TRAMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM INC.

OCTOBER 2014

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Museum Site:

Queen Elizabeth Park MacKay's Crossing Paekakariki, 5034

Kapiti

New Zealand Ph. 04 2928361

President:

Russell Jenkins, Ph.04 239 9482 Email: Rjenkins@xtra.co.nz

Secretary:

Henry Brittain, Ph 04 476 4155 Email: Henry.brittain@outlook.co.nz



Murray Gibson (foreground) and Alan Smith at work on tram 260, 4th October 2014. To the left of the photo are the trucks for this tram.

Photo: Keith McGavin, 4th October 2014

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From The President

I have just returned from the biennial meeting of COTMA (Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia) held in Sydney and can report that we can be proud of our museum.

Unlike some of the Australian museums, we receive no funding from local and central government (except when we seek grants from the NZ Lotteries) but at least we are masters of our own destiny. One of the museums in Tasmania recently renewed its lease with the State Government and instead of being granted a renewal of its 20 year lease, was granted a new lease with a 3 year term. They are not sure what the future holds.

In New South Wales, the Government Funded organisation "Transport Heritage NSW" is working to provide funding for a variety of museums, including those specialising in Transport, but this funding will only apply to exhibits owned by the Government but housed in a museum. This means that the Sydney Tram Museum may not get funding as their trams are owned by the Museum. It is hoped that this policy might change.

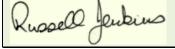
Another statistic that was quoted was that 60% of the gate takings at the Sydney Tramway Museum go out in regulatory and compliance costs – a scary thought!

On the brighter side, it was good to hear how other museums operate, where they see themselves in 10 years time, to ride on old trams at the Sydney Tram Museum and the extended Sydney Light Rail between Central Station and Dulwich Hill. There were also excellent papers from the Head of Sydney Trains, the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works & Streetcars Executive in Atlanta, USA. At the Conference Dinner, the Guest Speaker was the Project Director for Light Rail NSW who gave us an insight into the soon to be built extended Sydney Light Rail system.

Coming up on 8th November is our Annual General Meeting and I encourage all members to attend and take part. We are always looking for new people to join either the Maintenance & Engineering or Marketing & Operations teams, so give it some thought. Remember it is your museum and we need as many members as possible to take part in our various activities.

See you all at the Museum on the 8th of November for the AGM. There will be refreshments and a time to catch up between 4.30pm and the start of the AGM at 5pm.

Regards





Above: Delegates to this year's Council of Tramway Museum's of Australasia (COTMA) Conference pose alongside two ex-Sydney trams at the Sydney Tramway Museum, Loftus, Sydney.

Photo supplied by Russell Jenkins. See "From the President" – previous page

To Note For Your Diary

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th November 2014

Rail Ex (Model Railway Exhibition), Porirua

Volunteers urgently needed to man our display. This is a valuable source of publicity and potential new members.

Please contact Bob Stott if you can help for a few hours (or even a day).

Phone 06 368 9070, or email stotts@xnet.co.nz

Saturday 6th December 2014 Our Wellington Tramway Museum Christmas Dinner

Venue: Boundary Tap and Kitchen, Corner Raumati and Rosetta Roads, Raumati Beach

Time: Arrival time 6pm onwards with seating at 7pm

It is essential to book by Friday 21st November. There will be a booking form in the Palace to enter name and number in party. Alternatively you can contact Marlene on 04 299 1600 or email her on m.scie@xtra.co.nz

Saturday 30th November 2014 Father Christmas at the Tramway Museum Appearances at 11.00am and 2.00pm – complete with lolly scramble after each appearance. Tell your friends.

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th January 2015 Kid's Weekend at the Tramway

All hands are required on deck to assist make this event fun for the kids and the successful fundraiser we need

So far we have a bouncy castle, merry go round, great face painter, BBQ, candy floss, vintage machinery and various other games.

It is hoped that the Police Dog Squad will make an appearance along with the Customs dogs and their handlers.

We are working on getting the Fire Service and Wellington Free Ambulance on board.

To Note for your Diary, cont.

Sunday 8th November 2014: Our Annual General Meeting.

Notice as follows has already been given:



WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM INCORPORATED

PO BOX 2612, WELLINGTON 6140, NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM (INC)

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on <u>Saturday</u>, 8 November 2014, in the Fiducia Centre, commencing at 5pm.

