

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

New Depot: Len Doull and Warren Doubleday are at present drawing up a schedule of tenders so that a detailed quote for each separate task can be obtained, When this is completed about the end of the month the tenders for construction will be called.

Co-Operative Society: Thanks to a generous response the Co-Operative is now fully subscribed. On application to our bank we have been granted a loan of \$10,000 which will enable us to obtain the Government grant of \$20,000 which will finance initial construction of the depot building. The Co-Operative again thanks all those generous contributors and should you have any money burning a hole in your pocket we ask that you set it aside for our next call for funds to finance the second year grant which will be called around July 1978.

C.O.T.M.A. Conference: The annual conference of the Council of Australasian Tramway Museums will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand from Friday 21st April to Tuesday 25th April 1978. A wide range of subjects will be presented and discussion groups will operate along with a number of visits to installations of tramway and transport interest. The conference is open to any member and should they wish to attend they may contact Graeme Jordan at the society address. The proposed cost at this stage is around \$400.

Tramcar Maintenance: A suspected fault on the newly wound armature for No.38 is causing concern. It appears one of the coils on the armature may be shorting out which at the worst could mean a complete rewind. This, as you can see, is now the major problem holding up the return to service of this tram. Our electrical contractor who completed the rewinding is shortly to inspect and make a decision on the method of repair and likely cost, if any. No.28 will definitely be ready for the Begonia Festival. This will give us three operable single truck trams and one bogie tram. No.14 has been causing concern by creating flashovers in the controller. The tram has therefore been withdrawn while this fault exists but is expected to return to traffic shortly.

New Members: The society extends a warm welcome to the following New Member:-

Number	Name	Location
493	G. Young	Seaford

We welcome new members and invite them to take part in society activities. The society offers overnight accomodation at Bungaree for those not resident in Ballarat.

Recent visitors: On Saturday 21st January Mr. Paul Class and his wife Sonja visited our museum. Mr.Class in Manager of Gales Creek Enterprises of Oregon which operate a very good tramway museum at Glenwood, Oregon, U.S.A. Mr.Class was here in Australia to arrange shipment of the W2 trams from Melbourne to Seattle which was recently featured in the press. This visit again shows the high rating our museum has around the world by other museum operators, as he wrote some time in advance of his visit after gaining our address from C.O.T.M.A.

Another expected international visitor is Geoffrey Claydon, Secretary of the Tramway Museum of Great Britain. The museum at Crich, near Derby, is recognised as one of the world leaders in this field. Mr. Claydon is expected in Ballarat near the end of April. Around this time a visit will be made by an Austrian tramway enthusiast who has recently written advising of his arrival.

Co-Operative Shares for sale: The Co-Operative Society has asked us to advertise the sale of 10 shares. Their member, Mr.A. Cook, wishes to reclaim his \$10.00 and therefore offers to sell 10 shares at \$1.00 each. Should any person wish to aquire these shares and therefore help Mr.Cook in the gain of his money please return the attached form with payment.

To: BTPS Co-Operative Society Limited;
I wish to purchase the shares pffered by Mr.Cook. Enclosed please find \$10.00. (Make cheques payable to B.T.P.S. only)

NAME
ADDRESS

A.E.T.A. Annual Convention: The Australian Electric Traction Association will be holding its 24th Annual Interstate Convention in Melbourne over the Easter period this year. On Friday 24th March a group study and seminar will be held at the Park Royal Motel, Parkville dealing with Fare Collections on both railways and tramways, Publicity and future trends in public transport modes: cost \$2.50.

On Saturday 25th March a day tour is offered to inspect the S.E.C. 90cm electric railway at Yallourn. Travel each way is by the 'Gippslander' train: Cost for the day is \$8.50

Sunday 26th March offers a bus tour in an MMTB Volvo bus covering the East Burwood tramway, route of the former Box Hill - Doncaster tramway, controversial F19 freeway and the proposed East Preston tramway extension. Cost for the tour is \$4.00

Monday 27th March a 'Z' class tram tour will operate departing North Fitzroy Depot and covering Dandenong Road, East Malvern, Balaclava and St. Kilda area during the morning and the Essendon, Brunswick area during the afternoon: Cost - Full day \$6.00 Half day \$4.00

You have the option of selecting individual day programmes or selecting the full programme where you save \$2.00

For further details and Registration Forms contact the Secretary, AETA, 31 Corhampton Road, North Balwyn, 3104.

Female Drivers: The society is at present training its first female tram driver. Treasurer, Mrs. Carolyn Dean, underwent her first days training at Preston on 5th February and her first days training at Ballarat on 18th February. Much favourable comment was made of Mrs. Dean, along with new uniform, by passengers some of whom took her photograph.

Christmas operation: The trams ran every day from Saturday 24th December to Sunday 5th February. Passenger traffic was excellent with a couple of record days. Two charters were operated over this period - one being the Tramway Museum Society Golden Sunset Tour' on Monday 26th December 1977 and the other for a caravan club on Sunday 29th January 1978. Thanks is due to all those who assisted the operation of the tramway over this period, especially on weekdays, as this can be our most taxing time for staff and after all we are all only volunteers.

Trams will operate on Saturdays, Sundays and the Labour Day holiday during the Begonia Festival this March.

Cavalcade of Transport: Our society was represented at the Cavalcade of Transport held at Spencer Street Station on Australia Day. A number of our Sales items were made available at the combined railfans sales area where some of our members assisted in the hectic pace of selling all day.

TRANSPORT NEWS ELSEWHERE:

Tasman Limited: As from 1st March 1978 the 'Tasman Limited' service between Wynyard, Launceston and Hobart will only operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Both carriage sets will operate still crossing at Western Junction.

South Australian Railways: This system will be transferred to the Australian National Railways as from 1st March 1978. The ANR has had financial responsibility of the system since 1st July 1975 and will now take over managerial and operational responsibility of the system. The South Australian Government will retain ownership of the metropolitan area in Adelaide and its employees will be ANR employees under secondment to the State Transport Authority.

The Tasmanian Railways may be taken over by the ANR on this date but no details are known as yet, although judging by the Tasman Limited alterations this may be fact.

Victorian Railways: The recently introduced reduced Sunday suburban service provides some interesting new ideas. Princes Bridge station is closed all day and Epping and Hurstbridge trains leave from Platforms 2&3 Flinders Street, also Platforms 6&7 Flinders Street are not used and Williamstown and Dandenong trains leave from Platforms 8&9. The entire service is operated all day by 3 car Silver trains although it is not sure what will happen on days of heavy loadings. The Princes Bridge service is operated by 4 car Harris trains and the St. Kilda, Port Melbourne and Sandringham service is operated by 3 car Tait trains.

Next 'Fares Please' issued during April.