

FARES PLEASE!

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March 1989

Begonia Time

When Melbourne is celebrating Moomba, the annual Begonia Festival gets underway in Ballarat.

Begonia Festival is always a busy time for the Society's Traffic Staff and this year was no exception, with up to three trams running during the busier periods.

Over the Labour Day weekend the trams carried 1706 passengers and Saturday saw the trams running till 9.30 p.m. On both Sunday and Monday the trams ran until 7.00 p.m.

Our trams again operated on the Begonia Festival weekdays and carried an average of over one hundred passengers on each day.

The final weekend of the Begonia Festival saw a shorter parade than we have come to expect over recent years but the trams still carried a respectable 513 passengers.

Tramcar and Depot Works

Currently residing on 4 road in the depot, Horse Tram No.1 is really starting to show results from the many hours of work which our restoration team have put into it.

With the sides, end aprons and roof frame in place the Horse Tram again looks like a tram. Installation of the interior end panels makes the Horse Tram a credit to the recent efforts of Dave and Jackie.

Unfortunately there still remains a great deal of work before Horse Tram No.1 can return to passenger service.

Tram No.33, which has been out of service for several months, having its end and saloon windows frames repaired is now back in service. No.33 will again be seen performing its fair share of duty on the Traffic Roster.

**News of the Ballarat Tramway
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Tramcar and Depot Works (cont.)

A look around the back of the tram shed will reveal a new extension to 5 road. The track now leads out the back door to the footpath.

No, this is not the start of a new route along Gillies Street but is there to make it easier for the delivery and removal of trams. With the track filled to the rail head and no overhead our latest track extension will be almost invisible.

On 1 road Tram No.39 has had six windows installed along the side facing 2 road. This tram is starting to look like a servicable tram which is the effect desired for our new museum area. A closer look shows that appearances can be just a little bit deceptive.

Where Are They ?

Member Bob Lilburn is seeking the assistance of members to locate some tramcars which were disposed of at various times.

Bob is looking for the following trams:

SEC Bendigo No.7 (ex M&MTB No.90 which was sold in 1951)
M&MTB Nos.43, 144, 147, 168, 338, 490, 660, 666 and 669.
(No.338 was at Elaine and was recently sold)

If you can help Bob he can be contacted on Ph (053) 67 1708 or you might write to him at:

4 Mitchell Crt
Bacchus Marsh
Victoria 3340.

Publicity Near and Far

The society has recently received some excellent publicity in both Ballarat and Rockhampton.

Publicity Officer, Stephen Butler, appeared on BTV 6 talking about the Tramway and showing off Trams Nos. 1 and 38

"The Morning Bulletin", which is printed in Rockhampton, recently published an excellent article about our tramway, following a visit to the Tramway by their Chief of Staff, Carolyn Varley.

Carolyn interviewed Peter Winspur and Chris Jacobson who were working on the trams during part of the holiday season in January and was impressed sufficiently by the Tramway to write the article which you should find enclosed with this issue of **Fares Please!**

Obituary - Alwyn Marshall

It is with regret that the Society notes the passing, in February 1989, of long standing member, Alwyn Marshall.

Alwyn was a keen Tram Enthusiast who travelled the world extensively in pursuit of his hobby and was known for his fascinating stories.

Working as a Suburban Train Guard in Melbourne, Alwyn was well know by many of our members. Having joined the railways as a porter at North Carlton Station, in 1948, Alwyn eventually became a Steam Locomotive Driver before transferring to the position of suburban Guard.

During the years Alwyn had gathered a notable collection of Tramway and Railway books which are still in mint condition. These books have been handed to the Railfan Shop, at Transport House in Collins Street Melbourne, for sale.

Alwyn, who was soon to retire from the railways, will be missed by all who knew him.

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>
651	K. Riddle	Yarraville
652	J. A. Vergona	Hawthorn

Donations to the Archives

The Society is the recipient of a number of well preserved Horse Tram tickets. These tickets were used for travel on the Horse Trams in Ballarat prior to the commencement of electric tram operation in 1905.

The tickets, which are shown below, were donated by a Ballarat resident who is moving to Queensland and wanted the tickets preserved by the most appropriate group.



