

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Progress report from the Publicity Officer (September 1971)

The Ballarat City Council has given us the 'Green light' to operate our tourist tramway service on a trial basis in the three months to December 1971.

We will be allowed to operate in Wendouree Parade, from Victoria Avenue and Ripon Street to the Olympic Monument in Hamilton Avenue at Weekends, as a tourist and historical attraction.

The Council says the approval will be subject to satisfactory negotiations with the State Electricity Commission and a proper insurance cover. Negotiations are about to commence with the S.E.C. in order to obtain permission to operate the service from that Depot for the trial period. Our solicitor has completed the Constitution and Articles of Association for incorporation and these will be presented to a Public Meeting in Melbourne on Wednesday, 8th September, 1971, at 8.00pm. The venue will be the Victorian Railways Institute, but please check the lift for the exact room number.

Other reports will be given, members will have the opportunity to ask questions and join in discussions about the project. At the end of the business section suitable entertainment will be presented.

The meeting to actually incorporate the Society will be held in Ballarat, commencing at 11.45am on Sunday, 19th September 1971 and the venue will be the Ballarat Railway Station.

The City Council approval does not, by any means, mean that all our problems are over. In fact, many of them are just starting, Finance is going to be our greatest immediate problem. 'Vintage Train' passengers and members of the ARHS (Western Australian Division) receiving this circular, are asked to complete the attached form and forward their subscription to the Secretary if they are at all interested in joining this worthwhile project.

Our cars are numbers 14, 26, 27, 28, 38, 40. The S.E.C. has generously agreed to give us an adequate supply of spare parts and equipment for use in operations.

The Council has approved only a trial operation, so it will be up to us to prove that the Wendouree Parade Tramway is a valuable tourist and historical attraction, and that we are competent to operate it on a voluntary basis.

After Incorporation, all members will be notified of any different procedures that may have to be adopted, and, by that time we should be able to outline definite plans for operation.

Once again the Board of the Society calls on all enthusiasts to remember that all cars are to be preserved (at least one has left the system already) and that vandalism, no matter how minor it may seem, will definitely not be tolerated under any circumstances. The first closure to Victoria Street and Drummond Street North was very quiet and orderly, and it is hoped the rest of the system will finish that way.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please forward to The Secretary, B.T.P.S., 5/12 Errard Street South, Ballarat, 3350.

Dear Sir, please find enclosed \$2.00 being my initial subscription to the Society.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

Please make cheques payable to B.T.P.S. Money Orders payable at Ballarat.