

R30/9/85 CN

24th September 1985

Carole Bevan
at Melburn Depot
10/10/85

Dear Member,

You would have by now received the September 1985 copy of the Society's newsletter "Fares Please!" As you will be fully aware by just reading the first page of that journal there is a number of candidates standing for various positions at this years Annual General Meeting to be held on 13th October 1985 at the Tram Depot in Ballarat. You may ask why there are so many people standing at this years meeting for election as compared to previous years when barely enough people stood to fill the vacancies. This is a very good question but the answer is quite obvious. That is that members have become disorientated with the current Boards performance and there is a total lack of trust and communication within the Board.

Despite the repeated statements by various existing Board members in their policy statements in the September "Fares Please!" they all seem to say the same question for the same result. That is to have the existing Board (maybe with some exception), be re-elected and/or remain unchanged to that of the present. They state as their reasons for this is because the existing Board is very chummy, friendly, united, intelligent mature, close working, committed and fabulous that to change their make-up would upset their whole little empire. They state quite clearly that they do not want the Board changed and this must indicate that they are definately not interested in other members or outsiders, especially not on their Board. The statements of these various existing Board members all seem to have the same ring to them don't they. The Board is elected to represent the membership as a whole not just to further their own aspirations.

Some statements state that the existing Board has started or set projects for the future and to see these through to completion they must be returned to Office. But the future is not as rosey as one might think. No definate plans have been discussed at Board level to date, least of all a further CEP scheme, which at present we could not afford anyway. If all these mighty ideas, plans or future dreams have been discussed at Board level, then why is there no mention of them in the Board Minutes. The Board minutes should be available for every member to read if so requested, but they are not freely been made available. The same can be said for the Memorandums and Articles of Association. All members are entitled to a copy or at least to read these rules, but they too are not made freely available to members even if repeated requests over 8 years are made and still ignored.

As for the CEP scheme, Society Engineer Warren Doubleday did all the background work in proposing, financing, administrating, applying for and carrying-out of the scheme to its completion. The only part which involved the Board was approving the prosposal from Warren's submission and supplying the Society's share of the capital outlay necessary. Sounds different to what some policy statements say.

You may ask why we undertook the CEP scheme. The answer to this question is easy. The rather noticable absence or lack of voluntary workers at the Depot, who in the past did all the work.

You could ask all these former dilligent, hard working and unthanked workers why they are not there now and their answer will be the same. It comes back to the mismanagement of the organisation by people who are too interested in their own self interest to ever worry about the other people who care for more precious and unreplacable things such as preserving tramcars. The current Board are incapable of maintaining the professional abilities of office and consist largely of people who cannot see through their rose coloured glasses. If hard honest workers who have in the past have not been wanted, reconised or accepted they have been discouraged to the stage where they have gone elsewhere.

All too frequently the too few have taken all the credit for things that have been done in the past. Many a time they have not done, suggested or been involved in ideas that have been brought to the Boards attention. Other ideas and suggestions made by interested people or other members have been dismissed by the too few as silly, crazy or down right stupid, only to see these ideas re-surface some time later as their own which is then accepted by the Board as a wonderful idea, " A'rnt you a clever boy for thinking up that one!" Thinking up ideas is easy, putting them into practice is another. Where were the same too few when the preasure or hard work was on. Laying track, moving trams by hand, aquiring trams and there removals etc, usually conviently unavailable and unsited, until the job is finished. But if there was a chance of getting your photo in the paper or on local television they would be there smiling all nice for the little birdie, with a clean pair of hands and heals.

An example of this is the construction of facilities within the depot building. All fittings and internal buildings were constructed by the volunteer workers of the past (most of whom are now not there anyway), this saved considerable money and reserved our limited funds. Recently the Board approved \$1,000 for a contractor to lay the concrete floor for the future crew room in the depot because workers could not be found to do the job. The money was part of the \$2,000 Government museum grant which has now been used for other than its intended purpose.

As for the comments that the present Board being, competant, friendly, co-operative and easy-to-get-on-with type of people, this depends on which side of the fence you wish to sit on. If you dont see their one sided view, one is made feel inferior, out of step or not the norm to them. Many a time Board discussions have been gagged and business suspended when a more positive discussion embarresses the others. Obviously a different point of view is not wanted or it is just not their cup of tea.