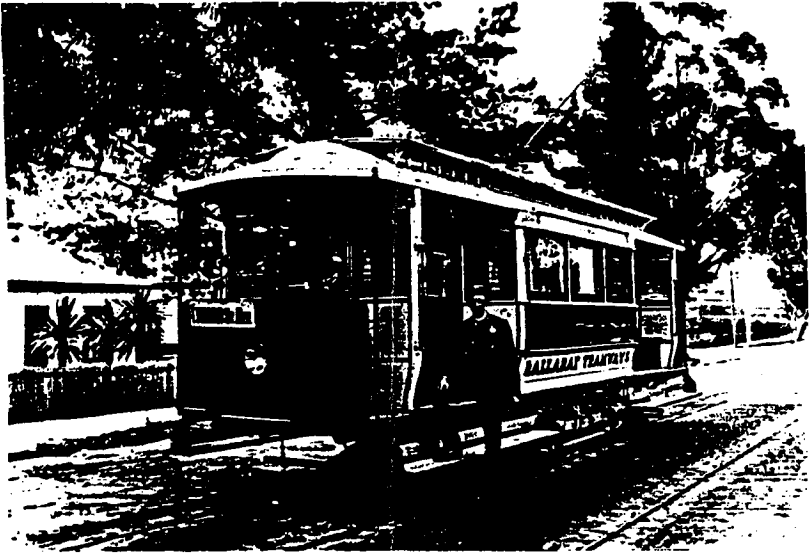
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Donations to the Archives (Cont.)

A photograph of a tram was recently donated by a Mrs Gleeson whose grandfather drove the first tram on the Lydiard St Nth Line on 18th August, 1905.

The photograph (below) shows Mrs Gleeson's grandfather with his conductor beside a tram on the Lydiard St Nth Line.

In return Mrs Gleeson was able to obtain detailed information about the early operation of electric trams in Ballarat as part of her endeavours to create a family history.



Early Electric Tram on the Lydiard St Nth Line

New Zealand Visitor

New Zealand member Ron Hann from Christchurch is expected to visit the Society on 23rd April as part of a busy schedule, as he tours southern Australia.

Ron visited the Society about two years ago and if you are at the depot around 23rd April you can help to make him welcome.

This visit by Ron is part of an extensive itinerary of travel by train throughout Victoria and South Australia.

Historic Photograph

Word has filtered through that Ballarat photographer Max Harris has a small number of prints of a Ballarat Horse Tram available for sale.

The print which is 400x280 mm features a Horse Tram with three white horses at the Post Office corner in Sturt Street. A copy of the print is on display in the depot on the Horse Tram display board.

The prints are available through Dave Macartney at the Depot, on a first come first served basis, for \$60 framed or \$20 unframed.

What Goes Up ...

The Society tower wagon recently suffered problems with its hydraulic hoist. A leak which had developed meant that the tower would go up but would not stay up.

Traffic Manager, Peter Winspur, had a frustrating time obtaining the correct part to effect repairs, but after four visits to a hydraulic machinery company he finally obtained the correct part and the tower is now working perfectly.

Those Darling Little Possums

An apparent explosion in the possum population in the Gardens has lead to a few problems at the depot. The dear little furry creatures were continually leaving little messages throughout the depot for members to clean up each weekend.

The Society hoping to alleviate the problem has purchased two traps and possum boxes and we have commenced a population relocation program.

The possums are being trapped during the weekend and transferred humanely to other areas away from the depot. Over time it is hoped that our little friends from the gardens will again be in manageable numbers around the depot.

Traffic

The traffic staff recently grew with the addition of new member Geoff Dye who has qualified as a conductor.

The Forrest St Primary School has availed itself of our weekday operations during the Begonia Festival by arranging for a group of students to visit the depot and ride the trams on 16th March.

Begonia Festival has seen the Tramway operating every day from 11th March till 19th March.

G. Fares Please!

Traffic (cont.)

Thanks to that small band of Traffic Staff members who helped to keep the trams running through the Festival this year.

With school holidays at Easter, when the trams will again be operating every day, this is indeed a busy time for the Traffic Branch.

No.661 Ready to Run in Melbourne

As mentioned in the last issue of Fares Please! arrangements have been made to send No.661 to Melbourne to operate a number of charter trips.

It has been 20 years since the W3 class trams were withdrawn from service in Melbourne and No.661 will be sure to attract attention throughout the enthusiast community.

No.661 is being hired by a group of enthusiasts from Malvern Tram Depot who have formed an association called "Yapper Tours". Interested Melbourne members should watch for any announcements by this group.

Although final arrangements and dates have yet to be made No.661 has been prepared for transport and is likely to be the first tram to use the new track at the rear of the depot.

Preparation of No.661 has involved a bogie change at No.2 end as it was felt that the bogie, which was formerly under No.669, was too worn to safely operate on some of Melbourne's lesser used special track work.

Dave Macartney has also spent many hours retouching the body paintwork and has completely repainted the bogies and with the help of Jackie Edwards has repainted the roof of No.661.

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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