

FARES PLEASE!

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. VBH3548

January 1989

A Society Wedding

Saturday 21st January saw the wedding of Ballarat Vice-President, Paul MacDonald and Mellisa Phillips in a ceremony at the Neil St Uniting Church, Ballarat.

After the ceremony guests boarded "Bridal Trams" No.38 and No.40, which were resplendent in wedding decorations. The guests enjoyed drinks and savories, while the wedding photos were taken in the Gardens.

After the photographs were taken the Wedding Party joined the trams for the journey to Lake Lodge for the reception.

Stephen Butler, Andrew Mitchell, Richard Gilbert and Peter Winspur performed the duties of Waiter/Conductors, with Motormen Frank Hanrahan and David Frost for this auspicious occasion.

The Society extends its best wishes to Paul and Mellisa for their future happiness.

A W3 to Run in Melbourne ?

The Board recently received a request from a group of tramway enthusiasts in Melbourne to send W3 car No.661 to Melbourne during March and April.

It was suggested that the group would operate a number of trips, for enthusiasts, around the Melbourne system .

The Board has agreed in principle to this request but details, dates and the agreement of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, to operate the tram in Melbourne, have yet to be finalised by the organisers.

Members who might be interested in this event should keep a close watch on activities in the Melbourne area or contact the depot during March.

**News of the Ballarat Tramway
Preservation Society Limited.**

2- Fares Please!

Membership

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>
2	A.R. Brugman	Ballarat
648	Andrew Cox	Moorabbin
649	Geoffrey Dye	Mitcham
650	Allan Deith	Elsternwick

The Society's New Postcard

The Society has produced a new colour postcard, illustrating major tramcar restorations which have been completed since the Society's earlier cards were published.

The new postcard is multiscene, which is an increasingly popular format with the public. It incorporates a wine red border, to highlight the views, with minimal information recorded on the reverse of the card, which is sufficient to satisfy the principal market and leave ample space for a message.

The address section is lined, at the request of Australia Post, as users of cards have at times omitted to leave adequate space for an address!

Postcard are an excellent method of advertising. The passengers, having bought the cards, show them to others and pay for the stamps to send them around Australia and overseas.

In the final analysis, it is the customer who provides this advertising and they do it at their own expense, thereby directly assisting the Society.

The upper scene spreads across the width of the card, showing a history of Ballarat's single truck cars in one photograph. From left to right are: Car No.27 in the State Electricity Commission of Victoria livery of 1935; Car No.26 restored to California combination style and the livery of the Electric Supply Company of Victoria, which ran the Tramway from 1902 to 1934; and Car No.33 in the final SECV livery.

The Society's ex-MMTB Tower Truck is visible behind Car No.27, where it was being used in a dual role in connection with point cleaning and servicing. The lower scenes are individual photographs of Cars No.27 and No.26.

Fleet details for the cars are recorded in the Rolling Stock Schedule which appeared in the September 1988 issue of "Fares Please!"

The Society's New Postcard (cont.)

The three photographs were taken with 35mm Kodachrome film on 26 December 1987, the centenary date for commencement of regular tramway operations in Ballarat.

The card is available from the Society for 40c.

Get Well Soon

Board member Darryl Soden recently spent nearly two months in hospital after being injured in a collision between two trams at Carnegie in November last year.

Darryl is now at home and making good progress towards a complete recovery. The Society wishes Darryl a speedy recuperation.

Tram car and Depot Works

Once again December saw the time when all cars to be used for the summer service were given their regular servicing and a thorough going over. This summer the service is based on Nos.13 (which will see limited use due to its poor external paintwork), 14, 18, 26, 27, and if necessary 40.

No.28 has been stored for a while, having done its fair share of the work over the last couple of months. No. 27 has been brought back into service having seen little service recently limiting its mileage and thus increasing the use of our "newer" or "more recently acquired" cars.

No.33 was withdrawn from service towards the end of November to have its aging window frames repaired and repainted. This has involved removing the front windows as well. This car should be back in service by late January.

Horse Tram No.1 continues to occupy a fair amount of the time of our staff. The restoration of the doors and their reglazing has been finished. These have been reinstated, and are working once again. The four end windows of the car have also been installed and the interior end panels have been completed.