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Apologies
- 3. Minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting
- 4. Matters arising.
- 5. Annual Report of the President
- 6. Annual Report of the Vice-President Marketing & Operations
- 7. Annual Report of the Vice-President Maintainence & Engineering
- 8. Annual Report of the Treasurer including Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2014.
- 9. Election of Officers for the incoming year.
- 10.General Business.
 - a. Subscriptions for 2015
 - b. Kaiwarra Trackless Tram
 - c. Any other business.*
- * Note; members who wish to raise any item of General Business must notify the undersigned prior to commencement of the meeting.

Refreshments will be provided prior to the meeting between 4.30 and 5pm.

Henry Brittain Hon Secretary.

12 October 2014

Owner and operator of the Kapiti Coast Electric Tramway, Queen Elizabeth Park, MacKay's Crossing, Paekakariki, New Zealand Publisher of "Tramway Topics"

To Note for your Diary, cont.

Sunday 18th January 2015 (Wellington Anniversary Weekend)

Discover Kapiti Heritage Day

10AM - 4PM

WIN!

VISIT AT LEAST THREE MUSEUMS ON THE DAY, PICK UP A PASS, AND GO IN THE DRAW FOR FABULOUS

1st prize: Two Steam Inc. tickets, 7th March excursion (value \$258)

- 6 x family passes on QE Park Tramway 6 x family passes to Southward Car Museum
- * competition entry is free. Get your pass clipped at any participating venue

STEAM INCORPORATED

219 State Highway 1, Paekakariki 5258 04 292 8662



Dedicated to restoring steam and diesel locomotives and rolling stock, with exciting excursions throughout the year.

Check the website for upcoming open days and excursions.

SOUTHWARD CAR MUSEUM

Otaihanga Road, (off State Hwy 1) Paraparaumu



World class collection of 350 cars plus planes, bikes, cafe and more

Open 7 days 9am - 4.30pm, except Christmas Day and Good Friday. Admission charges apply

PAEKAKARIKI STATION MUSEUM

Tilley Road, Paekakariki 04 904 9970



Displays of rail history and Paekakariki heritage. In the station building, SH1.

Open Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays 11am - 3pm.

AVIATION MUSEUM

Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu



Wonderful models and displays, sees a history of Paraparaumu airport and general aviation. Open Sundays 10am - 4pm. Admission by donation.

WELLINGTON TRAMWAY MUSEUM

Queen Elizabeth Park Paekakariki, Kapiti Coast 04 292 8361

OTAKI MUSEUM

Otaki Museum 49 Main Street, Otaki 06 364 6886

KAPITI COAST MUSEUM

Elizabeth Street Waikanae 04 905 6313

MAHARA GALLERY

20 Mahara Place, Waikanae, 04 902 6242



Ride the Heritage Wellington trams through the park to the beach, browse through the museum.

Open Saturdays, Sunday and Public Holidays except Christmas Day 11am - 4.30pm Tram ride charges apply

Engaging exhibitions featuring

history of Otaki, Te Horo and

Open Thursdays to Saturdays 10am - 2pm

Free Entry, donations welcome.

Colonial collections focusing on Waikanae

Open Saturday and Sunday 2pm - 4pm

Free Entry, donations welcome.

Mahara Gallery is the district public gallery for the Kapiti

Open Tues-Sat 10am-4pm Sun 1pm-4pm, closed Mon. Free entry

Friday 6th February 2015 (Waitangi Day)

Preliminary Plans: Ngati Toa, alongside Kapiti Coast District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council are working together to organise Waitangi Day celebrations in 2015 at Queen Elizabeth Park. Initial thoughts are to provide an event which is affordable for the whole family and providing some activities free of charge. Parking will be available at the entrance end of the park and people would ride the tram, walk along or bike the 2km down the road down to the beach area which is where the entertainment will be setup.

This potentially could be another big and busy day for the Museum. More news as it becomes available.

TRAMLINES 5 OCTOBER 2014

RECENT EVENTS

WRC TREE PLANTING DAY – SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST

Report from Keith McGavin

Thanks to all who were able to attend. There were about 35 in all from various groups – mainly the Kapiti Aeromodellers and the Tramway Museum. Everything was set out and ready for us and in less than an hour, the group had planted 450 plants around a small pond adjacent to the central roadway to the beach.

