

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS - SEPTEMBER 1973

P.O. Box 632,
Ballarat. 3350

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday July 29th at the Gardens Kiosk. We again thank Mr. Maxwell for the use of the Kiosk and for the afternoon tea which he generously provided. Ballarat turned on a bright sunny day for the many members who inspected the Depot and attended the meeting.

As a result of the meeting the Board of Management for the forthcoming year is as follows:

President	-	M. Calnin	
Ballarat Vice-President	-	F. Hanrahan	
Melbourne Vice-President	-	C.W. Jessup	
Secretary	-	C. Croft	
Treasurer	-	A. Harnwell	
Immediate Past-President	-	H. Cain	
Ordinary Board Members	-	G. Cargeeg	G. Inglis
		W. Doubleday	W. Kingsley
		R. Gilbert	+B. McCandlish

(+ Sixth Board position created by amendments to the Constitution made at a General Meeting of August 14th last. Barry McCandlish was appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy on August 24th.)

It was encouraging to see the competition at the A.G.M. for election to the Board as it shows that, unlike many other Societies, a great many of our members are prepared to put time and effort into the running of the Society "behind the scenes" - much of it on cold Friday nights in Ballarat.

MANAGEMENT

As the 73/74 year will see electric operation (as distinct from pinch-bar operation) the Board has felt it necessary to give the Society a viable administrative and managerial structure. The new structure consists of the Finance and Planning Committee and five officers whose responsibilities are as follows:

Secretary - General administration of the Society. All correspondence should be addressed to him together with any suggestions or criticisms concerning any Society activities.

Treasurer - The financial affairs of the Society and the Sales Department. The Treasurer is also acting as the Membership Officer.

General Manager - The Board has given the General Manager power to make certain day to day decisions which it is not practical to leave to be made at monthly Board meetings. He is also responsible for the activities of the Traffic and Engineering Managers.

Traffic Manager - All tramway operations, the training of operating staff, and the Museum.

Engineering Manager - Track, overhead, rolling stock, electrical, and building maintenance and construction together with the planning, co-ordination, and control of special engineering projects.

The Board has appointed Richard Gilbert, General Manager and Traffic Manager, and Warren Doubleday, Engineering Manager.

The Finance and Planning Committee consists of the President and the above officers, and any other member co-opted to serve on this committee. As its name implies the committee gives detailed consideration to the financial affairs of the Society, and attempts to plan future Society works and activities. Recommendations go to the Board for consideration.

As this committee meets fortnightly it is able to consider matters in far more depth than possible at monthly Board meetings.

ENTERTAINMENT AND GENERAL MEETINGS

A General Meeting and Entertainment Meeting was held on August 14th at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street, Melbourne. The meeting approved amendments to the Constitution allowing the A.G.M. to be held up to six months after the close of the financial year and the number of Ordinary Board Members was increased from five to six. As mentioned earlier, Barry McCandlish has been appointed to fill the new vacancy.

At the conclusion of the general meeting an entertainment meeting was held and members were treated to 8mm movies of S.E.C. tramways and early works carried out by the Society in Ballarat. It was interesting to contrast the views of the S.E.C. depot with the villa units now built on the site. Our thanks go to Graeme Inglis and Richard Gilbert for providing the films.

The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday October 2nd at 8.00 p.m. at the V.R.I. Flinders Street. The minutes of the 1972 A.G.M. will be presented and an entertainment meeting will follow.

RAIL TOURS - MIRBOO NORTH - SHOW DAY

On show day, Thursday 27th September, the Society will extend its activities 300 Kilometers east of Lake Wendouree to the heart of the Strezlecki Ranges and the branch line terminus of Mirboo North. It is hoped that as many members as possible can attend. (We will not ask you to shovel ballast at Mirboo North.) Details are enclosed.

MUSEUM

The Museum display, now housed in tram No.26, continues to prove its value to the Society. Jeff and Lindsay Bounds have created an excellent display of photographs, tickets, and other items of interest. Admission charges and sales continue to bring in much needed revenue but the greatest value of the Museum is in publicity and goodwill.

