



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update – August 2011

From the Chairman

Since the last News Update, there have been many events and some news in our area of interest. Sadly we lost former Councillor Darlene Haigh of Hobart after poor health during August, but on a brighter note saw the opening of the Auckland Dockline tramway. Darlene attended a number of COTMA Conferences and was a driving force behind the reconstruction of a number of former Hobart tramcars. The COTMA AGM was recently held to formally receive the Annual Financial Statement. This will be forwarded to Members in hard copy during the second half of September for their information. Thanks to all those who were able to attend on the day.

The Executive is working with VicTrack to assist in the further allocation of the few remaining trams from Preston Workshops which needs to be cleared to allow for further redevelopment work. The remaining tramcars are in pretty poor condition. If any Member has any interest can they please contact Rod Atkins who is co-ordinating this. Rod's email address is: ozrod_au@yahoo.com or contact via the COTMA web site – www.cotma.org.au

2012 COTMA Conference

The organisation of the conference and associated events are proceeding. The conference dates are: - Thursday August 16 2012 through to Tuesday 21 August in Adelaide. The conference hotel will be the Mercure Grosvenor, opposite the railway station and adjacent to a tram stop. Further details about the conference planning will be in the next News Update. Simon Green is undertaking the planning of the Partners tour and Richard Gilbert the Post Conference Tour.

Richard has provided the following outline of the Post Conference tour of 3 nights, 4 days and finishes in Adelaide Friday afternoon 24 August.

The Post Conference tour will leave the AETM Museum after the conclusion of the host activities and will travel to Kadina for an overnight stay. The purpose of this destination is to spend time on the 'Copper Coast' absorbing the rich Cornish/Copper history of this region. The next day sees a visit to Wallaroo and Moonta to see the many historic sites, including railway sites, and then to enjoy a 50 minute tour on the 2 foot gauge tramways touring the mining history of the Moonta copper mine.

From Moonta, we travel back through Kadina to arrive at our unusual and interesting motel, Barossa Junction, at Tanunda for two nights. This motel comprises accommodation in converted railway carriages and dinner is served in a replica Dining Car. The Bar Car is another vehicle in the complex.

Now in the Barossa Valley, the next day sees a choice of attending a Cooking Demonstration and lunch with TV Cooking personality, Maggie Beer or a full visit of the heritage buildings and a wine tasting at Seppeltsfield. A free afternoon is then provided in the delightful Barossa town of Angaston.

Next day our coach takes us over the Adelaide Hills to the flatter plains of Murray Bridge for a river cruise on the Murray River before a quick return to Adelaide on the freeway. This tour takes in railway and tramway history: visits the Copper Coast, Clare Valley, Barossa Valley, historic towns in the Adelaide hills and a river cruise on the Murray River, and an excellent micro-brewery.

Forthcoming Events

Ballarat Tramway Museum is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the closure of the SEC Tramway system in Ballarat on Sunday 18 September. For further details visit their website on www.btm.org.au

Perth Electric Tramway Society is planning to formally launch WAGT Tram No. 66 on Sunday 9 October at 10am - Whiteman Park.

National Rail Safety Regulator

Progress on the implementation of the National Rail Safety Regulator (NRSR) for Australia continues. On the tramway side, the Australian Intergovernmental Agreement for the Regulator, states that the proposed "NRSR will regulate all rail operations as defined in the national rail safety law, noting that light rail and tram network(s) operating outside of the heavy rail network will only be provided regulatory coverage by the NRSR where a (state) jurisdiction has indicated a preference for it to do so."

At this time, it is known that the Victorian Government proposes to retain regulation of tramways. To do this, it is understood that the Victorian Government will develop a "Tramway Safety Act". It is proposed to use the concepts of the Single Rail Safety Regulator Act, rather than an update of the current Vic Rail Safety Act. What the other states will do in this regard is not known, though probably most will move the tramways over to the Single Regulator.

Tramways exclusively horse operated are excluded from the Act, as are amusements, those used only for static displays and hobby railways.

If you have any questions or have potential problems arising out the NRSR, can you please contact the Chairman at warren@wads.id.au

Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission

Further to the report in the last issue of News Update concerning this new Regulator planned to come into action on 1/7/2012, for further information see Commonwealth Government's Press Release dated 10 May 2011 – via

<http://ministers.treasury.gov.au/DisplayDocs.aspx?doc=pressreleases/2011/077.htm&pageID=003&min=brs&Year=&DocType=0>

It is not known what impact it will have on COTMA members, but watch this space and any other not-for-profits websites, as it could have a substantial impact if you lose your tax free status.

Brandford Electric Railway Storm Damage

The Brandford Electric railway, Connecticut suffered extensive storm surge damage to its depot area and its vehicles as a result of Hurricane Irene. See <http://www.bera.org/irene.html> for a report on this event. We wish them all the best in recovering from this event.

Auckland Opening

COTMA welcomes the addition of another heritage based tramway operation, this time in Auckland. Congratulations to those involved from Auckland, Christchurch and Bendigo. A number of COTMA members attended the opening. For their web-site see, <http://www.aucklandtram.co.nz/Welcome>

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