

"FARES PLEASE"

AUGUST  
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NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED  
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VOLUME ONE NUMBER SEVEN

P.O. BOX 632 BALLARAT 3350  
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The Ballarat Tourist Tramway has been carrying passengers for eight months. By the end of the current school holidays over 30,000 passengers will have been carried. The Traffic Branch has established through its days of operation that at any time when there is a public or school holiday break there are sufficient people in the Botanic Gardens to justify operating the Tramway. The Society is attempting to give an opportunity to as many people as possible to ride on the Tramway. The Tramway is currently being operated for 16 days continuously during the school holiday period. Over the Christmas holiday period the Society is aiming to operate every day between the 26th of December and the 1st of February. This is an ambitious proposal but with your assistance should be achievable.

Your presence in Ballarat would be welcomed. At a time of increasing unemployment the B.T.P.S. has plenty of job vacancies, the Tramway is a rapidly expanding business. If you are a local here is your opportunity to work at an entirely different activity. If you live in Melbourne or elsewhere besides the satisfaction you will gain in helping to run our busy tramway the opportunity arises for you to stay at the Society cottage at Bungaree near Ballarat. A stay at Bungaree is holiday in peaceful country surroundings. The cottage is only minutes from the Bungaree railway station which is served by two trains a day. The cottage has most modern facilities such as electric hot water, electric heating (in addition to a magnificent open fire place) gas cooking and even a television set. The cottage is fully furnished and is available now for those who might wish to escape the rat race for a weekend or longer. An increasing number of members are using the cottage as a means of escape from the city. Gavin the cook produces culinary delights at evening meal time to satisfy the most discriminating palate, you don't even have to do your own cooking though you are welcome to experiment.

Should you wish to assist the Society please contact Bill Jessup on weeknights by telephoning 874-5329 or forward the enclosed form to B.T.P.S. P.O. Box 632 Ballarat 3350 Vic, a wide range of work is available. People are currently being trained as conductors, drivers and O.I.C.s. Members interested in car maintenance and restoration would be particularly welcome. A day can be arranged for you to come to Ballarat and be introduced to some of the workers.

WINTER SERVICE Ballarat is by tradition a cold wet place during winter so patronage on the tramway was expected to dwindle to almost nil during this period. Services were curtailed to only one tram in operation on both Saturday and Sunday operating on a 15 minute frequency. The hours of operation were pruned back to 11.00am to 5.00pm. Patronage has not declined to anywhere near the levels expected and on one July weekend over 400 people travelled on the tramway.

CHARTERED TRAMS As the Tramway has become increasingly well known more and more requests for special trams have been received. Recently the Australian Railway Exploration Association chartered two trams to operate for two hours on a Friday night. We are encouraging charter work and will endeavor to provide a driver at any time.

TELEPHONE SERVICE An automatic telephone exchange from the Mawson Antarctic base has been installed in the tram depot. The exchange is capable of handling up to three calls at the same time on our internal telephone system. Telephone cable has been laid along three quarters of the route of the tramline in Wendouree Pde. At present three telephones in the depot area and four track telephones in the Parade are in use. The telephone system has greatly increased the efficiency of tramway operations. A public telephone is about to be installed in the cottage at Bungaree.

EXTORTION Drastic action is underway to counter the extortion being practised by the Australian Post Office. The board has no intention of letting the post office get away with an extra 8 cents of your money every time the Society has a mailout. Following the next mailout we will not be paying the Australian Post Office any more money for their services, however your mailout will continue to be delivered by postmen... ..how will we achieve this? well wait and see.

R.E.D.S. (Regional Employment Development Scheme) Following the abolition of this scheme (at least for the time being) the Society's submission for what finally turned out to be close to \$100,000 to relay the track in Wendouree Pde with the use of unemployed labour (of which there is a large pool in Ballarat) was rejected. When the scheme recommences at a later date our proposal will be reconsidered.

TRAMCAR RESTORATION No. 26 has had its cracked sideframe replaced and is now back in revenue service. No. 27 has been given a new lease on life with the replacement of one of its controllers. No. 14 has been converted to an all weather tram now that the drivers window pane which had been smashed by vandals some time ago has been renewed. Incidentally we have suffered very little from vandalism which is generally far less frequent in Ballarat than it is in Melbourne. General maintenance is being carried out on all tramcars. An extensive shunt of the depot has been undertaken to enable certain cars to be better placed for maintenance to be carried out on them. Tramcar maintenance is presently being carried out in rather cramped conditions. A small workshop is to be constructed at the end of No. 3 road in the existing tram depot, which should our overhaul programme.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY SERVICE Trams will be operating daily between Saturday 23rd of August and Sunday 7th of September. On weekdays the service will operate from 12.00 noon to 5.00pm approx.

TAX DEDUCTIONS Please remember that all donations to the B.T.P.S. Museum Fund over \$2.00 are tax deductible and should be claimed on your tax return.

DONATIONS The Board are extremely gratified at the number of unsolicited donations that have been forwarded by members when renewing their memberships. Those members who have added a donation to their renewal are thanked by the Board. The money so provided will be put to good use in keeping the trams running.

MEMBERSHIPS Because of rapidly escalating costs associated with the servicing of members the annual membership fee has been reluctantly increased to \$3.00. The Board believes that the annual membership fee should cover the cost of servicing members. If an increase had not been made at this time then membership costs would have to have been subsidised by revenue from fares. The current membership rate has been set at a level where membership fees are only just covering the cost of servicing memberships. There is almost no surplus to go towards expenditure in other areas. In the future money available for the development of the Tramway will come mainly from ticket and souvenir sales (other than for government grants). The B.T.P.S. membership is the cheapest available in Australia of any railway or tramway preservation society. Remember that with your membership you receive unlimited free travel on the Tramway. The Board hopes to hold the current membership rate for at least two years.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ADVANCE NOTICE The annual general meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Ltd will take place in Ballarat on Sunday 2nd of November 1975. Nomination and proxy forms will be forwarded over the next two mailouts. Further details regarding the time and location will also be included.

