

# FARES PLEASE!

May 1998

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## *Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History*

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*MA/MA/MA*

Museum Accreditation Program  
Accredited Museum

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### **Museum Accreditation**

The Board and Museum workers are proud to announce to our members and supporters that the Museum has become an Accredited Museum under the Museum Accreditation Programme managed by Museums Australia (Victoria). The Museum is one of nine Victorian museums to achieve this level.

The formal announcement was made at International Museums Day by the Mrs. Lorraine Elliott, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for the Arts. Announcing the achievements, Mrs. Elliot said that the museums were at the forefront of quality improvements in the sector and the Museum Accreditation Program was itself a landmark program for the arts.

The Museums, which have been independently appraised and meet appropriate standards of museum practice in accordance with the program requirements, show a high level of commitment to the future of the museums in Victoria and support continual improvement in each of their operations. The Museum President Richard Gilbert received the framed certificate on behalf of our Members. The Certificate will be displayed in our Display area within the depot.

The museums that received accreditation range from trams to ceramics, electronic exhibitions to regional history, from paintings to indigenous gardens. The museums now accredited excluding us are:

- Dromkeen Children's Literature Collection – Riddells Creek
- Golden Dragon Museum - Bendigo (accredited in 1997)
- Melbourne's Living Museum of the West – Maribyrnong
- National Museum of Australian Pottery – Wodonga
- Nepean Historical Society – Sorrento
- Port Fairy History Centre – Port Fairy
- Scienceworks – Spotswood
- Shepparton Art Gallery – Shepparton.

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# Ballarat Tramways News

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## **Museum Accreditation cont.**

The Museum has received a comprehensive report on the visit by the Accreditation Panel, giving details of their comments and areas where we can make improvements in the way we undertake our work. The Accreditation is for a three-year period and requires an annual report to be submitted. The achievement of this level of recognition has been a worthwhile challenge to the organisation. It has led to improvements in the way we do things and understand our activities. However, it is not something that can be put on the shelf or the wall and then forgotten about but will require continual improvement work.

## **Richard Gilbert's thoughts on the presentation evening**

It was with great pride I accepted on behalf of all our Members the framed Museum Accreditation Award at the stylish function held at the ABC Centre at Southbank. Around 150 people attended the ceremony from the Museum and Arts world and representatives of the many community museums around the state. I enjoyed talking to people from the Birchip Museum and the Numurkah Museum as well as with Warrick Turner from the Coal Creek Historical Park at Korumburra to name a few.

In listening to the speeches from Senator Richard Alston, Lorraine Elliott, MLA, Member for Mooroolbark and Sue Natrass, Director of the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts along with other speakers from Museums Australia.

and local museums I was thinking back to 27 years ago recalling our formative years.

When we started this museum in 1971, none of us had any idea of the track of history and development we would follow and so much has happened in those many years. Overall it is the co-operative effort of all our membership over that time that has seen us develop to the current state. I am proud to represent the Museum at such an award and do it with honour thinking of all of you. Particular thanks must be extended to Warren Doubleday who has followed the Museum Accreditation Program since its inception and completed the massive amount of documentation necessary for it.

## **New Members**

The Museum welcomes three new Junior Supporters to our membership.

- No. 5013 Donald Johns Wendouree
- No. 5014 Julie Edwards Wendouree
- No. 5015 Stephen Albon Wendouree

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Board Member Andrew Cox and his wife, Andrea on the birth on April 7 of a baby boy – Alexander.

## **E-mail at the depot**

The Depot is now on the Internet and as such on e-mail. Our E-mail address is [btm@netconnect.com.au](mailto:btm@netconnect.com.au)

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## **Member's Meeting – Ballarat**

All members are invited to a meeting to start at 5.30pm at the Robert Clark Centre in the Botanic Gardens on Saturday July 11. 1998. A presentation of what Museum Accreditation means for the Ballarat Tramway Museum will be presented by Warren Doubleday and Richard Gilbert will discuss future directions of the Museum. We will also show the video of the Museum's activities over the last two years prepared for the COTMA conference. Following a general discussion a light meal will be provided by the Museum. After the meeting concludes, the Board will be meeting and members are welcome to attend this management meeting.

