

MARCH 1982

PO. Box 632, Ballarat, 3350

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Australia Day Pageant: The 1982 Transport Pageant was held on a fine Sunny Monday 1st February, 1982. Our tram, No. 27, performed excellently along with the Bendigo Trust Birney and MMTB trams L104, 180 and V214. A total of 2,229 passengers travelled on the vintage trams and our Society should gain about \$200 from fares. We thank the staff of the Preston Tramway Workshops who, as in earlier cavalcades, have assisted us greatly in preparing our tram for this important day.

Our Sales Tent in the Fitzroy Gardens proved very successful and revenue was approximately \$750.00. No. 27 was returned to Ballarat on Wednesday, 3rd February along with Maxim Traction tram No. 39 which has been stored at Ballarat East. A good turnout of volunteer workers over the last weekend of January completed the trackwork from the front of the new depot into the shed to allow No. 39 to be delivered. The MMTB efficiently supplied two No. 1 bogies (off W2 trams) to allow No. 39 to be sat on as 39's bogies were sent to a local engineering works where they are to be brought back to an operational standard. Special thanks is due to our willing workers for the extra effort carried out over this whole project.

Begonia Festival: The trams have operated every day from 25th February to Thursday 11th March with the exception of Friday 5th March and this covered the period of the famous Begonia Festival. Patronage over this time was better than it has been in the previous few years and on Sunday 7th March we carried 1173 passengers which was the second highest figure on a single day since Labour Day Monday 1975 which was the first year we operated. The weather was very wet on Monday 8th March and this greatly affected attendances in the Gardens for the big parade and we only carried 345 passengers.

Our intensive January running saw 3664 passengers carried which was 600 higher than the same period last year. We carried 181 passengers in Ballarat on the Australia Day holiday. During February 1223 passengers were carried.

Adelaide Tour: A group of eight members travelled to Adelaide for the Silver Jubilee of the Adelaide Tramway Museum, from 20th to 21st March.

Tramcar Maintenance: Tram No. 40 is up on jacks to allow the bogies to be removed. No. 39's bogies which are being brought up to running standard, may be placed under 40 to make this tram mobile again. Single truck tram No. 33 is fully operational and the new motor support bearings have proven a great success. The tram rolls very freely and the motors sit so steady in the truck frame that we realise a course of action to get motor bearings for other trams must be implemented.

Former MMTB W3 class tram 661 is currently being painted brown and cream and will have the route boxes removed to give it a more vintage appearance.

Member Peter Allen (No not the one who's 'going to Rio') has been working on single truck tram No. 26 converting the drop ends for open cross bench seating. This tram will be restored to the former glory of the open 'California Combination' tram. It will be painted red and cream, the colours of the Electric Supply Company of Victoria, and this is actually how the tram operated for the first few years of its time in Ballarat.

Investigations are still being carried out regarding the supply of new wheels for our trams and Engineer, Warren Doubleday, has been negotiating with the Bendigo Trust and the Commonwealth Steel Company. The Bendigo Trust has been helping us in the purchase of new trolley wheels as our supply is exhausted and some of the trams are definitely due for replacement wheels.

Depot works: Construction of the changing room at the rear of the shed is proceeding well. Virtually all the supply of broken tile piping has been removed from the rear of the building and placed between 4 & 5 roads and topped with quarry fines. A load of coarse sand was delivered for use in the sand boxes of trams. This is the first time we have had to replenish our stock of sand for a couple of years.

New Members: We welcome the following new Members:- Con't over/

No. 555 G. Rodgers 556 G. Turnbull 557 G. Sewell

Bungaree House: An amount of work has been completed to keep our house at Bungaree in a good state of repair. Richard Gilbert and new Member, Graeme Sewell, spent 3 days nailing the roof down tight, filling holes in the tin with a sealing compound and placing new tin sheeting where required. They also rebuilt the back fence which had collapsed for about half of its length, and nailed loose and fallen boards around the verandah area back in place. The house needs repainting, especially on the southern and western walls which face the severe winter weather and efforts will be made to organise something in this area before winter sets in. The leaking gas stove and piping has also been repaired.

Visit by Politicians: A visit by prominent members of the Australian Labor Party was conducted on Friday 12th March. Among those who attended were Mr. Bill Horrocks (Candidate for Ballarat North) Mr. Frank Sheehan (Candidate for Ballarat South) and Mr. Neil Trezise (Member for Geelong North and Shadow Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation). Andrew Hall and Len Doull represented our society and media coverage was quite good. The guests were impressed at the work carried out by our society and were enthusiastic in the support of our project. The group was conveyed over the length of our tramway in No.33

Souvenirs: The Sales Department has re-ordered supplies of the following enamel badges:- Single Truck tram No.27, Bogie Tram No.38, Victorian Railways 'Commeng' suburban train, 'R' class steam locomotive.

A stock of souvenir embossed drinking glasses has been ordered and these will carry the drawing of No.27 tram.

We still have a stock of books for sale by mail or direct from the Tram Depot;

'Ten Years' - A pictorial and nostalgic look at the last days of the S.E.C. trams and the first decade of the Ballarat Vintage Tramway. Price \$2.50 plus 55c postage.

'Destination City' - Details of Melbourne Tramways Fleet - Just re-written with a colour cover. Good collectors item. Price \$6.00 plus \$1.40 postage.

'Reconstruction of Victorias' Provincial Tramways' - Price \$1.20 plus 55c postage.

'Timber and Gold' - Timber tramways of the Ballarat and Daylesford districts. Price \$7.95 plus \$1.40 postage.

Railmac Publications:

'A.N.R. Locomotives, Queensland Locomotives, Vict. Rlys. Locomotives' \$1.50 each

'S.R.A. (NSW) Locomotives' \$1.80

'Silverton Tramway Locomotives' \$2.20

'S.A.R. Locomotive Register' \$2.20

Plus 55c postage per book or \$1.40 the lot

Should people require general further information on Sales Items available or arrangements for purchase and mailing should you live overseas please contact us.

Our Sales Items are available from the 'Railfan Shop' 632 Bourke St. Melbourne. Mail orders can be ordered from this shop by telephoning (03) 67 2480.

Wanted: We still require old rags which are used for cleaning trams and we also are looking about for a good secondhand lawnmower. The grass around the depot area has to be cut regularly and the Society mower finally gave up its last gasp. If any member can either donate a mower or wishes to sell one please contact a Board Member or write to the Society address.

Mainline trackwork: At this stage it is intended to have a work party organised over the Easter weekend to undertake track maintenance in Wendouree Parade. Not far north of the Depot Junction the track has subsided slightly and a rail joint has broken. It is intended to dig this joint out, assess and correct the problem and refill the road surface. Members who are interested in helping over this weekend would be most welcome.