

FARES PLEASE!

July 1999

Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History



Museum Accreditation Program
Accredited Museum

Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. (Association No. A0031819K) will be held at the Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Wendouree Parade, Ballarat on Sunday 31 October 1999, commencing at 2.00pm.

Nominations are called for the following positions, which will fall vacant on the Museum's Board of Management on that date:

- President
- Vice President (two positions)
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer
- Ordinary Board Members (six positions)

Any two members may nominate any other member to serve as an Office Bearer or an Ordinary Board Member provided that no persons who at the time of such nomination are un-financial members.

Members must be financial to be entitled to be a candidate for election, as must be the proposer and seconder in accordance with Rules of the Association. Any nomination is to be sent in writing to the Returning Officer, to reach him not later than 5.00pm on Sunday 3 October 1999.

Nominations may be sent to:
The Returning Officer
Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc.
P.O. Box 632 Ballarat Vic. 3353.

Or may be placed in the Ballot Box at the tram depot. Envelopes forwarded by mail should be endorsed "Ballot Material", on the back of the envelope. The nomination is to be signed by the proposed and seconder and consented to in writing by the candidate. Nominations may be accompanied by a statement (of not more than 500 words) setting out the candidate's policies and record of service.

A member may be nominated as a candidate for more than one position on the Board, provided that upon election to any position on the Board, the member's nomination for any position shall forthwith lapse.

Ballarat Tramways News

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Member renewals

All members should have received their membership renewals soon after July 1. Thanks to all those members whose membership renewals have already been forwarded and extra thanks to those who have made a donation to our funds. These are gratefully received by our Treasurer. If you have not received your membership renewal, please let our Secretary know.

It is planned to forward donation receipts in the May 2000 issue of *Fares Please!*

This will be in time for your tax return. However, if for some reason you require it earlier, please advise our Treasurer at our mailing address, or via e-mail.

AMOL Grant

During June 1999, the Museum was advised that a grant application for \$1600 to purchase equipment to purchase a photo scanner and a CD writer/rewriter to be used in conjunction with our existing computer equipment was successful. This will enable the scanning of particularly our extensive slide collection as well as photographic prints and negatives on site rather than off site as is currently done. The CD writer will be used to provide a formal on site back up of data, portability of data, and production of copy disks for use on displays etc. and distribution to researchers.

Photographs, in particularly slides of the last 20 years, form an integral part of our collection and until now we have not been able to digitise these or copy these. Photographs are the most requested items.

The grant was provided by Commonwealth Government's Heritage Collections Council (HCC) through the Australian Museums OnLine (AMOL) collection documentation grants program. The Museum formally acknowledges the support of the HCC and AMOL. We were one of 29 museum oriented organisations to obtain support. Other Victorian organisations granted funds were: Midlands Historical Society, Australian Racing Museum and Surfworld Surfing Museum.

One of the outcomes of this project will be a wider knowledge of our photographic collection when it is made available through the AMOL on line site later this year. Now it is down to work to catch up the backlog of scanning our slides to enable this to come to fruition.

Traffic News

Mark McKay has completed his driver training and is now driving trams on a regular basis. Kent Rayson has commenced his driver training. Mark Peterson has recently undergone training as a conductor. We welcome these members to our traffic staff.

One recent charter we were pleased to undertake at a reduced rate was for the City of Ballarat Adult Day Care Program. Ten programme participants and three carers were hosted by Frank Puls and Simon Jenkins being given a tram ride and a look around the Museum.

Twenty members had a look through Southbank and Hawthorn Depots recently. On Saturday, June the 5th, John Phillips' beautifully preserved M&MTB "bob tail" AEC bus No.592 pulled in to the Inner Roadway at Spencer Street Station to pick up the tourists. John whisked us down to the relatively new Southbank Depot off Lorimer Street, South Melbourne where we were greeted by Mr. Mal Ashworth, Maintenance Supervisor for Yarra Trams.

