

MAY 1977

P.O. Box 632, Ballarat.

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

New Members: The following new member was admitted to the Society at the April Board Meeting.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
482	Michael Williams	Ballarat

We welcome our new members and invite them to ride our trams and participate in Society activities. The Society now has 265 members.

Additions to Fleet: The Board is pleased to announce that after successful negotiations with the Hamilton Pastoral Museum former Ballarat single truck tram No.33 has been made available to our Society and was returned to Ballarat during the last week of April. The tram is in excellent condition having been stored under cover since removal to Hamilton in 1971 and is completely operational. The Board wishes to thank the Hamilton Pastoral Society for their agreement to make the tram available and for providing ready access to the tram during negotiations.

Because our depot in the Gardens Reserve at Ballarat is filled to capacity No.33 has been stored in our rented premises at Sebastopol along with the W3 and W4 trams purchased earlier from the Melb. and Metropolitan Tramways Board.

It is hoped that plans to extend our depot building will be approved by the authorities involved and the three extra trams can be accommodated and made available for traffic on the gardens tramway. Members will realise the importance of the acquisition of this tram to our fleet in both the value of preserving these unique 'Ballarat' trams and also in reducing the workload placed on each tram by having a larger fleet to draw upon for traffic.

The Society has incurred a considerable amount of expense in obtaining this tram but the Board feels it is acting in the best interest of its members in obtaining such valuable assets and in return we are asking the members to help offset this expenditure being carried by not substantial society funds and an 'Appeal Sheet' is enclosed in which we hope you may be able to help assist our finances. All donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Tramcar Maintenance: Tram No.28 is now mobile and has run in Wendouree Parade on one occasion. Although yet not handed over to the Traffic Branch as it needs minor completion of work it performs well and will be a welcome addition to our fleet. The Board thanks all those who have worked on restoration of this tram but in particular much thanks and appreciation is expressed to Graeme Jordan for his constant and untiring devotion in taking this project from commencement to completion. The tram was originally handed to the society by the S.E.C. for use as spare parts but on realisation of the value of this type of tram a restoration policy was embarked upon resulting now in another serviceable tram to add to our fleet.

Tram No.38: The whitemetalled armature bearing has been collected from the foundry at Ballarat and the traction motor will be re-assembled this week. The new axle brasses should be in position within a fortnight which will allow the motor to be placed in the bogie frame and after a small amount of re-painting this tram will be available for traffic.

The usual amount of running maintenance has been carried out on the four other trams in our fleet.

Government Grant: We are proud to announce that the Victorian Government has granted the Society \$50,000.00 payable over a period of five years to finance the construction of the proposed depot extensions. The extensions will allow for proper workshop facilities at present lacking and will also make more room available to accommodate recently acquired trams. The first payment will be \$20,000.00 covering both the 1977 and 1978 financial years after which \$10,000.00 will be made available each year until the total amount is paid.

The Society Board has done a considerable amount of work on submissions and plans in connection with much needed depot extensions and feels most appreciative and encouraged in receiving this grant which will be a benefit to the community in general by ensuring proper facilities are available for the future maintenance and operation of these unique trams.

Begonia Festival: Patronage over the recent Begonia Festival was good and the tramway ran each day from Saturday 5th to Monday 14th March inclusive. Weekend patronage during the festival was very good but fell short of expectations during the weekdays which has been attributed to a general lack of tourists entering the gardens area.

May School Holidays: The trams are operating over the full period of the May school holidays from Saturday 7th to Sunday 22nd May inclusive and to date loading has been good. During the weekend the service operates from 11.30am to 5.00pm and during the weekdays from 1.00pm to 4.30pm.

Publicity: The 'Sunday Press' ran a feature on the Central Highlands Region recently and the Society was invited to place an advertisement along with the other attractions of the Ballarat area being advertised. Our society submitted a 3" x 3" add. incorporating a photograph and wording giving details of our operating days both at weekends and during the school holidays.

Sales: The Sales Department has lately been making a significant contribution to revenue. The basic smaller tourist items have been selling well. These include Postcards, Badges and Society Booklets whilst a good demand is being made for the periodicals, books and 'Z' class Melb. 'Orange' tram badges.

Entertainment Meeting: There will be no Entertainment Meeting in Melbourne this month as concern has been expressed at recent Board Meetings of the lack of attendance on these occasions. At the last meeting only 3 members above the usual few who are at Ballarat each weekend turned up and the Board feels that this does not sufficiently offset the room rental cost plus the inconvenience caused in supplying a projector, screen and other equipment at the venue. A meeting will, however, be held during July and will be advertised in the next newsheet.

A social evening will be held at the society house at Bungaree on Saturday 11th June commencing at 8.00pm. Supper will be provided. The evening will consist of singalong piano music played on a pianola piano and a short slideshow. Although the pianola music is mechanically produced ordinary pianists are most welcome.

Warren Doubleday: The Society is pleased to welcome back former Engineer Warren Doubleday who has spent a couple of years away from us on a working holiday in South Africa. Warren's firm in Johannesburg has offered him a job in their Sydney office and we are most pleased to have him back in Ballarat where he is spending a short time before moving to Sydney. Although away from Ballarat Warren has been busy assisting with the design of the depot extensions in conjunction with Society Engineer Bill Kingsley.

C.O.T.M.A. Conference: Three representatives of this society were present at the recent conference held by the Council of Australasian Tramway Museums in Adelaide over the Anzac Day weekend. The conference was most fruitful in exchange of ideas and in meeting people from other museums. The Society thanks the Australian Electric Transport Museum for their hospitality in conducting the conference.

Tram Drivers: Member Campbell Duncan recently passed the tram Drivers Exam conducted in conjunction with the M.M.T.B. and we welcome him to this position. The society now has 13 member drivers and 4 regular M.M.T.B. trained drivers.

Overhead: Peter Winspur has been completing a number of tasks on the overhead wiring including retensioning the wire between the Gardens Loop and St. Aiden's Drive which was stretched when a large tree fell across it during the severe storm last November. The Depot Fan area has been tensioned and more securely tied with span wires along with readjustment of the overhead frogs.

Extra Traffic: The society was pleased to provide a special tram on Sunday 24th April to convey a group of representatives from various Australian railway systems led by Victorian Railways Traffic Manager Mr. M. Ronald whilst on an excursion of Ballarat. All passengers commented on the enjoyable run through the Gardens and Mr. Ronald recognised a few faces of some of his employees spending their spare time maintaining and operating this now popular tourist attraction.

Next 'Fares Please' issued during July.