

FARES PLEASE

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News of the

Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society
Box 632, P.O., Ballarat, Victoria, 3350

JULY 1981

Tenth Anniversary: The anniversary of the tenth year of closure of the Ballarat tramway system will take place on Saturday 19th September 1981 exactly to the day that No.40 entered the SEC Depot to mark the closure of the tramways 10 years ago. To commemorate the 10 years since closure of the system and to incorporate the 10 years of our Society (which was actually last May) a weekend of events is being planned. It appears that this will be an ideal date to officially open our depot extensions and the unconfirmed plan is to have an Official Depot Opening on the Saturday afternoon, 19th September and a procession of trams in Wendouree Parade followed by some sort of afternoon tea function for invited guests. On the Saturday evening a members social gathering will be held. A colouring competition will probably be run and society line drawing artist David Frost has been commissioned to produce a drawing for the occasion. A special book is hoped to be printed to commemorate the event and this will contain photos of the society over the past 10 years, press clippings, Board Minutes and old letters.

By the next issue of this Newsheet a final plan will have been agreed on and will then be announced. Should any Member have a suggestion for the occasion, and be willing to undertake some of the work, contact the Secretary.

Sales: Included in this mailout is a Sales List. You may find something you require and your always welcome to come to the depot and look through the sales area. A new sales item being produced is 'Tee shirts' with a tram motif. These will be advertised when available.

Membership: Again it is Membership Renewal time. Enclosed is the appropriate form in which we ask you to please renew your Membership with us. The Society enjoys a reasonably stable level of Membership but relies on each subscription to cover certain annual payments plus relies on Membership support for its many other commitments. We are always looking for people to work around the depot area on construction tasks, tramcar maintenance and on the trams in 'traffic'.

Should you wish to subscribe to the excellent bi-monthly Australian Tramway Museums magazine "Trolley Wire" a section on the form allows for this. Another section allows for any donations you may care to send and all donations above \$2.00 are tax deductible. If you do send donations make them payable to 'Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Limited Museum Fund'.

The Board tries hard to encourage and keep the Membership and we hope you will respond by continuing your membership with us. The Society values your Membership.

Car Parking: Now that the level crossing over the access tramline has been re-opened would all members who drive cars to the depot please park them on the south side of the tram line.

Charters: On Saturday 4th July a charter and inspection of the depot was conducted for a local group and in late June a member chartered two trams for visiting friends from New Zealand. At this stage there are charters booked for 5th and 6th August.

Rags: Our depot is always in need of old rags to clean trams, paint brushes, tables and many other areas. If you can supply old rags please contact us. If you require them to be collected from your home telephone the Depot (34 1580) at weekend or in Melbourne, Richard Gilbert(583 8034) anytime.

New Telephone Number: As you read above General Manager, Secretary - Richard Gilbert has a new phone number. This is due to upgrading of equipment at the Cheltenham Telephone Exchange and replacement of the original 'step by step' switching equipment with more modern 'crossbar' equipment. Until 1950 Cheltenham was a manual exchange (more interesting

then) but now with changes to the equipment again it means new numbers. Richard Gilbert can now be contacted on (03) 583 8034.

3BA Community Club Awards: Last Thursday Richard Gilbert and Stephen Butler attended a function organised by local radio station 3BA to launch Community Club Awards. The idea of the awards is that volunteer organisations suggest to their members that if they shop at the participating retailers premises and give the society the 'cash register receipts' and/or nominated product labels the Society stands to earn cash awards for sending them to the co-ordinator - 3BA.

Being a participant of the awards costs us nothing, can be a focal point of enthusiasm and at no time commits our Membership to any hard sell campaign. As the information sheet from 3BA says "Community Club Awards is a dignified way for your club to earn money. It is neither a contest nor a game of chance and your club does not 'win' anything. It is possible to 'earn' cash awards on a weekly basis for 16 weeks from August to November".

A 'Buyers Guide' nominating participating stores will be distributed to our society by 3BA early in August and these in turn will be sent to members. In the meantime other than participating stores or retailers a number of firms are also taking part and members are asked if they buy Home Pride Bread and Coon Cheese could they collect the packets from these and advise the society who will arrange collection. (Please wash the cheese packets - Pewwwww)

Trackwork: The track work team headed by Warren Doubleday has been busy completing the track leading from No.4 track to our small pit thus forming No.5 track. This will allow tram No.40 to be released in time for the 10th anniversary arrangements. The track is virtually bolted up and requires some ballasting and erection of the overhead wiring.

In other depot area works a special construction weekend on 6th to 8th June saw Warren Doubleday and John Phillips complete the timber framing for the crew change room and amenities area. Some green shaded sky-lights have been installed in the roof of the old depot building allowing natural light to enter and save on some electricity costs.

Tramcar Maintenance: The trolley poles from No.40 are currently being machined by Maurie Hall to enable the 'wheel heads' to fit snugly where the 'skid heads' were whilst the tram was in Melbourne. Graeme Jordan has been rubbing down the varnished seats from No.35 (at Bungaree) that will be placed in the drop centre of No.38. Andrew Hall and Andrew Mitchell placed one of the Peters Ice Cream roof advertising signs on Tram No.14. This advertisement had been taken off another tram due to workshop commitments.

Arrangements are being made with our local foundry to cast some brake blocks to suit our W3 and W4 tram. On Wednesday 8th July Andrew H 1 and Richard Gilbert conveyed our spare set of single truck wheels (two axles and four wheels) from Bungaree to Melbourne on a hired truck. The wheels have new tyres and were made available by the SEC after the system closed. The wheels were taken to the MMTB Workshops at Preston where they are being profiled on the wheel lathe and will then be placed under tram No.33 which has developed some cracks in the spokes. Our thanks to the MMTB for agreeing to undertake the wheel profiling and especially to the Preston Workshops staff for making their time available to complete the task, which we ourselves cannot do.

Thanks also to Andrew and Richard for taking a day off work and giving up a day of Annual Leave respectively to work for the Society.

Donations: Member Bob Lilburn, recently donated some negatives of the Ballarat and Bendigo Tramways and these will be used to produce photos for our Sales Department. These will help our Sales Department further and thanks to Bob for the donation. Thank also to Laurie Gallop who last month donated a large collection of Sydney Tramway negatives to our Society and has now made available a Geelong Tramways destination blind. Thanks very much to Laurie and we will put this to some good use. It will certainly be on show during the 10th anniversary.

Visiting Members: On the weekend of 4th and 5th July Gary Ford from the Brisbane Tramway Museum Society stayed at Ballarat and treated us to a movie show of his films featuring the Brisbane trams and the opening of the Brisbane Suburban Railway Electrification. Gary also spoke of the BTMS on the Association of Railway Enthusiasts program on 3CR.