The Museum is facing a number challenges over the next few years such as: increased maintenance costs, the construction of an off-site storage area at Bungaree, the possibility of a Ballarat City Tramway and the introduction of Rail Safety Accreditation. All members, both active and inactive should be aware of these challenges to enable all members to have input into our future directions.

To enable sufficient catering, could members please advise the depot (5334 1580) of their attendance.

## **Rail Safety Accreditation**

Work to prepare the Museum's Safety Management System has begun in earnest. Over the next few months the necessary paperwork will be put together and submitted prior to the end of the year. One outcome of this process will be the need for improvement in record keeping systems. This need will affect in some way all our active workers and we ask for your assistance in this important matter.

## **Membership renewals**

Membership renewals will be sent to all members in early July. The Board has decided to keep the membership fees at the same rate as for previous years. However the Museum would most certainly welcome any donations to our funds you may wish to make.

Receipts for donations to the Museum during the year will be sent out by our Treasurer in the same envelope as the membership renewals. Again thanks to those members who have made a donation in the past.

Membership fees are \$15.00; Pensioners \$12.00 and Junior Supporters \$7.50. Your early renewal would be appreciated.

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## Photostory 1

### Looking Back at the Ballarat Tramway System

Bridge Street today is a mall with raised paving, seating, recreational equipment and other facilities. Although it remains one of Ballarat's principal shopping strips, the street itself is very different to the times when the trams ran in it.

In the electric tramway days, the track passed down the centre of the street. It was often the most difficult part of Ballarat to drive through, with cars seeking to park, trams running along the street and even the occasional double-parked car, while

someone "ran" into a nearby shop. Ballarat's traffic in the early 1970's prior to tramway closure, was quiet when compared to today.

There was not a lot of room to move in Bridge St, with two lanes of parked cars, two lanes of traffic and a single tram line that served the Mt Pleasant and Victoria Street routes. Naturally there was the occasional accident. In this case, during June 1969, a car has possibly tried to beat the tram into Bridge St. or did not see the tram at all! No. 18 has ended up in the gutter after the collision, looking as if it was trying to find a car parking spot. Fortunately there was no parked car!



While cars drive around the scene, a bogie car in the background approaches the scene, probably to reverse and run back up the Sturt. St. hill in order to keep the system going. The other Courier photograph shows the tow truck driver about to sweep the road and the policeman making out his report. This photo also shows that the overhead wires had become tangled together. In the background, appears to be another tram within Bridge St., which would most likely have reversed to run an outbound service. At least with the tram well clear of the tramlines, the depot recovery crew did not have worry about getting the tram

rerailed quickly in order to resume services.

Though the rails still remain under the bricks in the mall, many of the shops on either side have changed owners or use. Gone also is the Neptune motor spirit advertisement on the side of one of the buildings (on the right hand side of the second photograph).

Both photographs by the Ballarat Courier, from Alan Bradley's collection



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## Grant for fire main to depot

The City of Ballarat has made available a grant of \$5,000 towards the cost of installing a fire service to the rear of the tram depot. This will enable the provision of a fire hydrant at the rear of our building, a fire hose reel and later on, the installation of a fire sprinkler service to the whole of the building.

The Museum thanks the City of Ballarat for its continued support. The installation will occur in the next few months during the reconstruction of Gillies Street at the rear of the depot by the City of Ballarat. This work will require the relocation of the water main along the western side of Gillies St. and the reconstruction of the road surface. This will allow the installation to be done at the same time and at a cheaper rate than normally would be able to be done.

## Around the Depot

**33's Motor.** After a run of many years without any trouble from motors, No. 33 was struck down with an armature failure in the No. 2 motor early in May, following the failure of motors on Nos. 40 and 13 in recent years. This underlines the age of the equipment that we use, with the possibility of expensive and time consuming problems cropping up at any time. It is anticipated that the armature will have to be sent away for professional (and costly) repairs. While the car is out of service the opportunity has been taken to repaint the saloon windows, replace a much-knotted bell cord and attend to any other minor problems.

**28's Motor.** The previous troublesome motor, that from No. 13, has now been sent to AC/DC Motors in Adelaide for attention. When it returns it will be assigned to No. 28, which donated a motor to No. 13 in order to speed its return to traffic. The work on the body of No. 28 continues on, with a considerable amount of work still required before it returns to active service.

