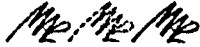


FARES PLEASE!

January 1997

Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History



Museum Accreditation Program
Registered Museum

Tramway for Ballarat - Yes to a Feasibility Study Grant

Ballarat Courier newspaper readers will have seen the announcement on Saturday January 4 of a Federal Government grant of \$20,000 towards a feasibility study for returning trams back to the city streets of Ballarat.

Ballarat Member of the House of Representatives, Michael Ronaldson announced the grant. He described the feasibility study as very much a first step, but an extremely important one. The study was needed to investigate properly the proposed route, cost, financing and viability. "The feasibility funding represents a major investment in Ballarat's future by the Federal Government and may result in the dream nurtured by many locals over the years becoming a reality" he said.

The Ballarat Tourism Board executive director Andrew McEvoy, described the grant as "fantastic news". "No one

knows yet if it would be worthwhile to have trams up and running again and the feasibility study will show whether this should happen or not."

The announcement of the grant was made during the slow news season. This saw a number of follow up items in *The Courier* and some letters to the Editor, mainly negative, remembering the old days of slow trams holding up their cars, including the suggestion that perhaps horse trams, or carriages should be used.

The news of the grant and the positive survey results were the lead item in *The Courier* on Saturday January 4 and Thursday January 9. Both rated the headline poster sheets that go in the Newspaper advertising holder at the front of shops.

A survey by *The Courier* on Wednesday January 9, found that

Ballarat Tramways News

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some 71% of people asked "Do you think Ballarat City Council should spend money to bring trams back to Ballarat?" responded favourably. The noes were 25.5%, while only some 3.2% were undecided. Their survey sample comprised more than 200 people. Of the 91 visitors to Ballarat spoken to by *The Courier*, only one said a city tram would be of no interest. Local residents, however, were split almost evenly on the issue. *The Courier* commented that the survey was conducted in the city's major shopping precincts and that the results are based on public opinion, not scientific evidence.

One interesting picture (opposite) in *The Courier* of Saturday January 18 was the reproduction of a postcard showing a horse drawn tram in Sturt Street near the Camp Street intersection. Good observers will note that it is travelling the "wrong way" along Sturt Street. In the horse tram days, both carriageways of Sturt Street were two way traffic. That is west bound trams travelled on the north side and east bound trams on the south side of the plantation.

The Tramway Museum is part of the Ballarat Tramway Study group and looks forward to a positive outcome of the feasibility study.

The Museum is collecting the various newspaper cuttings and the poster sheets that are making the news. Special thanks to Frank Puls who has

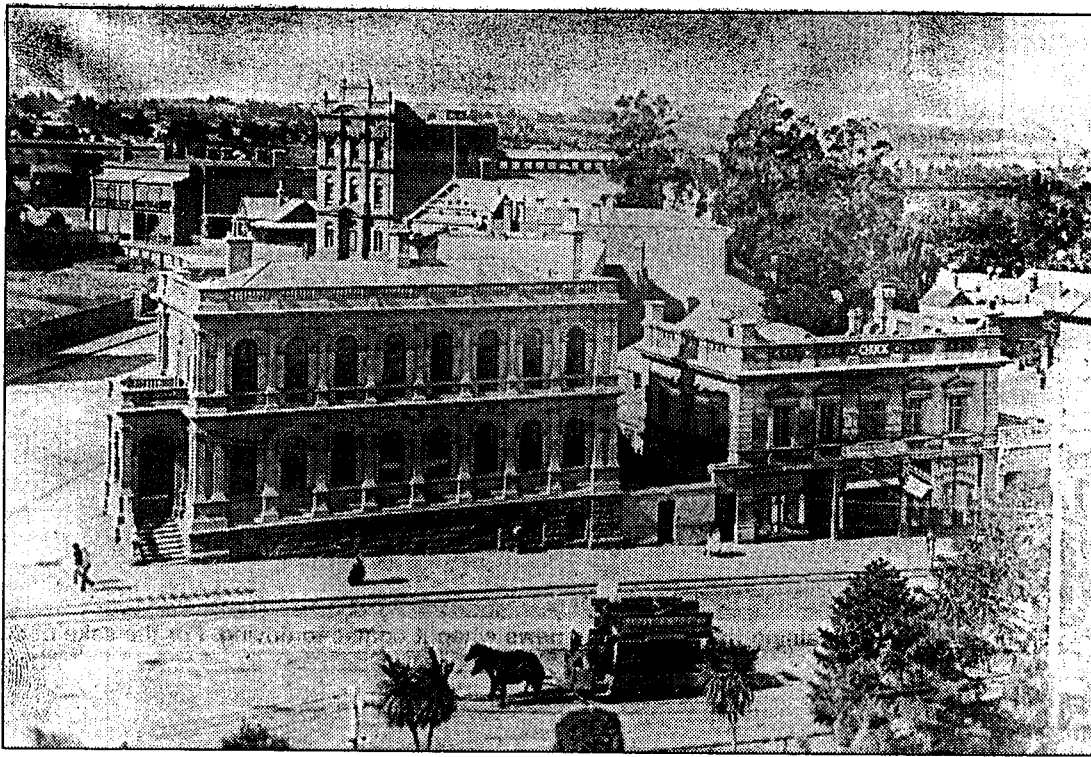
kept the Board members posted of the news as it occurs. Acknowledgment is also made to *The Courier's* Elise Sullivan and Angela Carey who wrote the lead articles on Jan. 4 and 9 respectively from which some of the above text has been copied and for the photo of the horse tram on January 18.

