

FARES PLEASE!

November 1992

Ballarat Tramways are Ballarat History



Saturday November 7, 1992 witnessed the operation of the reconstructed Ballarat Tramway's Horse Tram No. 1 in Wendource Parade. Photographed on the first passenger carrying run, the tram leaves Depot Junction for the old Gardens Loop. The event marks the end of a seven year project to reconstruct the car; the most significant in the Society's history, and a fitting culmination to our 21st. anniversary celebrations.

PHOTO: Carolyn Dean

News of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society Limited.

2... Fares Please!

November 7, 1992

This day was an important milestone in the Society's History. The opening of our Museum's Display area in the depot building and the re-commissioning of Horse Tram No. 1.

The final couple of weeks before the event saw the finishing touches put to the horse tram and to the display area itself, though the latter will not be fully completed for some months yet.

On the morning, the Society hosted the quarterly meeting of the Central Highlands Historical Association Inc. This was the first time the Society had hosted the CHHA, the regional association of the local history societies. Attending the meeting were about 50 representatives, and the President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Professor Weston Bate, who was to officiate at the activities later in the afternoon. The Board would like to thank all those who assisted in setting up the facilities for the meeting and providing refreshments. Following the meeting, a guided tour of the depot and a tram ride for representatives were provided.

The display area of the Museum located in No. 39 at the front of No. 1 road, was opened first by Professor Weston Bate. He spoke of his relationship with Ballarat, the importance of such information centres and the assistance of the then Ministry for the Arts. Prof. Bate is also Chairman of the Museums Advisory Board. After placing the Museum Entry sign into position, he invited all those assembled to pass through and look at the area. The

assistance of the Ministry in providing funding, the workmanship of our weekday staff in constructing this unusual and practical museum area, and our volunteers in fitting out the area was acknowledged in a speech made by Society President, Richard Gilbert.

Incorporated within the display area is a video display, with a six minute history video tape of the Ballarat Tramways. It is proving popular with visitors. The first of the photo display boards have been completed. The remainder will be finished in stages over the next few months. At this stage, entry is free, but the Board is to give consideration to a charge for the display area and depot, given the amount of work and money invested over recent years.

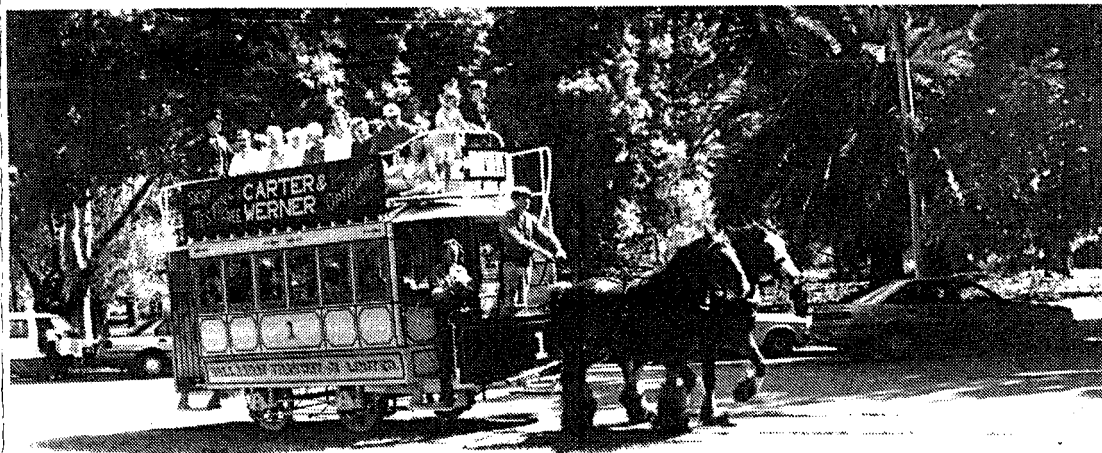
Re-commissioning of No. 1 horse tram then followed. The event was well attended with absolutely fine warm weather to add to the total success of the day.

Acquired in December 1985 from a property in Anderson Street, Ballarat East, Horse Tram No. 1 has taken seven years to reconstruct to as-built appearance. President Richard Gilbert welcomed all those assembled and paid particular appreciation to the Leviston family who had kept the vehicle on their property for over 50 years. The efforts of our weekday staff and volunteer workers at the depot in reconstructing the tram were recognised. Professor Weston Bate made a colourful speech describing what the introduction of trams had meant to the lives of the people of Ballarat.

Fares Please! ..3



The view from the top deck with Ajax and Herc leading the tram along Wendouree Parade.
PHOTO Carolyn Dean



Under the control of Bernard Armstrong and Edward Kennedy, No. 1 heads north with another load of passengers.
PHOTO Carolyn Dean

4-- Fares Please!



Professor Weston Bate launches the Horse Tram by pushing it along a short distance of No. 2 Road.

