

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Community Employment Program: Our Society has been granted a Community Employment Program. The program is jointly administered by the State and Federal Governments and allows for employment of people full time on worthwhile community projects. Our Society investigated the possibility of gaining this scheme for a number of projects that we have in mind and Warren Doubleday has been the person who has worked very hard seeking all the details and preparing submissions.

On 2nd January we were advised we had been successful in obtaining a program that will employ 3 people for a period of 26 weeks. The tasks to be undertaken will be restoration and maintenance on the tramcars and trackwork. The Community Employment Program will contribute \$35,291.00 to the project and our Society will contribute \$10,000.00 as a requirement of the scheme. The three employees will work from Monday to Friday and Warren Doubleday has been appointed as the Project Manager and will directly supervise the daily activities. David Macartney has been appointed to a paid position of part time supervisor and will be working for us at times when Warren is away.

This Program will be of great assistance to us as it will put us ahead, quite considerably, of our planned schedule of maintenance. We are most appreciative of the favorable decision by the administrators of the program and on Friday, 25th January a Press Statement was issued to the media by the Federal Member of Parliament for Ballarat, John Mildren and the State Member of Parliament for Ballarat North, Tom Evans, in the company of Warren Doubleday advising of the granting of the project. We received television, radio and press coverage of the announcement.

Tram No.18: This tram has been returned to service after being fully restored and overhauled. The tram is the property of the Sebastopol Borough Council and has been loaned to our Society. After the S.E.C. tramways closed No.18 was given to the Borough Council and placed on display in a local park. The ravages of time and vandals had a detrimental effect on the tram and its condition was deteriorating. In 1982 the Council agreed to loan the tram back to our group for operation on the tramway subject to us restoring it. A great deal of work has been completed and the tram now looks very resplendent in its 1960 S.E.C. colour scheme, which is the same livery that maximum traction tram No.38 now carries. The tram was placed in full service on Wednesday, 26th December, 1984 which was the day the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria visited us.

It is proposed to have an Official Re-commissioning Ceremony with the Borough Councillors from Sebastopol at the Tram Depot at 2pm on Saturday, 23rd March, 1985. There will be a few speeches, a ride on the tram and maybe some others then afternoon tea will be served. Society Members are most welcome to attend this function. Acceptance of this date by the Borough Council still has to be confirmed but Members can check with Society Board Members or at the Tram Depot prior to the date.

Entertainment Meeting: A meeting will be held at the 'Steamrail Rooms' 328 Flinders Street, Melbourne at 8pm on Wednesday, 6th March. Slides of the visit to New Zealand during the C.O.T.M.A. Conference will be shown. The premises are located in 'Commerce House' which is virtually opposite Platform No.1 West of Flinders Street Station. The rooms rented by 'Steamrail' are located on the 4th floor and because of security arrangements with the building the front door will be locked after 8.10pm. Therefore should you arrive after that time simply go to the public telephone, dial 62 4806, let it ring once and someone will come down to let you in. (You don't need any money in the phone for this exercise)

The slides are of the Conference and the Western Springs Tramway in Auckland, the Wellington Tramway Museum and the Ferrymead Tramway Museum in Christchurch. There are also slides of the railway journey between Auckland and Christchurch and Greymouth with its various railway attractions. Tea and Coffee will be available during the meeting. The respective museums in New Zealand have completed some spectacular restoration work on their trams and all tramfans should find this meeting quite interesting and informative.

Overhead works: Peter Winspur and Warren Doubleday, with assistance from Andrew Mitchell and Stephen Elliot, rewired the overhead through the Gardens Loop from the kiosk section insulator, along the straight track, to the insulator on the north side of the loop. The original trolley wire was well worn and good quality recycled wire from our stock was used to replace this. This was our first major task of replacing a long section of the former S.E.C. overhead and the job was done in one day on Monday, 17th December. The old wire was cut down in 10 foot sections and any keen collectors can purchase lengths from the Depot for \$1.00 per metre before it goes to the metal merchants.

Begonia Festival: March is going to be a busy month as the usual format of the Begonia Festival has been considerably altered. The festival will run for two weeks from 2nd March to 17th March, It is proposed to run the trams everyday during the festival. The Vintage Train will visit Ballarat on Sunday, 3rd March, and whilst we are dealing with the Vintage Train passengers and the general public a procession of Vintage Cars will takeover Wendouree Parade. The main procession will not be held on the long weekend this year, but instead, it will be held on Sunday, 17th March. Smaller processions of various types, such as the Vintage cars, will be held on the other major days of the festival.

If any Traffic Staff can assist us over this period please let Gavan Young know of your availability.

Mrs. Lee McCandlish: The wife of long time Society Member, Barry McCandlish passed away during late December. The Society Board of Management and the Members offer their condolences to Barry and his children.

#### Visits:

On Saturday, 5th January the Ballarat Branch of Steamrail enjoyed an evening social gathering at the Tram Depot. About 40 people attended. A berbeque was held and the group then travelled along the tramway in No.18 and 38. On return to the Depot a program of video tapes reflected on the Steamrail activity of restoring locomotive D3 639 which culminated in December with the re-commissioning of the D3 by the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Bob Hawke. The Society copy of the Bob Prentice film of the Ballarat Tramways during the 1960's was then shown. All agreed they had a good night, this being the second year the gathering has been held and we look forward to next year for another convivial night.

The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria held their annual 'Golden Sunset' tour this year to visit our Society and the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association site at Haddon. The group of twenty members arrived by bus at our museum and enjoyed rides on the service cars No.18 and 661. Tran No.38 ran out for the group and then joined with the regular service to provide a variety of trams for all the participants to ride and photograph. The museum, workshop and sales area were all visited. In the mid afternoon the group joined their bus for Haddon and were welcomed there and shown over the facility by Tony Smith and other members of the Association. The group then travelled to Bungaree where they had an evening meal at the Ballarat Tramway Members House and departure for Melbourne came at 7.30pm. A good day was had by all and the T.M.S.V. members thanked us, and the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Society for their respective efforts they had gone to. We were quite busy in addition to running the extra services for the TMSV, attending to the enlarged sales area and organising an evening meal as we had over 200 ordinary passengers on the trams which involved a lot of work for all.

Christmas traffic: We have had one of the busiest Christmas - New Year periods for quite some time. We feel the cooler weather has contributed greatly to this resulting in the best December figures since 1975. The January figures are also appearing to be very good. At this stage both months have not been finalised to allow them to be printed here.

New Members: We welcome the following new Members to our Society and trust they will enjoy their hobby with us:-

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
602	R.Hurstfield	Ararat
603	P. Jordan	Carnegie
604	R. Osborne	The Basin

Next 'Fares Please' issued in March