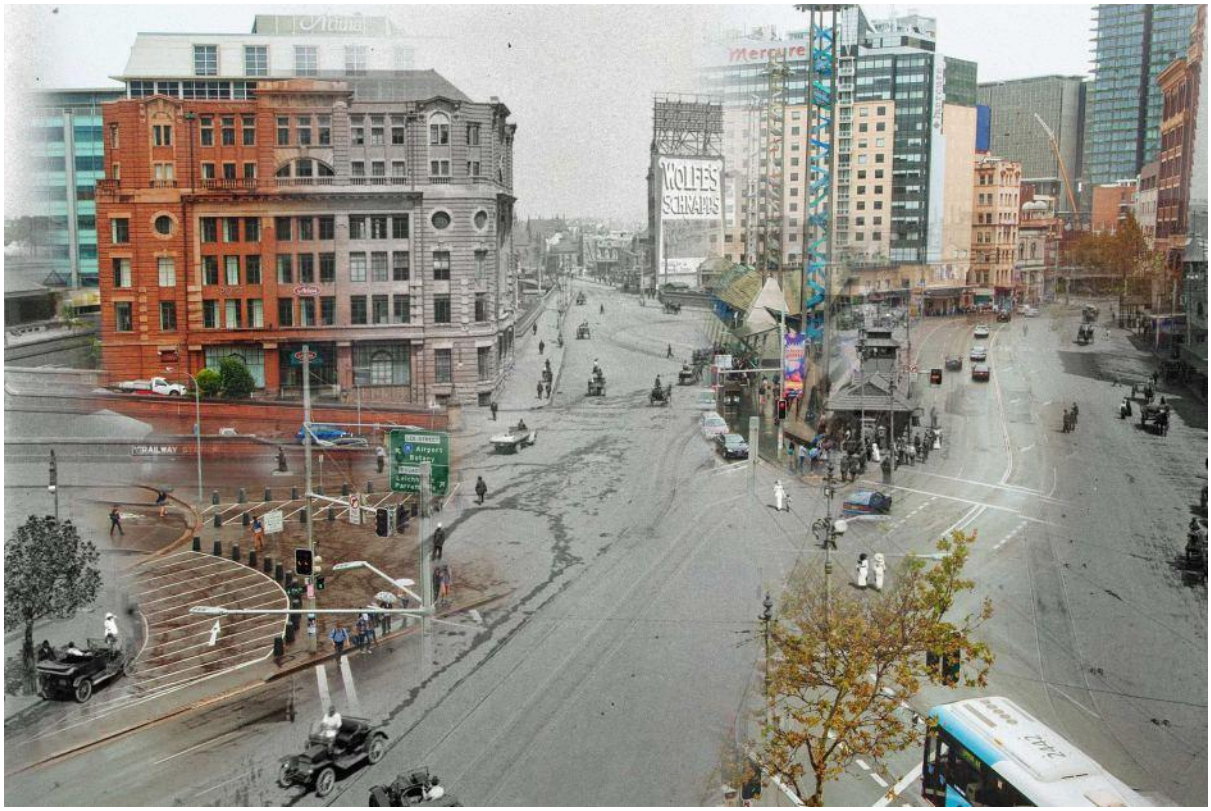
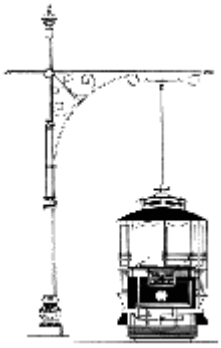
COTMA Conference,

Sydney 2014



Information Pack



Picture source: http://www.abc.net.au/news/image/5620716-3x2-940x627.jpg

Welcome to Sydney

Your Hosts, the Sydney Tramway Museum and the Valley Heights Steam Tramway welcome you to Sydney, the site of the first European settlement in Australia and once home to one of the world's largest tramway systems.

Important information

Time: Sydney is now on Summer (Daylight Savings) Time – GMT +11hrs.

