

FARES PLEASE

MAY 1979

Box 632, P.O., Ballarat

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NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

New Members: The Society extends a warm welcome to the following new Members and invites them to take part in society activities. Accomodation is provided at Bungaree for those not resident in Ballarat who wish to stay overnight. Contact the General Manager for details.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
509	J.Parker	Armadale
510	J.Hanrahan	Wendouree
511	Mrs.M.Forster	Carlton
512	B.Walker	Fitzroy
513	C.Griffiths	Northcote

Depot Construction: The Board of Management has been disappointed with the performance of the contractor constructing our depot extensions, and in fact you may have noticed work has ground to a halt. The Board has been forced to look elsewhere for another contractor to have it finished and this is satisfactorilly in hand. We expect to have the building to lock up stage in a couple of months. We anticipate the Society will incur additional expense in the changeover and legal proceedings are in hand to recoup any costs.

Capital: The Society has a need for increased capital due to an increase in costs, such as the depot works, and this has not been matched by a projected increase in passenger journeys. We also have loan committments we would like to honor on time to our members.

We are, however, not looking at going broke and we can finish the depot to lock up stage but a need for cash is upon us. An Appeal Sheet is enclosed and the Board asks that you read it and give it your consideration.

Should you have any other arrangement you would like to discuss contact the Treasurer, Carolyn Dean, on (03)88 4086.

Maximising the revenue: At a recent Board Meeting it was decided we must now embark on a program to maximise the revenue potential of our existing facilities. We intend to encourage weekday charters by contacting bus companies with a business letter advising of our service. There is a potential market here that we have talked about for sometime but now it is important that we make constructive moves.

The schools in the Ballarat area will be contacted with a view to promoting the already popular end of third term charters. The Education Department will also be contacted in an effort to place mention of our tramway in the newsletter issued to Teachers.

School Holidays: We have just completed two weeks of seven day a week running over the recent school holiday period from 12th to 27th May. Traffic figures were good and on most days at least one hundred passengers were carried. This good patronage goes hand in hand with the good patronage over the Easter period. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped operate the tramway during this period.

Tramcar Maintenance:

- No.33 - Out of service, having saloon doors brought up to a standard where they can be opened and shut without putting on a full 'two armed combat of strength'.
- No.28 - in service.Has run most of the school holiday trips.
- No.27 - in service.
- No.26 - out of service. Requiring maintenance work in the new depot.
- No.40 - in service.
- No.38 - out of service. The traction motor armature has been rewound and a field coil has now burn't out.

Wedding Trams: There has been no follow up business to the proposal that we provide trams for the many wedding parties in the Gardens on Saturdays, however, David MacArtney is still in contact with the various Ballarat photographers should there be any enquiries.

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Archives: We were very impressed that Mr. Mudge of the S.E.C. at Nash House, Melbourne, contacted us saying that an amount of tramway material was being cleaned out of the files and would be donated to our archives. Mr. Mudge in handing the material over to Bill Jessup and Carolyn Dean said the only condition the S.E.C. required was that it is to be kept by the Society as official society property as any further correspondence the S.E.C. received enquiring into their former tramways would be forwarded onto us for dealing.

We thanked Mr. Mudge for his interest and trust in contacting us and we will fully honor the condition placed on us. The material includes Minutes of meetings of the annual Tramways Systems Managers Conference (Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat) plus many plans and photographs.

'B' class badges: A new stock of Victorian Railways 'B' class Lapel badges, produced by our Sales Department have been received and are offered for sale. They are a very good production and cost \$2 each. Allow 30c for postage.

Saturday 'Winter' service: To reduce operating costs on the not so well patronised winter Saturdays an 'as required' service has been introduced. The tram now sits at the Gardens Loop and trips are only run as required when passengers arrive to travel. All the intermediate stops have printed signs advising intending passengers to proceed to the Loop to board the tram. It can be safely said that 100% of our Saturday patronage arrives the Gardens by motor car therefore there is no problem with people making their way to the Loop, which is located at the focal point of the Gardens.

The service is still provided between our normal Saturday times of 12.50pm and 5.00pm

Trackwork: Society workers have been creating work activity at the new depot by preparing for track laying. A grader has levelled the area where the track will be laid and members have been toiling shifting surplus soil and laying screenings. Before too long drainage and trackwork should be taking shape. Thanks to our hard working members for tackling this task.

Australia Day Cavalcade: We were pleased to receive a cheque recently (\$250) from the T.M.S.V. as our share of the profits from the Cavalcade of Transport held in Melbourne last Australia Day in which we participated.

New Conductors: Although he has been Conducting since January we have not mentioned Bill Scott. Bill is a keen worker and travels from Melbourne to work for our Society.

Mrs. Melanie Forster is a Conductress. The wife of former Board Member and Treasurer, Noel Forster, Melanie has only recently started with us and is pleasant to work with.

We welcome both these people to our operating staff and we hope they will enjoy their hobby with us.

Brochures: We are keeping Victour, Melbourne and Ballarat stocked with our advertising brochures. The Central Highlands Tourist Office in Ballarat is always supplied and our large advertising board is housed here also.

Ruth Rice, the former executive director of the Central Highlands Regional Tourist Authority has transferred her position to Victour, Ballarat. Ruth had a lot to do with promoting our society in her former position and we thank her very much for her efforts.

Membership Renewals: These will be mailed at the end of June. The society values your Membership and trusts you will renew with us.

Trolley Wire: Members are reminded that the official society journal is 'Trolley Wire'. Published in Sydney by S.P.E.R. (Sydney tramway Museum) it is the official journey of virtually all Australian tramway museums. It contains latest news and photo's of museum activities plus a feature article in each issue.

Subscriptions to this bi-monthly journal are \$6 and should be forwarded to the Treasurer at the society address.