

## NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

Christmas and New Year operations: The Traffic Branch is settling back into weekend only operation after the longest spell of daily operation since the tramway was re-opened in December 1974.

Our volunteer workforce staffed the tramway for 43 consecutive days from 20th December 1975 to 1st February 1976. A creditable performance from our members. The tramway services were clearly appreciated by the large number of tourists who rode on the trams during this period.

After a short lull this month the Society faces its busiest period of the year in early March - the Ballarat Begonia Festival. Once again a daily service will operate for 11 consecutive days and members services will again be required during the period 27th February to 8th March to work on the trams and assist in Sales Department activities. If you can exist during this extremely busy period, which should see the passenger loading up in excess of 1500 people on certain days, please contact Gavin Young on either telephone 391 5111 ext. 3229(Work) or 844 3153(Home 7pm - 9pm). NOTE: Both these numbers are Melbourne numbers.

A number of interstate and overseas tramway enthusiasts visited Ballarat over the Christmas period.

The annual New Years Eve party at Bungaree was once again a successful event and is now firmly established on the Society's social calendar.

Patronage: During 1975 a total of 37,229 passengers travelled on the tramway. The total passengers carried in January 1976 was 5,477.

Tramcar restoration: The tramcar Restoration Committee has been busy over the New Year period. The tramway section of the Bendigo Trust recently offered the B.T.P.S. the cab and section of the roof of tram No.10. An enthusiastic work party travelled to Bendigo where they were welcomed by representatives of the Bendigo Trust.

The cab and section of the roof were placed in a tandem trailer and after a short handover ceremony in which member Bob Prentice expressed his appreciation to Mike McGowan of the Bendigo Trust for the donation the contingent returned to Ballarat.

Graeme Jordan has been the main workforce in rebuilding No.28 and now the 'new' cab has been placed in position. Tram No.28 was damaged in an accident with a motor vehicle prior to closure of the S.E.C. system.

Engineering Works: Many volunteers have helped keep the services operating and the tramcars in a sound condition over the last two months. The heat of summer has been another deterrent to the physical works involved with engineering tasks planned by Engineer, Bill Kingsley. However, Bill has planned a large works task to carry out necessary urgent trackwork maintenance in Wendouree Parade over the weekend 14th & 15th February 1976. He can utilise as many members that can turn up and invites you to attend. More details can be obtained from Bill on Melb. 288 5273(Home 7pm - 9pm) or just turn up. Come along and make our first major work party for 76 a roaring success. Workers not resident of Ballarat can find plenty of accommodation at our Society residence at Bungaree.

Tramway sign: A road sign in approved brown and cream tourist colours has been erected by the Country Roads Board at the junction of the Western Highway and Hamilton Avenue advising travellers of the location of our tramway.

Advertising: Now that tram services have been operating in Wendouree Parade for over a year the tramway is ever increasingly being recognised and receiving publicity as a local tourist attraction.

The latest Broadbents map of Ballarat and district features the tramway route in Wendouree Parade and also has the tram depot shown.

The Nu-color View Company has produced a postcard folder of Ballarat which contains a photograph of one of our trams. Mention of our trams is found in a new colour booklet which is being used to promote Ballarat as a place to live.

Vicrail: The 9.35am train from Melbourne to Horsham stops at the convenient Wendouree station only a short walk from our St. Aiden's Drive terminus. This is convenient for both the travelling public and society members. Day trippers to Ballarat can travel to Wendouree, have lunch in the gardens, ride a tram then travel on the 2pm 'regular' bus to Sovereign Hill Historical Park and return to Ballarat station in time for the return journey to Melbourne. The Victorian Railways is currently producing a brochure advertising this tour. Ordinary Sunday Excursion tickets to Ballarat are honoured to Wendouree.

Meetings: The next Melbourne entertainment meeting will be held at Room 109, Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station, Melbourne at 8.00pm on Monday, 23rd February, 1976. General Manager, Richard Gilbert will show movies of his recent overseas tour including the steam cavalcade at Shildon, Manx Electric Railway and Cable Trams in San Francisco.

A social evening for Ballarat members will be held at the Bungaree residence on Saturday 27th March, 1976 at 8.00pm. Various movies and slides will be screened.

Sales Department: The 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  inch metal badges of tram No.27 are selling well. Original purchases which were made with a view to lasting about a year will be exhausted within 3 months.

The Society's own color postcards are now available. Two cards have been produced, one featuring No.40 and the other featuring No.40 and No.14.

The Society's booklet "Ballarat's Tramway Preservation Project" is being revised and upgraded and will be available from towards the end of February.

The Sales Department has been extremely fortunate in procuring several copies of the rare classic "Mind The Curve" by John Keating. A 154 page book on the history of the Melbourne Cable Trams. Stocks are strictly limited - so order now.

Tramcar Maintenance: Major work is being carried out on tram No.14 which developed a defective traction motor. On Sunday 8th February the defective motor was lifted from the truck frame and a replacement motor substituted.

The tramcar Maintenance Committee is currently waiting on a quote from another firm before making a decision on rewinding the armature from No.38. At the same time arrangements are being made for new axle brasses to be placed in this tram.

Tram No.27 is operating again after being withdrawn for some weeks for replacement of the resistance grids.

Anniversary Celebrations: On Saturday 20th December 1975 the society played host to a celebration in the Botanic Gardens to commemorate the 50th anniversary of commencement of passenger carrying operations. The celebration, organised by member Barry McCandlish, was attended by the Mayor of Ballarat, Mr. Brown, City Councillors and other invited guests. A group of children from the Ballarat Special School were guests of the society and they were given tram rides along with special guest Santa Clause. The celebration concluded with afternoon tea in the delightful garden surroundings.

Tattsлото: A number of B.T.P.S. members enter this 'lucky draw' competition each week and use the numbers of our 6 trams. Recently 14, 26, 28 and 38 were drawn and provided the holders of this coupon with a third division prize. The following week three more tram numbers were drawn - we have lucky trams.

Gardening: The immediate area around the depot was levelled and grass planted to improve the landscaping. During the year shrubs will be planted in co-operation with the Ballarat City Council. At Bungaree the Gardening Committee has planted a vegetable garden which is yielding a fine crop.

Depot: The depot office has been re-equipped with new furniture making working conditions a lot more pleasant and practicable. Member Allan Harnwell arranged purchase of the furniture which was surplus to the A.N.Z. bank.

Next 'Fares Please' will be in April 1976. The Official Society publication 'Trolley Wire' printed bi-monthly and describing the Australian tramway preservation scene is available for \$5 yearly subscription. Please address any enquiries for this magazine to the Secretary.