

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

New Members:- The following new members were admitted to the Society at the June Board meeting.

Number	Name	Location
483	Andrew Mitchell	Ballarat
484	Lindsay Mitchell	South Yarra
485	Alan Rippa	Endeavour Hills

We welcome our new members and invite them to ride our trams and participate in Society activities. For those not resident in Ballarat we have overnight accomodation available in our house at Bungaree. The Society now has 268 members.

Membership Renewals: Enclosed are Membership Renewal forms for the 1977-78 year. Unfortunately costs have finally forced the Board to increase the Membership Subscription from \$3 to \$4. It has always been the policy to keep subscriptions at such a level so as to just cover the servicing costs of members, the last increase being made in 1975. A Membership balance sheet for the 1976-77 year is presented below to show why the subscription has to be increased.

Total Membership Receipts for year 1976-77		\$698.25
Total Membership expenses for year 1976-77		\$769.20
Nine mailouts	Postage	\$450.00
	Thirty stencils @20c	\$ 6.00
	Paper	\$ 31.50
	Annual Report Paper	\$ 50.00
	Annual Report cover	\$ 69.00
	Envelopes	\$ 39.50
	Duplicating ink	\$ 12.00
	COTMA Membership subscription	\$106.80
	Membership cards	\$ 13.40

As can be seen Membership has been running at a loss over the past year, although generous donations by members in the form of paper, ink, stencils, etc. have in actual fact avoided the society having to finance membership from tramcar revenue. However, we cannot expect our members to donate from their own pocket to subsidise the membership. The Society values your membership and trusts that after having presented the financial situation detailed above that you will forward your Membership Renewal to us.

Tramcar Maintenance: No.28 -The canvas covering is in the process of being applied to the roof which will virtually complete all work on this tram.

No.38 -The new axle brasses have yet to be collected from the M&MTB. For various reasons, which usually crop up in volunteer organisations when members have to spend their day time at work earning a living, we have been delayed in collecting these items but a concerted effort for their collection will be made shortly.

No.26 -The floor of this tram has been painted along with portion of the car interior greatly enhancing its appearance. Our 'junior' section worked enthusiastically in painting the floor whilst Andrew Hall completed the interior body painting.

No.40 - The 'junior' section is at present painting the floor of this tram.

Depot Extensions: The Board has not as yet received a reply from the Ballarat City Council concerning our submission to extend the present tram depot. As soon as a reply is received all members will be made acquainted with the decision.

Charters: Approximately 40 students from the Narrandera High School chartered a tram on Tuesday 5th July in conjunction with the visit to Ballarat as part of a geography and history excursion.

Funding for depot extensions: The B.T.P.S. Co-Operative Loan Society was formed in 1972 for funding the construction of the present depot. It is a separate organisation set up by the B.T.P.S. and exists solely as a means to provide money in the form of loans.

The loan society sells shares which enables it to obtain a bank loan which in turn it gives to the Society. The Society repays the loan made to it over a period of 10 years. It is now proposed to increase the Co-Operative Society number of shares to enable it to obtain a larger bank loan to contribute to the proposed new depot extensions.

The money it raises will contribute towards the 2 for 1 grant made recently by the State Government. Each dollar offered by loan so enables the Society to obtain two from the Government. The loan society's present authorised capital is \$8,000 but an extraordinary General Meeting of its members have increased this to \$38,000. This will enable a bank loan of \$25,000 to be obtained over a five year period to match the Government funds which will become available.

To enable this to be done the loan society needs to sell 30,000 shares. These are \$1.00 shares paid up to 10cents. We enclose a form, which we trust you will complete and return. By a contribution of say \$10.00 you will in fact be buying 100 shares paid up to 10 cents. These 100 shares will enable us to obtain a bank loan of \$100 which in turn will enable us to obtain a Government grant of \$200 thus overall obtaining \$300 for the Society towards the cost of depot extensions.

Thus your \$10 makes \$300 available to the Society.

The bank loan is for a period of 10 years after which time the shares will be bought back from you and your original subscription will be refunded, without interest.

This system of loaning money through the purchase of shares is a common form of fun raising for community groups such as Scouts, Church groups, Kindergartens etc.

Contributions: Members are reminded they are welcome to submit any contributions for inclusion in this Newsheet. Kindred societies wishing to advertise some function or advise of some important news are also welcome. Please address any correspondence to 'Fares Please' c/o the society address.

A.E.T.A. Meeting: The next meeting of the Australian Electric Traction Association will be held at the Victorian Railways Institute Flinders Street Station Melbourne on Friday 19th August when a senior officer of the M&MTB will speak on the planning for and construction of the East Burwood tramway extension. The meeting commences at 8pm.

National Trust Report on Botanic Gardens, Ballarat: In September of last year the National Trust recorded Lake Wendouree, but refused to classify or record the Botanic Gardens. Further discussion took place between the Trust and the Ballarat City Council, resulting in a report on the Gardens being prepared by the Trust. The report pointed out that the Gardens had, over the years, lost direction, and had become a miscellaneous collection of glass houses, wishing wells, modern light fittings and various pieces of statuary. In order to restore balance and harmony to the Gardens, it was suggested that a return be made to the full Victorian style of garden, with masses of annuals and complicated geometric patterns in the flower beds. The tramway, though not quite of the Victorian era, would certainly complement any such scheme should it come to pass.

Trolley Wire: The official society publication 'Trolley Wire' is available for members on a Annual Subscription rate of \$5.00. The magazine is a good quality bi-monthly publication produced in Sydney by South Pacific Electric Railway and has most other Australian tramway museums recording it as their official publication. Enquiries and subscriptions should be addressed to the 'Membership Officer' at the B.T.P.S. address.

Entertainment Meeting: No meeting has been planned to be held in Melbourne this month and the next meeting will be advertised in the next issue of 'Fares Please'.

The Entertainment Meeting held at Bungaree on 11th June was, although only attended by a small number, a pleasant convivial occasion.

Next 'Fares Please' issued during September.