

TRAMLINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM INC.

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SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members. 2006 has been another successful year – thank you for your part in what we achieved.

Please consider what part you can play in our approaching peak period – the summer of 2006/7. Our programme *Anything Vintage* should be an excellent drawcard, but its success depends on the work of members to enable it to happen. The long-awaited Mackays overbridge will be in interim use by motorists on SH 1 and it could well be that the new access arrangements off the highway through the Park gates to the Museum site deter some “impulse” visits by the general public – lets hope that this isn't the case.

THE TRAMWAY DIARY

DATES	EVENT	COMMENT
Sat 16 th Dec.	Clean-up day	The focus is to have our trams, displays and kiosk areas all clean and tidy ready for the summer holiday. Come for the full or part day – every bit will help..

Sat 30 th Dec Sun 31 st Dec Mon 1 st Jan Tue 2 nd Jan	Anything Vintage Festival	A festival of vintage items at and around the Museum. See more details inside this issue.
February 2007 (date to be advised)	Resuscitation course	A requirement for all supervisors and power operators who have not attended a first aid course, plus any motormen and other members who wish to take part. Please book with Barry Ollerenshaw, Ph 388-8197 (numbers limited to 14)

ANYTHING VINTAGE – Press Release from Graeme Moffatt, November 28, 2006—

The Wellington Tramway Museum announced today that in conjunction with the Greater Wellington Regional Council and Tranz Metro, and with the support of many other organisations, they are jointly organising a four day vintage transport and machinery festival at Paekakariki's Queen Elizabeth Park during this year's peak summer holiday period.

The Christmas – New Year period is always one of the busiest times of the year at the park with people in holiday mood and with lots of visitors from out of town. The 'Anything Vintage Transport and Machinery Festival' will be held over the four days of the New Year weekend starting on Saturday December 30th and running until Tuesday January 2nd.

As well as the trams which carry passengers to the excellent beach and back, the Park has newly developed wetlands to explore and a number of other popular attractions. The Tramway Museum will be utilising their large tram barn for an indoor display area and as well there will be a variety of rides for the public in whatever vintage equipment can be mustered – including the Museum's own trams. Vintage cars and buses, military vehicles and horse drawn carriages have all been arranged along with an outdoor display of stationary vintage equipment and machinery. There will be a range of craft and hot food stalls along with fairground and horse rides to cater for the kids.

Tranz Metro will be running their recently restored 1955 vintage English Electric red unit set between Wellington and Paraparaumu for the four day period and vintage buses owned by Wellington's Omnibus Society, including a blue/yellow Road Services Bedford bus, will transport visitors from Paraparaumu and Paekakariki Railway Stations to Mackays Crossing. Greater Wellington Regional Council rangers are running guided walks around the park's wetlands and bush remnant to coincide with the event.

Planning is now well underway and the organisers are working on a promotional schedule that will include television, radio and newspaper advertising. The festival

will be featured in the summer programme leaflets, that the Wellington Regional Council will be delivering to all householders in the Region, in early December. Tranz Metro will also display posters in all their suburban passenger Units. Further information can be found on the Tramway web site at <http://www.wellingtontrams.org.nz/anythingvintage>

The organisers have stated that there is still both indoor and outdoor spaces available for nonprofit groups to display and/or sell items to raise funds for their organisation. Groups wishing to enquire about participating can contact the Ranger at Queen Elizabeth Park, Nikki La Monica, on (04) 292-8625 or email nikki.lamonica@gw.govt.nz

ANDREW SURGENOR follows this up with this note to members:

Help required for Anything Vintage Festival

30 Dec – 2nd January

Read on.....

Planning is now well advanced for the Anything Vintage Festival from 30 Dec – 2 Jan.

For this weekend to be a success our Tramway needs you help.

Additional help is urgently required for

- **Tram crews – 3 trams will be running, with 2 person crews**
- **Platform ticket sales**
- **Souvenir sales in tram barn**
- **Beach Ticket sales and Tram Dispatch**

Family and friends are most welcome to help, Training can be provided for conductor and sales roles

To offer your help, please urgently contact.

Andrew Surgenor

Email andrew201@hotmail.com

Phone 232 8449

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From **Denys Peck** – Vice President, Marketing & Operations:

Shop- Barrie Marsh and family will be the full time shop operators from 26/12/06 to 7/1/07. This will allow our tram crews to do what they like doing best---operating trams and ensuring our visitors are well looked after.

Uniforms--New stock has arrived recently therefore we now have all sizes of polo and sweat shirts.I will ensure that I have supplies with me when at the KCET.I also suggest that you let me know what you require so that I can have your order ready for you.The cost of these items are subsidised by the WTM Inc.,therefore the cost to members is \$10 polo & \$15 sweat shirt.

Also we recently introduced a Kapiti Tramway baseball type cap ---cost to members \$15,again if you require one of these let me know.

Calendars--Sales are slow so far---would tram crews promote these hard to our customers from now on please,we want them all sold by the end of the year so we can maximise our profits for this publication.

