

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, Victoria 3350

Information for Members and Interested Parties - February 1972.

We are now Australia's biggest tramway society. The membership is now more than 280, making the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society the biggest group of its type in Australia.

The Board extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Peter Stork, (Kogarah, NSW); David Burke, (Mosman, NSW); Albert Berg, (St Kilda); Peter Bland, (Abbotsford); Michael Cogan, (Canberra City, ACT); H. Hussey, (North Balwyn); C. Cross (North Caulfield); Richard Gilchrist, (Hobart, Tas); O. Logan, (Cheltenham); Graeme Daniel, (Surrey Hills), Edward Quick, (Ballarat), Edward Stevenson, (Ballarat).

Attendance at our work parties has been most encouraging, but more workers are always required. The Board is grateful for this assistance, but it is necessary that we receive additional help in the next few months. If you feel you can make a work party, please contact our Rostering Officer, Bill Jessup. It doesn't matter whether you can help once a month, once a fortnight or once a week. It is always possible to arrange a lift from Melbourne, and our transport scheme is working well.

The foundations for our depot have been dug, and they are now ready for the concrete to be poured. The reason for the delay in the work has been the difficulty the Board has encountered in finding a contractor in Ballarat to pour the foundations, but the job is expected to be carried out in the next few days. Once the foundations are laid and set, the builder will be able to move in and start work on our depot.

The first meeting of the B. T. P. S. CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED was held in Ballarat on 6th February 1972. Mr George Netherway was appointed Chairman of Directors. The Board allotted shares to the value of \$2000. The need for extra monies is urgent (hence the new prospectus to clarify matters) so we can make an application for the Government Guarantee during the first week of March.

The BTPS has a stand at the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria's annual Moomba exhibition, to be held at the Tramway Hall, Stanhope Street Malvern, (off Glenferrie Road), from Saturday 4th March to Monday 13th March.

One of Ballarat's biggest tourist drawcards, the Begonia Festival, will be held next month, from Friday 3rd March to Monday 13th March. For further information, please phone the Begonia Festival Committee (Area Code 053) 3I 199I or call at either of the two information centres, in Sturt Street (opposite the Town Hall) or in the Botanic Gardens (opposite Begonia House).

Several Board Members will be on holidays during March. All Melbourne telephone enquiries should be directed to the Secretary, Richard Gilbert (Area Code 03) 90 3466, and Ballarat enquiries through the President, Hal Cain, (Area Code 053) 4I 7536.

The Society is still calling for outright donations. Please note that all donations of \$2 or more are now tax deductible.

When work parties are conducted at the SEC Depot in Wendouree Parade, one of our trams is always towed out for public display and to attract interest from tourist. This venture proved very successful and has resulted in some donations and membership applications.

Subscriptions to our official magazine, 'Trolley Wire' are now being received at P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, Victoria, 3350. The subscription is optional for B.T.P.S. Members, and the cost is \$2.10 for the year (six issues). This is separate from your membership fee. In addition, the October 1971 and the December 1971 issues each contain a considerable amount of information on Ballarat and the B.T.P.S. so, if you require these, please include an extra 60 cents.

'Trolley Wire' is published in Sydney on behalf of the South Pacific Electric Railway, Australian Electric Transport Museum (Adelaide), Western Australian Electric Transport Association and, of course, us.

Our non-enthusiast members will find the magazine very interesting and informative because the articles are not too technical and do not go into excessive detail.

The Board is looking for some additional help.

Our Treasurer, Campbell Duncan, says he will soon have to relinquish his position because of increasing university commitments. At this stage of the Society's development, the position of Treasurer is a very challenging and rewarding one, and if you are prepared to help the Society in this field, please contact the Secretary.

When we are incorporated, an Auditor will be required, by law. We are anxious to find a qualified person, either a volunteer or somebody who would offer their services at a nominal fee, because the full rates charged for this service would be a serious drain on the Society's finance.

A Sales Officer will be needed to organise our sales department. Our Vice President, Bill Jessup, is handling this work at the moment, but when operations commence, the sales department is expected to grow considerably. However, we wish to have it firmly established before then. In addition, we hope to be able to offer good discounts to Members.

We will also need some help in maintaining our depot as a Society show piece because the agreement we have signed with the Ballarat City Council refers to the condition of our depot and surroundings. We are looking for some Members or friends who have a flair for gardening. This would be an excellent opportunity for some of our Ballarat Members to help out.

If you can help in any way, please contact the Secretary.

Clyde Croft has the Driver Training Programme well underway and he is now asking Members interested in the scheme to contact him. Each trainee driver will be required to pay out of pocket expenses for the course, which is being conducted with the valued co-operation and encouragement of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board.

The next entertainment meeting in Melbourne will be held on Wednesday, 23rd February, 1972 in room 11 of the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street, Melbourne at 8.00pm. As usual members will have the opportunity to take part in the discussions about the Society's progress and suitable entertainment will be arranged. Please note this meeting in your diary because we hope for a bigger attendance than the last two meetings.

The Society is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who have assisted us over the past few months. They are too numerous to mention here, but, without them we certainly wouldn't have come as far as we have. There is plenty of hard work to be done before it will be possible to ride the trams, so please give our appeals for assistance your most urgent attention.

PAUL NICHOLSON
PUBLICITY OFFICER 8/2/72.