Phone Numbers:

COTMA Contact - David Critchley – 0405 431 710 (24 hr enquiries & emergencies)

Partner Program Contact- Marina Clark - 0425 200 984 (8.30am – 5pm)

Venues:

Rendezvous Hotel, Railway Square – 02 9356 1000

Sutherland United Services Club (now known as Club on East) – 02 9521 4700

Sydney Tramway Museum – 02 9542 3646

Valley Heights Steam Tramway – 02 4751 4638 (weekends only)

Ambulance or emergencies - dial 000.

Transport Information – Ph 131500 or www.131500.com.au

Time Keeping

Please make sure you are on time to all functions. Delays can cause inconvenience and frustration to other COTMA participants, and in a city as big as Sydney, even slight delays can be magnified by traffic congestion and other factors. *If you feel you cannot make it to the start of a function, call or SMS David Critchley (0405 431 710) to let the group know.*

Acknowledgements

COTMA 2014 Organising Team:
Howard Clark OAM, Geoff Graham, Peter Kahn, Roy Howarth, David Critchley, Peter Stock, Bob Cooper.
Pre-Conference Tour:
Peter Hyde
Post Conference Tour:
Richard Gilbert

With Thanks to:
The Members & Friends of the Sydney Tramway Museum, Members of the Valley Heights Steam Tramway, Martin Pinches, Bob Merchant, Ian Saxon, Craig Parkinson, Richard Jones, Don Campbell, Dave Hinman, Warren Doubleday, Bryce Pender, Bob Pearce, Hayden Holmes, Marina Clark, Janette Kahn, Sergio Fiorenza, Duncan MacAuslan & the Board of the Sydney Bus Museum

Transport Tickets – Opal Cards

On arrival in Sydney, we strongly urge you to obtain an Opal Card for travel in Sydney's Trains, Buses and , Ferries. Tourists who visit Sydney can now get an Opal travel card from the International and Domestic Airport railway stations and at the Transport Information Centre at Circular Quay.



You can also get the electronic fare card from newsagents and convenience stores around the city and at Sydney Airport. Unlike other cities with fare smartcards, tourists do not have to pay for the card itself and they can keep and use it each time they visit Sydney. You can put as little as $10 on the card if are visiting for a short time, however, we recommend you put at least $20 on the card initially.

Please note that Opal Cards cannot be recharged or 'topped up' at Railway Stations. The best place to re-charge Opal cards is at newsagents and most 24hr convenient stores. (There are newsagents and convenient stores at Sutherland and Loftus where you can re-charge your cards as well as in the city) Look for the Opal Sign. Single journey tickets and $2.50 pensioner tickets are still available at Railway Station ticket machines. (with thanks to Richard Jones for supplying information about the Opal Card.)

Breakfast

Daily Breakfast is not included in the Conference package, however for delegates staying at the Rendezvous Hotel, breakfast can pre-booked at a special rate of $18.00 per day. Otherwise, Sydney is renowned for its cafes and breakfast bars. You should have no problems finding anything from a cup of coffee & a muffin to a sit down breakfast bar within walking distance of your Hotel.

For delegates staying at Sutherland, we can thoroughly recommend **White Horse Coffee** at 137 Flora St (just behind the St George Bank and Australia Post) for great coffee and light snacks.

Dinner

The Conference price includes most lunches and dinners; however there are two dinners which we have made as 'own arrangement' as the arrival time back in Sydney was going to be variable. Sydney is spoilt for choice when it comes to dining, and we recommend you explore what Sydney has to offer. From Railway Square, it is a short walk to Chinatown & Haymarket with abundance of Asian restaurants, take your choice from Chinese (Dixon St), Thai, Malay, Japanese or Vietnamese. In Darling Harbour you will find a great Food Court along with waterfront and up-market restaurants at Harbourside or waterfront and fine dining along Cockle Bay and the King St Wharf precincts on the city side of Darling Harbour.

If you like something a little bit exotic, Sydney's Spanish Quarter is in Liverpool St/Kent St precinct, or simply choose one of the many restaurants surrounding Railway Square. With the University of Technology, Sydney and Sydney University nearby, you will always find a pub or something cheap and cheerful nearby.