New Trolley Wire

Preparations are being made to renew the first section of our trolley wire between the Gardens Loop section insulator and St Aidans Drive during the first week of March. This section is the most worn and in need of replacement. Many of the ears (the part that holds the wire up in the air) will need replacement as well. These will be obtained from our stock of good ears that were made available to us from the SEC, when the Ballarat system closed in 1971.

Our survey of the overhead showed that many of these ears will be recoverable by undertaking minor repairs to them. This will enable us to maintain the SEC look of the overhead. One item that we will recover that we should have little use of for many years are some 13 wire joiners.

The inspection showed that most of the bracket arms are in good condition and only a couple will require replacement because of corrosion.



From a postcard reproduced in *The Courier* of 18 January 1997. A Ballarat Tramway Company Horse tram in Sturt Street, near the Camp St intersection.

Cataloguing Manual

Richard Gilbert and Warren Doubleday attended the Victorian Branch of Museums Australia Christmas Party at which the revised "Small Museums Cataloguing Manual" was launched. This guide to cataloguing objects, documents and image collections is the basis on which the Museum undertakes its collection cataloguing activities. It is now in its 3rd edition and published by Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and

Cabinet and Museums Australia (Victoria Branch). It is a very comprehensive manual.

The evening event was held in the well appointed Gallery Society of Victoria rooms at the National Gallery, Melbourne and was attended by a large number of representatives of small museums from around Victoria, including some from the Central Highlands Region.

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Archives - ESCo ticket

A recent donation to our Archives was an Electric Supply Company penny ha'penny child ticket. The ticket is printed onto a brown coloured light card. The illustration opposite has been enlarged to twice the original size so you can read the various destinations and other details such as the ticket printer. The wording in the central part of the ticket reads as follows:

"The Passenger is requested to see that this Ticket is Removed from the Packet and Bell Punched in his presence, and it must be shown on demand or another Fare Paid. Good only for Car and Trip on which issued, and to the Section Punched."

The story behind the ticket coming to us is interesting. The donor, Mr. J. Douglas of Sebastopol was recently replacing some carpet in his house and came across the ticket. As sometimes used in those days, the underlay was newspapers. These were dated 1928. The Museum thanks the donor for this rare find. By the time you read this, it will have been catalogued and stored.

New Members

The Museum welcomes the following new members:

- No. 704 G. Roberts Millicent SA
- No. 705 R. Pennell Brighton England

Ballarat Tramways

NOT TRANSFERABLE

Issued subject to the Bye-Laws of the E S Co of Victoria Limited.

