

"FARES PLEASE"

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NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

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- P.O. Box 632, Ballarat. 3350

Shinier Rails in Ballarat: The Society received a marvellous Christmas present on Thursday, 24th December, 1974 when the Ballarat City Council gave permission for passenger operations to commence as from 6.00pm that night. A fine start to the service was made when thirty children from the Stawell Special School were carried as the first passengers in tram Number 26 at 6.00pm. The next day the service was operated for the full advertised times from 10.00am to 6.00pm and the patronage was most impressive. The trams, track, overhead wiring and other associated forms of equipment have been performing perfectly each day from 26th December to 5th January with the exception of 30th December when the service did not operate due to lack of crews. In the time the tramway has been operating over 3,000 passengers have been carried. After three years of hard, dedicated work by members the Society is proud to announce that the tramway is now operating over its full length and invites everybody to come along and enjoy once again a ride along the picturesque former Gardens tramway.

The service will operate every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am to 5.00pm on a 20 minute frequency. Round trip fares are 20 cents for Adults and 10 cents for Children. Members will be carried 'free' on production of their Membership Cards.

Before the operation of trams along Wendouree Parade could take place a vast amount of work had to take place. Society Engineer, Bill Kingsley, performed a massive task of surveying the roadway to design the approach of our access track across the roadway to join the mainline in Wendouree Parade. He then consulted with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board who most generously agreed to prepare the rails and points for the turnout. Bill then organised, in great co-operation with the Ballarat City Council, the excavation of the roadway and the laying of the rails and eventual sealing of the road. The assistance and co-operation of both the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board and the Ballarat City Council in this project are to be commended and sincere thanks is conveyed to them for their help in this vital task. The State Electricity Commission of Victoria has provided us with the same amount of co-operation. The Commission has always offered assistance in our many varied questions and this has always been appreciated. The Commission did a final check of our overhead wiring in Wendouree Parade and after making certain adjustments declared it suitable for operations to commence. The comment on preparing the tramway open for traffic would not be complete without thanking our volunteer workers for their untiring efforts in laying the track across Wendouree Parade along with the many other varied tasks performed. Workers toiled from 9.00am to Midnight for three days to lay the connection in Wendouree Parade and their efforts are recorded here for a well done job.

The Official Opening of the tramway will be held on Saturday, 1st February, 1975 at 2.00pm near the Gardens Pavillion. The opening ceremony will be performed by the Chairman of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria Mr. J.C. Trethowan, B.Com., A.A.S.A., M.I.A.A., who originally commenced his service with the Commission at Ballarat in 1941. An invitation is given to all persons to attend on this date and take part in the historic ceremony.

Tram Crews: Traffic Manager, Richard Gilbert, is currently perusing the attendance book at the Depot in order to select members for training as Conductors. After a period of time in this grade, and if suitable, these members will then be placed in training for the position of Motorman in co-operation with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board. The need for volunteer workers to perform tasks on tram maintenance and trackwork will increase and we would like to see as many members as possible take and active interest in these areas. Should you have any enquiries concerning active participation please contact Richard Gilbert (General Manager, Traffic Manager) who will be pleased to hear from you.

Entertainment Meeting: The next Entertainment Meeting will be held at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Railway Station, Melbourne on Tuesday, 21st January, 1975 at 8.00pm. Slides of the laying of the points in Wendouree Parade and the first few days of running will be shown along with some overseas tramway and railway slides.

Jeff and Lindsay Bounds of our Sales Department will be pleased to show you their range of items for sale. We urge all members to come along and support these meetings.

Bungaree House: The Society has obtained the lease of the railway house at Bungaree from the Victorian Railways which provides overnight accommodation for members not resident in Ballarat. A gradual supply of furniture, floorings and other fittings have been arriving which in all make it a comfortable place to stay. Should you have any enquiries concerning staying overnight at Bungaree please direct these to the General Manager.

Telephone Directory: The Society has an entry in both the Ballarat and Melbourne telephone directories. Should you wish to call the Depot or main Office Bearers please consult the directory under Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society. The telephone will soon be installed in the house at Bungaree.

Publicity: Since the commencement of tramway operation in Wendouree Parade a number of organisations have expressed interest in publicising us. Mr. Keith Dunstons column, "A Place in the Sun" on Monday, 30th December, 1974, gave an excellent description of the Society. Television Station Channel 2 has filmed trams running along the Parade and has screened this film at least twice. Channel 6 has also filmed operations a few times and has expressed interest in using the trams on their colour test patterns. The Ballarat Courier has also published many articles and photographs of our tramway.

Tram Maintenance: Bob Prentice is co-ordinating the tram maintenance programme and ensuring each tram is safe to run along the Parade. Rolph Jinks is conducting the daily maintenance along with other members and at present tram No. 27 is having its loose bolts tightened whilst tram No. 14 is having its defective compressor governor repaired. The two Lodington brothers are working on the maintenance of the air braking systems.

Telephones: Allan Harnwell is proceeding with installation of the Society's own automatic telephone system which will streamline operations. An automatic exchange has been installed at the rear of the depot and negotiations are under way to lay the telephone cable along the length of the tramway.

Signalling: A team consisting of Peter Rees, Robert Weiss and Clyde Croft are working on re-installation of the former signalling system on the tramway. At present the trams cross at the Gardens Loop on a time-table basis but operation of the signalling will add another bygone aspect of S.E.C. tramway operation to this operating museum.

Destination Blinds: Andrew Cook has been adding "St. Aiden's Dve", "Carlton St", "Gardens Loop" to the Ballarat destination blinds as these are terminating points, however, the other destinations on the roll are still shown at times so that you may still obtain your 'genuine' photo. Thanks is due to Andrew for his excellent work.