COTMA Conference Sydney, 2014

Conference Program at a glance

Date	Detail and Time	Venue	Notes
9 October	15.30 – 17.30 Conference Registration	Rendezvous Hotel, Railway Square	Collect Conference Pack and Name Tag
9 October	17.30 – 22.00 Welcome Reception and Drinks	Rendezvous Hotel, Railway Square	'State Room'
FRIDAY			
10 October	08.50 Travel to Sutherland	Sydney Trains	Train departs 08.50 from Central Platform 25 *Opal Card required
10 October	09.30 – 09.50 Conference Opening Remarks 09.50 – 10.20 Session 1: PETS Perth 10.20 – 10.50 Session 2: BTMS Brisbane	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	Howard Clark Bob Pearce Peter Hyde
10 October	10.50 – 11.10 Morning Tea	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	
10 October	11.10 – 11.40 Session 3: BTM Ballarat 11.40 – 12.10 Session 4: BT Bendigo 12.10 – 12.40 Session 5: TRAMS Hobart	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	Warren Doubleday Jos Duivenvoorden Jeremy Kays
10 October	12.40 – 13.30 Lunch	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	
10 October	13.30 – 14.00 Session 6: AETM Adelaide 14.00 – 15.00 Session 7: THS/CCT Ch'ch	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	Colin Seymour Dave Hinman
10 October	15.00 – 15.30 Afternoon Tea	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	
10 October	15.30 – 16.00 Session 8: WTM Wellington 16.00 – 16.30 Session 9: TTMS Hobart	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	Russell Jenkins David Verrier
10 October	16.48 Travel to Central	Intercity Trains	Train departs 16.48 from Sutherland Platform 1 *Opal Card required
10 October	18.00 – 21.30 Annual Dinner and Awards Night	Rendezvous Hotel, Railway Square Straits Room	*** Neat Casual Attire*** Special Guest Speaker: Jeff Goodling – Project Director Light Rail - Transport for NSW

SATURDAY			
11 October	08.52 Travel to Sutherland	Sydney Trains	Train departs 08.52 from Central Platform 25 *Opal Card required
11 October	09.30 – 09.40 Conference Notices 09.40 – 10.30 Session 10: Atlanta	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	David Critchley Tim Borchers
11 October	10.30 – 10.50 Morning Tea	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	
11 October	10.50 – 11.30 Session 11 Sydney Trains 11.30 – 12.00 Session 12 Transport Heritage NSW	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	Howard Collins OBE Peter Lowry OAM
11 October	12.00 – 13.00 Lunch	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	
11 October	13.00 – 13.15 transfer to Loftus	Vintage Bus	Vintage Bus by courtesy of the Sydney Bus Museum..
11 October	13.15 – 17.30 Museum visit	Sydney Tramway Museum	Includes Conference Photo
11 October	17.30 – 18.00 transfer to Sutherland	Vintage Bus	Vintage Bus by courtesy of Sergio Fiorenza
11 October	18.00 – 18.30 pre-dinner drinks	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	
11 October	18.30 – 22.30 Dinner and Trivia Night	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	Hosted by Bob Pearce and David Critchley
11 October	22.30 – 23.00 transfer to Central	Vintage Bus	Vintage Bus by courtesy of Sergio Fiorenza
SUNDAY			
12 October	09.00 – 10.30 transfer to Valley Heights	Coach	Telford's Coach departing 9am from Quay St. outside the Rendezvous Hotel
12 October	09.18 – 10.36 Sydney Central Platform 7 to Valley Heights	*Alternative* – train to Valley Heights	*As an alternative to the coach travel*
12 October	10.30 – 12.30 Museum visit (inc. morning tea)	Valley Heights Steam Tramway	
12 October	12.30 – 13.15 BBQ Lunch	Valley Heights Steam Tramway	
12 October	13.15 – 14.00 transfer to Echo Point, Katoomba	Coach	Telford's Coach
12 October	14.00 – 16.30 Echo Point &Three Sisters, afternoon tea at Leura	Coach/ self guided	Afternoon tea at Leura by own arrangements.
12 October	16.30 - 18.30 transfer to Central	Coach	Telford's Coach
12 October	18.30 – 20.30 Dinner	own arrangements	