He first showed us through the Stores section with its fascinating array of replacement parts for trams, including pantographs, destination boxes and motors. Then we walked in to the main servicing part of the complex – which (unlike our Wendouree Parade Depot with its below-ground pits) has the same floor level as the Stores, but with the trams on their rails almost two metres up in the air. We ducked under here and there seeing the under-bellies of "W", "Z" and "B" class trams. Mal explained how the various systems worked. He then took us up into the open storage sidings and showed us how an articulated tram is got ready "for the road"! He was besieged with questions from us, and most of us could happily have stayed much longer.

Mal was thanked for giving up part of his precious weekend off, and a round of applause accompanied a presentation copy of our video.

After an interesting circular departure from the Depot (there are some low bridges in South Melbourne) we headed off for the

Hawthorn Depot via the Swan Street start of the new Route 70 diversion. A fluked "bus stop" further east in Swan Street enabled some of us to purchase lunch, and then we rode out to the second destination.

Waiting for us on the Hawthorn Depot "fan" was the Department of Infrastructure's Mike Ryan, who is overseeing the redevelopment project of the Depot. With Mike was Rod Atkins, President of the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria - a stakeholder in the project. Mike gave us a run-down on the history of the Depot and of the proposed Tramway Museum, which is to occupy the older part of the former running sheds and which is to be combined with a high-density residential development of the rest of the precinct.

We were allowed to wander through the buildings, up through the former administration section of the former Hawthorn Tramways Trust offices, the MMTB training school and their uniform workshops and the storage roads below with over a dozen of the Heritage Tram Fleet. Possums and graffitists have taken their toll on the trams, but the redevelopment will see the fleet gradually restored to their former glory!

We thanked Mike and Rod, for their time and their patience at our endless questions, and then boarded John's 592 for the trip over to the Norm Maddocks' Tram Museum adjoining Malvern Depot. Unfortunately, due to a communication

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Z2 in the Southbank's depot maintenance building.

Photo Simon Jenkins



Inspecting the underside of Z2 at Southbank depot on Sat. June 5. Er's where the compressor?

Photo: Darren Hutchesson

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Hawthorn depot – to become home for the Heritage fleet. The portion of the building that contains the last three roads at this former depot are planned to be removed as part of the redevelopment of the site. Photo Simon Jenkins.



The group, lined up by John Phillips ex MMTB bus.

Photo Darren Hutchesson

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break-down we missed out on being able to look through this "Aladdin's Cave" of tramwayana. Perhaps next time!

A great day. Not too expensive, and with access to two properties not usually able to be inspected.

Editor's note:

Thanks to Len for organising the tour. It was interesting to note the height or depth of the "pits" at Southbank depot. When we designed the pits at Ballarat many years ago, they were slightly deeper than pits at East Preston depot, which at the time, was Melbourne's newest tram depot. Southbank's are even deeper again and quite comfortable for tall people to walk under the trams. To reach those out of the way pieces of equipment on a tram, a box is necessary to be stood on. However, they are a far cry from some of the shallow pits at the old South Melbourne depot which required you to really stoop to walk under a tram.

Members Social Outings

The next member's social outing was scheduled for Saturday September 4 to Haddon. This has been postponed to Saturday November 6 to take more use of the longer days, daylight saving and warmer weather. Details of the date and times will be in the next issue of *Fares Please!*

Archives

Cataloguing over the past few months has been extensive with some 360 items

formally catalogued over the six months to the end of June 1999. This rate will need to be maintained in order just to keep up with material arriving. Some recent arrivals have been slides of Ballarat dating back to 1961, a uniform in very good condition, newspaper cuttings from around the time of the closure of the tramways and the early days of the BTPS. We are also collecting and cataloguing current materials about the BTM and its activities, as we have found that our recall of early days of the BTPS and photographs was often hap hazard. Also memories of events and dates are fading as we get older!

COTMA Conference

Organisation for the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia conference in Ballarat during mid November 2000 is proceeding well. A brochure giving an outline of the conference proposals, dates etc is being prepared and will be sent to previous conference attendees and additional copies will be sent to Member Museums as well for distribution to interested members.

Lightweight Street and Interurban Cars Book

This excellent book reviewed in the last issue of *Fares Please!* has been ordered and should be arriving by mail from the US very soon. Those members who have ordered the book will be advised of their arrival and posted out. Copies are available from the depot at \$12.00 each. They can be posted for an extra charge.

