

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 632,  
Ballarat. Vic.  
3350.

SEPTEMBER 1972

Information to Members and Interested Parties

ENTERTAINMENT MEETINGS: The next entertainment meeting will be held in Room 1, Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station on Tuesday, 19th September, 1972 commencing at 8.00pm. The syllabus item will be movies by Society Board Member, Graeme Inglis, on the last days of the Bendigo Tramways. Coupled with the interesting tramways of Bendigo, Graeme's well produced films should provide for a very interesting and informative meeting.

~~The usual information and question time will also be conducted.~~

MEMBERS DAY & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Members have been advised of the Annual General Meeting to be held at 'Maxwells Garden Tea Rooms', Wendouree Parade, Ballarat on Saturday, 23rd September, 1972 commencing at 1.00pm. From 10.00am until 12.30pm, prior to the meeting, the new tram depot and surrounds will be open for inspection by Members and their families or friends. Here, we will attempt to show you what the Society has achieved in the fifteen months of its existence, and what plans are held for the future.

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens are extremely picturesque at this time of year, especially with the trams housed in their new depot, and we trust you will take advantage of the Members Inspection Day and see what goals the Society has achieved.

If you intend travelling by public transport from Melbourne, the train leaves Spencer Street at 8.30am arriving Ballarat at 10.25am. The Sturt Street West bus leaves from the old tramway centre (cnr. Sturt & Lydiard Streets) at 10.50am and you alight at Hamilton Avenue. A short walk along the tram line will take you to the Depot, ~~just inside the South Gardens Gate. The last~~ available return bus leaves Hamilton Avenue at 5.15pm and connects with the 5.55pm passenger train arriving Spencer Street at 8.00pm.

MEMBERSHIP: Our new Membership Officer, Peter Hill, is doing an excellent job and is currently sending out renewal notices. We ask that you reply as early as possible on receiving this notice as you must be financial to record a vote at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

TREASURER: Board Member Barry Ward has resigned as Treasurer and Board Member due to increasing private workload. We sincerely thank Barry for his work in both positions, which was competently handled.

The position of Treasurer will be carried by the Board until the election of a Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

PUBLICITY: Local publicity of the Society is very encouraging. During the busy weeks prior to, and during the transfer of the trams to the new depot, the 'Ballarat Courier' was printing a news item concerning the Society at least once a week which increased public awareness of us.

Maurie Calnin, a member of the Publicity Committee, was interviewed on BTV 6, the local television station, and gave a well presented account of the Society.

It is intended to place a display of historic photographs and other relics of the tramways inside one of the trams which will be opened as a museum for the public. The weather in Ballarat has been very pleasant for the past few weeks and the number of tourists inspecting our depot has been most encouraging. The opening of the museum will increase tourist awareness of the Society and its aims.

WORKS: All trams owned by the Society have now been transferred to the new depot and to say the least, our depot is now very full. After achieving this formidable task we feel we should devote a few lines to personally thanking the following members for their efforts in this particular job:-

(Cont'd over)

Hal Cain, Noel Gipps, Tony Smith, Terry Oakley, Ralph Durr, Noel Forster, Gavin Young, Andrew Cook, Lindsay Bounds, Jeffrey Bounds, Graeme Cleak, John Withers, Peter Bruce, Peter Winspur, Ian Sutherland, Eldon Hogan, Bob Merchant, Graeme Jordan, Tim Fegan, Rolph Jinks, W. Doubleday, Frank Hanrahan, Richard Gilbert.

The task was one that demanded a lot of organisation and responsibility and to all those who took part and any others whom we have omitted to list above, the Board sincerely appreciates and certainly will not forget the generous support given by you. The day the bogie trams were moved saw quite a number of people taking a day off work and this fact is much appreciated. The last of the two bogie trams were successfully placed on the new access line 6 hours after the first had been moved. A really supreme effort and one to be proud of.

For those who wonder how the task of transferring the trams was achieved, the following is a summary:-

On 17th June 4 wheeled tram No.26 was hauled by Member John Withers in his Land Rover to a point where a dirt road enters our depot. As the ground was dry and quite hard the tram was derailed and hauled along the dirt road to the depot yard. Next morning, with the assistance of Mr. Bob Davies and his crane, the tram was placed on the centre road in the shed.

After moving this tram it was decided that the others could not be moved without some difficulty and probable damage and, therefore, it was decided to construct an access line across the park from the Depot to Wendouree Parade. This was accomplished over the next 3 weekends and on 15th July 4 wheeled trams Numbers 14, 27, 28 were transferred with a lot less difficulty and effort.

The problem that confronted the engineers was one of moving the bogie trams. Eventually a plan was laid and on Tuesday 18th July 1972 the last transfer was started. Bogie tram No.38 was attached to the Land Rover and hauled along the tramway to a point opposite the access track. Four lengths of channel iron were placed on the tram line and the tram was hauled onto these. A hawser was coupled to a power winch and placed on the leading bogie of the tram and all stood back as the winch gradually hauled the tram at right angles to the line it had just arrived on. After several manouevres from the leading bogie ~~and~~ the rear bogie the tram was hauled onto the access line. The last tram to ever leave the S.E.C Depot, Number 40, was transferred to the access line in the same manner.

Over the following weekend both trams were winched into their new depot and the transfer was complete.

Works now in progress are the construction of the permanent access line which is the last physical link needed for the tramway to commence operation.

Workers are always welcome and if you find you can spend a day at a work party please contact Hal Cain on 41 7536 if you are in the Ballarat area or Bill Jessup on 874 5329 if you are in the Melbourne area.

CITY COUNCIL: The Board would like to express its congratulations in this Newsheet to Board Member, Melton Foo, who has won a position on the Ballarat City Council. We trust he has a successful term and we wish him and his family congratulations.

WANTED:: The following items are needed at our depot:-

- Old 4 gallon drums for storing dogspikes etc.
- Old rags for cleaning etc.

If you could supply any of these items please contact the Secretary at the address shown and we will collect them.

One last item we feel we should mention. The Ballarat City Council has been extremely generous in granting us use of the gardens area for our operations, and in return we ask that you do not park your car on the grass at our depot, but instead that you park on the dirt access road. The gardens are a picturesque attraction to Ballarat and we ask that you keep them that way.