

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 632,
Ballarat.3350.

Information for Members and interested parties. May, 1973

WORKS: Since our last report much has happened. In the Depot building, beams, to support the troughing for the overhead contact wire have been erected while the trough for number 2 road has been placed in position. Work on the troughs for numbers 1 & 3 roads is expected to start in a couple of weeks. Each trough takes about a weekend to complete and place in position.

All the overhead material which had been initially placed in number 40 has been sorted and placed in number 38. This enables No.40 to be pushed out of the depot on special occasions, such as the visit of the Melbourne Steam Festival to Ballarat on Easter Monday.

Grading of the track formation between the gravel track and Wendouree Parade was carried out on 8th April by Max McBain, who we sincerely thank. Initial ballasting of this work which ran from the gravel track to within 10 feet of Wendouree Parade was carried out on the same day to protect the surface.

Tracklaying from the end of No.2 & 3 road crossover towards Wendouree Parade commenced on 28th April and by 19th May the track had been extended some 150 feet. Construction of the level crossing across the gravel road commenced on 5th May and was finished on 13th May. Some ballasting of this track has also been carried out.

Tracklaying towards Wendouree Parade will continue. At the time of writing, some more 150 feet had yet to be laid. As soon as this is completed work will commence on the installation of the pointwork for No.1 road.

On the electrical side, a transformer to be used as part of our switchroom has been purchased for a cost of \$400 from the S.E.C. This will be installed as soon as it is rewound. This work is expected to take some two months. Work on the installation of the rest of the switchroom and rectifier equipment will then commence. Erection of the overhead wiring will commence within two or three weeks of the poles being erected.

The Society, with the help of Members Terry Oakley, Tony Smith and Geoff Cargeeg have purchased a truck which will have a ladder unit, recently purchased from the Heidelberg City Council, placed on it. The Board gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the three Members mentioned above in acquiring the truck and any donations from other Members to help offset the financial burden would be very welcome. Please send any donations to 'Tower Truck Fund' at the Society's address. This vehicle will be used to erect and maintain overhead fittings.

SALES: A Sales List is enclosed to enable you to see the range of items for sale. The Begonia and Moomba week exhibitions held at Ballarat and Camberwell proved very popular for the Public and anticipated crowds attended each venue. At Ballarat the Museum Display was operated for the entire week from Saturday 3rd March to Monday 12th March, while at Camberwell the display conducted at the Model Railway Exhibition was manned from the 9th March to 12th March. Our Representatives at each display wore tramway uniforms which attracted favourable comment from the Public and also presented the image of a well organised Society

Society revenue was boosted from both exhibitions and the Board wishes to thank all Members who gave their time to help at the respective locations.

APPEAL TO BALLARAT INDUSTRY: During April an appeal to Ballarat industry for financial support in the form of donations was launched, and, due to the generosity of various firms a total of approximately \$300 has been received to date. The Board wishes to thank the various donors very sincerely for their interest and consequent donations. The Board also wishes to thank the 'Ballarat Courier' for publishing the appeal in their newspaper which in itself was considered a very worthwhile donation.

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PUBLICITY: The Ballarat 'Courier' has again taken several photographs of our Society at work and this has resulted in donations of both money and items for our Museum Display.

BICYCLE: The appeal for a bicycle was answered by Member John Withers and the Board is extremely grateful. The bicycle has received constant use since its arrival on such jobs as lunch orders, quick calls to the public telephone and other quick calls.

ENTERTAINMENT MEETING: The next public entertainment meeting will be held at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station building, Melbourne on Thursday, 7th June, 1973 commencing at 8.00pm. An interesting selection of slides featuring current works in Ballarat plus other topics will be screened. The usual information and question time will be conducted.

TRAM MAINTENANCE: Mr. R. Prentice has recently purchased various paints and ancillary items to enable him to proceed with the maintenance necessary on tram roofs and bodies. Tram No.27 will be the first 'touched up' after which other cars will receive the same work. Stripping of old roof paint was commenced on 27th May. Thanks is extended to 'Bob' for his interest in this field.

TRAM NO.32: This tram was until recently stored at the Ballarat North power house, but, in the past few weeks it was taken to Maryborough for display in the local park.

MUSEUM DISPLAY: The Museum Display in No.27 is still creating public interest and a few more relics of tramway heritage in Ballarat have come into our possession as a result of local publicity.

OPEN DAY: During the Easter Weekend the Rail Transport Museum, a New South Wales organisation, in conjunction with the Australian Railway Historical Society, The Association of Railway Enthusiasts and the Australian Railway Exploration Association organised a Steam Railway Festival in Melbourne. As part of the weekend activities a steam hauled train was run from Melbourne to Ballarat which incorporated an inspection of our Depot and Museum Display. Approximately 250 people inspected our Depot. Trams 26, 27 and 40 were placed on the depot fan for all to see and photograph. The Sales Section was transferred to tram No.40 for the day to allow better flow of people and a total of over \$200 was earned this day. The rest of the Easter Weekend proved very popular and a great boost to the society's revenue.

The Board wishes to thank the Rail Transport Museum and the Melbourne Steam Festival Committee and in particular Warren Doubleday for organising the tour to Ballarat and incorporating a visit to our tram depot.

TRAM TOUR: During the Easter weekend as part of the Steam Festival, a tram tour was jointly organised by our Society and the Association of Railway Enthusiasts. This was extremely successful and created a lot of interest especially for the Sydney passengers, some of whom had not travelled on trams before. A total of 170 passengers were carried around several Melbourne suburbs on six different trams. The success of this venture has ensured there will be more of these tours run.

TROLLEY WIRE: Our Official Magazine 'Trolley Wire' is still seeking articles of tramway interest. If you feel you could submit such an article please forward it to 'The Editor, Trolley Wire, P.O. Box 103, Sutherland, N.S.W. 2232.

The closing dates for articles are: 27th July, 28th September and 23rd November, 1973.

WORKS PROGRAMME - JUNE: The weekend of 9th & 10th June will be a busy one and as many workers as possible are asked to attend. The transformer to be used in the substation will be transported to Ballarat on the 8th and unloaded and transported around the depot area on the 9th. The poles to support the tramway overhead across the park will be erected on the 9th and 10th. Overall a lot of progress has been made with the help of some 36 members. We ask that you consider helping in our construction activities and do not leave it to the 'other fellow'. Let's see how many people can turn up in Ballarat on 9th & 10th of June.