



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

www.cotma.org.au

News Update December 2014



From the Chairman

Hi everyone.

2014 is just about all over and it has been a busy and eventful year for the tramways of Australia and New Zealand. A highlight was the COTMA conference hosted by the Sydney Tramway Museum and the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society (Valley Heights). A big thank you to David Critchley and his organising team, plus the pre and post conference organisers (Peter Hyde and Richard Gilbert) for what turned out to be a most interesting, informative and enjoyable experience. I hope that those attended will take back to their groups many of the learnings that were shared, noting in particular the discussions and remarkably consistent findings about the challenges ahead as we responded to the conference theme - '**Your Tramway Museum in 2024 – A ten year plan**'. For those groups/individuals who were not able to be present, the various museum and other presentations can be found on the COTMA Website – see <http://cotma.org.au/conference.html>.

At the Conference General Meeting, with no other volunteers in sight, I was elected to the role of COTMA Chairman for the next two years. There will be on-going challenges, but we have a great Executive team and with good support from others as well we should be able to make progress and continue to represent the interests of all COTMA Member groups. Thank you for your confidence in me and our team. Particular thanks to Warren Doubleday, whose role as Immediate Past Chairman has now concluded, but who has graciously agreed to continue undertaking the important tasks of website and news update publisher. As you will see from the full list of Executive Members, there is currently one vacancy (Assistant Executive Officer), previously occupied by Mal Rowe, now Deputy Chairman. If there is a volunteer out there prepared to take on the role, we would love to hear from you.

Best wishes to all for the coming festive season.

Dave Hinman

CHAIRMAN

COTMA Executive (as elected at Conference General Meeting, 14 October 2014).

Chairman - Dave Hinman
Deputy Chairman - Mal Rowe
Executive Officer - Rod Atkins
Assistant Executive Officer - *Vacant*
Treasurer - Howard Clark
Australian Museums Liaison Officer - Peter Hyde
New Zealand Museums Liaison Officer - Clinton Pearce

COTMA Achievement Award 2014 (presented at Conference Dinner 10 Oct 2014)

Bill Kingsley Award - Tramway Historical Society, Christchurch, for restoration of Invercargill Birney tram No. 15.

Volunteer Achievement Awards - Roger Salen and Gavin Young of the Ballarat Tramway Museum.

Further details and photographs can be seen at: <http://cotma.org.au/awards.html>

Next Conference

To be held in CHRISTCHURCH in October 2016, hosted by the Tramway Historical Society and Christchurch Tramway Ltd.

New Collection Guideline

The Australian Ministry for the Arts recently published the *Australian Best Practice Guide to Collecting Cultural Material* outlining principles and standards to assist Australia's public collecting institutions when acquiring cultural material by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange. The guide outlines ethical considerations and legal obligations that apply to collecting institutions and provides guidance on transparency and accountability measures. Sections of the guide may also apply to cultural material being considered for inward loan. For either an MSWord or a .pdf version see <http://arts.gov.au/collections/best-practice>

Recent Tramway Milestones/ Events

30 October - Canberra - Expressions of interest called for building light rail line from Gungahlin to the city centre, following ACT Govt release of business case. Estimated cost - \$783M

11 November - Christchurch - post-earthquake resumption of full City Loop

23 November - Auckland - Dockline Tramway resumption of operations.

7 December - Bendigo - celebration of 42 years since re-opening as the Vintage "Talking" Tram Tour.

7 December - Ballarat - celebration of 40 years since the running of the first (commissioning) tram in Wendouree Parade. Also undertook a ceremonial "switch on" of the 18.5kW solar panels on the depot roof.

10 December - Christchurch - Tramway Restaurant resumed post-earthquake public operation

13 December – Perth - large fire in Whiteman Park – no damage to PETS's infrastructure.

17 December - Sydney - \$2.1B contract signed for light rail extensions from Circular Quay to Eastern suburbs. Work due to start in April 2015 and "likely to open for services in early 2019".

18 December - Gold Coast - re-opening of 25 year old monorail - links GCLR to Casino

26 December – Ballarat - 40 years since Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society commenced public operations.

Tasmanian Tour – March 2014

Great Rail Experiences Tasmania is running an excellent tour during March 2015 – visiting all heritage rail locations including COTMA Members the Tasmanian Transport Museum in Hobart and the Launceston Tramway museum. Further details from:

<http://www.greatrailexperiences Tasmania.com.au/great-rail-experiences-tasmania-tour-2015/>

Well worth considering.

Next Update - March 2015