

DECEMBER 1976

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

Christmas Greetings: The Board of Management wishes the best of Christmas Greetings to members and their families and trusts the forthcoming festive season and new year are both enjoyable and prosperous.

Annual General Meeting: This was held on 17th October 1976 and the normal business transacted. As reported in the October Newsheet there was no election as the number of nominations equalled the number of vacancies and the list of Board Members was quoted in that newsheet.

Society Treasurer: Hot on the heels of the Annual General Meeting the Treasurer, Noel Forster, has advised he intends travelling overseas for a lengthy period and in consequence will resign from his position in January. The Board therefore is calling for applications from Members for the position of Treasurer. Applications should be forwarded in writing to the Secretary at the Society address by Friday, 17th December, 1976.

Signalling: The 'Forrest City Signalling' formerly used on the S.E.C. tramways has been re-installed after much hard work by Peter Fees. Although not completely installed the system is operating quite successfully to its current limit and will aid the running of the trams in busy times over the Christmas and Begonia Festival periods.

Car maintenance report:

- 28 - This tram is currently being painted. The cracked motor support arm has been welded and the tram body will be lowered onto the truck within a week. It is hoped to have the tram in service by January.
- 38 - The rewound traction motor is awaiting collection from the electrical contractor while the axle brasses are currently being re-metalled by the M.M.T.B. Until the brasses are received the tram cannot be moved to allow the traction motor to be re-installed but it is hoped the brasses will be received by Christmas.
- 40 - This tram has been withdrawn from traffic pending renewal of its badly worn axle brasses early in the new year.

Childrens Picnic: On Wednesday 24th November the Society was pleased to take part in a large picnic for 600 children from homes and special schools in the Ballarat area by providing free tram rides. Other attractions were ferry rides, horse rides, miniature train rides and a picnic lunch. Former Society President, Maurie Calnin aptly filled the position of Master of Ceremonies.

The weather was fine and contributed to the great success of the day and organisers are planning for an even larger venture next year. The Society received good publicity from the event.

A.E.T.M. visit: On Sunday 14th November the Australian Electric Transport Museum at St. Kilda, South Australia was paid a visit by members Bill Kingsley, Gavin Young, Peter Winspur and John Lodington. The group was met by Dr. John Radcliffe and then shown around the museum site along with having a number of tram rides. The good workmanship accomplished by the tram maintenance section is worthy of special mention along with the overall well conducted museum operation and our members thank the A.E.T.M. for their hospitality.

Storm: The tramway suffered damage after the storm of Saturday 13th November when a large tree was blown across the overhead wiring near the St. Aidans Drive terminus bringing down the contact wire, signalling wires and bracket arm. The S.E.C. have been very busy trying to rectify a lot of other storm damage in the area along with completing projected new works by Christmas and our overhead at this stage has not been repaired and trams are only operating between Gardens Loop and Carlton Street. The S.E.C. assures us the damage

will be repaired by Christmas. A letter was received from the Ballarat City Council thanking our members for their help in assisting Council workmen in clearing the considerable amount of storm damage from the Gardens area.

New Members: The following new members were admitted to the Society at the recent Board Meeting. The Board welcomes the new members and invites them to ride our tramway and take advantage of our accomodation at Bungaree:-

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
473	R.J. Read	Carnegie
474	K.J. Isbister	Corio
475	V. Findlay	Burwood
476	G. Noltenius	Bonbeach

The following people have resumed their membership

150	J. Brough
420	R. Eykelstam

The Society now has 254 members.

Christmas Operation: It is proposed to have the trams operating every day from Christmas Day the New Years Day inclusive and on some days yet to be decided in February. Members are invited to come along and visit the Gardens which are looking their best at this time of year. The house at Bungaree is also available for members travelling from afar and one member has asked if he may park his caravan in the backyard for a few days to which we said by all means.

3CV Advertisement: An advertisement for radio station 3CV was recently filmed in the Gardens incorporating the trams and is currently being televised on BTV 6.

Passenger loading: During October 988 passengers were carried and in November 1327 passengers travelled bringing a total of 58338 passengers carried since the commencement of operations in late 1974.