The present Board is mostly a closed shop and intruders are quite obviously deffinely not welcome. The Board is controlled by one who at the flick of a wrist can indicate to the others which way they will be required to cast their votes. If you want to break into this so called fantasy kingdom you must be prepared to conform and be led down the garden path or just follow the leader. Not real democratic stuff is it.

We are supposed to be a free, friendly, open house organisation where all are welcome. I do not see much of that over the years. How many social functions do we have? Where are they and how often are they held? How does one and what qualification does one need to get an invitation? As for being friendly or a social atmosphere, if you are on the wrong side of that fence, you are generally ignored or forgotten. The same can be said when you visit fellow museums or tourist attractions. Unless you explain your position you can be treated like you have some disease or a social outcast if you say you are a member of the BTPS. Can be rather embarassing.

It is quite apparent that the majority of the existing Board is generally not interested in the membership as a whole. Any personal requests, tragedy, sickness etc are not recognised or acknowledged, when just a kind word, thought or maybe a visit would be fitting. All too often you are abused or pestered for not helping or offering your services to the Society, but what incentive do they give in return. Your membership money or donation is taken, the return is for most members a bi-monthly newsletter and an annual report. Inspiring!

The statements of various existing Board members all ask to be re-elected because of their wonderfully extraordinary co-operation between themselves. But that's just what they are, interested in themselves. The major example of this fact is a recent case where two current Board Members, both unqualified tram drivers, took a tram without the knowledge of the Traffic Manager or the OIC both of whom were in the depot at the time out into Wendouree Parade and drove along the street for some distance. This was a clear breach of the rules and regulations in force. The Board reprimanded the culprit, with some dissent for more drastic action, but the person/s involved with the approval of the General Manager was allowed to continue driving trams around the depot and access track unhindered. Just proves how gutless and controlled the Board at present is.

This is why we need your support for a change. An old political slogan "ITS TIME" is very appropriate here. The Society needs new blood at the helm, a fresh approach and ideas from people genuinely interested in running the Society and tramway in the way it should be that is by the members for the enjoyment of all not just the too few.

Enclosed is a suggestion on how-to-vote for the Annual General Meeting. If you are not attending the meeting please complete the attached proxy form (preferably with your full voting intentions) and return as soon as possible to make your vote count. Your support is vital in order to the continuance of OUR Society.

Yours Faithfully,

Signed and On behalf of

Graham Jordan,
Aileen Jordan,
Peter Allen,
Steve Ohlsen,
Maurice Stanley,
William Scott,

The outcome of this years election will decide the future of OUR SOCIETY and indicate the direction it will head in the future. You can have only two choices that is a new exciting approach by people interested in all facets of the Society and its operations for the betterment of all, or the continued unchanged team that seem only interested in themselves first.

Please make your decision. Below is a suggested how-to-vote form which will if successful restore faith and hope. If you will be unable to attend the AGM please complete the attached proxy form and return in the enclosed envelope to reach its destination prior to the last mail on Tuesday 8th October 1985. In order to make your vote count please make sure you use the enclosed envelope as mail directed to the official Society address has a regular habit of disappearing especially if that mail may in some way may have a deciding effect on the outcome of this election. Thank-you for your time and hopefully continued support.

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HOW-TO-VOTE

PREFERRED CANDIDATE.

Position of Secretary

GILBERT Richard

JORDAN Graham

Position of Ordinary Board Members

ALLEN Peter

BRADLEY Alan

BUTLER Stephen

JORDAN Aileen

** JORDAN Graham

McDONALD Paul

MITCHELL Andrew

OHLSEN Steven

SCOTT William

STANLEY Maurice

STONEY Howard

WOOD Gary

** If elected to position of Secretary nomination for this position will automatically lapse.

PROXY

(Articles 41, 48(1))

BALLARAT TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

I, _____ of _____

being a Member of the abovenamed Society, hereby appoint

of

or failing him _____ of _____
or failing them the Chairman of the Meetings as my proxy to
vote for me on my behalf at the Annual/Extraordinary General
Meeting of the Society to be held on the _____ day of
19 _____, and at any adjournment thereof.

*This form is to be used *in favour of the resolution.
against

*This form is to be used in favour of the following candidates
for election to the Council :-

POSITION

CANDIDATE

SIGNED this _____ day of _____ 19 _____.

.....
(Signature of Member)

*Strike out whichever is not required. (Unless otherwise
instructed, the proxy may vote as he thinks fit).