very good all round and thought-provoking agenda including field trips where riding on a great variety of trams was available. I have separately written to the Chief Executive of MOTAT thanking them for hosting the Conference and making it a very successful occasion.

After a gap of five years since our last face to face Conference, it was fulfilling to be able to meet up with other like-minded people and enjoy their friendship and share knowledge and experiences. It was sobering to note the absence of some familiar faces from previous conferences which reflects our aging membership.

The Brisbane Tramway Museum have agreed to host our next Conference in 2025 which will be a milestone as we will be celebrating our 50 year anniversary.

As the festive season approaches, on behalf of the COTMA Executive, I would like to wish everybody a happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year and that your tramway operations over this busy time, are uneventful but with lots of passengers.

Henry Brittain, President, 21 November 2023

### The COTMA conference in summary

The Auckland conference was agreed to be a great success. 57 museum members and partners attended a conference at the Maritime Museum and MOTAT and shared their knowledge and ideas over a period of 5

days in early October. Papers and reports from the conference are on the COTMA website at:

<https://www.cotma.org.au/proceedings.html>

Two international guests attended COTMA2023: Mr Kyoichi Oda from Japan represented the Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation and Mr Mikael Lund from Denmark represented The Danish Tramway Museum.

## COTMA Awards

Several significant awards were made at the Conference Dinner:

The judges were not able to separate two candidates for the **Bill Kinglsey Award** for Outstanding Achievement.

- Ballarat Tramway Museum received the award for building a new Museum Interpretative Centre.
- The Tramway Historical Society received the award for the Restoration and renewal of 1881 Kitson Steam Tram No 7.



**Presidents Awards** for an outstanding contribution by an individual over an extended period were made to:

- Graham Stewart in recognition of his lifetime commitment to recording and photographing tramway systems in New Zealand since the late 1940's.
- Dr John Radcliffe in recognition of his service to COTMA as the inaugural President from 1975 to 1986 and ongoing contributions to COTMA and the recording of tramway history.

A **Certificate of Appreciation** was given to Warren Doubleday in recognition of his long and ongoing commitment to COTMA including holding the position of President from 2002 to 2012.

**Volunteer Awards**, made on the recommendation of museums, were made to Virginia Fenelon and Pamela Waugh of Ballarat Tramway Museum and to Noel Blackmore, Nick Tsiaglis, Trevor Dennhardt, Terry Young and Stuart Darbyshire of Perth Electric Tramway Society.

## COTMA committee members

The Conference General Meeting elects the committee to run COTMA for the next two years. The committee members and roles for the next two years are:

- President – Henry Brittain
- Deputy President – Rod Atkins
- Secretary – Mal Rowe

- Deputy Secretary – Roy Winslow
- Treasurer – Tony Weston
- Australian Museum Liaison Officer – Peter Hyde
- New Zealand Museum Liaison Officer – Vincent Chan
- Ordinary Board Member – Warren Doubleday.

The meeting also re-elected Hugh Ballment as our honorary auditor

## Thanks!

Two long-standing members of the COTMA committee stepped down at the conference.

- **Howard Clarke** is a very long-standing member of the Sydney Tramway Museum and has served as the COTMA Treasurer for many years and steered us towards a modest but useful financial reserve. We thank him for his work and wise advice over the years.
- **Dave Hinman** finished his term as the immediate past president at this CGM. Dave has made an immense contribution to tram preservation in Christchurch including being a key driver in the establishment of the Christchurch City Tramway. He has also provided wise and strong leadership to COTMA as Chairman then President over the last decade.

The picture shows Dave Hinman and Graham Stewart in front of 'Streamliner' 253 which is in the care of MOTAT. It is a very special tram to both of them – being the first Auckland tram preserved under the leadership of Graham and being the wedding transport for Dave and Dot Hinman on their wedding day.



## Post Conference Tour

Richard Gilbert once again put together a great post conference tour, with the support of the Wellington Tramway Museum, and including visits to the Wellington Tramway Museum, Ferrymead and the City Tramway in Christchurch. The tour concluded with a wonderful dinner aboard the Christchurch Tramcar Restaurant.



## Ballarat launches W7 1029



Melbourne W7 1029 was allocated to Ballarat Tramway Museum under the Victorian Government program to re-purpose stored W class trams. It has been restored to near new condition, but with some changes and improvements to reflect modern safety and to provide access to passengers with limited mobility in conjunction with a loading ramp in the depot yard.

Clinton Pearce of Auckland has provided his skilled support in the project.

## Brisbane substation failure

Brisbane Tramway Museum is not running trams due to part of their sub-station equipment failing a safety inspection. They are looking at options to get moving again – none of which come cheap! The museum is still open to the public at a reduced entry charge.

## COTMA subscriptions

At the 2021 COTMA Conference General Meeting we agreed to change the subscription calendar to make COTMA membership fees payable at the beginning of the subscription year rather than the end. A renewal notice will be issued soon to make that change and covering the year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Good news for NZ members is that the recent CGM agreed that NZ members should not be charged for (Australian) GST – which will mean a small reduction in the membership fee.

## Any News?

Museum News in COTMA News update is always of interest. If you have something to tell us, then we would be delighted to hear at [cotma@cotma.org.au](mailto:cotma@cotma.org.au)