

MARCH 1983

PO. BOX 632, BALLARAT 3350

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Membership Officer: After the last Annual General Meeting Carolyn Dean relinquished the position of Membership Officer and Graham Jordan took on the task. As from this mailout Graham Jordan has taken on the full duties of this position. The Society thanks Carolyn for her good work and respects her wish that she needs a rest from the workload this job entails. On handing over the Membership records she added that although she wanted a rest she would miss sorting the cards and keeping them up to date as she had gotten to know each members name as though they were a member of a large family. Graham has taken all the records and is keen to 'get to know the family' as Carolyn did. We should point out that Carolyn wont be fully out of contact in this area as she will continue to administer the 'Trolley Wire' subscription records.

Tramcar Maintenance: Our maintenance team has been working with enthusiasm and the following list shows this:-

- 14 - The brakes have been adjusted and the trolley wheel which was badly worn has been replaced.
- 18 - This tram has had a lot of work done to it over the last two months. New window frames have been ordered from a local contractor who specialises in this type of work. The old frames had deteriorated badly and it was decided to replace them all. The cab window sill at No.2 end was rotted and loose and this has been replaced with new timber and the entire cab end is now secure. The brake rigging has been pulled down and overhauled. The final exterior repaint is virtually complete.
- 26- Peter Allen is working solidly on this project. He has commenced rebuilding the Motormans bulkhead at No.2 end as the No.1 end rebuild is virtually completed.
- 27 - A major task has been the rebuilding of the brake rigging. The trolley wheel and and pole have been repaired after the previous wheel had been badly worn and the pole was bent in a dewirement recently.
- 38 - Former MMTB destination box brackets have been installed in the destination boxes on this tram to hold the box in the rear cab open at night, as is the case on the Melbourne trams, to provide more light around the cab. Better visibility for motorists is the major reason for this being done.
- 4 - The work on the bogies is progressing well. The new tyres are at the MMTB Preston Workshops for fitting to the driving wheels whilst patterns are being made for new axle boxes. Of course these patterns will be available for all other museums using this type of axle box to have new ones cast if they wish to do so.
- 661- The final coat of cream paint has been applied and the first coat of brown is almost complete.
- 671- This tram is currently having its roof painted.

During the quiet winter months a programme of repainting tram floors is to be undertaken. Any members volunteering to complete this task would be most welcome and they should contact Graham Jordan.

Overhead: The trolley wire broke near St.Aidens Drive on Saturday 19th March and was promptly repaired By Peter Winspur early the next morning. The overhead at the Depot Junction has been repositioned and tensioned

Vacuum Cleaner: Member Bill Scott has purchased a vacuum cleaner in answer to our request in 'Fares Please' a couple of issues ago and he has donated it to the Society. It will be used to keep our trams cleaner. Thanks very much Bill.

American visit: On Sunday 27th March our tramway was visited by Mr.Malcolm Rickert, Maintenance Engineer of the Seattle Tramway. Mr. Rickert is visiting Melbourne to study maintenance of W2 class trams and he took the opportunity to visit our tramway. People wishing to hear him speak about the Seattle Tramway will be able to hear him on the 'Railway Enthusiast' radio programe on 3CR at 6.15pm Monday 11th April. 3CR is halfway between 3LO and 3U2 and covers most of metropolitan Melbourne

Traffic staff: Andrew Mitchell and Paul McDonald along with Paul Miller passed the tram driving exam on Sunday 27th February and the Roster Clerk is most pleased. Steve and Vicki Ohlsen, Lindsay Richards and Graeme Sewell have become Conductors and we are pleased to welcome them aboard. Tony Smith is currently being trained to drive our trams and Maurice Stanley should start training by the middle of April.

A car with a towbar? We are seeking a Member who has a car with a towbar who could make themselves available to take the equipment the Society acquired from the 'B' class tram at Mentone to Ballarat. The equipment is located in store at Mentone and the Society will pay for a tandem trailer. All we need is someone to haul it. If you can help telephone Richard Gilbert on 583 8034.

Charter: On Easter Sunday 3rd April, the Australian Theatre Historical Society will be chartering our 'Restaurant Tram' No.38 for luncheon whilst travelling along Wendouree Parade as part of their tour to Ballarat to inspect the theatres. The group led by our Member Ian Hanson are having their first convention and will visit theatres in Melbourne and Ballarat. Ian experienced the success of the afternoon tea served on the tram at the last Annual General Meeting and he decided to do the same thing for his group.

Begonia Festival: The annual festival ran from 5th to 14th March and our trams were right in the centre of the attraction - the Ballarat Botanic Gardens. The trams operated every day from the 5th to 20th March with the exception of the 18th March and once again thanks to those Members who made their time available for this task. Passenger traffic was slightly slightly down on previous years but still sufficient to justify more than two trams operating at periods during both weekends. On the Sunday of the long weekend the passenger figure was 568 and on the Monday the figure was 593.

Press clippings: Member Tony Sell has answered the call for assistance in producing the 'Press Clippings' page for the mailout. Tony has access to equipment that will do a good job at reproducing the clippings therefore all members are encouraged to send clippings of a tramway or railway nature to the society. We thank Tony for his offer and intend to have a page of these clippings in the next issue of 'Fares Please'.

Depot Works: John Phillips has installed a large window in the north wall of the depot which provides a good amount of natural light to assist Peter Allen with his work on No.26.

As we have an amount of rubbish that collects at the depot from repairs to trams and general household rubbish the Society has subscribed to a rubbish collection service. The contractor supplies a 44 gallon drum which is collected on a regular basis and this saves us trips to the tip.

Souvenirs: We currently have an order placed with a supplier for 400 souvenir teaspoons incorporating a photo of a single truck tram travelling along Wendouree Parade. The finished quality of these spoons is excellent and they come individually boxed in a fine plastic case. The price of these has yet to be determined but indications are that something in the order of \$3 will be charged. Details will be printed in the next issue of this newsheet. The ever popular drinking glasses featuring a design of a single truck tram and a brief text of the Ballarat Tramways have been re-ordered. These glasses sell for \$2.50 each. The book produced for our tenth year entitled 'Ten Years' is still in stock and is available for \$2.00 per copy. This book contains photographs and Press Clippings from the inception of our Society. Postage for this is 80c.

S.E.C. Staff: On Sunday 27th March former Ballarat Tramways Inspector, Dave Kellet, paid us a visit and enjoyed a reminiscence amongst us of his SEC days. He looked around the depot and had a ride on No.14 which was providing the regular service. He finished the day by thanking us for showing him around and he said he would return with a collection of old uniforms and other tramway artifacts.