Many of the Group returned from the planting area (near the caretaker's driveway on the depot side of the loop) by tram 159 which travelled directly from there to Road 1 right in front of the Barn entrance and adjacent to the



Photo: Keith McGavin

Fiducia Centre for afternoon tea (where we all de-trammed). Possibly the first time a tram has travelled this precise route with passengers - because trams generally have no choice but to go into the arrival road due to the sprung point and the start of the depot loop. On this occasion the point had, for other reasons, been adjusted so that it was adjustable with a points bar. So it was quite impressive to pull up alongside our afternoon tea!

It was a good opportunity to meet with the model aeroplane people, and also regional council staff.

AGE ON THE GO – WAIKANAE – SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER Report from Robert Hatten

Not a bad day. Perfect weather, and a steady influx of people. We gave away lots of brochures and a few membership forms, so from a PR point of view it was worthwhile. We sold \$72.00 worth of stock as well, which was a bonus.

Thanks to Noel and Iain for helping out on the stand.

MARKETING TO SCHOOLS

Efforts this year to increase the number of visits by schools to the Museum, including contacting all schools with details of the Museum and what we can offer, are having some effect. Several bookings have been made for special charters before the end of the year.

End of the Penny Section (advertisement)

When *The End of the Penny Section* (the revised, enlarged edition) was released in 1993 – Grantham House also had printed 125 copies which were leather bound with a mark ribbon, gold edged pages and hand numbered – this limited edition was never sold through bookshops – and was only advertised once in *Tramway Topics*. We retained 12 (twelve) copies at the time.

These copies are now available for purchase for \$99.00 Post Free – inquire – to graham@ghbil.com with Visa or Mastercard details:- Name of Card / Card number / expiry date.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC STATISTICS From Keith McGavin

August 2014

Not a good month and the second lowest passenger journeys for August that we have recorded in the last 10 years. 382 journeys compared with 887 the previous year.

September 2014

A comparative recovery – journeys were up on September 2013 but this was only because of a large school party on 3rd September. 793 passenger journeys compared with 723 last year.

Year to date, 1st quarter, July-September 2014

For the first three months of the financial year just 1,541 passenger journeys have been recorded which is 967 (39%) lower than last year and our lowest number for at least ten years.

The foregoing is a salutary lesson as to how weather can affect us. In May and June this year our passenger numbers for those months set new records but with both July and August being cold and wet – at least on a lot of our operating days – we suffered!

Time will tell as to whether we can catch up the 967 No. shortfall compared with last year. Christmas / January will be vital!

PEOPLE NEWSKapiti Mayor visits Tramway Museum



Above: The newly elected Mayor of Kapiti, Ross Church (left) visited the Tramway Museum at our invitation on Wednesday 1st October. Here he is with our President, Russell Jenkins (centre) and Secretary, Henry Brittain in the Fiducia Centre. Ross admitted that although a long term resident of Kapiti he had not previously visited. He was impressed with what he saw – maybe his known interest in vintage cars might, in time, extend to vintage (tram)cars!

Photo: Trevor Burling

PEOPLE NEWS continued

New Members:

Welcome to our newest members – **Bernhard & Monika Riddering** of Paraparaumu, and **Ray Sifflett** of Wellington.

Bernhard can frequently be seen at the Museum on a Wednesday employing his not inconsiderable skills working on tram 260's restoration.

Ray Sifflett is a Go Wellington bus driver and has been driving with them since the 1980's. He is one of the Karori depot drivers and has always been interested in trams as his father was a WCT shiftman and worked at both Karori depot when trolley buses were serviced there and at Kilbirnie when trams were being maintained there. He frequently calls into the tramway on a Sunday which his usual day off.

Congratulations:

To our member the **Hon. Peter Dunne** on his re-election to Parliament in the recent elections and his appointment as Minister of Internal Affairs, Associate Minister of Health and Associate Minister of Conservation; and to

the **mother of member Lawrence Bailey**, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday; and to

Win & Gus Weir who recently celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary!

The casualty list:

Noel Donaldson, ex Wellington motorman and longtime WTM member is seriously ill in Kenepuru hospital. His condition is reported as "stable".

Great to see **Jim Bentall** up and about again after his recent surgery.

Phil Austin is out of hospital but will have a lengthy recuperation after being rushed to hospital requiring urgent surgery to repair his heart.

Trevor Burling is currently recovering at home from a bout of shingles. Get Well soon Trevor.