UP TO Grenville Street	The Passenger is requested to see that this Ticket is Removed from the Packet and Bell Punched in his presence, and it must be shown on demand or another Fare Paid. Good only for Car and Trip on which issued, and to the Section Punched.	Pleasant Mt TO	Orph'nge Street TO
FROM Alfred St.		Gregory Street TO	Rubicon Street TO
FROM McArthur St. (L.A. 9)		Rubicon Street TO	McArthur St. (L.A. 9) TO
FROM Rubicon Street		Gregory Street TO	Alfred St. TO
FROM Gregory Street		Orph'nge Street TO	Grenville Street TO
FROM Orph'nge Street		Pleasant Mt TO	Grenville Street TO
FROM Mt Pleasant		Grenville Street TO	Grenville Street TO
FROM Pleasant Mt		Grenville Street TO	Grenville Street TO

CHILD

J. J. MILLER PTG. CO. PTY. LTD.

Sa 0362

Pole Replacement

One of our tramway poles near the old Gardens tram storage loop was unexpectedly replaced during December. A bus backed into the pole breaking it off at the base. Barry James Cranes supplied a crane to hold the old pole in position while Powercor replaced the pole with a new one and changed the bracket arm and overhead fittings for us. Thanks to Powercor for their prompt action and also to our member Frank Hanrahan for attending and co-ordinating the work. Powercor are also taking care of the necessary paperwork involved with this event.

Andrew McEvoy leaves Ballarat

During mid January 97 we were advised that the Executive Director of the Ballarat Tourist Board had resigned from his position to take up a similar position in Melbourne. The Museum takes this opportunity to thank Andrew for his support, especially in the repainting of tram No. 671 as the "City of Ballarat". We wish him all the best for his future. Andrew has been one of the key workers for the revival of the trams in Ballarat.

At the depot

Over the Christmas Period, work on a number of projects has continued, but at a slower pace than is often normal

during the holiday season as a number of our regular depot workers have been unavailable because of other job commitments. However, progress on repairs and repainting of 28 has been made and work continues on ESCO No. 12. Repainting of the shelter at Gardens Loop is nearing completion. Most of our running tram fleet have received their annual floor repaint.

Education kit

Alan Bradley is nearing the completion of compiling a Teacher Resource or Education Kit. The kit will contain an introduction to the Museum, suggested questions, a summary of the history of Ballarat Tramways and is written for the last years of Primary school students. It is titled "Gold! Gold! Gold! And trams." It also has notes based on the Curriculum Standards Framework for Victorian schools. We hope to have it finished soon and be able to offer to primary school teachers, especially when visiting the Museum.

Sales List

Enclosed with *Fares Please!* is a copy of our current Sales List of items available at the depot. Sales order by post and credit card are welcome. Please note the postage rates and 10% discount for purchases over \$50.00.

On order is a reprint of Bill Scott's popular three tram postcard. We recently ran out of stock of this popular postcard which features our trams running in Wendouree Parade.

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COTMA

Planning for the next Conference is well under way. It is to be held in Christchurch New Zealand from 30th May 1998 to the 3rd of June. It will take the usual format of workshops, brag seasons, visits to Museums etc. Christchurch as our readers would know, is now once again a tramway city. This will be an important visit for Ballarat Tramway Museum Board members. It will enable them to see how a tramway operated by a contractor using the local Museum owned trams is run and to understand the technical arrangements for doing this.

A feature of the Conference will be an evening trip to the Weka Pass Railway. As well there will be an evening meal at the former Papanui suburban railway station, now a restaurant. During the Conference there will be a full day steam excursion to Arthur's pass and through the five mile tunnel to Otira, with the train hauled by vintage and modern electric locos, especially provided for the excursion. A pre-conference tour from May 17 to 29 is at present being arranged. Further details hopefully in the next issue of *Fares Please!* The conference will be held at Noah's Hotel, right by Cathedral Square.

Preliminary discussions for the year 2000 conference, which will be held in Ballarat took place at a recent

COTMA operations committee meeting. Preliminary thoughts for the production of a souvenir 25 year COTMA book featuring the various member Australian and New Zealand museums have been discussed.

