

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, Victoria 3350

Information for Members and interested parties - March 1972

NEW MEMBERS: The Board of the B.T.P.S. welcomes the following new members and thanks them for their support in preserving part of Australia's history for the benefit and education of future generations.

Timothy Coyle (Mosman, NSW) 282. Keith Stodden (Elsternwick) 283. Warren Cox (Ballarat) 284. Miss Nina Netherway (Hawthorn) 285. Miss Zelda Martin (Burwood) 286. Mrs Nancy Kierath (North Ballarat) 287. Miss Noelene Netherway (Ballarat) 288. Terrance Oakley (Warragul) 289. Geoff Everett (Mount Waverley) 290. Graeme Redman (Ballarat) 291. Mrs. M. Calnin (Ballarat) 292. Thomas Kidd (Hawthorn) 293.

A further 12 applications for membership will be received at the next Board Meeting.

GENERAL: The foundations for our tram depot have been poured and completed at a cost of \$950.00. Member, Warren Doubleday, our Consulting Engineer, considers that this was a very competitive price in view of the difficulties involved. A contract has been let for the fabrication of the steel work and erection of the depot building, which should have commenced by the time you receive this circular. Following an appeal for further support for the B.T.P.S. Co-Operative Limited, all shares were taken out. The Co-Operative will provide the finance needed to complete the tram depot.

ENTERTAINMENT MEETINGS: A very successful public meeting was held in Melbourne on 21st February, 1972. Another meeting will be held in Room 11 of the Victorian Railways Institute on Wednesday, 26th April at 8.00pm where, in addition to the usual reports on Society progress, a guest speaker will deliver a talk of mutual interest. Please keep this night available as we are anxious to see as many members as possible in attendance.

EXHIBITIONS: The B.T.P.S. staged a very successful exhibition at the S.E.C. Depot, Ballarat, over the Labour Day Weekend as part of the Ballarat Begonia Festival. Several hundred people inspected our trams, which were specially parked on the depot fan, and there was also an historic display of photographs. The Board would like to thank all those Ballarat members who spent many hours preparing the display and helped make it the success that it was. A welcome acquisition to the display, on the Monday of the Long Weekend, was the placement of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramway Board's model of tram number 980 at the depot which aroused a lot of interest. The Society would like to thank the Greater Ballarat Association for making the tram available.

A similar exhibition will be held on Sunday, 2nd April, 1972 when the 'Vintage Train' visits Ballarat. We have also made this a 'Members Day' and everybody will be welcome to come to Ballarat to inspect the progress. It will be an ideal opportunity for members to visit us before the winter weather sets in. The Gardens offer an excellent location for a picnic lunch, and the magnificent Begonia displays are always worth attention.

WORKS: Since the last News Sheet the 'O' road points at the S.E.C. depot have been dismantled and the rail grinder is also in the progress of being dismantled and stored. Members have filled the holes surrounding the foundations at the new depot. The Board would like to thank all those who attended work parties to date.

The Victorian Railways have kindly offered to sell the Society sleepers from the Maryborough railway line. Two hundred sleepers have to be removed and transported to Ballarat over the Easter weekend. Transport has been obtained, but we need workers. The work will take place on Saturday 1st April and if needed, Sunday morning 2nd April, 1972. Meeting point will be at the S.E.C. depot at 11.00am Saturday and as arranged with the following people for Sunday.

Volunteers from Melbourne area: Phone Bill Jessup on 874 5329  
Volunteers from Ballarat area: Phone Hal Cain on 41 7536

Please keep the work party in mind, and if you feel you could assist in any way, your offer would be well appreciated.

If you require transport or have any other enquiries please contact the people mentioned previously.

For details of work parties each weekend following Easter, Bill Jessup or Hal Cain may also be contacted.

BENDIGO CLOSURE: The date we previously announced for the final closure of the tramway system was postponed due to the late delivery of replacement buses. The closure will now take place on Sunday, 16th April, 1972. Following many requests to the S.E.C. to close the tramway system on the afternoon of 16th April, the B.T.P.S. was asked to conduct an opinion poll on the question. This was conducted by Richard Gilbert and Paul Nicholson and the results, which showed that more than 80% of the people questioned favoured the earlier closure, were handed to the S.E.C. and taken into consideration along with the requests from other interested bodies. It is expected that the final tram will leave Charring Cross for Eaglehawk in the late afternoon, giving people time to catch the 6.40pm train to Melbourne.

The Golden Square and North Bendigo closures took place on Sunday, 5th March. About 125 people crowded aboard bogie car 26, which was the last car from Golden Square to the depot. Birney car 29 was brought out to take part in the final convoy and was the last car to travel from the City to Golden Square. Bogie car 24 ran the final service to North Bendigo with only 10 passengers aboard. Earlier in the evening the Society arranged for Birney car 29 to be put in service for two trips to Golden Square and one to North Bendigo. The car filled to capacity, with little coaxing from the S.E.C., in a very short time.

A Government Committee has been set up to investigate the Bendigo Trust's proposals to operate between the Central Deborah Mine, on the Golden Square line, and the North Bendigo terminus and, as a result, NO cars or equipment will be removed until 30th June 1972. We wish the Trust success in its venture.

SALES DEPARTMENT: Quality art prints of a Ballarat single truck tram are now available. The price (35 cents) includes postage in a sturdy mailing tube. The 10x14 prints, on high quality paper, have been drawn by Member, Andrew Foy, and are suitable for framing.

DUPLICATING OFFICER: An operator is required to duplicate material as required by this Society and the Light Railway Research Society of Australia. The operator would be required to duplicate material on the average of twice per month. The Light Railway Research Society of Australia would make available the duplicating machine and all paper, inks, etc.

Interested persons should apply to Bill Jessup, phone 874 5329 or write to Bill c/o 34 Kulnine Avenue, Heatherdale. 3132.

The following Sales List contains items available from our Sales Dept.  
----- Detach here -----

The Sales Officer,  
Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society,  
P.O. Box 632,  
Ballarat. Vic. 3350.

Dear Sir,

Please supply me with the following:

- ..... prints @ 35 cents each (including postage) \$ .
- ..... copies Souvenir edition of Ballarat Courier \$ .
- ..... with 12 page supplement of Ballarat trams @20c each
- ..... subscriptions to Society's official magazine
- ..... 'Trolley Wire' @ \$2.10 a year (including postage) \$ .

NAME: ..... Membership Number: .....

ADDRESS:.....