We are always looking for people interested in staffing the museum, so anybody wishing to do so should write to the Secretary for details.

CARPENTERS

Carpenters and other tradesmen are urgently required to assist in the building of office and crew facilities in the Depot at Ballarat. Would any members or friends willing to assist in this work please contact the Secretary. If you live in Ballarat, please contact the President, M. Calnin, 1416 Gregory Street, Ballarat. (Phone: Ballarat 39 1232)

INCORPORATION

We await a reply from the Law Department regarding our application to dispense with the word "Limited" in our Company name. It is anticipated that this matter will be settled before operations commence in November.

LOCAL TRAMWAY NEWS

Reconstruction of Ripon Street (Part of the former elusive View Point route) is proceeding and soon the only indication that a tramway ever existed in the Lake area will be our line and the occasional waiting shelter on the former route. Work is expected to commence early in the new year on the removal of the remaining trackwork on parts of the Drummond St. Nth. (in Drummond St. Nth. and Macarthur St.), Mt. Pleasant (Barkly St.), and Sebastopol Routes. (Skipton St.)

POWER SUPPLY

Frank Hanrahan has been working very hard over the last few months rewinding the transformer, recently obtained from the S.E.C., for our needs. The transformer will soon be ready to be installed in the sub station area at the North West corner of the shed. We have switch gear and other equipment necessary for the installation in the shed but further equipment, including an external (pole) transformer must be obtained from the S.E.C.

In order to complete the electrical works associated with tramway operation, the Society must finance the supply of a transformer by the S.E.C. at a cost of some \$3,500. This sum will be repaid by the S.E.C. over a period of ten years at approximately six per cent interest.

To this end the Treasurer would like to hear from up to 35 members who are willing to loan \$100, or multiples thereof, to the Society for the ten year period.

It should be noted that should the Society not require the transformer for any reason at a later date, (eg. cessation of operations - such optimism) the remaining money would be returned by the S.E.C. to the persons involved. The Society will guarantee the payment of interest on the money lent of up to the maximum allowed under the Companies Act for a Society such as this. The maximum is presently six per cent per annum.

A worthy cause, and the last major obstacle (financially) to the commencement of operations, so what about it?

Drop a line to the Treasurer, B.T.P.S., P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, 3350, if you are willing to assist in this project.

SALES

Our Sales Department continues to expand its range of items and these are shown on the accompanying sales list - and amendment.

The Sales Department is always interested in obtaining photographs of any tramway or railway interest so that they may be reproduced for sale. Drop a line to the Sales Department c/- 29 Melby Avenue, Balaclava 3183.

We have recently had some "BALLARAT TOURIST TRAMWAY" stickers produced. They are printed black on yellow and are selling at 15cents. Buy one and spread the word that the tramway exists.

WORKS

Tracklaying for the access track to the start of the curve across Wendouree Parade has been completed for all practical purposes, and ballasting of all trackwork is currently being undertaken. Welding or fishplating of the joints will be undertaken soon. (This will require a large amount of work due to the many and varied sections of rail, its wear etc.) Number one road will be laid after rewinding and reassembly of the transformer has taken place as until this is done crane access is required.

Drainage work around the Depot building has been completed, and the construction of cut off walls along number three road wall has alleviated the problem of the high water table which was present in the Depot building earlier this year.

Rewinding of our transformer has been virtually completed, and it will soon be reassembled. As soon as this is done, it will be shifted into position and the installation of the switchgear and rectifier units will proceed.

Span wires for the overhead are presently being erected in the area of the Depot fan and along the access track. One bracket arm has been erected and three are currently being prepared for erection. Erection of the trolley wire between the Depot and Wendouree Parade will take place this month. Within the Depot building, the ears (those fittings which hold the trolley wire to the span wires) have been installed in the troughing.