Sympathy:

Barry Ollerenshaw's sister passed away recently. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Barry for the loss of his sister, and to the family for the loss of their mother and auntie.



Steve Green "member" -

submitted by Trevor Burling

Have you noticed the sparkling glass and shiny brass and clean floors of our service trams?

It is of paramount importance that our trams are presented to the public in a clean and tidy condition. This first impression visitors to the museum get is how we present our vehicles. A tram ride is what they come here for and if the vehicles are clean and tidy, their experience is a pleasant journey back in time on a well presented vintage tram.

Someone has to make the effort to keep our trams presentable and in this case it is long time member Steve Green who fronts up every Wednesday to vacuum the floors, clean the windows and polish the brass.

Steve's efforts mean that other staff are released to carry out various tasks around the museum site in the knowledge that Steve is doing a very important job in preparing our trams for service.

Thank you, Steve.



Above, and at left, Steve at work getting those brasses shining on tram 159.

Photos: above, Keith McGavin, 15 Oct 2014 left, Trevor Burling, 1 Oct 2014

Combination 17 Update From Trevor Burling

All photos in this item are by Trevor Burling.

Progress to Date

On 22 September Alan Smith and Trevor Burling paid a visit to The Wheelwright Shop at Gladstone, Wairarapa to look at progress on the work being done on Wellington Combination Tram No.17.

It would be nice to be able to contact the family that gave 17 to us so they could see the transformation taking place to restore their former holiday home to its former glory. Does anyone have a name and address?

Trevor Burling



Completed roof section showing new bows and moulding attached



Completed pillars



Inner fascia board showing blind cavity

Since our visit on 8 August, considerable progress has been made with the fabrication of new pillars, cant rail and quarter bows on the open section side that had been completely removed when 17 was turned into a holiday house in Raumati South.

The main components are now completed and the finer details of blind slots, blind cavities at the top of the pillars and inner fascia board to accommodate the rolled up blinds are now complete.

No.17's open section has barriers running the full length of the open section that can be raised and lowered by the conductor to allow passengers to board and alight. The barriers can be secured in the raised position by retainers set into the centre pillars. The retainer cavities have been cut into the finished pillars and the retainers will be fitted when Greg and his team have run some of the inner trimmings that will replace the missing ones or those damaged during conversion to a bach.

Combination 17 Update continued:



New trim at base of clerestory

Cavity for barrier retaining latch

No. 17 was constructed in the United Kingdom and came to New Zealand in CKD form.

Therefore the timber used is mainly English Ash and Greg has a stock of American Ash that is the same in appearance and strength properties.

The open section seats are presently being manufactured. They will be the same in appearance as double saloon seats, but narrower because of less room for the corridor. The seats were originally cross bench seats and were altered following the 1913 legislation requiring internal access for the conductor.

More on the seats in the next tram 17 article.



Existing clerestory end above motorman's cabin



Matching the new with the old.
This is the only remaining original open section pillar. From this details are replicated on to new stock for replacement of missing pillars at A end.

Combination 17 Update continued:

Controllers:

When the time comes Tram 17 will be fitted with the GE controllers currently in use in our tram 151, and 151 will receive two of our spare BTH510 type controllers similar to those fitted to tram 159.

Trucks

Fundraising for the trucks for 17 continues and thanks to the generosity of many members, plus contributions from museum visitors, over \$12,000 has already been raised. We are targeting \$60,000 to provide the seeding funds for an application to the Lottery Grants Board for a further \$120,000. With your assistance we will achieve this and No.17 will run once more!

If you would like to make a donation please send a cheque to the Wellington Tramway Museum at P O Box 2612, Wellington 6140, or alternatively credit our bank account via internet banking at ANZ Bank, account No. 06 0501 0075414 00 indicating in the reference field what the payment is for. A receipt will be sent and remember, your payment is a charitable donation and therefore qualifies for a tax rebate.



Above: Two sliding doors from our stock (ex trams that were "dismantled" by members in the 1970's) loaded on to Henry Brittain's trailer for transport to Gladstone where they will potentially be used in the restoration of tram 17.

**Photo: Keith McGavin, 15th October 2014*

Tram 260 — see also front page photo

On-going work over the past couple of months on the tram body has comprised:

- Rubbing down, filling, and undercoating the exterior to achieve a high quality finish (continuing);
- Joinery renovations to a number of the exterior wooden folding doors;
- Internal wiring (continuing).