School Holiday Traffic and Charters: With the close of the school year approaching a number of schools tend to charter a tram during weekdays as an outing for the pupils. The Talbot School have chartered a tram on Monday 13th December and the Society would be pleased to hear from any other schools wishing to do the same. A number of business firms in the Ballarat area having their Christmass breakup in the Gardens may be interested in chartering a tram and all enquiries may be made to Society President, Frank Hanrahan on 39 1147. Charter Rates are \$15.00 for one or two round trips.

Royal Mail Hotel: The proprietor of the Royal Mail Hotel at Sebastopol expressed interest in the Society and showed a couple of photographs of trams at Sebastopol in the S.E.C. days. Members will recall the hotel was at the terminus and in return for a pleasant afternoon spent their recently by some members including the General Manager we are asking for any person with a good negative or slide of a tram outside the hotel to allow us to copy same and present this to the hotel for hanging above the bar.

Entertainment Meeting: The next meeting will be held in Melbourne during early February 1977 when slides and movies of the Port Lincoln Division of the South Australian Railways will be shown. This little visited and isolated section of the S.A.R. was the feature of a recent tour by the Australian Railway Historical Society and a number of B.T.P.S. members attended. The actual date of the meeting will be advised in the next issue of 'Fares Plaes' which will be in January 1977.

New Years Eve Party: This year it appears that most of the 'regular' attenders at the annual party will either be away or working and it looks as though the party will not be held. However, if you wish to have a party please contact Mrs. Dean on Melbourne 88 4086 and subject to sufficient numbers offering a party may be organised.

Next 'Fares Please will be issued during January

~~Restoration work is continuing on tram No. 28~~ under the guidance of Graeme Jordan. It is hoped that this tram will be available for service later this year.

Telephones: The street telephone system has been completed and now work is being carried out to reinstate the former signalling system used in former S.E.C. operation.

Archives Officer: David Macartney has been appointed to this position. For some time David has taken a keen interest in archives and has a wealth of knowledge on early tramcar operation. With his appointment to this position the Board will attempt to inject a new lease of life into the museum display which is recognised as being an important function of our operation but this has been lingering over the last few months due to the need of an Archives Officer.

Membership: Mrs. Carylton Dean has been appointed Membership Officer and also in charge of uniforms.

B.T.P.S. Co-Operative: The Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Co-Operative will be held at the tramway residence at Dunsaree at 8.00pm on Saturday, 15th May, 1976. All members of the Co-Operative are invited to attend.

The Co-Operative was set up to raise funds for the tram depot. The money it borrowed (\$4,000) is now being paid back at 6½% interest to the State Savings Bank of Victoria over a period of 10 years.

Entertainment Meeting: The next Society Entertainment Meeting will be held in Room 11 Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station, Melbourne, at 8.00pm on Tuesday, 18th May, 1976. Member Paul Nicholson will screen slides of electric traction in Scandinavia.

Trolley Wire Magazine: The official Society publication 'Trolley Wire' printed bi-monthly and describing the Australian tramway preservation scene is available for \$5 yearly subscription. This is a high quality magazine, printed in Sydney and is recommended for those wishing to find current preservation details. The Sales List below includes a subscription form.

SALES LIST

Current items on sale from the Sales Department are as follows:-

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>POSTAGE</u>
Tramway Preservation Project (Story of the B.T.P.S.)	30c	20c
Society Postcards No.40	15c	Covers up to 4
No.14 & 40	15c	18c
Society Poster (Shows all types of trams used in Ballarat)	20c	Covers up to 10
Souvenir Badges (Line drawing of single truck car)	20c	20c
Trolley Wire Subscription	\$5.00	Covers up to 4
Destination Paradise (History of Adelaide Tramways)	\$2.00	-
Rails to the Bay (History of Glenelg Tramway)	\$3.00	50c
Tramway Topics (New Zealand preservation and historical articles)	60c	60c
Society Tee Shirts (Tram emblem on front)	\$1.00	Covers up to 4
Mind The Curve (Melbourne Cable Trams)	\$5.40	60c

Please indicate if you wish to have more than one of the items above.

To: B.T.P.S. Sales Dept.

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat 3350, Australia.

Please find enclosed cheque/Money Order to cover the purchase and mailing of the above items I have indicated in the column I wish to purchase. Please make Money Orders payable at Ballarat.

NAME ADDRESS

POSTCODE