MONDAY			
13 October	08.15 transfer to Central	walking	Meet at Central Light Rail Stop
13 October	08.38 – 09.12 Central Light Rail to Dulwich Hill Light Rail 09.20 – 09.24 Dulwich Hill Light Rail to Lewisham West Light Rail 09.59 – 10.02 Lewisham West Light Rail to Marion Light Rail 10.30 – 10.47 Marion Light Rail to Pyrmont Bay Light Rail	Sydney Light Rail	Complimentary tickets courtesy of Sydney Light Rail. Photostop on the return Lewisham West Light Rail and at Marion Light Rail Stations (subject to timings)
13 October	10.50 – 11.00 transfer from Pyrmont Bay Light Rail to South Steyne, Darling Harbour.	walking	
13 October	11.00 – 11.20 Morning Tea and Conference Notices	South Steyne	David Critchley
13 October	11.20 – 11.50 Session 13: Gift Giving to Museums 11.50 – 12.20 Session 14: Tramway Signalling	South Steyne	Dennis McManus Noel Reed
13 October	12.20 – 13.00 Lunch	South Steyne	
13 October	13.00 – 13.50 Guest Speaker: Memphis and USA Museums	South Steyne	Tim Borchers
13 October	13.50 – 14.00 transfer to Convention Jetty	walking	
13 October	14.00 – 18.00 Harbour Cruise including afternoon tea.	Ferry 'Proclaim'	Departs from Convention Wharf, Darling Harbour.
13 October	18.00 – 20.30 Dinner	Own arrangements	Darling Harbour
TUESDAY			
14 October	09.00 – 09.10 Conference Notices 09.10 – 09.40 Session 16: SPER Sydney 09.40 – 10.10 Session 15: WST/ACT Auckland 10.10 – 10.40 Session 17: TMSV / Melbourne	Rendezvous Hotel	David Critchley Howard Clark Clinton Pearce and David Maciulaitis Mal Rowe
14 October	10.40 – 11.00 Morning Tea	Rendezvous Hotel	
14 October	11.00 – 13.00 COTMA EGM	Rendezvous Hotel	Dave Hinman / Rod Atkins
14 October	13.00 – 13.15 Conference Close	Rendezvous Hotel	



COTMA Conference 2014

Thursday, 9 October to Tuesday, 13 October.

Itinerary

Thu. 9 October - Registration and welcome function



Conference registration will be open from 5pm at our main accommodation venue, the centrally located Rendezvous Suites Hotel at Railway Square.

Welcome function at the Rendezvous Hotel, Railway Square, Sydney.

Our exciting Conference begins this evening with welcome drinks and nibbles hosted by the Rendezvous Hotel. This will be a relaxed opportunity to catch up on old acquaintances and make new friends, to chat about the latest in the light rail world or to reminisce about times past.

Fri. 10 October - Conference papers and presentations

Our Conference Friday starts with a quick run by electric train along the Illawarra line to Sutherland.



Here we will cross the road from Sutherland Station to the Sutherland United Services Club ("the SUS Club") which will host Museum presentations and papers. We will celebrate the achievements of our member Museums and ponder the future, we will rejoice in our successes and recognise the issues ahead as we look at the Conference theme; "2014-2024: the ten year plan."

Tonight, we will return to the city by train and we will gather for Conference Annual Dinner and Awards presentations at the Rendezvous Hotel.

Friday meals: Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner. (MT, L, AT, D)

Sat. 11 October – Conference presentations and the Sydney Tramway Museum.



Fast electric trains will again take us to Sutherland for a morning of presentations at the S.U.S. Club. Keynote speakers today are:

- **Mr Timothy Borchers** –Deputy Commissioner of Public Works & Streetcar Executive Director, City of Atlanta
- **Mr Howard Collins** – CEO Sydney Trains
- **Mr Peter Lowry** – Chairman, Transport Heritage NSW

After lunch, we will taken by vintage bus on a short journey to Loftus and the Sydney Tramway Museum. Use the afternoon to explore the Museum, find out what is happening in the Restoration Building, see many of the classics of Australia's tramways in the Display Hall and ride trams from Sydney, interstate and overseas. The Museum will be open solely for COTMA delegates and because it is a works day, many of our enthusiastic members will be on hand to answer your questions. A Conference highlight will be the opportunity to ride an iconic coupled set of Sydney O Class trams along the Museum's tramway. With thanks to Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, O Class 805 and **1111** will run coupled for COTMA attendees exclusively… and perhaps there may even be a further surprise or two awaiting our visit.