On the chassis, underneath

- The cleaning down and applying protective paint coatings;
- Attachment of king pin housings and king pins – now complete.

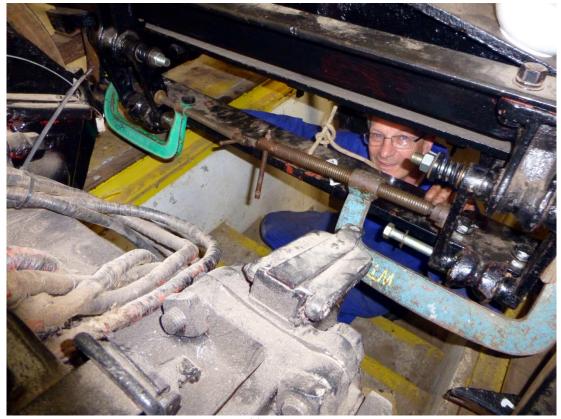
Trucks:

- The brake pull off mechanisms have been fitted, with new springs used and new bronze guide collars.
- The bronze castings which control and isolate the mag brakes have been machined and are ready for fitting to the truck.
- The trucks are largely complete with the fitting of the mag brakes and the jazz springs still to be done.



Above: Brendan Bulliff applying paint to one of the repaired folding doors for tram 260, 15th October 2014.

Photo: Keith McGavin



Above: Colin Dash is under there! The process of fixing the very heavy main brake beam in place on the A end truck for 260 - with the aid of G clamps and rope! 15th October 2014. *Photo: Keith McGavin*

Kiosk / Platform Shelter Renovation

A long awaited project – the reroofing and renovation of the kiosk / platform shelter veranda – is at last underway.

Under the capable guidance of Steve Porter assisted by Murray Gibson and other members, the first stage of fixing plywood cladding to the underside of the veranda has been completed and the next job is to remove the old roofing iron and replace it with new colour steel.

It is expected that this will be completed by the end of the month and with new guttering installed and the building painted, it will be ready for our summer operations.



Above: Steve Porter and Murray Gibson busy fixing plywood panels to form a veranda ceiling for the platform shelter / kiosk. Marlene Wilson looks on.

Photo: Mike Flinn, 4th October 2014

NEWS ITEM - NEW CHAIRMAN FOR COTMA

Congratulations to Dave Hinman of the Tramway Historical Society, Ferrymead, Christchurch, for his recent appointment as Chairman of COTMA. Dave is a past President of The Tramway Historical Society and is a past New Zealand representative on the COTMA Board and has latterly been filling in as Acting Chairman.

The next COTMA Conference will be in Christchurch in 2016 followed by Perth in 2018.

Recent Site Happenings



Above: The excavator at work down the line – clearing sight lines, 27th September 2014. Colin Dash (on the excavator) and Mike Flinn

Photo: Allan Neilson



Leyland bus 255, housed by WTM for some years for the Omnibus Society, has departed for Taumarunui having been sold. That's a model railway on the roof! – it has gone to member Trevor Bettany. *Photo: Mike Flinn, 6th Sept. 2014*



Above: Our "new" old excavator transport. The ex Wellington Harbour Board Tug and trailer have been pressed into service to provide a means of transporting the excavator around the tramway.

Photo: Mike Flinn, 27th September 2014

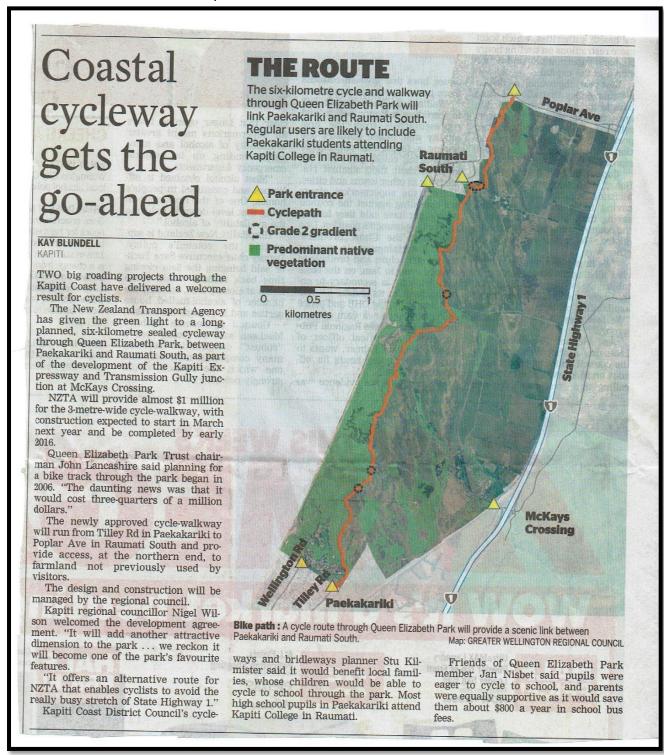
On 4th October Mike Flinn and Colin Dash removed soil from behind the Fiducia Centre where it was then utilised to fill in all the dips/holes that appear in the yard behind the barn and workshop. Colin kindly brought in his rotary hoe to break the soil up for ease of moving.