Professor Bate then re-commissioned the tram by pushing it along No. 2 road at the front of the depot for a short distance. The guests were then invited to escort (and push!) the tram to Wendouree Parade where the horses were attached and for the first time since 1905, a horse tram operated along Wendouree Parade.

Len Millar, an experienced horse tram man, had been given charge of the horse operation for the day and he arranged with Sovereign Hill Historical Park for the hire of two beautifully groomed Percheron's and two expert horseman. The horses took to the tram operation after doing two training trips earlier in the day.

The public trips were well sought after and five trips were run from the Depot Junction to the old Gardens Loop. After satisfying the demands of the traffic offering, the horseman offered to do a trip along the full length of the line. The impromptu trip was hastily arranged, with the crew on the electric tram told to stay at St. Aidans Drive and the historic trip took place.

It was most memorable and momentous feeling to travel on our tramway in the way people had done all those years ago.

Other than a few specially arranged trips each year, it is planned to have No. 1 on display road for all to see, along with a photographic display of its reconstruction.

Our thanks to all those who worked on the tram and its first day of operation.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Society took place on Sunday, 18 October. The weather was fine, and the meeting was reasonably well attended given the number of events we and others have been running recently. Ian Hill was nominated for the vacant Board position.

After the meeting was concluded, the customary ride and afternoon tea was taken. Members also inspected No. 1 and pushed it out on the Parade and down to near the old Gardens Loop to check the track and overhead clearances.

Membership News

We regret to record the deaths of two members of the Society, Mr. J. Metcalfe, and Mr. R. Bishop. We take this opportunity to extend our condolences to their families and friends.

New Members recently have been:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| No. 667 Mr. S.Green | Hallam |
| No. 668 Mr. M.Anderson | Ballarat |
| No. 669 Ms. S.Puls | Ballarat |
| No. 670 Mr. G.E.Stancliffe | Bacchus Marsh |

Junior Members

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| No. 5005 Mr. P.S.Mong | Ballarat |
| No. 5006 Ms. V.J. Cromb | Ballarat |

Rejoined Member

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| No. 191 Mr. I.Sutherland | Campbells Creek |
|--------------------------|-----------------|

6-- Fares Please!

FOSH Visit

FOSH!?: The Friends of Sovereign Hill, made a visit to the tramway on Saturday, November 14. Hosted by Alan Bradley, about 40 people came along to see what we do, hear a detailed illustrated history of the Tramways in Ballarat and enjoy a ride on the trams themselves. Afternoon tea was also served to a very appreciative group.

Traffic

The last few months has been a very busy period for the tramway, in the number of days operated and the good response of the crews to man the tramway for special and normal days is appreciated by the Board. As well as running every weekend, a number of charters have been run for schools and other groups; the CHHA and FOSH and the Tecoma Reformed Church on Nov. 30. Primary schools visiting us have been:

Barooga, Oct. 22, 45 passengers,
Creswick, Oct. 27, 92 pass.,
West Melton, Oct 28, 92 pass.,
Bacchus Marsh, Nov. 4, 102 pass.

The tramway was operated by Len Millar on Melbourne Cup Day, but the passenger traffic was poor due to the inclement weather conditions.

At the Depot

The completion of the horse tram and the continuation of the fit out of the Display Area have been the major tasks over the last two months.

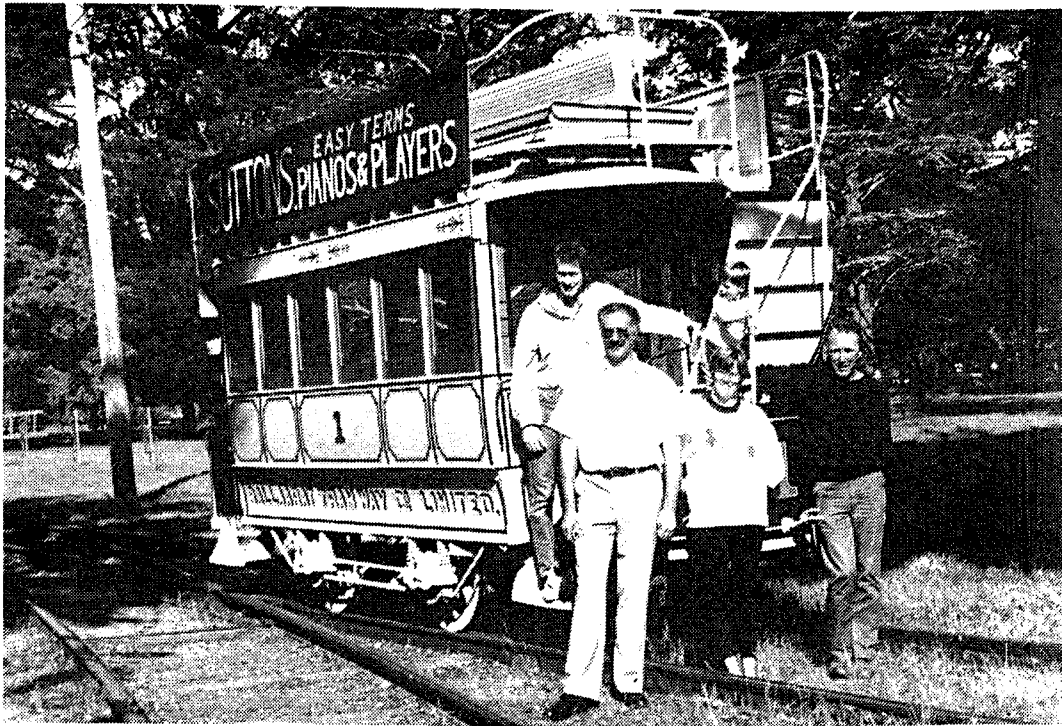
In the Display Area, the Video gear was installed, the headlight to the tram wired in, interpretative signs put into the front cab showing what the various tram controls are, the first photo display board completed, and two photo display leaves fitted out. These allow a number of small photographs to be displayed, without following any particular theme on moveable boards, mounted on a post. Some of the boards from the previous display in No. 11, along with the sales items and display case were relocated the day before opening.

