

MAY 1981

P.O. BOX 632, BALLARAT 3350

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

School Holiday operation: Our May School Holiday operation saw us operating trams every day from Saturday 9th to Wednesday 27th May except for Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd when trams did not operate due to the statewide electricity shortage and consequent curtailment of supply to non essential services. Patronage was not too high but followed along the moderate levels we are now used to on these weekday operations. Thanks to all our members for their help especially on weekdays when our workforce is scarce.

Charter: The Rail Coach Touring Association paid us yet another visit on Sunday 13th May. The group of 140 people arrived by bus as part of a Ballarat area tour and were conveyed on our tramway in trams 671, 38 and 14. The trams also called at the depot where our guests inspected the museum display and depot area as well as patronising our heavily laden sales table. The RCTA has visited us a number of times in the past and we equally always look forward to their company as they do ours.

Archives donation; During April an interested tramfan of the 1950's, Mr. Laurie Gallop, visited our tramway and was most impressed. So much so that he offered to send us the bulk of his negative collection of Sydney tramways in the 1950's for us to copy and do what we like with it. The enormity of such a generous gift can easily be gauged and we thank Gallop very much for his valued donation. The Board will look at the position responsibly and no doubt an amount of the negatives will be printed and offered for sale.

Trackwork: Trackwork into the new shed has reached the stage where the track nearest the old shed is open for traffic. and the track next to this is almost ready for use. This will leave only two more tracks to be constructed but at this stage this area of the depot is full of plant and road vehicles, such as the Tower Truck and work on this section will not take place for a while. The newly laid tracks allow us to place a tram over an inspection pit where undergear maintenance and brake adjustments can be made with a lot more ease and much improved working conditions. This is a major reason put forward in the submission to the Ballarat City Council for permission to extend our shed to its present stage.

The area at the rear of the older depot has been cleaned of stored equipment and the large concrete slab has been poured to allow construction of our toilet and amenities area to commence. A lot of material to go into our new crew rooms and office area such as a sink, wall panelling and cupboards have been purchased. All this mammoth workload and co-ordination is being ably handled by society Engineer Warren Doubleday.

DONATIONS: Receipts are enclosed to those members who have made donations to the society over the past couple of months. We are always looking for donations and should you wish to take advantage of our tax deductible offer please forward any amount of \$2 or more to 'Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Limited Museum Fund' at the above address. Your donation will greatly assist our not so large financial coffers.

Tramcar Maintenance: Tram No.33 along with No.26 has been withdrawn due to the discovery of cracks in the spokes of one wheel. This serious fault has prompted the Board into immediate acquisition of some spare wheel centres from the Bendigo Trust. Maximum Traction tram No.38 requires new bearings and steel tyres to bring it up to a good operating standard, and at present its use is restricted. Maximum Traction tram No.40 will be back in revenue service shortly after being marooned on its island of track since delivery from the Melbourne Tramways after the Australia Day Cavalcade in 1980. Melbourne tram W3 661 is still awaiting repairs to its compressor governor but due to dissipation of our limited workforce on track construction and others tramcar maintenance there has been little done to this tram.

Our operating fleet at the moment is single truck trams; 14, 27, 28. Maximum traction tram No.38 and Melbourne tram No.671.

Con'd over/

Souvenir Sales: Our Sales Department has a wide variety of enamel lapel badges for sale at \$2.50 each;

- Victorian Railways diesel loco's 'Y' class, 'C' class
- Victorian Railways steam Loco's 'R' class
- Victorian Railways Diesel Electric Rail Motor
- Victorian Railways Silver Suburban Train
- Melbourne's new 'Z3' tram
- Melbourne's Tourist Tram 'V214'

NEW BADGE: We have just received a new badge - Maximum Traction Tram No.38:

These badges are up to our usual standard of good imported English quality and cost \$2.50 each

Should you wish to order badges through the mail please add 40 cents for postage of up to 4 badges.

Photo's wanted: Member Bob Lilburn has asked us to advertise for photographs of the following Melbourne trams for his collection. Bob is a keen collector of photographs of trams and should any person be able to help please contact Bob through the Society address:-

- G class No. 143, 172
- S class No. 155, 167

Sale of surplus equipment: In reply to an advertisement from the Tramway Historical Society of Christchurch, New Zealand for Maximum Traction wheel sets our society has offered two surplus sets of pony wheels. The Tramway Historical Society has indicated a firm interest in purchasing them and we are currently pursuing this sale.

New Members: We welcome the following new Members to our society and invite them to take part in our operations at Ballarat.

Number	Name	Location
532	G. Bridgart	Ballarat
533	Mrs. J. Mathews	Kew East
534	C. Mathews	Kew East
535	C. Hirst	Box Hill South
536	I. Hanson	Carnegie
537	D. Soden	Glen Iris
538	Ms. S. Clarke	Armadale

The following members have resumed their membership with us:-

343	C. Withington	Richmond
204	A. Smith	South Yarra

Planned works: A busy weekend is planned for the Queens Birthday holiday weekend (6th to 8th June) where the amenities building will commence being constructed. Warren Doubleday and John Phillips are our main two in the building construction team and we are assured of a busy three days.

Membership Renewals: These fall due on 30th June and another, bulkier mailout will be forwarded to you around the first week of July. The Renewal Forms will be enclosed and the Membership Rate will remain at \$5. The subscription rate for our combined Australian Tramways Museum magazine 'Trolley Wire' is now \$7.50

Tenth Year Celebrations: Our society will be ten years old this year and to co-incide with the tenth year of closure of the Ballarat Tramway System in September a few functions are being organised to remember the event and at the same time allow us to look back to our past. Members are welcome to suggest any ideas for celebrations to the Board.

New Phone Number: Society Roster Clerk, Gavin Young, has a new work phone number. He can now be contacted at work on weekdays between 9am and 4pm on 391 5111 ext. 3338.

NEXT 'FARES PLEASE' EARLY JULY