Recently the area from Poles 34 to 71 was either weeded behind or weed sprayed around.

The drainage trench to allow runoff from the points outside road 5 has been completed. Various on going trackwork has also been carried out down the line.

AROUND THE WIDER PARK

On 16th October the DomPost reported as follows:



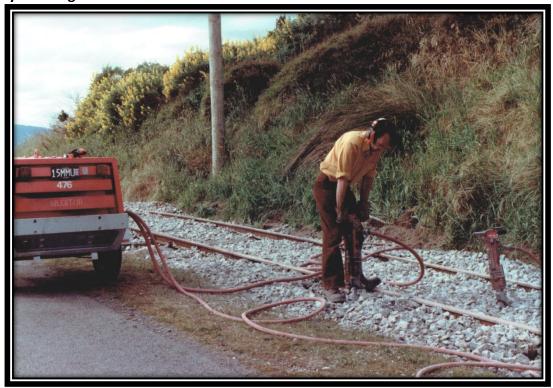
Comment by Keith McGavin

A sealed cycleway between Paekakariki and Raumati South will mean that for the first time since bus services ceased in 1981 significant numbers of the public will be able to access the MacKay's Crossing area other than by car. There is potential for some of these to be attracted into a Museum visit and tram ride —and we need to give some thought as to the best way of doing this. We need to welcome this initiative.

TRAMLINES 15 OCTOBER 2014

PICTURE FROM THE PAST

Thirty Years ago - 1984



Above: A younger Mike Flinn compacting ballast on the newly laid track at the top of the hill, above the Beach, Saturday 15th December 1984. The first tram to the top of the hill was No.238 on 31st December.

Photo: Keith McGavin

DONATIONS & BEQUESTS TO THE MUSEUM

We are very grateful for the donations that many members have made to the Wellington Tramway Museum over the past years, and especially for the larger donations that some members have generously made. There are also numerous donations of material of various kinds to add to our archival collection for which the Museum is very grateful.

The Museum's current key projects include the restoration of tram 17 and completing the restoration of tram 260 – including overhauling its trucks. Donations towards these projects, or for the general purposes of the Museum, would be very gratefully received. Note that all donations to the Museum are deductible for tax purposes (Wellington Tramway Museum Incorporated – Registered Charity No.38985.) Please send any monetary donations to the Hon. Treasurer, Wellington Tramway Museum Inc., P.O. Box 2612, Wellington, New Zealand.

The Museum has also benefited on a number of occasions from monetary bequests that members, who are sadly no longer with us, were kind enough to make provision for in their Will. However not everyone makes a Will, though doing so eases the administration of a person's affairs after their passing.

If you are considering financially supporting the Museum out of the proceeds of your estate, we encourage you to formalise the bequest (and any other such arrangements) by making provision for it in a Will. If you would like to talk in confidence about this, please call Treasurer Michael Boyton, by e-mail first up at treasurer@wellingtontrams.org.nz or phone 03-526-7777 (Michael will call you back to save tolls costs).

Tramlines is the bi-monthly 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 to compete with Tramway Topics, our journal of historical and general tramway record, or our Website which is our instantly-updated Museum fact resource and notice to the wider world. Contributions and notes welcomed.

Text compiled by Marlene Wilson, m.scie@xtra.co.nz, phone 04 299 1600. Keith McGavin is photographic editor and carries out the formatting. 20/10/2014. The next issue is due out in EARLY DECEMBER. Contributions to Marlene please.