

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, Victoria 3350

Information for Members and Interested Parties - December 1971.

The BTPS has made considerable progress since the last information bulletin, so much so that the time is fast approaching when we will be able to set an opening date. Until then, all we can say is that it will be some time in the New Year.

The Society's application for a Co-operative Society Loan of \$4000 has been approved. A separate Co-operative Loan Society has to be set up to conduct the loan. It is expected that Members will contribute to the Co-operative Loan Society by purchasing a number of shares. Full details and application forms will be sent out either with the next information bulletin, or in a separate mailout.

However, it is necessary to call a meeting to launch the Co-operative Loan Society, and this will be held next Sunday, 19th December, in conjunction with our work party. You are asked to gather at the Gardens Loop (outside the Kiosk) at 12 Noon.

Our appeal for donations from Members has been most encouraging, and so far, about \$1700 has been raised. One Ballarat organisation has promised us a considerable sum, and several companies have responded to our appeal for donations. The Ballarat City Council will be providing \$750 towards the cost of housing tram No 14. The Board expects that it will cost at least \$6000 to commence operations.

All Melbourne and Ballarat members will find an indemnity form enclosed with this mailout. In most cases we know whether a Member is 21 or over, but if you have been forwarded an Adult indemnity form and you are under 21, please write to the Secretary, or phone Vice-President, Bill Jessup, (03) 874 5329.

The Society is asking voluntary workers to sign a form of indemnity before they carry out work for the Society. The main purpose of the indemnity is to protect the Society, its Officers and its Members from liability if any accident occurs to a volunteer worker. The indemnity is also intended to impress on volunteer workers the need to exercise great care in carrying out work on the Society's projects.

The signing of the indemnity does not necessarily mean volunteer workers will be unprotected in the case of accident. The Society has taken out a volunteer workers' insurance policy which will enable voluntary payments to be made to anyone who is hurt while working on the Society's projects, and this insurance provides, among other things, for weekly payments to be made on account of a volunteer who is prevented from attending his normal occupation by such an accident.

Melbourne and Ballarat Members are asked to complete this form and return it to the Secretary, together with your membership cards, which is also included with this mailout. When a Member signs the indemnity, his card will be endorsed. This card should be carried at all times when working for the Society. The system is the same as that applied by the TMSV and "Puffing Billy".

Society officials carry a supply of indemnity forms at work parties in case a non-member or Member who hasn't yet signed turns up.

The first full scale work party was held last Sunday, 12th December, and a considerable amount of work was completed.

There will be a big work party next Sunday, 19th December, in conjunction with the Co-operative Loan Society meeting. We expect to be allowed into the SEC Depot to remove all our portable equipment. Entry to the SEC Depot is strictly prohibited, except on organised BTPS work parties, which will be carried out on arrangement with the SEC. Our section of track has become clogged with dirt, and we intend to remove this next Sunday. Naturally, the more volunteers that turn up, the easier the job will be. Please bring along a shovel and any other tools suitable for the work.

Last Sunday, our work captured the attention of many people picnicking at the Gardens and we have made arrangements to hand them (our prospective passengers) circulars explaining what the BTPS is doing.

The meeting place for the work party will be at the BTPS depot site at 10.30am. To get there, turn right into Wandouree Parade from Sturt Street West and drive past the stone pillars until you see the first public toilet block on the left. There is a dirt track that runs from there right to our depot site, which is immediately south of the Trout Hatchery. People who can't make it to the work party are asked to turn up at the Gardens Loop at 12 Noon for the Co-operative Loan Society meeting. The work party will be suspended while the meeting is in progress, and will resume immediately afterwards.

People who can provide, or who require transport are asked to phone either Bill Jessup, (03) 874 5329 or Paul Nicholson, (03) 89 6228. Although drivers can't charge fares to take people to and from Ballarat, it is suggested that passengers present their driver with a "gift" of \$2 for the return trip when they arrive at the work site.

Our plans at the moment are divided into three stages.

The first is the construction of the depot. The Board is now considering a tender for the construction of the depot from start to finish. This is a very competitive tender, and the Board expects to let a contract shortly. Because of the urgency of our work, our volunteers will be able to concentrate on the track work, which is the second stage. Member, Ralph Cleary, who has had considerable experience with the track at "Puffing Billy", has given the Society much valued advice on the connecting track, and work has already started. Work parties over the Christmas-New Year period will concentrate on track construction. The third stage is the installation of the electrical equipment, which will be under the supervision of Board Member, Frank Hanrahan. This will take place after the depot and connecting track have been completed, and the erection of the overhead will be part of this stage.

Once this work has been completed, and the legal position clarified, we expect to be in a position to operate test trips, and announce a date for the official re-opening.

Work parties will be held over the Christmas period and throughout January. Melbourne Members are asked to contact Bill Jessup (03) 874 5329, and Ballarat Members Hal Cain (055) 41 7536 for information as to what is being done on the particular days.

The Board is considering the opening day and other matters such as whether traffic staff will wear uniforms. We are asking for your suggestions. Please write to the Publicity Officer by 8th January.

We still need many donations. If you haven't yet send yours, please forward it without delay.

Paul Nicholson,
Publicity Officer,
14th December 1971.