REPORT ON TRAMWAY TOPICS FOR 2008 COTMA AGM.

The most significant event to happen during the year was the sudden death of its Editor, John Murphy, in January 2008.

John took over the editorship in 2002 at a time when the future of the magazine was in doubt. He was able to revitalise Tramway Topics and improve both its quality and circulation numbers. Although he had suffered ill health for the previous three years his death was nevertheless unexpected and as one of the founding members of the Wellington Tramway Museum, he will be sadly missed.

Production of Tramway Topics was nevertheless maintained, and a former editor of the magazine, Alan Smith kindly prepared the Summer edition for 2008 in order to maintain production schedules.

After advertising, a new Editor, Brent Efford has been appointed. Apart from having a lifetime interest in New Zealand tramway systems, Brent is an avid supporter of light rail for New Zealand and was already contributing a column to Tramway Topics entitled "Capital Sparks". His first edition, has already been produced.

Tramway Topics continues to flourish and record both historic and current events on electric traction within New Zealand. I am indebted to Alan Smith for taking over at short notice, and wish Brent all the best for many future editions.

Henry Brittain.
August 2008.