

FARES PLEASE!

September 1998

Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History



Museum Accreditation Program
Accredited Museum

Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the fourth Annual General meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. is to be held at the Robert Clark Centre, Wendouree Parade on Sunday 11 October 1998, commencing at 2.00pm. We invite all members to attend on the day. Your friends are welcome to attend and enjoy a day in the Gardens. The Robert Clark Centre is an excellent warm venue. At the meeting, the model tramway display that featured in the last issue of

Fares Please! will be on display. After the formalities of the meeting, the traditional afternoon tea and tram ride along Wendouree Parade will follow.

The following nominations have been received from members for the Board positions, which fall vacant on the day of the Annual General Meeting. As the number of nominations for each position does not exceed the vacancies, there will be no election.

Position	Candidate	Nominator	Seconder
President	Richard Gilbert	Alan Bradley	John Phillips
Vice President	Stephen Butler	Richard Gilbert	Len Millar
(2 Positions)	John Phillips	Andrew Cox	Alan Bradley
Treasurer	Carolyn Dean	Anita Bagley	Gavin Young
Secretary	Peter Winspur	Greg Rodgers	Warren Doubleday
Ordinary	Alan Bradley	John Phillips	Andrew Cox
Board	Andrew Cox	John Phillips	Alan Bradley
Members	Warren Doubleday	Gavin Young	Alastair Reither
	Clayton Giles	Peter Winspur	Warren Doubleday
	Greg Rodgers	Peter Winspur	Warren Doubleday

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Membership Cards

For members who have paid their 1997/98 memberships, you will find your membership card in the envelope. If you have not found it, check before throwing the envelope away.

Those members, who are yet to renew, you will shortly be receiving a reminder in the mail. If you have forgotten about it, please send your renewal to us as soon as possible, as we value your membership. Thanks also to those members who have made a donation.

New Members

The Museum welcomes the following new member:

No. 715 – D. Atkinson, Ballarat.

Springfest

Sunday November 1, 1998 sees the fourth Springfest Springtime Market Festival around Lake Wendouree. Many market style stalls are set up right around the lake, making for a very busy Wendouree Parade. Tram traffic is heavy and we will have three or four tramcars operational on the day – possibly an all bogie day?

Rail Safety Accreditation

Documentation for the Museum's application for Accreditation under the Transport Act is nearing completion. Initially in draft form, it is planned to submit it the Rail Safety Directorate in early October.

BTM Members Social Group

A very successful first meeting, *Pie and Slide night* was held at the depot on Saturday 12 September. Some 12 members attended the enjoyable evening. Slides were provided from Len Millar's collection of Ballarat and Melbourne tramways, with entertaining comments from Dave O'Neill. Thanks to Anita who organised the event.

Family History Expo

The Central Highlands Historical Association's is holding a *Family History Expo* at the Ranger Barracks on Saturday 24 October and Sunday 25 October 1998. The Ranger Barracks is in Curtis Street Ballarat. The Fair will include a number of seminars: On Saturday, *How to Start Researching Your Family History* and *Researching Overseas Records*. Sunday will see a further two seminars, *How to Research on the Internet* and *Dating Family Photographs*.

The Museum will not be involved in this year's Fair due to time and other commitments. A great value combined ticket is also available. This combines Fair admission with entry to the Gold Museum and the Montrose Cottage. Refreshments will be available at the event. For the Fair itself, Adult entry is \$3, Family \$5. Each seminar is \$2 entry.

SEC Depot – Bike Shed

The Museum has recently been offered the bicycle shed or room from the SEC Wendouree Parade depot. The building has been used as an out building on a property in East Ballarat that is proposed to be redeveloped. The building though, appears from the photograph to be in poor condition outwardly is still very solid with only a few repairs necessary to make it usable once again. When the SEC depot was demolished in 1972 it was loaded and transported out to the site by truck and placed on blocks well clear of the ground. This has helped to keep the building in a fairly good condition. An examination showed that the racks for bikes are still in position.

It is proposed to pick the building up during November or December when the ground has dried out so we can get a crane and a truck onto the site. It will be taken to our Bungaree property for storage and possible inclusion into our house extension.

