

Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update August 2021



Even Melbourne's newest trams are affected by COVID-19 !

From the Secretary

Hello from lockdown (again) in Melbourne.

This edition of COTMA News Update is brief – mostly focused on events and changes to events due to COVID restrictions.

One new thing to come out of this challenging situation is the rise of online video conferencing. It enables us to meet in real time via the internet. COTMA committee are getting quite used to this and have met more often than is usual.

I encourage you to join in the COTMA events – AGM, CGM and Awards coming up in the next couple of months.

If you have ideas of what else we might do online I'd be happy to discuss.

Mal Rowe

Your To-Do List

- ✓ *Book your attendance at the COTMA conference ONLINE on Friday 17th of September.*
- ✓ *Look out for the final date for award presentations ONLINE in October.*
- ✓ *Think about who from your group may nominate for to leadership of COTMA*

Consider who you might team up with to share costs and parts from truck sets.

Conference and Annual general meetings

As announced, COTMA and Ballarat Tramway Museum decided that it is not practical to run the planned COTMA conference this year and it has been CANCELLED.

However, an ONLINE COTMA Annual General Meeting and Conference General Meeting **will go ahead**.

The AGM and CGM will be commence at 1:30pm AEST on Friday 17th of September, as a "Zoom" virtual meeting. Please give thought to who will be your representative for voting purposes and how they will access the Zoom meeting.

Meeting Notices and details of how to join the Zoom meeting will be forwarded soon.

Agenda items will include:

- Annual and Conference reports including financial and auditor's reports.
- Election of Office Bearers for the next two-year term.
- Setting membership fees and a change to due dates so that membership fees are paid in advance instead of in arrears.
- Application for Full Membership for any Associate Member desiring and eligible for full membership.

There may be an opportunity for anyone able to attend the meetings face-to-face in Victoria to do so, or more likely to get together in the evening over a meal.

Contact Mal Rowe secretary@cotma.org.au with any questions.

Award presentations

Award Presentations for the period 2019 to 2021 will be made ONLINE in mid-October (probably on October 15th), including Achievement and Volunteer awards. Achievement award submissions have been received from four museum groups and are in the hands of the judges. Six volunteer award submissions are also in hand and will be automatically awarded on the date of the awards.

Museum Reports

One of the highlights of each COTMA conference is Museum Reports (aka “Brag Tapes”). We are considering scheduling these over a series of ‘Zoom’ sessions whereby one or two museums could bring us up to date on what they are doing in a virtual environment over several sessions – spaced out on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Mal Rowe and Warren Doubleday would be pleased to have your thoughts on this idea. Do you like it, or would you prefer to hold off until we can meet again face-to-face?

Zoom account

The restrictions of pandemic lockdowns have severely limited our opportunities to meet face to face over the last year or more. COTMA committee and some member museums have moved to on-line conferencing using the Zoom application. COTMA have taken out a subscription to Zoom Pro, which allows us to host one group meeting at a time with up to 100 people and allows collaboration if you need, without worrying about time limits or having to start another meeting. This account can be used by any member museum for your own purposes at no cost. If you would like to use this, please contact Mal Rowe with details of the date, time, and duration of your meeting (to avoid clashes). Mal will provide the login details.

If you want to explore what’s possible, see:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-tutorials>

Parts Management

Work on the trams at Newport in Melbourne has been slowed significantly by the COVID restrictions but is expected to pick up over the second half of 2021. One issue arising from the pandemic is that shipping containers are ‘in the wrong places’ all over the world. As a result shipment of trucks and other parts to THS in Christchurch have been delayed.

There are different needs for truck parts across museums. Museums operating Melbourne trams with No 15 trucks are always on the lookout for good wheelsets, while other museums are more interested in motors. There is an opportunity for cooperation in sharing the bits and pieces. Contact Mal Rowe if you think you might be interested in such a deal.

Ballarat Tramways Museum 50th anniversary

Ballarat Tramways Museum is still hoping to be able to run a celebration day of Sunday 19th of September to mark the 50th anniversary of their foundation and to launch Geelong No 2 into traffic after many years of restoration by a private individual. The event will be lower key than was planned before the latest lockdown in Victoria but will still have a lot to interest tramway museum people.

Check their Facebook or web page close to the day – the event is at risk of being another COVID casualty!
