

# FARES PLEASE!

**May 2000**

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*Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History*

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Museum Accreditation Program  
Accredited Museum

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## **Ballarat City Tramway**

Ballarat members will be aware of the recent consideration of a Ballarat City Tramway by the Councilors of the City of Ballarat. Council was presented with the findings of a new report on the possible operation of trams conducted by G.D. Harrison Project Management. The study was funded by Tourism Victoria.

The report found that tourist trams could be run profitably in Ballarat, but returns would not be sufficient to service the capital cost of their reintroduction. This study suggested a different route to Sovereign Hill to that of an earlier Maunsell study. It suggested that the tram route would start from a new terminus near the railway station, go down Camp St, turn into Sturt St, through the Mall or along Curtis St. turn south into Peel St and continue to Sovereign Hill via Steinfield St., Eureka St and Main Road. The estimated track cost for this work is \$3.2m and a suggested depot site was in the Steinfield St. car park.

The success of the first stage would hopefully lead to the development of subsequent stages linking Lake Wendouree and the Botanical Gardens.

Council at its meeting on Wed. May 24 discussed the report and called for further investigation of the proposal by the Ballarat Tourism Board. Moving the motion Mayor Cr. John Barnes said the issue was an important one, but doubts still existed over its feasibility. "If we are to implement trams we have to have a clear idea of what the benefits are to the City" (Cr. Barnes – Ballarat Courier 25/5/2000)

The Museum has been involved in the preparation of the various reports and looks forward to the further investigatory studies. The Museum will need to consider the various options, its part in any project especially if the project is carried out in stages, conservation aspects and how would our tramcar fleet be involved in the project.

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# **Ballarat Tramways News**

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## Bequest

In recent years the Museum had lost contact with long time member James Kingsbury of Perth. It was with sadness that we learned recently that he had passed away. The Museum was contacted by his solicitors and advised that he had left a bequest to the Museum. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate for it to be placed in the Traction Motor Repair Fund. The Museum has expressed its condolences to James' family.

## Charters

Since the last *Fares Please!* the traffic staff has been busy with several and quite varied charters. With less than a week's notice the Rotary Club of Walkerville (SA) asked if we could operate for two hours on a Friday afternoon to cater for the 600 delegates who would be lunching there. Two full crews were found. The Morris Register held a rally on Easter Saturday and some 300 members and families rode. An 8:15am booking on Saturday 29 April saw an elderly citizens group from Thirroul. (NSW) The same evening a wedding group of 100 enjoyed drinks and nibbles before their wedding breakfast at *Lake Lodge Pavilion*. The following week 75 children from Ballan Primary School visited.

## Congratulations

On Thursday 13 April members Anita Bagley and Darren Hutchesson were quietly married in Bendigo. We wish them every happiness.

## Orientation

On Wednesday 24 May, 23 volunteers from the Ballarat Tourist Information Centre visited the Museum. Richard Gilbert, Stephen Butler and Peter Winspur were on hand to give them a tour and explain why the Museum was established and what we are trying to achieve. It was great to see a group of volunteers who are prepared to give up their time to assist visitors to enjoy and appreciate the city.

## Membership Renewals

Members will shortly be receiving their renewal for Museum Membership. Adult membership rates have been increased by \$1. The Secretary and Membership Officer will appreciate you early membership renewal. In line with last year, we will be accepting Credit Card payments for renewals.

## New Members

The Museum welcomes the following new members:

No. 728 – Kevin Tague of Boronia  
No. 729 – Roger Salen of Teesdale

## Holding Over

Due to space limitations, we have had to hold over part 3 of Austin Brehaut's Memories and reflections on Ballarat Trams until the next issue.

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## COTMA Conference

**Ballarat – 17 to 23  
November 2000**

Our organising team is busy arranging the detail for the Conference of *the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia*. This Conference celebrates 25 years of COTMA and is appropriately being held in Ballarat, the location of the formation Conference in 1975. The detail of discussion and practical workshop sessions is being formulated with a number of Delegates offering to host a session.

Outings to sites of interest, along with social outings are quite varied. We have hired the hall at Bullarto, the present terminus of the Central Highlands Tourist Railway, as we intend to take the Conference there by train from Daylesford for a social evening. The hall was built around 1909 and is a fine example of public hall construction of that time. It has been lovingly maintained and upgraded over the years and still retains much of its original style.

Our evening social visit to Bungaree, to look at our property and tram storage facilities, has now had a change to the programme. We will adjourn to the Bungaree Football Club Rooms after the inspection for our meal. These rooms have all facilities, they are out of the changeable Bungaree weather and a fine bar will be open which saves our Museum having to arrange and tend to this facility.

A full day will be had at Sovereign Hill where workshop sessions will be held at the quite relevant areas in the park and after the public leaves another *Brag* slide show will take place until the evening meal. The sound and light show *Blood on the Southern Cross* will be our evening entertainment.

A mailout was sent to all member museums in which a number of Conference Booking Forms were included so that these forms can be placed at the Members Sign On areas should they not have been up to date with much detail of the Conference. We have been aware, over the years that although the Executive and Management Committees of the museums know of the Conference, the general membership of a museum may not be as fully aware of it and even understand they are all welcome.

Travel to Ballarat is planned by train to cater for most of the Delegates arriving together from Melbourne. This is not an easy task when dealing with the 'Railways'. A shortage of Sprinter railcars because of so much patronage on the V/Line service has had us moving departure times throughout the Friday afternoon. We are also speaking to other passenger rail operators in seeking what they can do for us. It certainly makes it interesting when there is more than one rail operator in the State.