Rosters--A new roster is now being compiled by Andrew Surgenor and should be circulated to members soon--I know he requires extra hands for the "anything vintage" event--please contact him if you can assist.

Customer Service-Recently a member passed to me a copy of a notice that was compiled by Colin Perfect and dated June 1979,

This "Notice To Tram Crews" now about 27 years old still has a lot of relevance to our present operations as the first paragraph states----We draw tram crews attention to the fact that their job is a little more than just collecting fares from passengers and driving them to the end of the line and back. You are also our public relations department and your attitude to the passengers and attention to detail often determines whether they will return to the museum, and indeed it also has a bearing on the standing of the Museum in our community--

This notice also listed a series of do's and don'ts which included the following--

DO be identifiable by wearing one of the museums approved uniforms.

DO welcome passengers on board.

Plus many others which are mostly concerned with ensuring that our customers leave our museum having had an interesting and enjoyable visit and as a result tell their family and friends all about us.

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Barry Ollerenshaw asks all tram drivers to take in this timely reminder:
Remember at the end of operations each day:

1. Stop at the tram barn doors

2. Check that the trolley pole is on the correct overhead wire, with the pole on Double-Saloons reversed and pointing north.
3. Check with the supervisor of the day whether it is OK to bring the tram into the barn
4. If there are people in the barn – wait until they have left before driving in.

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**A LOOK BACK AT THE.....
DECEMBER DINNER
and at the COTMA CONFERENCE**

The 2006 Christmas Dinner

About 40 members and partners enjoyed this year's dinner which was again held at Mungavin Blues restaurant in Porirua. Thanks to Keith McGavin for organizing this.

COTMA Conference, Melbourne, 17-23 Melbourne

12 members from WTM – including some carrying flags for the Cable Car Museum and the Omnibus Society – took part in the 18th Conference of COTMA (The Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia) held in Melbourne last month. Location in Melbourne was, of course, marvelous, for that city has all sorts of attractions quite apart from it being one of the world's truly great tramway places. The Conference was also part of a fairly substantial celebration of 100 years of electric trams in Melbourne, and Yarra Trams were a principal sponsor.

About 30% of the 100+ attending were from New Zealand. The Conference venue was the *Batman's Hill on Collins* Hotel right on the tram junction at the corner of Collins and Spencer Streets and just across from the new Southern Cross Station (formerly Spencer St. station) of the 5'3" gauge railway network and also from one of Yarra Trams' new "superstops".

The programme (on the web at www.cotma.org.au) was a full and interesting one, and included away-days by bus to Ballarat and Haddon on the Tuesday and to Bendigo and

Bylands on the Thursday. As well there was an excellent all-day tour of the Melbourne system with a cluster of cars including the superbly-restored VR 41 (featuring trolley pole – extremely rare on the all-pantograph Yarra Trams system). The articulated Combino car featuring all-over advertising for the 100 Years of Electric Trams in Melbourne took the tour right out to the latest eastern extension, at Vermont South. The photo from Allan Neilson shows Barry Ollerenshaw and Peter Hawke admiring the paint gloss on Bendigo 21.



Our President Henry Brittain was re-elected COTMA Vice-President, and the restoration of Grip Car 3 by the Wellington Cable Car Museum was one of the 3 finalists for the EAR (Excellence and Recognition) award. This (featuring a mounted and highly-polished actual overhead ear) was in the event won by the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association for their restoration of VR 41 – which we had admired and ridden on at Haddon).

The next COTMA Conference will be in Launceston, Tasmania in August 2008; and the one after that will be here in Wellington in 2010. We probably won't be able to match such gems as Melbourne's amazing "Karachi Tram", which occasionally ventures out in service on the free City Circle tram service with a dizzying blast of vigorous sitar music) but I'm sure that we at WTM can help make this a memorable and productive event.

Our New Museum Publication

Have you got your copy yet? A really attractive, full-colour 20-page booklet retailing from the terminus shop for \$9.90, it describes the site, our fleet and operations and a useful summary of Wellington's tramway history. Well worth having a copy of your own.

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Tramlines Technologies

The Editor's woeful IT "skills" show up in the weird formatting which seems to infect every issue of *Tramlines* for those who receive it by e-mail. Is there a member out there who would like to help out by doing the final formatting step before each issue goes out? (about 5 or 6 times a year). If that interest you, then I'd like to hear from you at alanesmith@xtra.co.nz

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The Safety Audit

Part of our Safety plan is the regular audit of procedures carried out by our assessor Euan McQueen. Allan Neilson's photo shows Euan (right) observing Bob Stott's handling of 159 on one such audit visit this past November.



Tramlines

An occasional newsletter for members of the Wellington Tramway Museum Inc. Its aim is to keep members in touch with practical notices and the details of current developments – it is deliberately kept modest in style and does not aim at all to

compete with *Tramway Topics*, our official journal of record. Contributions and notes always welcomed. Compiled by Alan Smith Alanesmith@xtra.co.nz. 7/12/06