



Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

News Update – October - November 2008

From the Chairman

It is distressing to hear about the severe damage that has occurred to the Brisbane Tramway Museum's site at Ferny Grove. They have sustained heavy damage to their substation complex and its traction equipment, depot and buildings and some damage to their tramcars as a result of the thunderstorms that hit Brisbane in the evening of Sunday 16 November. We can as a team, help them overcome these major problems by donating funds. I would urge all members to consider making a donation. If there are any other ways of assisting them please consider it. COTMA Members and friends have already commenced to assist where possible. Donations can be sent to the BTMS; PO Box 94, Ferny Hills Qld 4055.

*Photos from John Lambert of the BTMS.
Below – substation interior*



IATM Conference - 2009

The 2009 International Association of Transport Museum's (IATM) Conference will be held in Dresden and Nuremberg, Germany 15 June to 19 June 2009. The Conference includes pre-conference tours in Dresden, visits to Chemnitz, Munich and post conference tours to Stuttgart and Sinsheim. Full details of the event can be obtained from the web site: http://www.iatm.org/userupload/431_IATM_Conference_2009.pdf

Incandescent Light Bulbs

Yes, your incandescent light bulb is being replaced by compact fluors etc, whether you like it or not. While you will / (may with some difficulty) be able to continue to purchase incandescent bulbs for purposes where alternatives are not available, no doubt this will become more difficult over time as the need for these bulbs generally decreases. All we can suggest is work out your needs and purchase them in bulk from the suppliers and store them safely. Tramcars are not the only ones affected by this phasing out of incandescents. It is suggested you shop around for traction light bulbs as the price seems to vary between stockists. Stockists that could be consulted are: [Crompton Lighting](#), [Osram Australia](#), Further advice as to suppliers and costs from Members would be welcome.

A Single Rail Safety Regulator for Australia

The National Transport Commission released its Regulatory Impact Statement on the considerations for a single Australian Rail Safety Regulator. The associated press release can be accessed on <http://www.ntc.gov.au/NewsDetail.aspx?page=A0240030550000002000278> and the document itself from <http://www.ntc.gov.au/RFCList2004.aspx>. Submissions close on Friday 19 December 2008. The Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA) has been consulted on this matter and will be included in the invitations for the briefings/feedback sessions being held in each state over the next month. Concerns that ATHRA have, will involve transitional issues, costs of accreditation (currently most of us are exempt) and local Offices. You are welcome to make submissions to the NTC or provide feedback to the Chairman of COTMA (tramwad@alphalink.com.au) who will be drafting the ATHRA submission. Please if you have any comments, please forward them by 4 December to give us time to do the necessary submission.

COTMA Conferences

All the Launceston 2008 conference papers and discussions have now been loaded onto the web site, www.cotma.org.au, under the Proceedings Tab. This includes the conference reports.

The Wellington Tramway Museum is hosting the 2010 Conference and planning is underway. A email address has been established - cotma2010@paradise.net.nz. Details about timing, some initial concepts about the conference, tours etc should be available for the next News Update.

Collection Management Resources for Museums

The Victorian Branch of Museum's Australia has recently added to its website, a number of resource information documents that may be useful to you to care for and manage your collection. These can be accessed from <http://www.mavic.asn.au/services/resources/>. It includes the development of conservation plans, Museum policies and plans such as forward planning, collection and interpretation policies and many information sheets. These include conservation and lighting, temperature and humidity control, air pollution, effects of storage on object, museum storage, collections care, numbering objects in collections, displays, informative websites and essential references.

UK Guidance for Heritage and Tramway Sectors

The UK Office of Rail Regulation recently published guidance to help the tramway and heritage sectors with the "Safety Verification Process". This document provides useful background information to help you through the "Change Processes" of introducing new infrastructure or rollingstock in particular. While the process is designed to fit with the UK legislative framework, similar processes to control the risks are needed in Australia and no doubt New Zealand. The document can accessed from <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.9203>

Broadcasting Functions Through COTMA News and Contact list

If you are holding a function or event and would like to let other COTMA Museums and some of their members know of the function, COTMA is able to "broadcast" this to our E-mail contact list. This list has been compiled from those who attend Conferences and others who have opted to join the list. Please send to the Chairman your request and we will be able to "broadcast" it for you. Individual contact lists are maintained and sent out on a private basis. It is planned to upgrade this service early in 2009 to a mailing programme.

And finally Season Greetings to all our readers. On behalf of the COTMA Executive, we trust you all have a good Christmas and we wish you a Happy New Year.

Next News update – January 2009