New Donations to the Archives

In February this year, Ron Fluck, the Curator at the Port Dock Railway Museum, South Australia sent to us a series of negatives of the days from when Ron lived in Victoria. Ron drove for Davis Bus Lines for some time, while he lived and married in Ballarat between late 1949 and mid 1953. His negative collection of Ballarat and other Victorian tramway cities is a valuable addition to our archives along with some early bus photos. Thanks to

Ron for the donation. Three of the photographs, printed by John Phillips, are reproduced on page 4 and 5.

Another recent donation to the Archives was an original Ballarat white lettering on black background destination roll by Robert Green. Still in the original newspaper wrapping when Robert collected it from the former SEC Ballarat depot at the time the destination blinds were replaced by black letters on white background. The item has been formally archived and placed in storage in order to conserve at least one roll and not just for use in a tramcar. Thanks to Robert for the donation.



4. Fares Please!



Tram 28 on a Gardens via Sturt St. West run in Sturt St. Ballarat, at the Lydiard St. intersection with the Golden Star Chinese Cafe in the background. Photograph taken during 1959 / 1960 before the addition of the dash canopy lighting. Photo: Ron Fluck Collection



Tram 40, recently returned to service after motor repairs, in its public service days travelling on the Mt Pleasant Route in Barkly St on 29.10.1962. Photograph Ron Fluck Collection.



Davis Buslines of Ballarat, Ford Bus, Registration RL 726 with the Glenelg Hotel, Nelson in the background on 28.1.1951. Nelson is on the Victorian / South Australian border. Photograph Ron Fluck.



The former SEC Ballarat depot bicycle room or shed at an East Ballarat property, September 1998. Photo John Phillips

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Fire Main Installation

The installation of the fire main and a hose reel to the depot will be undertaken in the next couple of months, as part of the reconstruction of Gillies Street Ballarat.

The work in Gillies St. involves the relocation of the water main, and the widening of the sealed part of the roadway. This work will save us from having to pay for the boring under Gillies St to install a 150mm-diameter line that would also allow for a sprinkler system in the future.

The recent grant from the City of Ballarat's Contributions Fund for this work will pay for the major part of this work.

Steel Shelving Acquired

The Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board recently donated about 20m of heavy duty Brownbuilt shelving to the Museum from their former Abbotsford Workshops store.

A good team effort made short work of the dismantling and transport to 707 Operations store building at Newport Railway Workshops on Sunday 30 August. The shelving is destined for the future storage building at Bungaree. Thanks to Anita Bagley, Merle and John Clowes, Alastair Reither, Len Millar, Darren Hutchesson, Simon Jenkins, Richard Gilbert, Jim Parker and Warren Doubleday.

After off-loading at Newport, a tour of Elecrail and Steamrail's areas were quickly arranged on site.

Operational Matters

Representatives from the Museum recently meet with City of Ballarat Officers to discuss various points of the tramway operation in Wendouree Parade. The City is planning, as part of the implementation of the Gardens Masterplan, to formalise the traffic parking on the lakeside of Wendouree Parade and provide road narrowings to slow traffic down by the installation of kerb and channel and road necking.

The Museum had a number of concerns with the initial proposals, primarily in the vicinity of the new playground where a number of incidents with cars backing out without seeing us have occurred. The discussions were very positive and should see over time a number of problems being overcome especially in the vicinity of Depot Junction. Work to implement the scheme will take a number of years, depending upon funding availability.

The next meeting was with Helen Todd of the Robert Clark centre to discuss arrangements for the 1999 Begonia Festival, which is to be held from Friday 27 February to Monday March 9. Council is considering the alteration of the parking and other arrangements within Wendouree Parade. The Museum has advised that it supports the previous traffic arrangements with some minor alterations to improve matters.

At The Depot.

Recently around the depot, 40's motor has been returned from AC/DC Motor Repairs in Adelaide where the problems of the field and commutating coils have been rectified. After off loading on Friday 18 Sept., the motor was checked with a 12 battery and then bench tested (actually on the floor) with 600V and three resistor grids. After passing these tests, it was placed back in its bogie, which was then pushed back under the tram. The body was then lowered onto the trucks and 40 was back together again, 27 years to the day since it closed the SEC service. On the Sunday, final connection of motor leads and brake rigging took place and the car ran four round trips without any further problems. A full service and inspection was carried out at the same time.