The remaining windows are complete with fittings, but have been stored for the time being. Jackie Edwards has begun the mind boggling job of sanding the individual slats of the twelve louver windows. The next job will be to put the various metal cover strips into position on the outside of the car, and fabricate new internal seats.

4. Fares Please!

Tram car and Depot Works (cont.)

The wet start to summer has seen preservation operations, the grass grow out of control. Our mower has not been behaving itself recently, especially in starting. Thanks to David Tidy and Randall Collins. They have managed to get it in tune and it is now running a lot better.

Four metal stands have been made to support the rear of No.39. These stands have been placed under the car, and have taken out the slight "banana" shape the car was developing. Once this was completed the windows were replaced, giving the car a much better appearance.

Trams on the Air

Recent visitors to the depot included a crew from Ballarat's Community FM Radio Station 3BBB, looking for some "local interest".

Ballarat Vice-President, Paul MacDonald, acquitted himself well in the interview, which was broadcast by 3BBB during the latter part November.

Begonia Festival

March will again see the Society operating peak services for the 1989 Begonia Festival. As usual we will be providing the tram service for visitors to the Gardens during the Festival, which is a time of intense activity culminating in the annual parade through the Botanic Gardens.

Members of the Traffic Branch are especially needed to staff our operations through this period, during which we normally operate two or three cars to cope with the heavy loading.

Begonia Festival time is an excellent time for members to visit the Tramway to recapture the spirit of the trams in Ballarat and enjoy Ballarat in bloom with Begonias.

Where are They?

Member Bob Lillburn recently asked our assistance in locating Melbourne W2 class cars 630 and 638. Bob is also trying to obtain photographs of Melbourne cars 391 and 801 at Koondarook.

If you can assist Bob he would be very happy to hear from you on (053) 67 1708.

Traffic

Disaster struck on Sunday 11th December as tram No.28 passed Windmill Drive North and the trolley pole fouled a bracket arm causing the trolley wire to break and pull away from a number of ears.

The service was suspended from 2.15 p.m. and it was not until 4.10 p.m. that No.28 could be returned to the depot under its own power.

Fortunately repairs were able to be made so that the normal service was able to operate on the following Saturday 17th December.

Conductor Chris Jacobson received a surprise on Wednesday 28th December when a passenger handed him a bag full of original SEC tram tickets. The assortment included Tourist, Scholars and Parcel tickets.

The passenger would not give her name, but said her late husband had worked on the trams in the revenue office. If anyone knows who this passenger is, the Society would like to know, so that her donation can be properly acknowledged.

While patronage since Christmas has been quite good the loading during the second half of 1988 was down about 1100 passengers when compared to the same period of 1987, but is about the same as 1986.

Thanks to the efforts of Stephen Butler, the service again operated on Christmas Day. Although the weather was miserable and he carried only 22 passengers it was good to see the trams operating when the rest of Ballarat could offer very little for tourists.

Bits and Pieces

Members of the Rail Tourist Association enjoyed a visit to the Tramway on Sunday 27th November as part of a railway tour to Kulwin.

The group rode on a number of our trams and then enjoyed a barbecue lunch at the depot.

A Christmas card was received from our member in Czechoslovakia, Karel Dusanek. Karel enclosed a number of pocket calendar cards, which featured photographs of Prague trams, and wished all well for Christmas and the New Year.

Thanks to Karel for his letter and gifts.

G. Fares Please!

Bits and Pieces (cont.)

Also in the post was letter from Dennis Gill of Cheshire, England, the author of a number of tramcar books. Dennis is compiling a book on the world's "heritage lines" and was seeking information about our tramway.

A group of thirty German tramway enthusiasts are expected to visit the tramway on Sunday 9th April as part of an Australian tour. The society expects to operate a variety of trams for the group to ride during the day.

Sales

A new enamel badge featuring a V/Line bus has been produced and is now available at the depot for \$4.00. Other badges currently available include the "Polly" locomotive, Comeng, Silver, Harris and Tait trains and the VR badge.

We still have two types of teaspoon available at \$4.00. One features tram No.27 and the other is our Centenary Teaspoon showing Horse Tram No.1 and Electric Tram No.40.

A visit to the Sales Department would also reveal a wide range of booklets and periodicals, postcards, and assorted souvenir items.

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:

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

Telephone: (053) 34 1580
