

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, Victoria 3350

Information to Members and Interested Parties - October 1971.

The Ballarat City Council has given favourable consideration, in principle, to the Society's proposals to construct a tramway museum service on the existing tram line in Wendouree Parade between the north and south entrances (stone pillars) of the Botanic Gardens and within the Botanical Gardens Reserve, about 0.85 mile.

The Council has also given favourable consideration to the Society's plan to build a depot to house six trams, immediately south of the Fish Hatchery enclosure.

The approval is on condition that the Society assumes the financial responsibility for the new line, overhead and fittings to connect the Wendouree Parade track with the depot, and the building of the depot premises.

This is a big step forward in the Society's progress but, one of the Council's conditions is that we commence work by 8th November. The BTPS Board is confident that the conditions can be met, but we need YOUR support.

We will have to raise a substantial amount of money within a short time. Full details of our financial proposals are set out on the enclosed form.

The Council's decisions were made known at the Council meeting on 11th October. They followed several deputations by your Board.

We need to know how our members and friends can assist in any way at all. Please write to the Secretary (at the above address) by 29th October, advising him of how often you would be able to work, whether you can provide transport to Ballarat, your particular skills and what tools (if any) you can provide. We expect to be able to give a fairly definite date for the commencement of operations shortly but, for the initial period, most staffing of the cars will be by former SEC tramwaymen, while Society volunteers will concentrate on the depot and the cars, particularly 28, which is damaged at one end.

The Society has sent a deputation to the Minister for Fuel and Power, Mr Balfour, requesting that the existing depot, or portion thereof, be retained permanently, for the Society's use. As yet, we haven't received a reply from the Minister.

The Society and the Directors of the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria have met to discuss mutual problems and related matters. The meeting was most successful, with each Society assuring the other of co-operation, and several resolutions being passed with regard to mutual access to certain equipment.

The Board has accepted the resignation of Mr Geoff Dean, who is now on an extended overseas honeymoon, following his marriage to BTPS member, Miss Carolyn Mills. The Board extends its thanks to Geoff for his valued work for the Society, and looks forward to having his help once again, after he returns home. The Board has also accepted the resignation of Mr Neville Gower.

The Board is now comprised of Hal Cain (President), Bill Jessup (Vice President), Richard Gilbert (Secretary), Melton Foo (Assistant Secretary), Campbell Duncan (Treasurer), Paul Nicholson (Publicity Officer) and four Committeemen, Maurie Calnin, Frank Hanrahan, George Netherway and Barry Ward.

Mr Frank Hanrahan of Ballarat was recently appointed to the Board. There is still one vacancy.

Board meetings continue to be held regularly. In addition, we have co-opted the services of several members and interested parties.

Driver instruction is well underway, with the valued assistance of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board. On 17th October, four members (all MMTB employees) were given a day's instruction on service car 16, which has similar control equipment to our trams. These four members will form the nucleus of our driver trainer squad. The Society is extremely grateful to the MMTB and the staff of the Drivers' School at Hawthorn for their encouragement and assistance in our project.

The Ballarat closure day was Sunday, 19th September. Before the service started, we had a general meeting at the Provincial Hotel in Lydiard Street. The meeting adopted the Constitution prepared by our Solicitor, member, Shane McCarthy, who is now arranging the incorporation of the BTPS.

The Society received valuable publicity on the last day when our members handed out circulars to the hundreds of people who packed the cars. The last service was operated by one of our cars, 40, and left Lydiard Street for Sebastopol, not long after the scheduled 10.15pm departure. No 39 followed 40 to the terminus, where there were an estimated 3,000 people waiting to say goodbye to the trams. At Rubicon Street, the Mayor of Sebastopol, Cr Donald "handed over" 40 to the Mayor of Ballarat, Cr Chisholm, who drove it away. All passengers, except SEC employees, left the car at Hospital Corner. No 40 entered the depot for the last time about midnight, and the doors were closed.

All cars, except ours, have been removed from the depot. All have gone to preservation and museum groups, except 35 and 42. No 35 is a shelter shed at the Ballarat College and has already been the target of much vandalism. No 42 is being converted to a classroom at a church at Sebastopol, and all its equipment has been stripped and sold at very high prices. Most of the overhead wire has been removed.

The Society has for sale at 20c each (inc postage) copies of the Ballarat Courier of 20th September. This issue features an account of the last run, and a 12-page supplement on the history of the trams.

The Society has applied to the MMTB for permission to operate 36 on a special tour of the former Hawthorn Tramways Trust lines one Saturday afternoon soon. The continued operation of 36 is subject to successful negotiations between the MMTB and the owners of the car, the Hawthorn City Council. No 36 operated in Melbourne in the week after the Ballarat closure as a Tourism Week promotion for the provincial city. Members interested in the tour are asked to send a stamped addressed envelope, marked "36 Tour" to the Secretary.

Society member, Jeffrey Bounds, is organising a tour in Bendigo on 14th November, using former Ballarat tram, 7. Jeffrey will donate any surplus to the Society. All interested write direct to Jeffrey Bounds, 29 Melby Avenue, East St Kilda, Victoria, 3183, sending a s.a.e.

IMPORTANT: Please note that ALL correspondence to the Society should now be sent to the official address, P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, Victoria, 3350.

Paul Nicholson,
Publicity Officer,
20th October 1971.