



# Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc.

[www.cotma.org.au](http://www.cotma.org.au)

## News Update – August 2010

### From the Chairman

Volunteers are the backbone of the Australasian tramway preservation movement and it is good to see them being recognised by Government and industry alike; as recently received by Craig Connelly of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society. COTMA like our other umbrella organisations within the rail heritage sector makes similar awards to organisations; not currently to the volunteers themselves. Is it time that we started to recognise our volunteers formally ourselves? This will be discussed at the forthcoming coming Conference meeting.

Congratulations to Craig Connelly, Chairman and Works Manager for the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society at Valley Heights. He received an award in the category of "Leadership, Management or Organisational Development" in the NSW Office of Rail Heritage 2010 Volunteer Awards on 26 July. The Awards were presented by the NSW Minister for Transport and Rail Corp Chief Executive. Craig has had a long involvement with STRPS from the time of the Parramatta fire to today, shepherding the organisation through the many changes in safety legislation and site development at Valley Heights.

I look forward to meeting our New Zealand tramway Members and their workers once again during the forthcoming Conference. The Conference is the time to re-establish our networks of contacts and to assist our Museums to progress.

### COTMA Conference 2010

Bookings for the Conference are scheduled to close on 31 August. Details of the Conference remain on the web site. Both the Preconference tour to Christchurch and Picton and the Post Conference tours to Wanganui, New Plymouth and Auckland are now closed. Good interest was received with many of the participants travelling in either one or both of the tours.

If you wish to participate and have not booked into the Conference please contact the organiser Bryce Pender on [cotma2010@paradise.net.nz](mailto:cotma2010@paradise.net.nz)

### Conference General Meeting

The formal Notice and the Agenda for the Conference General Meeting is included within this mail out. If Members have any additional items they wished to be discussed at the CGM would they please advise the Chairman; [warren@wads.id.au](mailto:warren@wads.id.au) (Note the new E-mail address for the Chairman)

### Conference - Member Presentations (BRAGS)

Don't forget your Member Presentation – Brags – are due with the conference organisers two weeks before the conference and should be kept to 10 mins max.

### COTMA Annual General Meeting

The required AGM of COTMA was held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010 in Melbourne as scheduled. The meeting considered the Treasurers and Auditors Report, which both were accepted. A copy of the Annual Financial Statement is included within the Mail out.

**Next News update** – October 2010