On Saturday evening we return to the S.U.S. Club for Dinner. This will be followed by a chance to test your skill and knowledge during COTMA's famous Trivia Night. Who will this year's trivia champions be? What is the name of the swagman in 'Waltzing Matilda'? Which was the largest tramway depot in Australia? All will be revealed at our night of trivia!

Our night concludes with a spirited run in a classic double deck bus to our city accommodation.

Saturday meals: MT, L, AT, D

Sun. 12 October – Valley Heights Steam Tramway and the glorious Blue Mountains.



Join us for a day in the magnificent Blue Mountains. Our modern coach will follow the same route pioneered by the first explorers to cross the mountains in 1813. First stop will be at the Valley Heights Steam Tramway to ride the steam tram and explore the historic Valley Heights Railway Depot. Once used for steam engines banking trains over the steeply graded Great Western railway line, we will hear the hiss of Steam Motor 103A as it takes us on a short journey through the depot yard and out along the old coal stage road. See some of Australia's most famous locomotives including the mighty 4-8-4 steam loco 5711 and electric locomotive 4601.

Following a Spit Roast lunch we bid farewell to Valley Heights and move on to Katoomba and the world heritage listed Echo Point where you will have time to see the famous Three Sisters and gaze in awe across the Jamison Valley. Next we visit Leura, a classic mountains town and community with a real 1920's ambience. Here you will have time to explore the antique and curiosity shops along the main street, or perhaps take some afternoon tea in one of the many cafes that Leura has to offer. The coach will then return us to Railway Square in the city where you are free to make your own arrangements for dinner.



Sunday meals – MT, L.

Monday 13 October – Sydney Light Railway, 'South Steyne' and Harbour Cruise.



This morning we ride on a scheduled Sydney Light Rail service to Dulwich Hill, the latest tramway extension in Sydney. We will glimpse many former tramway landmarks en-route, including Rozelle Depot and the unique Lilyfield terminus, situated on top of a bridge!



Returning to Pyrmont Bay, we wander into Darling Harbour and board the famous ferry 'South Steyne' now permanently moored adjacent to Pyrmont Bridge. We will enjoy further conference presentations and lunch aboard this 1938 Glasgow built steam vessel, and there may even be a chance to see the Pyrmont Bridge swing span in action. The swing span is still operated by its original 600v DC tramway equipment, including six tramway type General Electric controllers and two GE57 tram motors.

As the afternoon lengthens, we bid farewell to 'South Steyne' and join the classic 1938 built ferry 'Proclaim' for a four hour cruise around Sydney Harbour. As we enjoy afternoon tea and an open bar, the sights of Sydney will unfold in front of us; the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Cove, the Opera House, Farm Cove, Garden Island and some of Australia's most expensive real estate. But the trams won't be forgotten either; we will pass by famous tramway wharves such as Athol, where three corridor cars plunged into the harbour. We will see Mosman, Cremorne and Neutral Bay, where the steep hills kept veteran K and E Class trams running long after bogie trams had replaced the single truckers on other routes. And no harbour cruise would be complete without seeing Darling St at Balmain, where the counterweight dummy assisted trams down the steep grade for over 50 years.



Our cruise ends back in Darling Harbour, where you will be free to make your own arrangements for dinner. Choose from the cheap and cheerful at Harbourside Food Court or try one of the many restaurants that Darling Harbour and Cockle Bay has to offer. Just about every taste and palate is catered for, from spicy Thai and Indian to seafood and from exciting Chinese to the mellow flavours of the exotic Lindt Chocolate Cafe.

Monday meals – MT, L, AT.

Tuesday 14 October – Conference presentations and COTMA CGM.

Our Conference wraps up today with further presentations in the morning followed by the COTMA Conference General Meeting at the Rendezvous Hotel and final farewells.



