Executive Officers Report 2006

In my last report in 2004 to the Auckland COTMA Conference I concluded by commenting that we were about to begin a most exciting period.

Little did I realize just what was going to unfold in the following two years.

It can be best summed up using the catch cry of the Toyota car add “Oh What a Feeling”

The past two years have seen the following occur;

- The establishment facilitated by COTMA of an incorporated association the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot to operate the heritage facilities at the Hawthorn Tram Depot.

- The transfer of all of the tramway drawings ex Preston Workshops to safe and secure storage to Hawthorn Depot. This has allowed for a number of these drawings to be made available at cost to member museums.

- The facilitation and assistance towards the donation of tram 965 to the Danish Tramway Museum.

- Provision of overhead fittings for a number of museums.

- The facilitation of trams ex Melbourne being obtained by Adelaide, Perth, Bendigo, Auckland and Bylands and arranging for their transport

- The acquisition of most of the remaining Adelaide H class tram spare parts and their subsequent transport and storage

- The acquisition of 4 mercury arc bulbs for Brisbane Museum

- The acquisition of a 500 Kw rotary converter by Christchurch museum

- The provision of former Melbourne tram conductor outfits for a number of museums

- The acquisition of traction motors to assist Haddon in the restoration of VR41

- Active involvement in partnership with Yarra Trams in the “Tramit” open day where heritage trams were on display at Docklands to celebrate the 100th anniversary of electric tram operation in Melbourne.

To name but some of the achievements. All this has not been possible without the dedication and team work of you the member museums.

There really is far too many to name in this report, but to you all I say thank you !

Financially COTMA is on track and I wish to record my thanks to our Treasurer Howard Clark for his studious oversight of our finances.

What of the next two years ?

I once again predict that the level of our activity will remain high.

This will include the provision of further trams and spare parts on a large scale.

I do caution each museum to carefully consider their individual requirements for trams and parts as we will be shortly reaching the end of the line in Melbourne and there will no longer be older parts available. Think very carefully of what you need into the future and when asked about you requirements have a good sound case prepared as to why you need them.

Another area I would like increased input from is from our colleagues across the Tasman in New Zealand.

Whilst our Deputy Chairman Henry Brittain has been very active in our affairs it would be good and I personally would welcome greater input on a strategic thinking level from our New Zealand museums of for no other reason in ensuring we are getting the mix of our activity correct .

In closing I wish to pay tribute to three people all of whom have been inspirational and provided invaluable help to me in my role as Executive Officer.

Warren Doubleday, Rod Atkins & Ian Seymour.

Thank you for your invaluable contributions.

In closing I must also thank my wife Allison and five children all of whom have to put up with their husband and father who sometimes comes home from Yarra Trams to knock off work to cart bricks by doing work for the tram museums.

Without their support and patience none of this good work would be possible.

Craig Tooke
Executive Officer