

FARES PLEASE!

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TRAMCAR AND DEPOT WORKS

Since our last report, work around the depot has been confined to primarily restoring Horse Tram No. 1. Work on the saloon body framing has been virtually completed by Gary Wood. Dave Macartney and Jackie Edwards have been preparing and varnishing the windows to go back into the car. Scraping off all the old varnish from the numerous roof ribs has been completed as well. This has been a long and arduous job.

The next major job will be to replace the roof slats back onto the car. Many of the original slats will be reused. Some have been damaged over the years, such as a small fire in the roof structure once upon a time. These will be replaced by new ones, and the original ones recut to assist to form the canopy roof sections.

Another job well underway is sectioning a MV101 motor to be used in the maximum traction truck under the Museum Display Tram No. 39. This job was accomplished by using an angle grinder to cut through up to 1" of cast steel. Prior to starting this work, the motor was dismantled by removing the armature and the field coils. The next step is to section one of the field coils, clean up the motor, apply some paint and reassemble.

The truck for the car was recently picked up from its offsite store and reassembly completed. It has since been repainted.

The other job completed was touching up the paintwork on tram No. 13. There are a number of small jobs to do on this car, such as replacing the windscreen wipers and recovering the seats before the car can re-enter service. It is planned to have this work completed by about Easter.

All our trams ran virtually without a single problem over the Christmas period. Car 26 has re-entered service with very few running problems as is normally experienced after a tram has not been used for many years.

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BEGONIA FESTIVAL

The 1988 Begonia Festival has kept us busy and over the March Labour Day Weekend, the cable car set once again ran along with our electric tram service. The cable car set, is owned by Newton Williams and Daryl Hawksworth. As was the case last year, the cable tram was very popular and many reminisced to us of their youthful days riding these magnificent vehicles along Melbourne streets.

Electric trams numbers 40, 26, and 14 all saw service during this weekend. Tram 26 again was very popular with its open end platforms and striking colour scheme. The weather was not kind to us though on the first two days of the weekend. On both these days frequent heavy showers occurred during our operating period. Monday proved to be perfect weather in contrast with the overcast conditions in Melbourne. Some 1600 passengers were carried during the weekend.

The trams have continued to operate during the following weekdays, and some 400 passengers were carried over the four days.

Sufficient staff was available to operate the cable tram set again on Sunday, 20 March, after the Begonia Festival float procession. Patronage over the weekend was some 600 people.

The effort in operating the cable tram set throughout the weekend is worthy of a mention. When two electric trams and the cable car set are operated, as did occur on the Monday public holiday, some 13 staff are required. By some fancy crew shift arrangements to cover the lunch break this was achieved. All the people who helped over the weekend, about 30 in all, are thanked, as well as those who assisted in collecting the cars and making it all happen again. Thanks again to Newton and Daryl who made the set available.

By the way, how do you shunt (that is run the grip car around the trailer) while crossing two electric tram cars at the loop with the least number of moves? The cars can arrive and depart virtually in any order, and the only rule is that the cable car must arrive and depart from the loop. Taking cars off the track is not permitted either.

Once during Monday, it was found the most convenient from an operating point of view to cross all three cars at Depot Junction. At least we did not have to run around the cable set there!

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal notices will be sent out after the membership year expires in June. The Board has deliberated over the rate and has set the figure at \$10.00. The \$2.00 increase is necessary to cover the many rising administrative costs such as postage. This is the first increase for three years.

Membership Officer, Howard Stoney is currently residing in Hong Kong until about October, as the Metropolitan Transit Authority representative for the training department of the Hong Kong Light Railway project. Howard handles our membership records and whilst he is away, Peter Walker will handle the membership renewals.

We welcome the following new and resuming members and trust they will enjoy their membership with us.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
590	Peter McMahon	South Melbourne
643	John Hickey	Ormond
644	Stuart Thyer	Ballarat

TRAFFIC

Patronage over the January period was reasonable. Fifty more people were carried than the same period last year, 4095 in all. During February, 672 passengers were carried over the eight operating days, again up on last year. So far, we are some 1600 odd passengers ahead on the financial year over the same period in 1987. The figure for March this year is expected to be lower due to the shorter period of the Begonia Festival, ten days instead of 16.

PENGUIN VIC.

The Victorian Tourism Commission under the guise of its Penguin Vic. campaign has written to us asking the Society to participate in a promotion of offering free passes for Children to motivate families to travel to Victorian Tourist attractions. Free passes are offered in The Sun newspaper every Friday to families. Last year the scheme was particularly successful.

ROAD CONDITIONS

The warm weather has caused some of the bitumen surface in Wendouree Parade to melt. To counteract this condition, fine crushed rock was spread out over the road surface during the past weeks. The surplus has gathered on the tramline causing a small dust storm to follow the tram with resultant discomfort to passengers and picnickers. The resultant ride has been rough and noisy. The Ballarat City Council has been quick to help us out of this unsatisfactory situation by having the road sweeper clean Wendouree Parade. This made conditions for the Begonia Festival much more pleasant.

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MODEL RAILWAY DISPLAY

Our Society will have a display stand at the Ballarat Model Railway Spectacular to be held at the Ranger Drill Hall, Curtis Street Ballarat over the Queen's Birthday Weekend of 11, 12 and 13 June.

ENGLISH RAILFANS VISIT

During the planned Aus-Steam festivities in October, a group of 55 English railway enthusiasts will visit our Tramway on Thursday 20 October. The visit will be part of their extensive railway tour of Australia which is based on the intensive steam train programme centred around Melbourne.

RETIREMENT

Mr. Ian Smith, Town Clerk City of Ballarat has recently retired from his position and we wish him well. Mr. Smith always had a sympathetic ear on Society matters. Organisation of meetings in his office to discuss matters was of no problem. The Society is indebted to his assistance over the many years of his long service to the City of Ballarat.

EXTRA OPERATING DAYS

The trams will run every day from Friday 1 April to Sunday 10 April, encompassing the Easter and School Holidays. Members of our traffic staff are welcome to advise the roster clerk of any dates they may wish to work on the trams.

SALES

Our Sales department expects to receive a supply of specially produced Centenary Teaspoons shortly. These spoons will feature photographic reproductions of Horse Tram No. 1 and Electric Tram No. 40. The next Fares Please! will advise of price and sales details.

Fares Please! is published six times a year in alternate months commencing in January and is distributed to members and friends of the Ballarat Tramways. For further information regarding the Society's activities and publications, please contact:

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