

JUNE 1976

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

Rolling stock fleet: Both the W3 and W4 class tramcars purchased by our society have arrived in Ballarat over the past three weeks and are at present under cover on off site storage. The trams are complete and are in operable condition but a shortage of depot space at present precludes them from entering traffic for some time.

Former Ballarat tram No.39 has been returned to Ballarat after being made available by the Lions Club of Lismore and this tram is also on off site storage. We acknowledge the assistance of the Lismore Lions Club in making this tram available.

Membership: Enclosed in this mailout there is a Membership Renewal Form. The Society values your Membership and trusts you will continue it. The Board is always looking for membership participation in Society activities and welcomes suggestions and ideas and encourages more Members to take part in operational activities.

The Board policy is that Membership subscriptions should not finance society operations other than covering servicing costs of Members and therefore Membership rates remain at \$3.00.

In keeping with this policy we trust you will continue your Membership with us.

Engineering: During the absence of Society Engineer, Bill Kingsley at present on an overseas trip, the Engineering Branch is enjoying a rest from major work activities and is concentrating mainly on tram maintenance.

Work carried out on tramcars is as follows:-

No.28: Restoration work on this tram is well advanced and it is hoped that it will return to service by late September. Tightening of some woodwork joints and final painting are the only major body work tasks to be completed. The tram has been lifted off its truck to allow the maintenance staff to assess a crack found in a traction motor casing.

No.38: The armature is currently being rewound and the new axle brasses are being whitemetalled. When both these components have been installed tram No.38 will be placed in service and No.40 will be withdrawn for routine maintenance.

The remainder of the tramcar fleet at the tram depot is serviceable.

Overhead Maintenance: Routine maintenance is being carried out on our overhead wiring and recently it was found that a span wire at the Gardens Loop was alive with traction power, however, the S.E.C. were quick to rectify this.

Advertising: A brochure has been produced which will be issued to the Tourist Bureau, Motels in the Ballarat area and the Tourist Development Authority and it is hoped these brochures will improve public awareness of our attraction in Ballarat.

Three trams are now equipped with exterior roof advertising which is earning a needed income for the Society funds. 'Sovereign Hill' Historical Park has produced one advertisement and 'Peters Ice Cream' has provided two others. More prospective advertisers are being sought.

Appeal: Persons who have responded to the recent 'Appeal for Finance' are generously thanked by the Board for their generous donations. The extra funds were, and still are, needed to help the Society over some difficult financial times.

Fire at Ferrymead: A fire at the Ferrymead Tramway Museum near Christchurch, New Zealand on 13th June destroyed a trolley bus and three trams. As far as is known the trams were stored outside the depot and were a double deck trailer, Dunedin cable tram of the 1880 era and one other tram. It took the Fire Brigade 2 hours to control the fire which started in grass near the Depot. Although the Fire Brigade said there were no suspicious circumstances the Museum feels the grass was deliberately lit. The B.T.P.S. extends its regret at the tragic loss of historic transport equipment.

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Trolley Wire: The official society publication 'Trolley Wire' is produced bi-monthly and fully describes the Australian tramway preservation scene and is available for a \$5.00 annual subscription.

This is a high quality magazine, printed in Sydney, and is recommended both for its archival articles and up to date news of the Australian tramway preservation scene. Space has been provided on the attached Sales List for an annual subscription to this magazine.

Postcards: Copies of the society produced Postcards are available on the attached Sales List. There are two types, one showing tram No.40 and the other showing both No.14 & 40. These are high quality reproductions and are ideal for members who may live some distance from Ballarat and not have an up to date pictorial record of current operations.

Tramway Preservation Project: This booklet describes the history of our society and briefly the histories of the Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo tramway systems. A number of photographs showing tramway operation in the 3 cities and some very early operation in Ballarat are contained in this publication. This booklet is also available on the Sales List.

May 'Vintage Train': The popular monthly 'Vintage Train' outing visited Ballarat on the first Sunday in May and a number of passengers added to the pleasure of the day trip from Melbourne by having a ride on the trams.

The 'Vintage Train' operates from Melbourne to different destinations on the first Sunday of each month and further details of outings may be obtained at the Victorian Government Tourist Bureau.

Other tramway museum attractions: A ride on the horse tram and inspection of the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria's site at Bylands is suggested for a Sunday outing. The T.M.S.V. will make you welcome at their site and show you the many items of tramway heritage they have assembled over the years. A ride on the horse tram combines to make this a pleasant outing. The site is open to the public on Sundays throughout the year.

Inspection of the Central Deborah Mine and the Joss House combined with a ride on the 'Talking Trams' at Bendigo on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year is recommended when visiting this fine city.

Entertainment Meeting: An entertainment meeting will be held at the tramway residence, Bungaree, on Saturday 24th July 1976 commencing at 8.00pm. Movies of Western Australia will be shown which include trolley bus operation in Perth, steam hauled suburban trains and the Donnelly River Mill timber tramway. Members are cordially invited to attend.

The next entertainment meeting in Melbourne will be held during September and will be detailed in the next 'Fares Please.'

Publicity: The 'Ballarat Courier' has over the past weeks run a number of photographs and articles on our Society and its work projects which have all been welcome publicity. The 'Ballarat Courier' has always been a loyal supporter of the Society and appreciation of this fact is recorded here.

Signalling: Restoration of the former S.E.C. signalling system is proceeding slowly due, mainly, to the workload of other projects but as time becomes available this project will be brought to completion thus restoring another facet in our museum operation of the former S.E.C. tramway system.

Group Bookings and Charter: If you are involved with a works social club or other group maybe an outing to Ballarat would be in order and say a group booking on the regular tram service or even a charter of a special tram. The fine surrounds of the Botanic Gardens and the barbeque facilities combined with a tram ride make this an enjoyable day out and at the same time help to boost society funds. The rates for group bookings and chartered trams are cheap and enquiries should be directed to the Traffic Manager or the Officer-in-Charge at the tram depot.

The next 'Fares Please' will be in August.