

FARES PLEASE

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News of the

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

MAY 1982

Maurice Calnin: The Board has the sad task of reporting to its members the death recently of one of our founding members Mr. Maurice Calnin. Maurie, as he was known to us all, was at our formation meeting in the Civic Hall, Ballarat in 1971 and became elected to the first interim committee, and subsequently to the Board of Management. He was Vice-President of the Society from its formation and in 1973 became President and held that position until 1975 when he retired from the Board. Ill health prevented Maurie attending our 10th anniversary celebrations, but he telephoned to wish us success. Maurie was in his 80's at the time of his death and had spoken many times of his recollections of the horse trams and the early electric years. He was a man of great knowledge gained through a long life and was always held in high esteem by the members who knew him.

Submission: The society has prepared a submission for funds from the State Government and this has been submitted to the new member for Ballarat South, the Hon. F. Sheehan and the Ballarat City Council. We basically seek funding to allow installation of a Fire Sprinkler system in the depot, our mainline to be relaid and rebuilding of former Electric Supply Company tram No.12.

Depot Interior: Our new changing room now has a ceiling and lighting. The wall panelling is complete and floor coverings are expected to be laid shortly. Carolyn Dean has varnished the doors of this room and the toilet and other members have painted the sink area of the changing room and walls of the toilet.

The bus which has been in store in the depot building earning our society some rent may soon be sold. To prepare for this, a busy work party cleaned the area around and inside the bus to allow it to be moved out of the building. The necessity of the work party forced us to complete what had become a pending job and advantage was taken to stack our equipment neatly and with some thoughts to its eventual use.

Winter Operation: Patronage is expected to lower from this month through the winter months and adjustments have accordingly been made to the tram service. The "as required" service will operate on Saturdays and Sundays. For those who are not aware of the "as required" service it is a cost cutting service that allows the tram to sit at the Gardens depot and trips are only run when passengers come along. Each trip costs about 60¢ in electricity and this service saves the society a lot of "empty" running.

"Electrail" Theatre Day: The Association of Railway Enthusiasts has organised a fund raising theatre day in aid of the "Electrail" Dogbox Restoration Project. Victorian Railways Dogbox motor 107M is currently being restored in the Steamrail workshops to allow it to return to limited running for enthusiast excursions. A number of our society members are workers and supporters and we are pleased to advertise this fund raising day.

A program of both silent and sound films will be shown at the Dendy Theatre, Middle Brighton commencing at 10.30 am on Sunday the 20th of June. The session should finish by 2pm. A light refreshment luncheon will be available at extra charge. The silent films show the operation of the Melbourne Suburban electric system in 1923, plus the last days of the "MacLeod" dogbox run. A Keystone Cops film is also on the program. The silent films will be accompanied by the "Wurlitzer Pipe Organ" played by Kew Depot tram driver, Peter Seward. This theatre organ was originally housed at the Capitol Theatre, Melbourne and is a grand musical instrument being built in 1923 to accompany silent films. After interval the main feature will be "The First Great Train Robbery" starring Sean Connery, Donald Sutherland and Lesley Anne Down. This film was made in 1978 and was well received when first placed on the theatre circuits.

Tickets are available at the "Railfan Shop" 632 Bourke Street, or by writing to 3 Oak Ave Mentone enclosing a cheque for \$5 for each adult and \$2.50 for each child.

COTMA Conference: The Bi-annual conference of the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia will be held in Melbourne from the 24th to 27th of July. Our society is sending representatives to this occasion. This year the conference is being conducted by the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria and we are pleased to attend as our society was responsible for calling the meeting which established C.O.T.M.A. in 1975.

School Holiday Operations: Our tramway was operated each day from 8th to 30th May catering for both the Victorian and South Australian school holidays. Patronage was good and our weekday running worthwhile. Thanks to those society members for staffing the tramway especially on the weekdays.

Bungaree House: This society house is currently being repainted by a number of members. At least the undercoat has been put on before the winter weather can wet the boards making them useless to paint. The top coats can be applied when the weather is fine for the day.

Tenth Anniversary Books: We still have a number of our books in stock specially printed for the tenth anniversary of our society. If you would like to purchase a copy for \$2.50 plus 70 cents postage please forward your cheque or Money Order to the society. The book can also be obtained from the 'Railfan Shop', 632 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Tramcar Maintenance: A major rebuilding of the bogies from maximum traction tram No.40 is currently underway. The bogies are at Miller Brothers, a local engineering works, along with the bogies from No.39. It is hoped to build one good set of bogies from the four but at this stage it appears an amount of new components are needed to be made as the old equipment is worn out.

We may require new axle boxes, new tyres and some new wheel centres. The Board has to monitor the situation closely as our funds are not great and yet we require to get the tram back inservice as early as possible,

Peter Allen is working on the car body of No.26 converting it back to an open ended 'California Combination Tram'. As has been said before, the work he is doing is of an excellent standard and members are invited to come along to the depot and inspect this for themselves.

Graham Jordan is currently painting the W3 tram in chocolate brown and cream and this has greatly enhanced the appearance of the tram and the Board is sure it will do a lot to attract passengers as it will be a break from the routine green and cream tram service.

Enamel badges: Our stock of badges has run very low and we have only recently re-ordered. We expect new supplies of Ballarat tram No.27 and Victorian Railways 'R' class steam locomotives within the fortnight. Further supplies of the 'Comeng' suburban trains and 'Polly' tank locomotives should be available in about 4 weeks. The Board will discuss a possible price rise to \$3 at its next meeting as production costs have risen in England along with postage.

Model Railway Exhibition: Enclosed is a brochure for the annual model railway exhibition to be held in Ballarat on the Queens Birthday Weekend. This year our society has a stand at the exhibition and some models of Ballarat trams and a model of the depot will be on display. We will also have some display boards showing the history of the Ballarat Tramways and our society.

Paintings: The Southern Cross Galleries of Euraka Street, Ballarat East brought to our attention two oil paintings of our tramcars in Wendouree Parade by a local artist Delores Sargeant that are for sale. One of these features a single truck tram and the other depicts a Ballarat bogie tram and a single truck tram. The price of these paintings is \$145 and \$280 respectively. Both of these paintings are done in the traditional manner and depict early years of our society operation with good regard to colour renditions and their backgrounds.

New Members: We welcome the following new members to our society and trust they will enjoy their membership with us:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mr. A. Keck	558	Wendouree