

FARES PLEASE!

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July 1986

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Limited will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday 12th October, 1986. The meeting will be held at the Society's tram depot in the South Gardens Reserve, Ballarat.

Nominations are called for the following positions which fall vacant on the Society's Board of Management on that date:

President;
Melbourne Resident Vice-President;
Ballarat Resident Vice-President;
Honorary Secretary;
Honorary Treasurer; and
Ordinary Board Member (six positions).

Any two members may nominate any other member to serve as an Office Bearer or Ordinary Board Member, provided that no person who, at the time of such nomination, is an unfinancial member, shall be entitled to be a candidate for election, or a proposer or a seconder pursuant to the Articles of Association.

Any nomination is to be sent in writing to the Returning Officer, to reach him not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday 29th August, 1986. Nominations may be sent to:

The Returning Officer,
Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Ltd,
P.O. Box 632,
Ballarat, Vic. 3350;

or may be placed in the Ballot Box at the tram depot. Envelopes forwarded by mail should be endorsed "Ballot Material" on the back of the envelope. The nomination is to be signed by the proposer and seconder and consented to in writing by the candidate. Nominations may be accompanied by a statement (of not more than 500 words) setting out the candidate's policies and record of service.

A member may be nominated as a candidate for more than one position on the Board, provided that upon election to any position on the Board, the member's nomination for any other position shall forthwith lapse.

News of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Limited

NEW ZEALAND NOTES

Recently, Society member Richard Gilbert spent three months in New Zealand, Whilst there, he submitted this report:

I am currently residing in Hokitika and enjoying the hospitality of the New Zealand west coast during my three months long service leave.

On various weekends, I have travelled to Christchurch to meet with members of the Tramway Historical Society (T.H.S.); who are responsible for the operating tramway museum at Ferrymead. They are a friendly group whose work in tramcar restoration is tremendous. The results they accomplish are of a particularly high standard. The line they operate is set in double track and runs from the museum entrance, where the depot and workshops are located, to the 1920's style village.

Having previously seen the tramway in 1984, I was impressed to witness the extension of the line to enable it to go "around the block", instead of terminating in one street, changing ends and returning along the same route. The actual track configuration at one end is quite complex and is a credit to those who designed and laid it.

Included in their collection is a Brill tram (No. 178), which is currently undergoing a major overhaul, having been the operational backbone of the fleet for many years. Brisbane Drop Centre car No. 236 has been fully restored and looks magnificent. Work is proceeding on a number of other trams, and I was pleased to be able to assist with work on No. 178.

Always popular with the fare-paying public is the Kitson Steam Tram, which ran one weekend during my stay. To me, though, there is nothing to match the pleasure of rumbling along in a drop centre or maximum traction car, and the immaculately-restored Boon (No. 152) satisfies the appetite admirably.

The T.H.S. does not only concern itself with trams. Whilst I was there, a special work party saw the first major attempt to erect overhead wiring for trolleybus operation. A new substation and rectifier plant is being installed in a large, well-designed building, and will supply 600 volts to the tram and trolleybus systems, and 1500 volts to the electric railway, another of their many exhibits. A number of electric locomotives are to be restored by the "railway group" at Ferrymead. A worthwhile feature of the new substation is a public viewing area, which will enable visitors to discover a seldom seen, yet vital, aspect of tramway operation.

I am really enjoying the hospitality of the T.H.S., and am looking forward to more visits during my remaining time in New Zealand.

PENGUIN VIC

Penguin Vic, Victoria's official tourism mascot, will be visiting our tramway on Monday 25th August at 9:30 a.m., as part of his tour through the Gold Centre tourist region.

Born on 26th December, 1982, Penguin Vic is the promotional part of an educational program to teach children about tourism in Victoria. During his week-long trip through the goldfields area, he will visit more than twenty different attractions, and will perform an half-hour show at each venue. He has a following of over 55,000 fan club members, and the newsletter which each of these children receives includes free passes to many attractions when accompanied by a paying adult. Penguin Vic's current newsletter includes passes to our tramway, which will be valid until 31st December, 1986.

We look forward to welcoming Penguin Vic and the many children who will no doubt accompany him during his visit to the Ballarat Tramways.

TRAMCAR MAINTENANCE

Apart from general maintenance, the following work has been carried out recently:

- No. 26 - Work on the restoration of this car proceeds steadily. Dave and Jackie have finished the repainting of the roof. The clerestory windows have been reglazed with a uniform style of glass and the frames revarnished on the exterior, as well as the interior. Work is currently being done on the side pillars and front windows of the car. Preparation of the side panels in readiness for painting is also underway.
- No. 13 - The wheels for this car were recently returned from the M.T.A.'s Preston Workshops. Spokes in the wheels were cracked in a number of places and the wheels, motor bearing sets and axle journals were reprofiled. This was the first time that the M.T.A. had undertaken this type of work for us, and has saved the need to cast new wheel centres and refit the tyres and axles. The wheels taken from under No. 33 some years ago were similarly treated, and will be used under No. 26 when work on No. 13 is completed and the jacks released. The M.T.A.'s Workshops at Preston are thanked by the Society for undertaking this work.

C.E.P. GRANT

Although the Community Employment Project scheme in operation with the B.T.P.S. was completed some eleven months ago, it took eight months for the workers' compensation insurance refund to be finalised. (The fact that our C.E.P. scheme ceased on the day before the new state government-administered "Work-Care" scheme commenced was partly responsible for the delay). Imagine our surprise when we received a refund cheque for just over \$2000! With the \$400

C.E.P. GRANT (cont.)

previously remaining in the account - and with the C.E.P. secretariat giving approval - we were able to expend these funds by employing Jackie on a full-time basis for some eight to nine weeks. Our hope is that by the time these funds expire, we will have received a major grant for the horse tram and that work will be able to continue uninterrupted.

DEPOT WORKS

Information signs, outlining the individual histories of the various trams are now a feature of the depot. These have been printed, laminated and mounted on small wooden boards and are hung on each tram whilst in the depot. Additional signs have been provided, to be placed inside each vehicle for the benefit of passengers, whilst the tram is in service.

The refurbishment of No. 39 as a museum display area continues on No. 1 road. Garry Wood is performing most of this work, and is at the moment concentrating on the reconstruction of the front cab.

John Phillips is continuing with the installation of the framework for our new office and meal room. We expect this to be completed soon, so that the cladding and installation of electrics and plumbing may proceed.

"TRAMS AROUND"

The Society now has for sale a commercially produced videotape of tramway systems of Britain and Europe. It includes footage of the Isle of Man, the Blackpool Illuminations, East German narrow and standard gauge systems, Madrid and the centenary celebrations in Ostend, Belgium.

The tape runs for approximately fifty minutes and is available in both V.H.S. and Beta formats with hi-fi sound. Available at the depot, the tape costs \$39-95. For mail orders, please include \$1-50 per tape for postage.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal notices were posted at the end of June. A current membership card or reminder notice is enclosed with this issue of "Fares Please!" If your renewal was received after July 24th, your membership card will be sent with the next mailout.

Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Ltd.
P.O. Box 632,
Ballarat, Vic. 3350

Telephone: (053) 34 1580