COTMA Conference Sydney, 2014

Partners Program at a glance

Dates: 9 – 14 October 2014

Date	Detail and Time	Venue	Notes
9 October	15.30 – 17.30 Conference Registration	Rendezvous Hotel, Railway Square	Collect Conference Pack and Name Tag
9 October	17.30 – 22.00 Welcome Reception and Drinks	Rendezvous Hotel, Railway Square	
FRIDAY			
10 October	09.00 Travel to Sydney Opera House	mini-bus	Meet in the Foyer of the Rendezvous Hotel
10 October	09.30 – 10.30 Guided Tour of the Sydney Opera House	Sydney Opera House	Marina Clark
10 October	10.50 – 11.10 Morning Tea	East Circular Quay	
10 October	12.10 – 12.27 Travel to Watson's Bay	Sydney Ferries	Ferry F7 to Watsons Bay. Departs Circular Quay Wharf 4.
10 October	12.30 – 15.00 Lunch	Doyle's on the Wharf	
10 October	15.00 Mini-bus transfer back to the city.	mini-bus	Mini-bus pick-up from Watson's Bay and return to the Rendezvous Hotel via Sydney's eastern suburbs.
10 October	18.00 – 21.30 Annual Dinner and Awards Night	Rendezvous Hotel, Railway Square	*** Neat Casual Attire Special Guest Speaker: Jeff Goodling – Transport for NSW
SATURDAY			
11 October	08.49 – 09.06 Travel to Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) at Circular Quay	Sydney Buses	Use the Route 433 (Millers Point) service in George St near Quay St. Alight in George St near Essex St. – then 4min walk to MCA *Opal Card required
11 October	09.15 – 12.00 Visit to The Rock's and The Rock Street Markets including morning tea (own arrangements)	The Rock's Markets	Meet Marina outside the MCA at 9.15am.
11 October	12.00 – 13.00 Lunch	MCA Cafe	Meet Marina outside the MCA at 12.00 midday
11 October	13.00 – 17.15 Free Time	Sydney	You are free to continue to visit the MCA, The Rock's, do some shopping, visit the Royal Botanic Gardens, Queen Victoria Building, Galleries Victoria, Australian Museum and more.

11 October	17.22 Travel to Sutherland	Sydney Trains	Train departs 17.22 from Central Platform 25 *Opal Card required
11 October	18.00 – 18.30 pre-dinner drinks	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	
11 October	18.30 – 22.30 Dinner and Trivia Night	S.U.S. Club, Sutherland	Hosted by Bob Pearce and David Critchley
11 October	22.30 – 23.00 transfer to Central	Vintage Bus	Vintage Bus by courtesy of Sergio Fiorenza
SUNDAY			
12 October	09.00 – 10.30 transfer to Valley Heights	Coach	Telford's Coach departing 9am from Quay St. outside the Rendezvous Hotel
12 October	10.30 – 12.30 Norman Lindsay Gallery & Museum (includes morning tea)	Norman Lindsay Gallery	Remain on the Coach for onward transfer from Valley Heights to Springwood. The Coach will then return to Valley Heights in time for Lunch.
12 October	12.30 – 13.15 BBQ Lunch	Valley Heights Steam Tramway	
12 October	13.15 – 14.00 transfer to Echo Point, Katoomba	Coach	Telford's Coaches
12 October	14.00 – 16.30 Echo Point &Three Sisters, afternoon tea at Leura	Coach/ self guided	Afternoon tea at Leura by own arrangements.
12 October	16.30 - 18.30 transfer to Central	Coach	
12 October	18.30 – 20.30 Dinner	own arrangements	
MONDAY			
13 October	09.00 Travel to Darling Harbour	Walking	Meet in Foyer of the Rendezvous Hotel. Walk to Central Station
13 October	09.14 – 09.18 Central Light Rail to Paddy's Market Light Rail	Sydney Light Rail	From Paddy's Market Light Rail walk to Chinese Garden of Friendship, Darling Harbour.
13 October	09.30 – 12.00 Chinese Garden of Friendship	Chinese Garden of Friendship	Garden Admission - $11 includes morning tea. . Free Guided tour at 10.30am. Morning Tea (including Yum Cha) is held within the Gardens.
13 October	12.00 – 12.20 Transfer to 'South Steyne'	Walking	Walk to the Ferry 'South Steyne' in Darling Harbour for Lunch
Alternative - Sydney Light Rail Excursion			
13 October	08.38 – 09.12 Central Light Rail to Dulwich Hill Light Rail 09.20 – 09.24 Dulwich Hill Light Rail to Lewisham West Light Rail 09.59 – 10.02 Lewisham West Light Rail to Marion Light Rail	Sydney Light Rail	Complimentary tickets courtesy of Sydney Light Rail. Photostop on the return Lewisham West Light Rail and at Marion Light Rail Stations (subject to timings)

