

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
Information for Members and interested parties

FEBRUARY 1973

P.O.Box 632, Ballarat.  
3350

WORKS: During December and January, work has been concentrated on the construction of number two and three roads and the crossover which connects these two roads. Construction on No.1 road has not yet been possible because the points for this road were still situated at the old depot in the roadway until the second week of February. These points and associated trackwork has since been delivered to our depot, by the roadworks contractor 'Kennedys'. We thank Kennedys very much for this trackwork, which includes the Durham Point pointwork as well as the pointwork just outside the south garden gate in Wendouree Parade. The construction of the depot fan, to this stage, has not been as speedily done as it was initially hoped. Work was held up due to both the lack of workers and the weather, either hot or rain. We thank the many workers that have given us assistance during the past two months, and look forward to their assistance in the future. Of course we always welcome new workers and those workers who we have not seen for some time.

Our plans for the remainder of the month is to tidy up the depot for the Begonia Festival and to prepare the track materials for the extension across the park. Also with a bit of luck, we hope to be able to get our poles, necessary for the overhead, erected so that the overhead wiring can commence to be strung during March. Then after the Begonia Festival, we plan to do the grading required between the gravel track and Wendouree Parade, which will enable us to lay track as far as the start of the curve that will cross Wendouree Parade. Also work will be carried out on No.1 road.

In the electrical field, the concrete slab for the substation was poured on January 20th, and with a bit of luck in the financial field, we may be able to start placing and purchasing the power equipment. Anyway, work shall start and continue on the erection of the overhead, including the troughing in the depot from March onwards. Therefore if you are interested in discovering how overhead wiring is erected do not hesitate to come to Ballarat and see the progress continue.

If you wish to know what work is planned for the weekend, give Bill Jessup (874 5329) a ring, for Bill will know what work is planned (weather permitting). For our non-regular workers, if you would like to know when a special event, such as a movement of the cars etc. is being planned, let Bill know then he can contact you when the event is due to happen.

MUSEUM: Our museum display in tram No.27 is earning a steady income and providing an interesting attraction to visitors. Brochures advertising this are being distributed at Victoria in Melbourne and at other places when the occasion arises. Since its inception the museum has earned \$64 and a lesser amount has been earned by the sale of books etc.

INCORPORATION: Mr. Peter Byrne, the Honorary Society Solicitor, is still proceeding with our Incorporation. The rate of progress in this matter has quickened over the past few weeks and Mr. Byrne has said he is confident of an early result.

EXHIBITIONS: The Society will be conducting two displays for the public during the Moomba Week in Melbourne and the Begonia Week in Ballarat.

Ballarat Display: The tram depot will be open for inspection each day from Saturday 3rd March to Monday 12th March, 1973. During this period various trams will be on display outside the depot building and our museum display in tram No.27 will also be open for inspection. The depot area will be tidied up and small shrubs will be planted to add a pleasing and neat appearance to the depot area.

Camberwell Display: Each year the Moomba Festival has been conducted the Australian Model Railway Association has conducted a large exhibition in the Camberwell Civic Centre. This very well advertised and popular exhibition will be conducted again this year and it always attracts large crowds. The Society has been very fortunate to acquire a large stand at the exhibition and we will be on show to the public.

The exhibition will be open from Friday 9th March to Monday 12th March 1973 from 10.00am till 8.00pm each day. Our stand will consist of a large photo display, Sales section, which incidentally has acquired a wider range of stock, and an operating model of our tramway in Ballarat.

We hope these two exhibitions will make the name of the Society and its aims more widespread among the public. To do this we need the support of our Members. If you feel you could help as a display in either location do not hesitate to write to 'The Roster Clerk', Exhibitions Committee, B.T.P.S., P.O. Box 632, Ballarat. 3350.

Please remember the success of this exhibition depends on the Members of the Society doing their share.

**PUBLICITY:** The 'Courier' and the 'Gazette', both local newspapers in Ballarat have recently printed news items on our Society. The local television station BTV 6, filmed a short news item during the News Years weekend at our depot and this was seen by many local viewers, which brought and increase to our museum attendance the following week. Publicity of our Society should be well spread during the forthcoming exhibitions at both Ballarat and Camberwell.

**MEMBERSHIP:** As a result of publicity and our museum display being conducted in tram No.27 we have gained a few new members. This we hope will be another avenue to be fully advertised at both our exhibitions.

At our last Board of Management Meeting it was decided to create a common date when all Memberships expire, to allow a more efficient membership record to be kept. Commencing forthwith all Memberships will expire on 30th June each year.

A pro-rata system will be introduced, the full Membership year being \$2.00 and reducing by 50 cents a quarter depending on which quarter of the year a person joins the Society.

**WANTED:** The Society is still in need of a bicycle to provide transport to those workers who travel to Ballarat by train and need transport during the weekend in Ballarat. The bicycle would also allow quick communication around the City and reduce the time taken when lunches are ordered at the Gardens Tea House. If you feel you could donate a bicycle, the Secretary would be very grateful to hear from you.

**TRAMCAR MOVEMENTS:** On the weekend of 10th and 11th February our crossover was completed at the depot and three of our trams were moved to provide more equal length of roads in the building. With the aid of Member John Withers and his faithful Landrover, single truck trams No's 27 and 26 and bogie tram No.40 were hauled outside the building along with some spare wheel sets and shunted to respective roads. On the following day the trams were pushed back into the building.

Some tense moments were had during the shunting when some flanges rode up onto the head of the rail, but there were no derailments although one must admit there was a near one.

The depot looked very resplendent with 3 trams out the front of the building and the photographers soon made good use of the pleasant day.

**ELECTRICAL:** As mentioned in our works section, the concrete slab for the depot has been poured and depending on the finance available we shall proceed with the purchase of the necessary electrical equipment. The poles necessary to support the overhead should be erected during March and work will then commence on the construction and erection of wooden troughing in the depot.

Recently we obtained our overhead fittings, which had been generously donated, from the S.E.C.. Among the equipment is insulating blocks, copper ears, signal contactors, insulators and span wire. Our copper contact wire for the access line is still held by the S.E.C. and will be acquired when it is ready to be erected.

**LUNCHTIME TRAM TOURS:** A very successful lunch time tram tour was held on Wednesday, 31st January, 1973. Tram No.52 (ex Victorian Railways) was used and it travelled from South Melbourne Depot to Albert Park Beach, Railway Head Office, Latrobe Street and Victoria Parade to Hoddle Street. On the return journey the tram travelled via Collins Street.

More of these tours will be held throughout the year and will be advertised in our newsheet. If you would like to be on a mailing list for advance information of these tours please write to the 'Secretary'.

**ENTERTAINMENT MEETING:** The next Entertainment Meeting of the Society will be conducted at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Railway Station on Wednesday, 14th March, 1973 commencing at 8.00pm.

The syllabus item will be movies of American railways and cable trams in San Francisco taken by Mr. R.A. Gilbert on his recent tour to America. This promises to be a very interesting and entertaining meeting and we ask that you keep the date in mind.

The usual question and information time will also be conducted.

**TRAM TRACK REMOVAL:** The removal of tram line in Ballarat is proceeding with all hast. The line around the lake is at present being dismantled, except for our portion of course, and we have been fortunate enough to obtain various sections of straight rail as well as points and crossings.

The only tram routes left in Ballarat are:-

The Mount Pleasant Line, The Sebastopol route in Drummond Street South and Skipton Street and the lake route in Drummond Street North and MacArthur Street.