

# FARES PLEASE

MARCH, 1979

Box 632, P.O., Ballarat, 3350

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Begonia Festival: The busiest time of the year is with us once more. The Begonia Festival runs from Saturday 3rd March to Monday 12th March and the trams will operate on each weekend. Saturday 3rd saw light loadings due to the inclement weather and the basic Saturday service sufficed, but Sunday 4th was a different story. No.28 and 40 ran for most of the day with heavy loadings and the road traffic was very intense. No.33 was run out during the afternoon and 28 was run in to provide some variety for Channel 7 who were doing some filming.

The long weekend should be a busy one and all our efforts are geared up for it.

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

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
507	W.Scott	Beaumaris
508	L.Rodriguez	Richmond

Resumed Members: The society extends a welcome back to the following Members:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
461	W.Harding
389	S.McCandlish
434	M.Blake
142	R.Henderson

Australia Day Pageant: The Transport Cavalcade held on the Australia Day Holiday, Monday 29th January was very successful and No.14 ran well on MMTB metals in Latrobe Street, Melbourne conveying the holiday crowds. The tram ran a service from 11am to 5pm along with MMTB trams X2 676, V 214, TMSV Birney tram 217 and Bendigo Trust tram 17. The society tram was also driven from and to Preston Workshops by our own volunteers. The society wishes to thank, very sincerely, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board and in particular Mr. John Sholtz and his staff at Preston Workshops for their valued assistance and co-operation. It is from excellent working arrangements such as these that the society can enhance its reputation with our transport departments and Government representatives.

Depot Works: The depot construction has moved very slowly of late. A few more steel uprights need to be erected before the cladding can be affixed. We have been dissatisfied with progress but the President, Frank Hanrahan and Construction Engineer, Len Doull have had discussions with the building contractor and from these we are hopeful the situation will improve.

It was intended to place No.14 on a temporary track in the new shed on its arrival back from Melbourne but as it was not finished to lock up stage the tram had to be sent to our storage shed at Sebastopol. Therefore our savings gain in moving No.33 from Sebastopol to the depot to fill the gap left by 14's departure has been lost and we are back to moving 4 trams from Sebastopol on 'moving day'.

Sleepers: We have received a consignment of standard gauge sleepers from the Australian National Railways. They arrived by truck from 'near the long straight' north of Eucla. After spending some years in the desert sun they are in reasonable condition and certainly don't suffer from water rot. They are being sorted into 3 categories and will be used on track construction in the new depot building and track fan. The unserviceable ones will be sold to plant nurseries.

All thanks to David MacArtney for his alertness in spotting the original truckload of sleepers in Sturt Street and conducting initial negotiations with the driver.

Con't over/

'This Week Has Seven Days': A true statement but also the name of the afternoon program on Saturdays on Channel 7 Melbourne. The station contacted us enquiring if they could film a 5 minute segment and we were very pleased to respond. The filming was conducted on Sunday 4th March and the segment should be shown within the next three weeks. If your keen to find out the exact date telephone the depot (053 34 1580) each Saturday and we should have late advice from Channel 7. Actually we think we may even have the wrong programme mentioned so it would be worth watching 'Camera 7' over this period too!

Roof Advertisements: We are pleased to announce a further two sponsors of roof advertising. The Australian Paper Mills have a new advertising sign on No.27 and Ballarat Florette have sponsored their former S.E.C. era advertisement on No.33. We thank both these sponsors for their support.

Christmas Running: The trams ran every day from Tuesday 26th December to Sunday 4th February and we wish to thank all the society Members who helped over this period. Traffic figures are as follows:-

December 1978 - 2093 passengers (down 93 on last year)  
January 1979 - 3576 passengers (down 1741 on last year mainly due to very hot weather and tourist traffic being generally down)

Tramcar Maintenance:

- No.33 is running well.
- No.28 has had its numbers placed on it and is running well.
- No.40 has had the new axle brasses bedded in and runs well.
- No.27 has a fault in its motor support bearing which rests on the axle. It has been withdrawn from traffic until the fault is fully investigated.
- The traction motor for No.38 is still at the electrical contractors where it is being worked on.

Wedding trams: As a result of a suggestion by David MacArtney the society is hopeful of gaining extra business by providing trams for wedding parties either to or from the Lake Lodge Restaurant or just for photographic purposes. A 'press run' was conducted recently with a very happy newly wed couple and the resultant photographs will be taken to the various photographers in Ballarat in the hope they may suggest this service to their clients.

The society has purchased an amount of bunting which is easily affixed to the tram for the occasion.

'B' class badges: The Sales Department has produced enamelled Victorian Railways 'B' class diesel electric locomotive lapel badges. These look very good and are of the same standard as the '27' badges. They cost \$2 each and orders should be forwarded to the Sales Department at the society address. Allow 30c for postage.

Press advertising: The society recently ran an advertisement in the 'Sunday Press' which had a special feature on the Begonia Festival.

Charters: There are two charters planned during April and May. Mount Scopus school will be chartering a tram on both 4th April and 2nd May. Victour has chartered a tram on Sunday 11th March which is right in the Begonia Festival time and this will add even more interest to the very busy tramway.

'Trolley Wire': Members are reminded that the official society journal is 'Trolley Wire'. Published in Sydney by S.P.E.R. it is the official journal of virtually all Australian Transport Museums and contains interesting historical articles as well as news on current museum activities.

Subscriptions to this bi-monthly journal are \$6.00 and should be forwarded to the Treasurer at the society address.

Next 'Fares Please' issued April