

"FARES PLEASE"

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NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

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P.O. Box 632, Ballarat.

Tramway Officially Opened: On Saturday, 1st February, 1975, the tramway along Wendouree Parade was Officially opened for traffic by the Chairman of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, Mr. J.C. Trethowan, B.Com., F A S A. Society Secretary Clyde Croft acted as Master of Ceremonies for the day and other Official Guests were the Mayor of Ballarat, Sir Arthur Nicholson and Society President Mr. Maurie Calnin. The weather was fine and warm which added to the superlative scene of four trams lined up in Wendouree Parade next to a prestigious looking dais. The people assembled were entertained to both a brass band and a pipe band and then listened to speeches from all the Official Guests. After the Official Opening was declared by Mr. Trethowan a banner was held across the path of tram Number 40 and the tram driven through this by Mr. Trethowan. The tramway was then well and truly opened.

This scene culminated three years of dedicated work by Society members and the Board sincerely thanks all those who have assisted in so many ways to have this project come to fruition.

The trams operate every Saturday and Sunday and on Public Holidays between 10.00am and 5.00pm. Round trip fares are 20cents for Adults and 10cents for children. Members are carried 'Free' on production of their Membership Cards.

Begonia Festival: Hot on the heels of our opening ceremonies came the world famous Ballarat Begonia Festival which ran from Saturday, 1st March to Monday, 10th March, 1975. The attendance was most impressive especially on the final Sunday and Monday when Wendouree Parade resembled a carnival appearance with hundreds of motor cars travelling its length and all corners of the gardens alive with people. The highlight of the final day of the festival was the procession of floats from Sturt Street to the North Gardens Reserve during which period the tramway service was suspended. The trams ran each day from Saturday, 1st March to Monday, 10th March and on certain days ran till 9.00pm conveying passengers, mostly those attending the Carnival at the North Gardens Reserve.

Progressive totals of passengers carried over this period are tabled below:-

1st March	585	Passengers	6th March	163	Passengers
2nd March	998	"	7th March	156	"
3rd March	94	"	8th March	686	"
4th March	142	"	9th March	1388	"
5th March	182	"	10th March	1455	"

TOTAL 5849 Passengers

The effort of providing this Begonia Festival service was considerable and thanks is extended to all those members who took part and made the whole effort very worthwhile.

Tram Maintenance: Regular maintenance is being carried out by Rolph Jinks with the help of Peter Rees. Tram No. 40 was withdrawn from service for two weeks to enable new axle brasses to be installed along with other minor jobs such as new bell cords. This tram is again providing a service along the parade in a much quieter and better condition thanks to our repair team. Number 28 which has not yet run for this Society due to its damaged condition when received from the S.E.C is currently being rebuilt and will operate in early 1960's colour scheme. One end has already been painted in this scheme to show people what the entire car will look like. The original style destination blinds, white writing on black background will also be installed in this tram. Andrew Cook is currently working on the restoration of the damaged woodwork in the tram whilst Bob Prentice has suggested the tram be given a complete overhaul before being placed in service. It appears that this will be done to ensure we have a good condition tram for some time whilst others are now also in need of full overhauls.

Tram No. 38 has a defective traction motor. Efforts have been made at the depot to remove the pinion on the armature shaft but to no avail. The motor will be taken to an electrical firm that has offered to do the job at cost price and this tram should also be running again in the Parade shortly.

Minor maintenance carried out so far includes replacement of light globes as they burn out, installation of new bellcord, oiling of axle boxes and traction motor bearings and odd paint patching.

Bungaree House: Installation of a gas stove at the house has improved cooking facilities. The lounge room is currently being repainted and the carpet will then be laid. It is hoped to paint the exterior of the house in the near future as at present the external paint has far outlived its practical life. Interstate tramway museum representatives and society members attended a barbeque in the backyard of the house after the completion of ceremonies on the Official Opening day and all expressed appreciation of the facility. The house is a great comfort to those who travel from Melbourne and stay overnight to work on the tramway.

Entertainment Meeting: The next Entertainment Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 25th March, 1975 at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station, Melbourne commencing at 8.00pm. After the usual discussion and question time Jeffrey Bounds will show slides of his recent trip to Europe and England. The Sales Department will be in attendance with the usual wide range of stock.

Museum: The museum has lately been placed in various trams depending on those being required for service. The display is placed in a tram and then driven to the point where the access line from the depot enters Wendouree Parade.

Weekend Magazine: ABV Channel 2 have recently completed filming a segment on our tramway soon to be televised on 'Weekend Magazine'. The segment shows a number of our trams running along Wendouree Pde. along with scenes at the Depot and interviews with Society members. The exact date of showing is not known but should be within the next few weeks.

Theatre Night: The group outing to the film 'Bazza Holds His Own' was enjoyed by 20 members (enjoyed is hardly enough to describe one member's wife who became hysterical) and due to the success of this venture more will be attempted.

Donation: Society member Tom Murray has recently donated archival material to the Society including Beaumaris Horse Tram Tickets. Sincere thanks is extended to Mr. Murray for his generous donation.

Crew Training: A further number of Society members have been trained as Tram Conductors whilst a batch of new Drivers has recently been approved by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board and another is currently undergoing training.

Telephones: Allan Harnwell is currently working on laying of the Society's telephone cable along Wendouree Parade which will aid tram working.

Members on Trams and Visiting Guests: It is very important that members show their Membership Cards when riding on trams as the general public can often feel disturbed at paying a fare when the person next to them just rides for free. In future all members are to show their cards on trams to ease confusion for the Conductor and reassure the public that the 'Free' rider has some permission to do so.

Any visiting representative from another tramway museum is asked to make himself known at the Depot where a 'Free' pass may be issued.

Parcels: Persons railing parcels to the Society are asked to rail these to Bungaree and not Ballarat. The Society is in closer contact with Bungaree Railway Station and prompt receipt of your parcel is assured.

Trolley Wire: Our Official Journal is the magazine 'Trolley Wire' which is printed by the South Pacific Electric Railway, Loftus N.S.W. It is a well produced magazine which represents nearly all Australian tramway groups and is well recommended. It is published bi-monthly and the Annual Subscription rate is \$5.00. If you are interested in subscribing please forward the appropriate amount to the 'Sales Officer' B.T.P.S. Box 632, Ballarat. 3350.