	10.30 – 10.47 Marion Light Rail to Pyrmont Bay Light Rail		
13 October	10.50 – 11.00 transfer from Pyrmont Bay Light Rail to South Steyne, Darling Harbour.	walking	
13 October	11.00 – 11.20 Morning Tea and Conference Notices	South Steyne	David Critchley
13 October	11.20 – 11.50 Session 13: Gift Giving 11.50 – 12.20 Session 14: Tramway Signalling	South Steyne	Dennis McManus Noel Reed
13 October	12.20 – 13.00 Lunch	South Steyne	
13 October	13.00 – 13.50 Guest Speaker: Memphis and USA Museums	South Steyne	Tim Borchers
13 October	13.50 – 14.00 transfer to Convention Jetty	walking	
13 October	14.00 – 18.00 Harbour Cruise including afternoon tea.	Ferry 'Proclaim'	Departs from Convention Wharf, Darling Harbour.
13 October	18.00 – 20.30 Dinner	Own arrangements	Darling Harbour
TUESDAY			
14 October – Free time			



A coupled set of L Class trams in George St pass Quay St c1910 (Postcard in D. Critchley collection)

COTMA Conference 2014

Thursday, 9 October to Tuesday, 13 October.

Partners' Program - Itinerary

Thu. 9 October - Registration and welcome function



Conference and partner program registration will be open from 5pm at our main accommodation venue, the centrally located Rendezvous Suites Hotel at Railway Square.



Our exciting program begins this evening with welcome drinks and nibbles hosted by the Rendezvous Hotel. This will be a relaxed opportunity to catch up on old acquaintances and make new friends.

Fri. 10 October – Sydney Opera House and Doyle's at Watson's Bay



Our partner program begins at the iconic Sydney Opera House where we will enjoy a guided tour of this architectural gem. You will see the large Concert Hall, the Opera and Drama Theatres as well as the intimate Playhouse. Delight at the vistas of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and gaze across the harbour to Admiralty House, the Sydney home of Australia's Governor's-General.



Following morning tea in East Circular Quay, we board a ferry for a trip down the harbour to Watson's Bay. For lunch today we visit a Sydney institution; Doyle's on the Wharf. Doyle's has been at Watson's Bay since 1885 offering some of the best seafood in town. With a reputation for the freshest and finest seafood, we can guarantee you will enjoy traditional fish and chips al-fresco with magnificent harbour views. Our mini-bus will pick us up in the afternoon for the return to the city. On the way we will see South Head and the Macquarie Lighthouse (1883), Dover Heights and some of our wonderful beaches, including famous Bondi. Tonight we join our partners for dinner at the Rendezvous Hotel. This will be followed by a chance to test your skill and knowledge during COTMA's famous Trivia Night. Not just for tram trivia buffs, our trivia night will test the mettle of anyone who enjoys trivia! (Friday meals: Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner.)

Sat. 11 October – The Rocks Market and the MCAA.



Sydney's Rocks precinct, in the shadows of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, is steeped in history. From Australia's first European settlement in 1788 a ramshackle community developed around the rocky bluffs of Dawes Point and many of the buildings in The Rocks date from these halcyon days. Today we visit The Rocks Outdoor Markets. Set amid convict-carved sandstone and along quaint cobblestone laneways, these colourful outdoor markets are home to more than 200

eclectic stalls. Here you can buy dresses and bags designed by the stallholder, one-off jewellery, original artworks and prints, in a place where you can feel the sun on your face and catch glimpses of our gorgeous harbour.

