

JUNE 1978

PO Box 632, Ballarat 3350

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Depot Extensions: The tender for the construction of foundations has been let to J. Bylsma Constructions, a most competent contractor who was ready to start work immediately. Our Project Engineer Len Doull had trouble in getting a tree removal contractor to clear our site, and on relaying this information to Mr. Bylsma he had one of his bulldozers sent straight around to the site to do the job immediately on Friday 12th May. Our members joined forces on 13th and 14th May in a scene reminiscent of early days, and worked hard in removing all small branches from the trees as requested by Mr. Bylsma so he would only have the trunks to contend with for removal. The limbs make a welcome supply to our firewood at Bungaree. The Contractor required a power supply for his equipment and Geoff Dean and Graham Jordan installed this outlet on Sunday 14th May. The Contractors shed and survey markers were at the site by this time and work had started on digging the pits. For a few days work was delayed due to rain but overall the construction has forged along at a surprising rate.

As at 1st June the pit on the track closest the present depot has been constructed and work is now in hand to pour cement for the pit in the adjacent track. Perimeter foundations around the walls of the building will follow. It is intended that all the foundation work will be completed by the middle of June, after which, on attaining further funds to match the next Government Grant for the financial year, the steelwork for the new building will be erected.

The depot was open for business seven days a week over the recent school holiday period and this was good for contact between the Contractor and the Members and allowed each to see how the other worked. Former Society Engineer and now Consulting Engineer on the project, Warren Doubleday, now resident in Sydney spent the first week of the school holidays in Ballarat and was invaluable in assisting the Contractor during excavations and cement pouring at the site.

In all the project is proceeding excellently and to see it carry on to the next financial year more funds will be needed by the Society to match the Government Grant. The Treasurer, Carolyn Dean, would welcome any donations or she will be pleased to discuss any other arrangements with you (phone 88 4086).

South Australian Transport Celebrations: A total of 15 people have booked on the society group tour to Adelaide over the weekend of 10 & 11th June. A number of other enthusiasts from Victoria and also groups from S.P.E.R. and W.A.E.T.M. will be attending. Trams 1, 303, 282, 381 are at the City Depot now and will operate over the weekend on the Glenelg tramway. An evening dinner will be held at Glenelg on the Saturday and travel each way will be by a museum tram. On Sunday the Premier, Mr. Don Dunstan, will drive the horse tram from South Terrace to Victoria Square conveying mails from Glenelg. In all it should be an entertaining weekend.

Tramcar Maintenance: The continuing story of the faulty armature. 38's armature was returned to Mayne Electrics of Ballarat where it will be repaired and available for collection on 9th May. It will then be placed back in tram 38 and with fingers crossed we may see this tram operating shortly after.

After a deputation to Dulux Paints and explaining the problem of finding paint suitable to match the S.E.C. colour green the paint laboratory set to and made a special brew which is ideal. The paint is the closest match we can get, after all the paint on our trams has faded a little over the seven years at least since they were painted. It is proposed 38 will be painted all over with this paint as it now resembles a patchwork quilt with various shades of green over it.

Tram 27 is having its roof re-sealed with roofing paint by Brian Wood and Graham Jordan. This task will benefit the tram and make it more pleasant to look at with a newly painted roof.

Tram 28 is still lacking numbers and S.E.C. motifs but these will be applied shortly.

School Holidays: The trams operated each day from Saturday 13th to Sunday 28th May with the exception of Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th when no Driver was available. Around 80 people were conveyed each week day with higher loadings at weekends. Two busloads of children from Melton greatly boosted ticket sales on Friday 26th May.

Entertainment Meeting: The meeting held on 9th May at the V.R.I. Flinders Street Station was very well attended and will lead to more meetings, usually about one every three months. Reports from Richard Gilbert, Carolyn Dean and Bill Kingsley were given and the attendance asked a lot of questions which made discussion and audience participation well received. A number of films were shown and some bookings for the Adelaide tour were received.

C.O.T.M.A. Conference: The recent Council Of Australasian Tramway Museums Conference held in Christchurch New Zealand was most successful. BTPS Board Member Graham Jordan represented the Society and he reports that the next conference will be held in Brisbane in two years time, in 1980.

It is worth mentioning that in 1975 the BTPS called the first meeting from which C.O.T.M.A. was formed, also the then Mayor of Ballarat, Sir Arthur Nicholson, spoke at the opening luncheon and through coincidence he travelled to New Zealand on the same flight as our group and stayed at the same hotel in which the 1978 conference was being held. He was impressed that the Conference and C.O.T.M.A. had been fully and firmly established as part of the Australasian tramway preservation scene.

Membership Renewals: Enclosed is your Membership Renewal notice. We ask that you renew your membership with us as we are about to enter an exciting and progressive year with our depot extensions under construction. We need your support as an individual both with volunteer effort and financial support.

The society values your Membership.