

"FARES PLEASE"

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1976

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat.

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

Annual General Meeting: Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Limited will be held at 1.00pm in the 'Electra Hall', Camp Street, Ballarat on Sunday, 17th October, 1976.

Nominations are called for the following positions which become vacant on the Board of Management from that date.

President

Melbourne resident Vice President

Ballarat resident Vice President

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

Ordinary Board Member (5 positions)

Any two Members may nominate any other Member to serve as an Office Bearer or Ordinary Board Member provided that no person <sup>who</sup> at the time of such nomination is an Unfinancial Member shall be entitled to be a candidate for election or a proposer or a seconder pursuant to the Articles of Association.

The nomination shall be sent in writing to the Secretary to reach him not later than 5.00pm on Monday, 27th September, 1976 at the Society postal address which is P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, 3350. The nomination shall be signed by the proposer and seconder and consented to in writing by the candidate and may be accompanied by a statement of not more than 500 words of the candidates policies and records of service and experience.

A Member may be nominated at any one time as a candidate for more than one position on the Board provided that upon his election to any position on the Board a Member's nomination for any other position shall forthwith lapse.

Five Years Commemoration: On Sunday, 19th September, 1976 it will be five years to the day since the last S.E.C. tramway closed for public traffic in Ballarat. To mark this occasion tramcar No.40 will operate our service throughout the day and will carry a headboard at one end to commemorate the closure. Tram No.40 was built for the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust in 1913 which makes this the oldest tram in our fleet and was the last tram to run from Sebastopol to the Depot thereby bringing to an end the S.E.C. tramway era in Ballarat.

Members are invited to come along and ride No.40, visit the Depot and meet old faces as it is now five years since we all stood at the 'Tramway Centre' chatting with the friendly S.E.C. crews and riding that fascinating tramway system that time pleasantly forgot.

Publicity Brochures: Brochures have been produced for distribution to various tourist outlets in an effort to make people aware of our museum tramway while on their visit to Ballarat. The Central Highlands Tourist Development Authority is our major distributor of the brochures and they assure us that they stand out for the public on display stands and are always being collected by potential tourists.

School Holiday Traffic: The trams have been run throughout the school holiday period except for two days during the power strike and two days when no staff were available. Patronage has been excellent with an average of 120 people being carried on each operating day. This traffic has boosted our much needed revenue.

Thanks is extended to Members who gave their weekday time to operate the tramway during this period.

Society Engineer: We are pleased to report that Society Engineer, Bill Kingsley, has returned from his overseas trip and is ready to launch back into Society activities. Bill spread news of our Society throughout America, Britain and Europe and in particular had a good reception from the Crich Museum, near Derby, England. After travelling overseas Bill has gained a good insight into other museum activities throughout the world and had a chance to benefit from the mutual exchange of information.

We welcome Bill back and look forward to energetic use of this experience gained in launching into new engineering tasks.

Co-opted Board Member: The Society Board has co-opted Mr. Geoff Dean to fill a vacancy on the Board which has existed for some time. Geoff was a member of the first Board of the unincorporated Society in 1971 and helped the progress of the Society considerably during its first year. He then moved to England shortly after being married and returned to Australia last year. While in England he gained good experience in tramway museums from the Crich Museum. On returning to Ballarat he was appointed the Overhead Superintendent whilst Mrs. Carylton Dean fills the position of Membership Officer and Officer-in-Charge of Uniforms.

Visit of Crich Member: During August the Society was proud to welcome Mr. John Marsh, a member of the Tramway Museum Society, Crich, England. John is a former 'electrical representative' for that Society and was particularly interested in our overhead wiring and power supply. He was shown a great deal of our operation along with extensive coverage of the Melbourne tramways.

Members of overseas tramway museums contemplating a visit to Australia would be made most welcome at Ballarat and are invited to write to the Secretary for details of virtually any information on visiting the tramway and railway scene in Australia as good communication exists between all transport groups and railfan groups.

For instance, a group of American railfans will be visiting during November and will be hiring a special steam hauled train from Melbourne to Ballarat where they will ride the trams and visit 'Sovereign Hill' gold mining town.

Membership Renewals: Renewals are coming in steadily and should you be contemplating sending your subscription we urge you to do so as the Society values your membership. The Board is always looking for Member participation in Society activities and welcomes suggestions and ideas and encourages more Members to take part in operational services.

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.

Car Maintenance: Work on tram No.28 is now at the stage where the car body has been painted with undercoat prior to applying the top coats. The truck has been cleaned and this has revealed a serious crack in a motor support arm which will have to be welded before the tram is re-assembled. The broken sideframe, replaced on tram No.26 some months ago, has been stored at the Depot and will also be welded at the same time. Tram No.38 is still awaiting whitemetalling of axle brasses and re-assembling of the traction motor before it is returned to service.

Entertainment Meeting: The next Entertainment Meeting will be held at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station at 8pm on Tuesday, 28th September, 1976. A programme of slides of mainland China is in the process of being arranged, however, if this cannot be shown due to various circumstances, slides of overseas tramways elsewhere will be shown. The usual information and question time will be held prior to the film entertainment.

The room booking for the meeting has not been fully finalised and it is suggested you telephone Bill Jessup on 874 5329 during the week prior to the meeting to check in fact if it will be held on the proposed date and which topic will be shown.

Next 'Fares Please' will be issued during October