Other work that has been going on around the shed includes work on tram 28, where we recently discovered that the saloon bulkhead was still painted in M.& M.T.B. brown not Indian Red that it was thought to be underneath the green. It is now intended to reproduce this paint scheme, as it seems that the tramcar interiors were not painted by the SEC to match the exteriors during the early 1930s.

No. 18 suffered an axle bearing failure during early September, which was detected during its routine servicing and inspections. This was remetalled quickly, and the car was back in service by 19th September in time to assist during the September school holidays.

Work on No. 12 continues slowly, with the corner posts now ready for final fitting.

Progress on this car is likely to continue at a lesser pace. This is due to the disappointment over a funding application to the Wendouree Charitable Fund for funding to enable the building of a truck for the tram. The application was submitted in early 1997 and we had been hoping for assistance for this important project but have now received a non-favorable reply. Income from the Museum's regular sources is fully committed to keeping the running fleet operable; major funding for projects such as No. 12 needs to come from one-off grants money.

No. 28's, motor has now been test run satisfactorily. It was found that one field coil was in upside down and that the armature balance weights fouled the motor case. We have rectified these faults and we will be adjusting the account from our contractor. The motor looks as good as new in its green paint and is ready for service, however, the truck from tram 28 will have to be rebuilt before this can happen. This, in turn, will be timed to coincide with further work on the body overhaul, which is the current main project of the weekday work groups.

One each of the field and commutating coils from 33's motor have been taken off and examined. The field coil will need to be fully insulated again, while the commutating coil will only need minor work. From our work on the field coil, it appears it is the first time that it has ever been uncovered since manufacture. We don't know whether this was when the motor was built or when a new one at some later date replaced the original coil. Examination has also revealed that the motor will need new internal wiring.

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Destination Bylands via Bendigo

Or Day Trip to Bendigo and Bylands

Why not make a note in your diary for Sunday, December 6. This day will see a small bus leave our Museum/Depot for a visit to the Bendigo and Bylands Tramways Museums. The tour will leave the Ballarat Tramway depot at 8.30am, drop into our "Newstead Depot" to see the two trams stored 'off site' (Sebastopol car No. 21 and Melbourne No. 121), ride a tram or two in Bendigo and have a good look around the depot. After lunch (not included in the fare), we head off to the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria. With luck we may be able to ride the cable tram set at Kilmore, before descending on the Bylands Museum itself. Several trams will be available for our riding pleasure! We hope to ride on a former Ballarat tram in both Bendigo and Bylands. And also a famous Bendigo Birney! Return to Ballarat is anticipated to be at around 7.00pm.

Flat Fare for the day - \$20(based on a minimum of 18 people travelling). Please book early for this exciting event!

This event is for all members. Bookings can be made through Anita Bagley on 5331 1784 or Len Millar/Darren Hutchesson on 5476 2016.

All bookings NEED to be made by Sunday, November 22, thankyou. You will need to bring your membership card with you.

Melbourne members can be met at Bendigo Railway station at 11.45am and can return to the City on the 7.15pm train ex Ballarat.

**Limited seats available Book Now
for this Bargain event**

Portland and Warrnambool Tour

Bill Kingsley has advised that he is organising for the Chartered Institute of Transport in association with the Bus and Coach Society of Victoria a tour to Warrnambool and Portland on the weekend of November 7 and 8. Travel to Warrnambool is on the West Coast Railway's service planned to be R class hauled. While in Warrnambool, a visit to Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village and a bus tour of Warrnambool is planned with overnight accommodation at a Portland Motel. The following day will include a visit to the Power House Motor and Car Museum, the Portland Cable Tram project, Water Tower lookout, the new Maritime centre and the loading facilities for Alcoa's smelter. Return in the afternoon to Warrnambool to travel back to Melbourne on the Sunday evening train.

Enquiries to Bill Kingsley on 9808 5273.

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. (A0031819K), P.O. Box 632, Ballarat Vic. 3353. Phone / Fax (03) 5334 1580.

E-mail: btm@netconnect.com.au

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