For the recommissioning of the horse tram, two display panels with photos showing the project over a number of years, and other mementos were made up temporarily. The following jobs were completed on the Horse Tram; the destination boards, off-side barrier gates and the two advertising panels.

The pits were emptied of water during November. This has allowed some undergear maintenance to be caught up on the trams. The large pit had however, three inches of water in it again by the end of November following another wet spell, showing just how high the water table still is in the area.

Other jobs carried out were the continuation of repainting work on No. 671, installation of depot lighting, relocating the feeder cable on No. 1 road, putting in rails at the end of No. 2 road and the shortening of the overhead and associated troughing on No. 2 road to allow the horse tram to be positioned there during December.

Fares Please! ..7



The restoration team, Warren Doubleday, Jacqui Edwards, Dave Macartney and Gary Wood along with Jacqui's son, Daniel stand alongside their work on the depot fan. PHOTO Carolyn Dean.



Trams 1 and 18 pose for the photographs at St Aidans Drive.

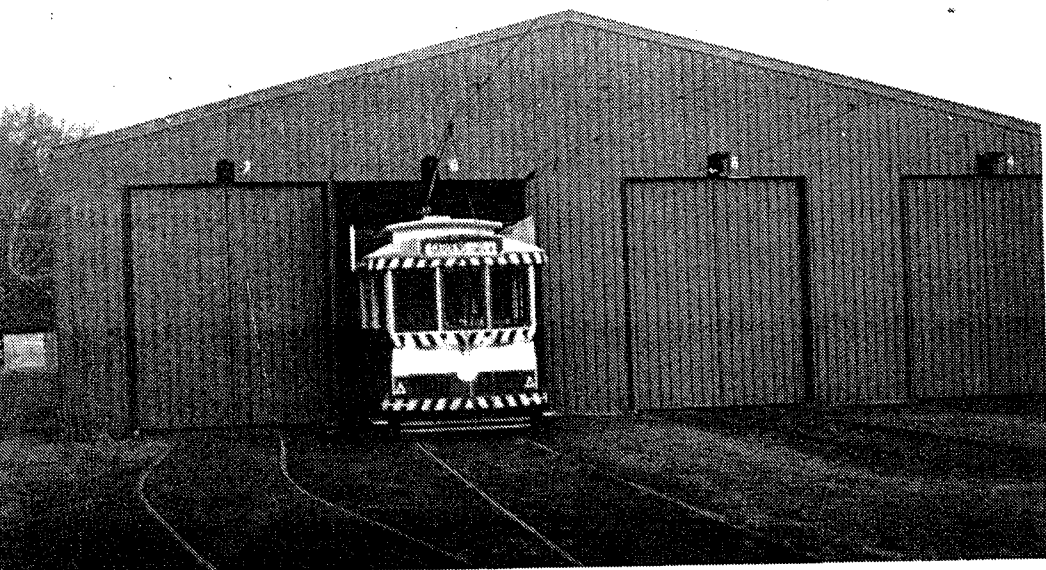
PHOTO Carolyn Dean

8.. Fares Please!

Work has commenced on rubbing down the tumbledown panels on No. 12 to expose the colour of the paintwork for the lettering. The recording of this and other base colour information will be very important for the future reconstruction of the tramcar. It is intended that a formal conservation plan be prepared for the project.

Ballarat Video

Enclosed with this mailout is a form for the purchase of the Ballarat Video outlining the history of the trams in Ballarat, and taking a ride along the tramway itself. The production is nearing completion, and it is hoped that all will be completed before Christmas, so it can be mailed to you.



In the earliest time of commencement of tramway operation yet, Driver Gavin Young, moves No. 33 out of the depot, to run out at 6.30a.m. on Sat. 26th Oct. for the full SEC style day of service.
PHOTO Earl Ewers

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 ACN 005 021 312
Ballarat Vic 3353 Phone (053) 34 1580