Opps!

In the last issue of *Fares Please!* A typographical blunder occurred when the spell checker did not like the surname of Melton Foo in the item about the death of Noelene and George Netherway, and replaced it without the editor's attention with "Of" – our apologies for this. Some of the final copies were corrected as they were being mailed.

reCollections

Warren Doubleday recently attended the launch of *reCollections* the conservation support and skills development manual for museum workers and training providers. Prepared by Artlab Australia for the Heritage Collections Council, it is a comprehensive conservation package of documents for the:

- Caring of Cultural Materials
- Prevention of damage and decay
- Managing Collections
- Managing People
- Handling, Transportation, storage and display.

The package is part of the implementation of the *National Conservation and Preservation Strategy for Australia's Heritage Collections*. It was launched at the Ian Potter Art Museum at Melbourne University on July 21, followed by a workshop on practical information on the package and guidance for using it.

Our Web Site

Our web site continues to be an active part of the Museum. We recently had a charter from a couple who were celebrating their

engagement and found out about tram hire on our web page. They hired trams 661 and 671 for a Saturday evening celebration on June 26, with some 80 people attending.

In planning is a members section on our Web page. Andrew Cox is busy writing and setting up the necessary code to enable this. One of the items it will have on it and be able to download will be *Fares Please!* It will be in an Adobe Acrobat format, thereby enabling a quick download rather than the Word version, which is very slow to download because of its size.

Members interested in receiving *Fares Please!* directly over the net, please let Andrew Cox know via the Andrew's Email address – amcoxy@ozemail.com.au

Harding's Foundry

Harding's Foundry near the Lydiard St. North tram terminus recently announced their closure. Harding's undertook the casting of brake blocks and other iron parts for the SEC until the closure of the SEC tramways and then ourselves and other tramways and railways such as Puffing Billy and West Coast Rail. The foundry was a surviving relic of turn of the century technology and was a fascinating place to visit, with the furnace being wood fired right until the end.

Bill Harding, a former member, passed away last year and his brother Alan has kept the foundry running for a while. Alan also at retiring age decided recently to close up and sell the property. The Museum has obtained the various patterns held at the foundry, including a number of

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Harding's Foundry cont.

old style brake block patterns that are no longer used. It was recently announced that Sovereign Hill would be acquiring the equipment to provide a foundry exhibit at their mining complex – one of the small pieces of industry infrastructure missing in their over mining town complex.

Ballarat Trams On AMOL

Recently launched on the AMOL site <http://www.amol.org.au> is a series of stories about the day to day operations of Ballarat. The stories told in *The Trams of Ballarat* are both a history of public transport in Ballarat and part of the public history of the city. They are derived from the personal accounts of those who worked on the trams and they show the trams of Ballarat were more than just public transport. Alan Bradley and Warren Doubleday developed the stories with images from the Museum's collection. It was excellently put together by Basil Dewhurst of Australian Museums OnLine.

The title of the various stories are:

- School children
- Sebas trams
- Lets go shopping
- No. 24 and the Bucks Head
- Boys and their pranks
- The Problems trammies had
- After dark
- The Bogie Tramcars.

The Museum joins 14 other stories sites on the AMOL web site. Some of the other stories are:

- The Pandora Exhibition
- You've got Buckleys
- Mary MacKillop in Portland
- The Eureka Flag
- Greta Coal Measures
- Ambush!
- The Midnight Grocer

The AMOL story site is well worth a visit as it shows what can be done with this new medium. If you don't have Internet access, your local library should be able to provide it. We will also be providing a link to the site from our own web site soon. The stories site can be reached by clicking on the *Guide to Australian Museums* and then *Stories*.

At the Depot

Just a short summary of what has been happening at the depot recently.

The wheels for tram 28 have arrived back from the AETM Museum at St Kilda SA. The axle bearings have been made and are now being fitted. Repairs have been completed to the side frames. Work on 28's roof is virtually complete and internal work is proceeding well. Other jobs have been repairs and maintenance to trams, further work on 12 and the completion of the installation of the fire hose reel.

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>