Lunch today is just a short stroll from the Markets at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCAA). Dedicated to exhibiting, interpreting and collecting contemporary art, both from across Australia and around the world, the Museum's Sculpture Cafe overlooks Circular Quay and the Opera House. You will also get a chance to visit many of the fantastic exhibitions the Museum hosts including the "Motion/Emotion"; the works of French artist Annette Messager and "Martu Art – aboriginal art from the far western desert".

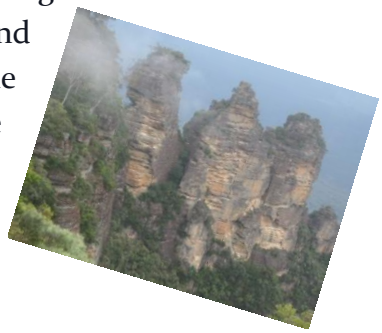


In the late afternoon we travel to the Sutherland United Services Club ('the SUS Club') at Sutherland for the Conference's Annual Dinner and Awards Evening. Our night concludes with a spirited run in a classic double deck bus back to our city accommodation. (Saturday meals: MT, L, D.)

Sun. 12 October – The glorious Blue Mountains.

Join us for a day in the magnificent Blue Mountains. Our modern coach will follow the same route pioneered by the first explorers to cross the mountains in 1813. We will leave our partners at the Valley Heights Steam Tramway, while we head on to Faulconbridge and the home of renowned artist, cartoonist and writer Norman Lindsay (1879-1969). Following morning tea at the Norman Lindsay cafe, you will have time to explore the Lindsay home, filled with examples of the artist's prolific works in pen and ink drawing, etching, woodcuts, watercolours and sculpture.

Following a Spit Roast lunch back at Valley Heights, we travel to Katoomba and the world heritage listed Echo Point where you will have time to see the famous Three Sisters and gaze in awe across the Jamison Valley. Next we visit Leura, a classic mountains town and community with a real 1920's ambience. Here you will have time to explore the antique and curiosity shops along the main street, or perhaps take some afternoon tea in one of the many cafes that Leura has to offer. The coach will then return us to Railway Square in the city where you are free to make your own arrangements for dinner. (Sunday meals – MT, L.)



Monday 13 October – 'South Steyne' and Harbour Cruise.



This morning you have a choice of relaxing and enjoying Sydney at your leisure or meeting for morning tea at Darling Harbour's famous Chinese Garden of Friendship. Maybe do some shopping in Galeries Victoria at Town Hall, stroll through the historic Strand Arcade (pictured) between Pitt and George St or wander through the elegant shops in the Queen Victoria Building. (Perhaps you could get a small party together and pre-book High Tea at the "The Tea Room, QVB").

Alternatively, you are welcome to join conference delegates for

a ride on a scheduled Sydney Light Rail service to Dulwich Hill, the latest tramway extension in Sydney.



Around midday, we will meet at Darling Harbour and board the famous ferry 'South Steyne' now permanently moored adjacent to Pyrmont Bridge. Lunch is aboard this 1938 Glasgow built steam vessel. There may even be a chance here to see the 1902 Pyrmont Bridge swing span in action.

In the mid-afternoon, we bid farewell to 'South Steyne' and join the classic 1938 built ferry 'Proclaim' for a four hour cruise around Sydney Harbour. As we enjoy afternoon tea and an open bar, the sights of Sydney will unfold in front of us; the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Cove, the Opera House, Farm Cove, Garden Island and some of Australia's most expensive real estate. West of the Harbour Bridge we will see the old working class suburbs of Abbotsford, Drummoyne and Balmain, once home to former NSW Premier, Neville Wran who famously quipped "Balmain boys don't cry!" Our cruise ends back in Darling Harbour, where you will be free to make your own arrangements for dinner. Choose from the cheap and cheerful at Harbourside Food Court or try one of the many restaurants that Darling Harbour and Cockle Bay has to offer. Just about every taste and palate is catered for, from spicy Thai and Indian to seafood and from exciting Chinese to the mellow flavours of the exotic Lindt Chocolate Cafe. (Monday meals – MT, L, AT.)



Tuesday 14 October – Conference ends.

Our partner program wraps up today with free time in the city for last minute shopping and sightseeing.

On Wednesday, 15 October, the Post Conference Tour departs for a wonderful few days in southern NSW. This will be a trip not to be missed….

