

MAY 1985

NEWS OF THE BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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In recent weeks we have been proud to achieve recognition in the official museums area and the Ministry for the Arts;

1985 Museum of the Year Awards: Our museum has won a 'Certificate of Merit' in the 1985 Museum of the Year Awards which were sponsored by the Westpac banking organisation for the Victorian 150th Anniversary. Our Society is a Member of the Museums Association of Australia Inc.- Victorian Branch and we thought it appropriate that we enter this competition.

Mr. Bob Edwards, Director of the Museum of Victoria, and his wife, advised us they would be visiting our museum along with others in Ballarat on Good Friday to inspect for the competition. Stephen Butler arranged to be present and show our exhibit to the judging party whilst Paul McDonald and Garry Wood took them for a ride on tram No.18. They said they were both impressed at the effort our museum was making, so much so, that Mr. Edwards took photos of the operation and explained that he rarely took photos unless he was genuinely interested by a display. He had suggestions on ways of displaying material and invited Stephen Butler to visit him at the Melbourne Museum to further discuss display technique, which Stephen

An invitation was forwarded to our Society to attend the awards presentation at the Westpac Gallery of the Victorian Arts Centre at which Stephen Butler and Howard Stoney duly attended. There were 7 different categories and the winner of the best museum, Category A was Sovereign Hill followed by Geelong Historical Records Centre, Yackandandah Bank of Victoria Museum, Performing Arts Museum, Melbourne's Living Museum of the West, Bendigo Arts Gallery, and the Port of Echuca. There were 12 Certificates of Merit awarded and we were second on the list of these. The museums in this section encompassed a number of areas for example, The Moorabbin Air Museum to Kellett's Museum of Laundry Irons. Our Merit Certificate reads 'Awarded to the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society for the preservation of a special aspect of the history of public transport through the restoration and operation of vintage trams'. The certificate is currently being framed and will be placed on display at the museum. There were 80 entrants in the competition and we were proud to receive the award. During the period of the judging four Westpac branches in Ballarat had our attraction advertised, along with others, in the banking chamber.

Our museum wins a Government grant; Our Society applied for a State Government Grant from the Cultural Development Fund of the Victorian Ministry for the Arts for activities in 1985. We have been advised that we have been successful in being granted \$2,000.00 from this Fund and we are most appreciative to the Victorian Government for this assistance. The grant is to be used for the development of a new display area within the tram depot and quite recently our Board has been looking in detail at ideas for a new museum display. The present arrangement in Tram No.11 has always been acknowledged as being an interim display. When Stephen Butler visited Mr. Bob Edwards at the Melbourne Museum Mr. Edwards was quite enthused at our ideas for the new permanent display and has offered assistance in the planning arrangements. Now that we have financial assistance plus the advice of experts along with some interesting ideas on the drawing board we will soon commence this project. We again thank the Victorian Government and the Victorian Ministry for the Arts for their generous support in assisting us in the development of our museum display.

Community Employment Project: Our project continues to advance our tramcar maintenance and restoration programme. Tram No.27 should be completely restored during the first week of June. It is restored to the 1930 colour scheme of lighter green, cream rocker panels and externally varnished windows.frames. The pearl light globes have been replaced by clear globes to enhance the appearance of the varnished interior and polished brass fittings. No.13's wheels are still at Preston Workshops awaiting reprofiling but the Melbourne Tramways are very busy with their own workload and we are waiting in line.

Work on restoring No.26 is at a stage where the new metal seat ends and handrails for the drop ends have to be sandblasted. Some ply panelling is being replaced with timber panelling. After No.26 is completed work will commence on the floor of No.14 which has some timbers that are very worn down by the millions of feet passing over them when passengers join and alight from the tram.

May School holidays: The trams ran every day during the recent school holidays from Saturday 11th to Sunday 26th May. Patronage was unusually high. The first Monday, 13th, which is usually quiet saw 122 passengers, Tuesday 21st, 180 and Wednesday 22nd, 208 passengers. The other weekdays averaged 80 passengers. The Sundays were very good - 5th 122, 12th 225, 19th 155. For the month of May 2,264 passengers travelled. We have more passengers at this time than for the previous whole financial year. Dave Macartney has been placing the Museum signs out during the weekdays he is at the tram depot supervising the C.E.P. scheme and a worthwhile turnover in sales items has resulted. Tourists who are visiting the Gardens on a weekday, whilst the trams are not operating, can at least visit the museum display and look around the depot. On one quiet Friday, recently, Dave took \$50 in sales revenue.

New Book: From Bush to Begonias; Following the success of the book produced last year on the history of Lake Wendouree a new book called 'From Bush to Begonias' details the history of the Ballarat Botanic Gardens. It is written by Tom Trezise, the author of the previous book, and it has a collection of very interesting photographs and text of the Gardens area. An early photograph of a tram plus a current day photo and some text about our tramway is included. The book is being sold for \$4 at the Tram Depot or can be ordered by mail from our address for an additional \$1.20 to cover postage and handling.

Membership Rate: The Board recently conducted an investigation on Membership Rates and decided that there was no alternative but to set this years rate at \$9.00. The old, but very true, story of increased costs to service Members has eaten away at our virtual breakeven rate. Costs of paper, ink, postage, commercial printing have all risen and after holding at \$6.00 for two years the Board felt it responsible to raise the Membership Rate to \$8.00. For persons under the age of 14 years a 'Junior Supporters' rate will be \$4.00.

The Board has considered some requests for 'Family Membership' but on investigation we find it enters an area of legal uncertainty on the liability of both the Society and the Members in the event of any legal actions being raised for whatever reason and therefore the Board has decided not to have this form of Membership. However, as a number of family groups seem to want family Membership in order that their family can enjoy a free ride on the tramway the Board has decided that current with the new rate all immediate members of a family of a Member can ride free on the trams. We value your Membership with us and trust you will renew.

For those who do not subscribe to 'Trolley Wire' magazine it is an excellent bi monthly publication of the Australian Tramway Museums and is produced by the Sydney Tramway Museum. The subscription rate is \$11.50 and a section is provided on the renewal form if you wish to subscribe. We remind you that all donations to our Society are tax deductible and if you feel you wish to make a donation a section is also included on the form. We can assure you that money raised from donations is well used to purchase much needed equipment or supplies and any donation is sincerely appreciated. Your Renewal Form is included in this mailout.

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

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
605	R.Hennigan	Geelong
606	Reverend V. Kerz	Dee Why
607	R. Edwards	Melbourne

Teaspoons for sale: We have a number of souvenir teaspoons for sale. The quality of them is excellent and they are detailed below:-  
Ballarat Tram No.27, Horse tram at TMSV Museum(Jam spoon also), Cable Tram, 'R' class steam loco, 280HP Diesel Rail Car at Daylesford, Adelaide 'H' class(jam spoon also) Adelaide Tram Museum No.J(Jam also) Adelaide 'E' class (jam also) Bendigo Birney tram, Eureka Flag, Arch of Victory, Ballarat. The spoons are available for \$3 each except the 280 Rail car which is \$3.50, add 60c for postage for each or total of \$1.60 if ordering more than 3.

Next 'Fares Please' issued in July