Our New Phone and Fax Nos.

Victorian country telephone numbers recently changed over to the eight number system. Our new phone number is 5334 1580. For the present, Victorians have to dial (or press) the area code 03 for calls within Victoria. This will apply for about six months.

We have recently purchased a new fax machine that can be left on. Our previous machine was an older model without a phone/fax switch. To receive a fax required someone to be at the depot and turn the machine on.

Ballarat Community Support Fund Application

As part of the implementation of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Masterplan, the City of Ballarat recently applied for a Community Support Fund grant to undertake extensive works within the gardens. If the City is successful in their application, the proposed works will see a number of improvements to our infrastructures such as new trolley wire support poles, improvements to

the surface at tram stops and repairs to the surface of our tracks. Also proposed are improvements to street lighting, foreshore lighting and improving the entrance to Lake Pavilion by appropriate landscaping.

New playground

As reported in the last issue of *Fares Please!*, the new playground just to the north of Depot Junction is very popular. Sometimes too popular for those looking for nearby car parking spaces. We have had some minor problems with cars parking foul of the track. It has become necessary to place witches hats at depot junction every operating day to ensure that people do not inadvertently park foul, where they have to change from angle to parallel parking. We are keeping the situation under observation to see how it settles down and whether any changes to parking arrangements should be made. The playground is a valuable addition to the Lake area and a benefit to our operational statistics.

Tram Traffic

For the first half of the 1996/97 financial year, we are a bit down on passenger numbers compared to the same period last year. January so far has seen about the same number of passengers carried as last year. Although well down on the January numbers of five to ten years ago,

passenger numbers despite the very hot weather have been steady.

Boxing Day used to be once a very busy day in Ballarat for the trams. The last couple of years have seen numbers down, although two years ago it was due to heavy rain. This year, like last year, the day was very pleasant, but numbers in the Gardens were low. We think this shows the impact of the large store sales now starting on Boxing Day.

Christmas day saw the tram operated again by Frank Puls. with some 115 passengers being carried. Thanks to Frank for giving up a large part of Christmas day to operate the tram which is appreciated by our the passengers as it is one of the few attractions on Christmas Day. Also thanks to our crews who operate the trams over the Christmas -January period, often in hot conditions.

At the Depot

Over the Christmas Period, work on a number of projects has continued, but at a slower pace than is often normal during the holiday season as a number of our regular depot workers have been unavailable because of other job commitments. However, progress on repairs and repainting of 28 has been made and work continues on ESCo No. 12. Repainting of the shelter at Gardens Loop is nearing completion. Most of our running tram fleet have received their annual floor repaint.

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Special General Meeting

Enclosed within this mailout is a notice of a Special General Meeting for the members of the Museum to be held on Sunday February 23, 1996, commencing at 12.30pm. This meeting will be to approve a minor change in the wording of the Association Rules in order for us to maintain our Business Names of Ballarat Vintage Tramway and Ballarat Tramways. If you can't make it, please send us your proxy.

Horse tram operation

On Sunday 23 February, the Museum will be operating Horse Tram No. 1 in Wendouree Parade from about 2.00pm to 5.00pm. All members and friends are invited along to take part in the in-frequent event. Riding a horse tram is quite different to that of an electric tram, especially in offering a view from the top deck. We hope to see you at the event.

Begonia Festival

The 1997 Begonia Festival will commence on Friday March 7 and conclude on Sunday March 15. The

first weekend is the long weekend, at which we will be "competing" against the Grand Prix in Melbourne. The later timing arrangement in the past has shown to be quite successful. We have been discussing with the Begonia Festival Management traffic arrangements and are looking forward to another busy period.

If there are any of our members who are not regular traffic members, but would be interested in helping out with traffic control or undergoing a quick course in conducting we would welcome you with open arms. This year, virtually the entire street between the South entrance to the Gardens and Gardens Loop will be closed to road vehicles, with the Museum providing the transport service.

Next Issue of *Fares Please!*

Our next issue of *Fares Please!* is likely to be early April, as Easter occurs during the last week of March and our editor will be very busy during this period of March.