**No. 26** With the completion of summer running, No. 26 has been handed over to the maintenance staff for some detail work. The rocker panels have been rubbed down and one has already been repainted in a different shade of yellow, similar to the colour of the horse tram. This is thought to be more accurate than the lighter shade previously applied, and certainly stands out.

**No. 14** With winter arriving, No. 14 has been set up for wet weather running with the addition of the Perspex weather shields in the drop ends. When the warmer weather returns this car will come in for repainting of the cream trim.

As if the maintenance staff has not had enough to do, supervising the younger staff in recent times, there is now a trio of even younger enthusiasts. These are known as the junior juniors to distinguish them from the senior juniors who continue on as always. At the moment the junior juniors are mainly concerned with annoying the roster clerk, but it is hoped that in time they will be trained to make a very useful contribution. Their most recent task has been wet and dry sanding on the side panels of No. 28, a thankless task which will certainly test out their staying power.

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## Model Railway Exhibition

### Layout Notes (by the crew)

The Ballarat Model Railway Exhibition is on the forthcoming June long weekend 6-8<sup>th</sup> and the Tramway was represented here two years ago. We were asked to come again and as always up to the challenge. We have come up with another innovation - a new model tramway layout. Six weeks to make a tramway layout to a running and finished standard is certainly a challenge. This meant we have had to make buildings trees and also overhead wiring. Well, a group of us came together and decided we

could make the layout and so the first meeting of the Ballarat tramway modelers was held at the depot.

Alastair Reither, Paul Mong, Simon Jenkins, Anita Bagley and Darren Hutchesson formed the group. It was decided that we should make a Ballarat tramway layout based on the entire tram system of the SEC in HO scale. However it was realised it would be about as big as our Wendouree Parade depot. We scaled it down to a 3m x 2m layout. The next task was to draw the layout out onto a piece of paper in the scale we wanted it and then lay



Working on the baseboard for the model tramway layout are (left to right), Darren Hutchesson, Alastair Reither and Paul Mong. Photo Anita

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the track out. Laying the track out was hard enough because there isn't much room. But we did it and at the time of writing the plaster was being put down and the layout wired. In all, four buildings have been made so far and a forest of trees. Overhead poles are getting the scroll work put on which is a delicate job. So by June the 6<sup>th</sup> the layout will look superb. Thanks go to Travis Jeffery for donation of track, and also to Len Millar for a donation of \$100 dollars which was put to point motors and points. The Tramway Museum itself put up \$200 towards the project and we thank the Museum. There are too many people to mention who have put a lot of time and effort into making the layout, giving us donations of wood, carpet (grass) etc and to them we thank you.

## The Exhibition Details

The model railway exhibition this year will be held at the St. Patrick's Church Hall at the corner of Dawson and Sturt Streets Ballarat. It is presented by the Ballarat and District Model Railway Club. Times are:

Saturday June 6 – 10am to 6pm

Sunday June 7 - 10am to 6pm

Monday June 8 – 10am to 5pm.

## COTMA Conference

Around the time *Fares Please!* will be delivered to you, four of the Museum Board members will be attending the Council of Australasian Tramway Museum's 1998 Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand.

One item of particular interest to the museum will be the operation of the Christchurch City Tramway and the lessons it may give to us with regard to the possible Ballarat City Tramway.

The conference involves visits to the nearby Ferrymead Railway and Tramway Museum, a rail excursion to Arthurs Pass and Jacksons, a screening of the M&MTB promotional film – Citizen Tram, parts of which featured in a recent Four Corners TV programme.

The next issue of *Fares Please!* will include a report on the Conference.

## Date to Remember

**Saturday July 11, 1998**, a BTM member's meeting at the Robert Clark Centre, Botanic Gardens, Ballarat at 5.30pm. Please advise if attending for catering purposes.

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**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 Museum activities and publications, please contact : The Secretary, Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. P.O. Box 632, Ballarat Vic. 3353. Phone / Fax (03) 5334 1580.

E-mail: [btm@netconnect.com.au](mailto:btm@netconnect.com.au)

Our web page: <http://www.btm.org.au>

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