The future; The first portion of the concrete slab floor for the office buildings at the rear of the Depot was poured on the first of Spring. It rained all day, the concrete mixer became bogged at the rear of the Depot, and eventually the concrete had to be brought by wheel barrow from the mixer at the front of the shed. The shifting of our transformer to its final site at the rear of the Depot is planned for this month. Plenty of help will be required for this, as it will be rather reminiscent of shifting trams. Erection of the electrical switchgear will then commence. This work should be completed within two months, enabling us to commence running trams around the beginning of November.

November? Yes, November with your help. We need it now either physical or financial.

OVERHEAD TRUCK

It is hoped that necessary work will be completed on this vehicle soon. It will then be driven up to Ballarat from Warragul complete with "tower wagon attachments". The truck will enable us to erect the remaining overhead brackets and the trolley wire to Wendouree Parade very easily.

DISTANCE

Yes it had to happen. The length of the main line is 1.34 kilometers and the access line 195 meters making a total trackage of 1.54 kilometers.

An article outlining the Society's activities, and a photograph of the front of the Depot, appeared in "Australasian Post" on August 2nd. Thanks go to member Stuart Lodington for submitting this material.

TROLLEY WIRE - Journal of Australian Tramway Museums

The B.T.P.S. shares this journal with the following kindred groups:

- South Pacific Electric Railway - Loftus, N.S.W.
- Australian Electric Transport Museum - St. Kilda, S.A.
- Western Australian Electric Transport Museum - Perth, W.A.
- Illawarra Light Railway Museum Society - Wollongong, N.S.W.
- Steam Tram Preservation Society - Parramatta, N.S.W.

News from each of these groups appears in each bi-monthly issue of "Trolley Wire". If you are not already a subscriber why not forward \$2.60 to the Treasurer and have "Trolley Wire" mailed to you on publication for the next year.

S.P.E.R., the publishers, are always looking for articles for "Trolley Wire" so if you can help they would be glad to hear from you at P.O. Box 103, Sutherland, N.S.W., 2232.

Material for inclusion in the B.T.P.S. section of "Trolley Wire" should be sent to the Secretary, B.T.P.S., P.O. Box 632, Ballarat. 3350. Deadlines are the second last Fridays of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

VOLUNTEER WORKER'S INDEMNITY FORMS

The Board has decided to insist that nobody work for the Society unless he has signed the required indemnity form. This is required under our accident insurance policy. Please take heed and have this form signed if you have not already done so as we don't want to have to turn you away after a long journey from Melbourne. (Volunteer workers under the age of twenty one years should have the form signed by a parent or guardian.) Forms may be obtained from the Depot in Ballarat or on application to any Society Officer.

NO SMOKING

For obvious reasons the Depot area, and the trams themselves, are no smoking areas. Signs have been placed conspicuously in these areas but it is disturbing to see that some members disregard them. It would be rather tragic to end the whole project with a carelessly dropped cigarette but.

NEWS SHEET

Members are invited to submit material, written or photographic, for inclusion in the November News Sheet. Please send it to the Secretary at the Society's address.

VINTAGE TRAIN VISITS BALLARAT - Sunday 7th October

The Vintage Train will be visiting Sovereign Hill and our Depot on 7th October. We would appreciate as many "workers" as possible to be on hand at the Depot that day to welcome visitors. If you haven't inspected the Depot lately and seen the progress of the work, why not take advantage of what will be a most enjoyable outing? The train departs Flinders Street at 9.35 a.m., and returns at 7.15 p.m. Fares-- Adult \$5.80: Under 16 - \$3.00. Bookings at No. 5 Rail counter, Victorian Govt. Tourist Bureau.

MELBOURNE TRAM TOUR

To be held on Saturday, 6th October, departing South Melbourne Depot at 1.30 p.m. for destinations unknown. Classes to be used include L and W2.

Enquiries: Jeff or Lindsay Bounds
29 Melby Avenue
Balaclava 3183

Phone 52-3342

Cost: \$2-50