

"FARES PLEASE"

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1977

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat,

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Christmas operation: The tramway ran each day from 25th December to 31st January inclusive conveying a good amount of loading. The Board wishes to thank all those volunteers who gave their time to service, maintain and operate the trams over this period so that our Society could add to Ballarat's tourism over this festive period.

New Members: The following new members were admitted to the Society during January and February. 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> |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 477 | C. Jacobson | Box Hill South |
| 478 | R. Buzzini | Preston |
| 479 | C. Staff | Mentone |
| 480 | G. Barbour | Strathmore |
| 481 | C. McGeachin | East Bentleigh |

The Society now has 264 members.

Entertainment Meeting: The next meeting will be held in Melbourne at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station on Wednesday, 16th March, 1977 at 8.00pm. The V.R.I. rooms have all been renumbered and we will be in Room 409 (Old room 11). Movies and slides of the Port Lincoln Division of the South Australian Railways will be shown.

Begonia Festival: The tramway will operate over the entire period of the Begonia Festival from Saturday 5th to Monday 14th March inclusive. On 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th and 14th a two tram service with single truck and bogie trams will operate whilst a one tram service with single truck cars will operate on the other days. On the two tram service days the first car will be at 10.30am and the last at 9.30pm (7.00pm 14th March) and on the other days first car will be at 1.00pm and the last at 4.00pm.

Saturday 5th March should be a busy day in the Gardens area as this will be the official opening day of the Begonia Festival and Monday 14th March will see the usual standing crowds along the tramway route watching the procession of floats bringing to a close the 1977 Begonia Festival.

Members are reminded that they will be given 'free' rides on production of their Membership Cards, however, this concession does not cover members families or friends.

R.C.T.A. visit: On Sunday 20th February 90 passengers from the Rail Coach and Touring Association were served afternoon tea in the backyard of the Society residence at Bungaree. Prior to this the group enjoyed a tram ride in the Gardens and a bus tour of the Ballarat and Lal Lal area. The group expressed appreciation of the fine spread of food provided and the general courtesy that the Society offered to them. After a short speech and a considerable amount of purchasing from our 'Sales Section' the group joined the evening train at Bungaree for the return journey to Melbourne.

The Society Board wishes to thank those who helped make the day a success for the R.C.T.A. and in particular Richard Gilbert, Colin Staff, Gavin Young and Peter Mellin.

Tramcar Maintenance: Member Gary Davey has painted the floor of No.40 enhancing greatly its appearance for the Begonia Festival. Prior to the new armature being placed in 38's motor casing the worn bearings will be whitemetalled by a Ballarat firm to ensure the costly job or rewinding the armature will last us for a long time.

Tram No.14 is having the watercolour paint removed from it and the 'current' roof advertisements re-instated. This follows touchup work done to the tram for its part in the filming of 'The Getting Of Wisdom'.

No.28 is only a few weeks away from entering service. The lights were tested on 27th February and only the roof needs some new canvas before the tram runs for the first time under Society ownership.

'Getting of Wisdom': The filming of the motion picture 'Getting of Wisdom' has been receiving a lot of publicity when appearing at various locations in Melbourne and elsewhere and there was no exception at Ballarat. The company decided our tramway along with the magnificent setting of the Ballarat Botanic Gardens would be most suitable for part of the story and subsequently it was arranged to provide a tram for filming purposes on Thursday 27th January.

Driver Bob Prentice officiated as Motorman circa 1905 complete with and assortment of clothing fitting something of a tramway uniform of the period. The society wishes to thank the Brisbane Tramway Museum Society for their help in providing two period 'caps' for the filming. Brian Wood again worked wonders with the paintbrush and watercolour paint and No.14 looked resplendent with a green front replacing the familiar S.E.C. 'tiger' stripes and 'period' additions to the yellow borders on the sides of the tram.

The tram was used in three scenes (2 external and one interior), the filming being conducted in good sunlight and with great co-operation from all concerned. A highlight of the day was when it was suddenly realised just before a 'take' that no one had been selected to ride a penny farthing bicycle and impromptu auditions were immediately given with humorous results captured on movie film by Richard Gilbert, which will be shown at the next entertainment meeting.

The day was a great success and our tramway along with the 'Vintage Train' which was filmed at Ballarat the previous day will both receive good advertising on the 'big screen'. The society Board wishes to thank all those Members who assisted in preparing the tram and helping on the day and in particular thanks is expressed to Brian Wood for his work conducted over many hours in painting the tram and also to Andrew Hall; Peter Winspur and 'movie star' Bob Prentice.

671 number plate: The Society was very pleased and grateful to receive one of the interior number plates missing from tramcar 671 which was recently purchased from Melbourne. The plate turned up anonymously in the mail and thanks is expressed to the donor.

A repeat request is made for any person who may be able to help with the return of signs and other fittings removed from tram No.39 recently purchased and returned to Ballarat by the Society. This tram is presently stored off site but when more room is available at the depot work will start on restoration of the tram to service.

Society Treasurer: The Board is pleased to announce that it has chosen Mrs. Carolyn Dean as Treasurer. Carolyn has been Membership Officer and Uniforms Officer for some time and with good results in these sections combined with her experience of working in banking we can be assured of a well run Treasury.

Overseas Tram Tour: The Association of Railway Enthusiasts is organising a world tram tour lasting 8½ weeks departing Australia on 28th July 1977 covering 90 tramway systems in Hong Kong, Japan, Western Europe, England, Isle of Man, Canada and America. A.R.E tours have a good reputation and a number of our members have already patronised previous tours and recommend them for fully covering the particular interest they are designed for. Further details can be obtained from A.R.E Overseas Tours Section, 15 Milton Street, Heathmont. 3135. or telephone Graham Evans on (03) 725 7533 during Office hours.

Trolley Wire Subscribers: Some Members are still having problems receiving 'Trolley Wire' magazine. Those who may have originally subscribed through S.P.E.R. and then may have either just stopped receiving them or not receiving any advice of renewal from S.P.E.R. should contact the Membership Officer for B.T.P.S. (Carolyn Dean) on (03) 88 4086 or write c/o the Society address.

Radio Advertising: The Society has been receiving some welcome advertising on 3HA, Hamilton, through the courtesy of Mr. Peter Mellin, the station Manager. The station covers a large area of Western Victoria and South East South Australia and the benefit of being advertised has been shown by a number of visitors from this area who mentioned they heard us via this medium. Mr. Mellin also helped in serving the afternoon tea at Bungaree for the R.C.T.A. tour, and the Board is very thankful for his contributions in both these ways to the society.

Next 'Fares Please' issued during May.

SALES DEPARTMENT Metal 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 Koyal 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

