

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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BILL JESSUP

The Society Board is greatly saddened to report, to the Members, the death of Bill Jessup on Thursday, 8th November, 1984.

Bill, aged 34, was a founding Member of this Society and I feel it is true to say that the existence of the Society is due to Bills' foresight in calling the initial meeting at the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station, in June 1971 at which the foundations of our Society were laid.

With his ideas on the project formulated he pushed ahead through what at times seemed impossible barriers of finance and bureaucracy to see this Society achieve the operational status it has today. He was a most important founding Member, well respected and admired. He was the Melbourne Vice President from the formal meeting which created the Society in 1971 until his retirement from the position in 1981, due to the many other interests he followed. Bill had a very busy railway enthusiast life before calling people together to form this Society. He was President of the Carey Grammar Railway Club at its busiest period of existence. He organised steam train and rail motor outings and he was also very involved with the Light Railway Research Society of Australia and organised a number of visits along former light lines and industrial facilities. His liking for the light 'bush' tramways led him into the areas of bush walking where he became most involved in that activity, which prompted visits to such places as the rugged and beautiful regions of Tasmania. I always recall, with great fascination, his story of hiking the former copper carrying railway from Gormanston to Kelly Basin. He was able to relate to the listener all the interest and wonderful visions of hiking through dense terrain from the deserted town where the line started to its terminus on the rugged southern coast at the totally bush overgrown port of Kelly Basin.

Although not on our Board of Management since 1981, Bill was still involved in Society activities and assisted in work parties and traffic operations until late in 1983. He met Rosalind and became married in February 1983. On Christmas Day that year he suffered a collapse and not long after a brain tumor was diagnosed. His health declined, but not his spirit, and he visited us and stayed in our Bungaree House on a visit to Halls Gap one weekend during 1984. His spirit was high when I visited him for the evening recently and his long time friend from school days, and Society Member, Campbell Duncan visited him continually in latter days.

Bills condition was of great concern to us all and he passed away on Thursday, 8th November. A large attendance of his friends attended the funeral on Monday, 11th November. There were many there from the railway, tramway and bushwalking groups as well as personal friends. It was a sad day for us all in which we said farewell to the strong, resilient and brave character of Bill Jessup. The person who, undeniably, got our Society going.

Our deepest sympathies to Rosalind and Dot, Bills' Mother. He will always be remembered in our history books - and memories.

Richard Gittlerk
SECRETARY

Membership Renewals: We thank all those who have renewed their Membership with us. The high rate of renewals has been most encouraging and we are most appreciative to our Members for this. Your Membership Card should be enclosed. If your renewal is still outstanding we ask that you consider renewing your Membership with us and a reminder notice is enclosed.

We welcome the following new Members to our Society and trust they will enjoy their Membership with us.

Number	Name	Location
598	D. Filgate	Kew
599	D. O'Neil	Whittington
600	H. Buring	Scarsdale
601	J. Becket	Canterbury

Annual General Meeting: The Society Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 14th October 1984 at the Tram Depot and 33 Members attended. The Ballarat Vice President, Len Doull, Chaired the meeting and apologised for the Presidents' absence as he was urgently required at his place of employment, the St. John of God Hospital, which had suffered a major fire and had to be evacuated. Mrs Kathy Hanrahan, the Presidents' wife, was introduced to the meeting and welcomed.

Len spoke of achievements over the year; the return of tram No.13 from Lake Goldsmith Steam Preservation Society and the acquisition of a set of Brill 22E Maximum Traction Trucks being the major equipment gains. He spoke, along with Peter Winspur, of our continued traffic operations and Carolyn Dean spoke on the financial report.

The Election for the Board of Management was conducted during the meeting and the Returning Officer announced the result.

The Board of Management for the 1984-1985 year is:-

President	Frank Hanrahan
Ballarat Vice President	Len Doull
Melbourne Vice President	Peter Winspur
Treasurer	Carolyn Dean
Secretary	Richard Gilbert
Ordinary Board Members:	Allan Bradley
	Stephen Butler
	Graham Jordan
	Paul McDonald
	Andrew Mitchell
	Garry Wood

After the conclusion of the business part of the meeting the Members enjoyed a ride along the tramway in a number of trams then returned to the depot for afternoon tea.

Receipts for donations: Members who donated money to the Society Museum Fund should have their receipts forwarded in the next mailout.

Overhead works: Peter Winspur has been conducting a maintenance program on the overhead wiring along Wendouree Parade. The overhead at the Gardens Loop is being raised, tensioned off and realigned. It is planned to replace the trolley wire in the northbound direction in the vicinity of the loop as soon as we obtain some wire from the Melbourne Tramways. The trolley wire at present in use is heavily worn and certainly due for replacement.

Publicity: At the October Board Meeting Stephen Butler was appointed as Publicity Officer with Paul McDonald as Assistant Publicity Officer. Stephen has been quick to act and our stock of brochures have been updated and extensively dispersed to tourist outlets. The Society has taken out a 12 month agreement to advertise in the 'Ballarat and District Holiday Guide' and we will be advertised in the Register of Community Events, which not only have their own book but will place us in their feature section in the 'Age' newspaper. Our latest booklet 'Ballarat Vintage Tramway' has gone out of stock and an updated reprint is soon to commence. A new postcard showing a number of Victorian trams has been purchased and a photo of Tram No.38 is in this production. We also have a stock of MTA blue 'Harris' suburban trains for sale either at the depot or the Railfan Shop, 632 Bourke Street, Melbourne. (badges) What a misprint!

MERRY CHRISTMAS: As this is our last newsletter before Christmas we wish all our Members, families and friends a truly happy and merry Christmas.

Next 'Fares Please' issued in January