SALES DEPARTMENT The Sales Department is currently reorienting its operations towards the passengers that are travelling on the Tramway. The souvenir sales potential from this source is considerable. Arrangements have been made for a supply of coloured postcards of No. 40 and No. 27 to be produced by a New Zealand printing firm. Their quote (and they print high quality cards) was half that of the best quote we could obtain in Melbourne.



SALES DEPARTMENT Metal 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch diameter badges advertising the Tramway will shortly be on sale. Almost 2000 copies of the booklet "Ballarats Tramway Preservation Project" have been sold and a reprint is underway. Continuing purchases of railway and tramway books in limited numbers will be made to service members. The coming 12 months should see the sales Department making an increasingly important contribution to the income of the Society.

AUSTRALIAN TRAMWAY CONFERENCE The speeches and discussion that went on at the recent Australian Tramway Museum Conference in Ballarat over the Queens Birthday Weekend are being reproduced in the form of a book. Copies are currently being printed. The contents of this publication is a must for anyone wishing to learn what makes Tramway and transport museums tick. There is some very interesting material on the operations of transport museums in Australia and New Zealand. Copies will be available shortly to members.

Publicity Publicity has taken on a far greater importance now that the Tramway is operating. A Publicity Committee has been established to promote the operations of the Tramway and encourage the public to ride on it. A 16mm colour and sound copy of the A.B.C.s "Weekend Magazine" film about the Tramway has been purchased for future promotional activities. The film would have cost in excess of \$1500 to produce commercially but the Society was able to obtain it at a fraction of this price. B.T.V.6 Ballarat's local television station has produced a colour "filler" showing the Tramway in operation and advertising B.T.V.6 at the same time. This 30 second film has been shown many times over the last 3 months and has resulted in considerable local publicity. A Melbourne Bank is likely to sponsor the production of 100,000 copies of a brochure advertising the Tramway, these will be distributed through the Victorian Government Tourist Bureau, Ballarat Motels, Sovereign Hill Historic Park and Krynal Castle.

FIRE PROTECTION In the near future an automatic fire sprinkler system will be installed in the tram depot. Fire sprinkler systems are extremely effective in preventing fires from developing and spreading. Such a system will ensure that the Society's trams are housed in a very safe environment. A 300% increase in insurance cover is currently being arranged.

Press CUTTING SERVICE A subscription to a press cutting service covering the subject of Australian Railway and Tramway Preservation Projects has been taken out by the Society. The flow of information from this source will enable the Society to keep in touch with progressive developments in museums throughout Australia. Information about such developments and general news will now be printed in "Fares Please".

OUR NEW FEATURE.....AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY PRESERVATION NEWS

Mirboo North Tramway Preservation Society set up.....from the "Latrobe Valley Express".....The group wants to retain the old railway line from Mirboo North to Boolarra as a tourist attraction. The V.R. are prepared to leave the 8 mile section intact for a consideration. The Mirboo Shire would have to pay the ruling scrap price for rail currently \$70.00 a ton and .25 cents per sleeper. Overall cost would be \$60,000. The Shire has already purchased the Mirboo North station, toilets, platform and goods shed for \$20,000. A "J" class steam locomotive, carriage and guards van are also owned by the shire. A deputation has seen the Minister for Tourism in Victoria Mr Byrne and requested that the proposed tourist railway be left intact for three or four years while a investigation is made of the proposal.

Healesville Council will ask the V.R. to set up the Healesville station as a museum, the station which has not been painted since 1942 was described by one councillor as a real museum piece "so why not get it set up properly so that railway enthusiasts and tourists coming by train can look at it".....Yarra Valley "News"

Ride the Trams.....The number of passengers carried on the Bendigo Trusts tourist trams has shown a steady increase each year. Yearly totals to June 10 each year were 1973, 15673, 1974, 16837 and 1975, 19242. The total number of passengers carried from commencement of operations till July 10th this year is 82050. The trams have operated for a total of 626 days







FORWARD THIS PAGE TO P.O. BOX 632 BALLARAT3350 VIC IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO RUN THE BALLARAT TOURIST TRAMWAY.YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED AND YOU WILL GAIN CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION FROM THE CONTRIBUTION THAT YOU MAKE.

I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING TO RUN THE BALLARAT TOURIST TRAMWAY,I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING TYPE OF WORK(SPECIFY).....

.....  
I WOULD POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO ATTEND ON SATURDAY.....

SUNDAY .....

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.....

I COULD ATTEND POSSIBLY ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS.....

" " " " " SIX WEEKS .....

" " " " " MONTH.....

OTHER(SPECIFY).....

MY NAME IS.....

MY ADDRESS IS.....

.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

WE WILL CONTACT YOU AND ARRANGE FOR A SOCIETY MEMBER TO SHOW YOU AROUND AT BALLARAT.ACCOMODATION ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR YOU AT THE TRAMWAY COTTAGE BUNGAREE IF DESIRED.

BALLARAT TOURIST TRAMWAY

IF YOU HAVE ANY FUTHER QUERIES ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE TRAMWAY CONTACT BILL JESSUP BY TELEPHONING MELBOURNE 874-5329 DURING THE EVENINGS MONDAY TO THURSDAY.

BALLARAT TRAMS ARE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY