

FARES PLEASE!

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November 1988

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Tram Depot on Sunday 9th October. The meeting was held on the Depot fan with a display of the Society's tramcars forming an impressive backdrop.

The meeting was opened by President, Frank Hanrahan, welcoming the members who had gathered for the meeting. Frank thanked the retiring Board members for their contribution to the Society's activities and introduced the new Board members to the meeting.

The Treasurer, Carolyn Dean, presented the financial statement and explained the reason for the new format which is now required by the Companies Office.

The President presented to the meeting an enlarged colour photograph donated to the Society by Bill Scott. The photograph of trams No.26 No.27 and No.33 was taken by Bill and is now displayed in the crew messroom.

After the meeting was closed the members enjoyed a ride on tram No.26 before partaking of afternoon tea in the messroom.

New Home for the Cable Tram

Cable Tram No. 593 which has run in Ballarat's Begonia Festival for the last two years has found a new home at Kilmore's Hudson Park with the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria. The TMSV has invited Society members and their families to the first day of operation on Sunday 18th December at 2.00 pm.

An invitation is also extended to the commissioning of the second stage of TMSV's electrification programme later on the same day, at Bylands.

News of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Limited.

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Membership

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

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
646	Tom Gibbs	Bellevue U.S.A.
647	Gavin Wilkinson	Sunshine

The final reminder for membership renewals is included with this issue of Fares Please! for those who have not yet renewed their membership. Membership cards are enclosed for those who have renewed since the last issue of Fares Please!

Traffic

During October two new Drivers qualified for Traffic operations.

Peter Walker and Roy Sheedy will be a welcome addition to the Motorman's Roster. Any member who is interested in helping as a Conductor and then Motorman should contact the Traffic Manager, Peter Winspur.

The September school holidays saw loading which was reasonable but not outstanding. This may have been due to the unreliable weather conditions.

November saw a visit to Ballarat by Jack Nyman of the Maitland Tramway and Museum. Jack undertook the initial training for new Motormen in Ballarat. It is hoped that this training will assist in the setting up of their museum. This co-operation between museums is a result of the ongoing work of COTMA.

With the busy summer holiday period fast approaching the Traffic Branch will again be operating the trams every day from Christmas Day till the end of the school holidays in February. Traffic Staff should contact the Roster Clerk, Gavin Young, to advise the dates they can assist to keep the trams running during this important period.

New Zealand Friends Visited

Society Secretary, Richard Gilbert, recently visited New Zealand as the leader of a group tour of the Association of Railway Enthusiasts. The tour coincided with the 125th anniversary celebrations for the New Zealand Railways.

During the tour Richard was able to catch up with our tramway friends at the Ferrymead and Wellington Museums.

New Zealand Friends Visited (cont.)

Ferrymead was actively involved in the 125 year celebrations as the first train to operate in New Zealand ran, in 1863, from what is now the Ferrymead museum site.

The tramway museum was constantly busy with much of the crowd arriving by steam train on a specially laid connection to the NZR mainline.

A local hotel which is fitted out in tramway decor was the venue for dinner, after which there were a series of night runs by both steam and electric trams which saw both the Ferrymead members and the ARE tour group well treated.

At Wellington the Tramway Museum greeted the tour group and gave them a guided tour of their site and museum display. Extra trams were run and we could see their progress on the extension of their track to the beach.

The friendship between museums demonstrated by these visits is evidence of the valuable role played by COTMA, as many of the arrangements for the visits were instigated at the COTMA conference.

Sales

The Society has recently ordered a new postcard from the printers and it is hoped that it will be available before Christmas. The card will feature three separate photographs of our trams. The top photo will show trams Nos. 26, 27 and 33 passing at the gardens loop with two separate photographs of trams Nos. 26 and 27 along the lower half.

The new postcard will sell for 40 cents and will be available from the Tram Depot, the Railfan Shop or can be ordered by mail. (Please include 40 cents for postage and handling).

A new enamel badge of a V/Line Road Coach is now available for \$4.00 and the Video Tape "Commuting by Cable" for \$39.95 at the Tram Depot. The video tells the history of the Melbourne Cable Tramways featuring historic black and white and colour footage. From 1st December, 1988 there will be a general increase in the price of the Society's souvenir items. New price will be:

Metal Enamel Badges	\$4.00
Postcards	\$0.40
Button Badges	\$0.50
Teaspoons	\$4.00

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Society History

The latest edition of 'Trolley Wire' contains an article by Bill Scott, on the history of our Society. The article which makes interesting reading is accompanied by a series of photographs. This magazine is the journal of the tramway museums of Australia.

Overseas Visitors

Visiting Ballarat on the 20th October was a group of 41 English and American enthusiasts, who were touring Australia to see the Aus Steam celebrations and were being hosted by the ARHS ACT Division.

Several members of the Traffic Staff were kept busy providing tours of the depot, the museum and restoration works, manning a busy sales department and operating the popular charters.

The day saw trams No. 18, 26, 38, 40 and 661 running at various times during the visit, with trams No.38 and 40 running a tandem service at one stage.

An extra bonus for the day was the visit to the gardens by Tom Gibbs from Bellevue, Washington who was visiting Ballarat for the day. Tom saw the last chartered tram running in to the Depot and being a tramway enthusiast promptly arranged for his own charter. We again welcome Tom to membership of the Society.

This was just one part of the ever increasing midweek charter business, for which the Traffic Manager would always welcome volunteers.

Aus Steam Rally

On October 23rd a brave band of Society members were found running a tramway in Spencer Street, Melbourne. The Cable Tram Set was running between Bourke Street and Lonsdale Street to the delight of 1317 passengers.

The Sales Department was also in action on this day, attracting much interest with a sales table set up on the inner road at Spencer Street Station, near the Steam Engine display.

The members worked very hard to make the day a great success for the Society and all who helped in the operation of the tram and sales table. The activities finished at 4 o'clock only because the roadway was being reopened to normal traffic.

Aus Steam Rally (cont.)

Many thanks to all the members who helped to make this day a great success, especially Newton Williams and Darryl Hawksworth for the Cable Tram Set and their active participation and Randal Collins, David Tidy and Andrew Mitchell for supplying transport for the Cable Tram set.

The profits made from this event will be used to continue the restoration of Horse Tram No.1.

A Smoother Ride in Wendouree Parade

Warren Doubleday and Andrew Mitchell were recently seen loitering in Wendouree Parade. No! They were not there with any criminal intent but were intent on improving the condition of the track which was in need of repair at some rail joints.

The track gang used an unusual combination of vehicles. Tram No.671 towing the trusty works trolley laden with a portable generator took possession of the line before the commencement of our regular weekend services on the 8th and 9th October.

With the welding and grinding of the rail head and joints there is a noticeable improvement to the ride north of the Gardens Loop.

Tramcar and Depot Works

Around the Depot the annual tramcar floor painting is well underway with Dave Macartney and Jackie Edwards undertaking this regular, kneebending exercise. A number of trams are already looking good for the summer crowds.

Painting of No.39 is progressing steadily and No.33 has had a number of windows removed as they were in need of rejuvenation. When these windows have been restored by Dave, No.33 will be returned to regular service.

Work on Horse Tram No.1 continues with a number of complex interior panels being completed. They are now ready for varnishing prior to installation in the tram.

Summertime is Here Again

With the arrival of the summer months Tram No.26 is again in regular passenger service to the enjoyment of many visitors to the Gardens. No.26 is expected to be seen providing the passenger service on many days during the next few months.

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Recent Grants

The Society has received three grants to assist in the continuing restoration of Horse Tram No.1.

The Victorian Ministry for the Arts has granted \$1500, the Ballarat City Council has granted \$1000 and the Bi-Centennial Commission has granted \$500.

The Society sincerely thanks the Victorian Ministry for the Arts, the Ballarat City Council and the Bi-Centennial Commission for their valued assistance to this project.

Season's Greeting

The Board of Management wishes all members and their families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year period.



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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