Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

Principles for Membership Relations

A. Members' Expectations of COTMA

COTMA members expect that COTMA will:-

- treat all Members on an equal basis**;**
- promote communication between Members;
- encourage co-operation between Members;
- assist and encourage Members and their people to achieve their aspirations;
- aid and stimulate Members and their people to widen their experience and broaden their competencies;
- facilitate mediation between Members if requested.

B. Expected Behaviour of Members and their people:

COTMA Members and their people are expected to:-

- treat all fellow Members and their people equally, with courtesy and respect;
- keep communication between all parties open and honest;
- where conflicts arise or are identified, work together to achieve suitable outcomes;
- Encourage the positive contributions of all Members and their people.

C. Expected Aspirations of Members

COTMA Members are expected to:

- achieve the highest conservation standards that resources allow;
- operate a safe museum or venue;
- improve the experiences and competency of their people;
- aspire to house collections in the most suitable facilities possible;
- work with the local community;
- attain the highest standards of governance and operational presentation possible within available resources;
- meet all relevant regulatory requirements;
- undertake activities assuring a sustainable future.

D. Notes

- ***Members*** are the bodies which are formally the Members of COTMA.
- ***Their People*** are their members, supporters and workers, paid and voluntary.
- Not all Members of COTMA are museums.
- Museums are encouraged to subscribe to or adopt the *Museums Australia Code of Ethics* or an equivalent statement of ethics and policies..
- While COTMA's *Rules* and the Act under which it is incorporated provide for discipline, penalties, suspension and expulsion, this would be difficult and divisive to apply. An alternative approach would be "We (the other Members) think you could try harder here; how can we help?"

Adopted at the November 2006 COTMA Confence General Meeting