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## **COTMA Conference Cont.**

Our organising team is soon to spend a day together around Ballarat seeking out supporters and sponsors for the Conference. We are hoping to get some sort of *showbag* of Ballarat products together to give each Delegate, and we will be seeking support from the Tourism Information Centre and other groupings in arranging particular details such as the *Partners* programme.

The attendance in Ballarat of over 70 Delegates from the different member museums will give us a real buzz of excitement and create an awareness to local authorities, of our part in tourism, both played by us in operating our museum and in us, bringing a Conference to Ballarat with all the income it generates in the city and district.

Keep up to date with the Conference by looking at our Web Page on: [www.btm.org.au/cotma2000/index.html](http://www.btm.org.au/cotma2000/index.html)

## **Bungaree Development**

Work at the Museum's property at Bungaree has continued since the last issue of *Fares Please!* On the weekends of April 8 and 9 and May 6 and 7, four further days to finish of the structure of the two sheds and clad them was held. The first weekend saw the installation of the roof purlins to both sheds and the first of the two sheds effectively clad. The second weekend, despite occasional showers and cold

weather saw the second shed clad and one of the four doors installed. Outstanding work is to install the other three doors, the down pipes and some door handles etc. Hopefully we will complete these during Queens Birthday weekend. Fortunately the weather for the first weekend was very nice, and although we had a few showers during the second weekend, the wind was very light for Bungaree and we got the roof on. As people who have visited Bungaree know, the wind can be very strong there. Thanks to all who assisted over the four days.

Jim Parker has been doing a wonderful job in painting and maintaining the Members house at Bungaree. It has become a talking point at the pub and the store. Trains go past and drivers 'toot' recognising some of the assisting workers. The house was built in 1926 and is being painted in heritage colours sympathetic to the time. The new tram storage sheds, adjacent to the house have also attracted a lot of interest.

Coupled with this local interest, Richard Gilbert attended the Bungaree and District Historical Society Annual General Meeting and joined up as a member. Following extensive discussions at the meeting, the society has asked him to talk at the August Meeting on the history of the railway and the railway houses. Of particular interest was the fact that we had obtained a complete list of tenants of the houses from the 1920's.

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Jim Parker puts the first coat on to one of the house windows after rubbing it down and removing all the old paint - 8 April 2000. Photo Carolyn Dean



The wall cladding of the second of the two sheds is completed, with the first behind it. Photo Carolyn Dean – 6 May 2000.

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## **GST**

The Museum has registered for the GST and has received its all-important Australian Business Number. The Board has considered the impact of the GST on membership, sales items and tram fares. With the impact of the GST giving mixed results to our costs, such as no sales tax on some purchases but being payable on fares, the Board has decided not to raise fares at this stage.

## **Tramway Heritage Study**

As many of our readers will know, the Department of Infrastructure has appointed consultants to undertake the preparation of a management plan for tram and tram related heritage.

The scope of the study is to consider the future of surplus Government trams and tram related issues. Options costs and recommendations are to be made to allow Government to decide the future of tram heritage. The review was to consider the following issues:-

- Government owned surplus trams – comprising the Heritage fleet, trams at Newport Railway Workshops, the ready reserve fleet, Z1 and Z2 class trams which are anticipated to become surplus to needs within the next few years.
- Tram related heritage – the need for a permanent Museum and Workshop, Malvern Tramway Museum, Tramway Museums and other related issues.

One of the objectives of the study is to ensure that heritage issues relating to trams, tramway infrastructure and memorabilia are addressed and that recommended actions lead to an enhancement of tram heritage in the future.

The study is being undertaken by a consortium consisting of Convergence Design, Boyce Pizzey Strategic and Booz Allen & Hamilton. Boyce Pizzey, the founding Director of Scienceworks visited Ballarat on May 8 and was shown around the depot and tramway by our Museum Services Manager. A later meeting was held with Peter Hiscock to discuss the Ballarat City Tramway.

Following this meeting, our Board on the following day discussed aspects of the study and agreed on the basis of a submission to the study. This was forwarded a few days later. Prior to this, the Museum's Collection Policy and Fleet Conservation Policies were forwarded to the study group, along with details of our collection and other relevant information. A second meeting was held with Boyce on Thursday May 25 to discuss various aspects. These discussions were very fruitful.

The Museum subsequently received copies of a working paper - *Statement of Heritage Significance on Melbourne's Tram and Tramways* and *A brief History of Melbourne's Trams and Tramways* from the Department of Infrastructure for comment.

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Above – the team positions the second sheet on the first of the sheds – 8 April 2000.  
Below - Using the Museum's Tower truck, the guttering is positioned on the first shed.  
- 9 April 2000. Photos Carolyn Dean





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## Model Railway Exhibition

The Museum's model tramway exhibition will make its second visit to the Ballarat and District Model Railroad Club Inc at St Patrick's hall, Cnr of Dawson and Sturt St on the Queens Birthday weekend. Our sales table will be there along with the tram modelers.

Alastair Reither is co-ordinating the display and is looking for assistance on the day. If you would like to assist, give him a ring via the depot phone number.

## Bendigo Web Site

*The Central Deborah*, the business name of the Bendigo Trust, and operators of the Bendigo Tramways recently launched its web site. It includes a brief history of the trams in Bendigo, the Birneys, the collection, the Museum, how to get there and operating hours. Written by Michael McGowan it well worth a visit and good to see that Bendigo has joined with us, the Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association at Haddon and the Launceston Tramway Museum in having a web site. Like most web sites, it is still under construction. It can be found at <http://www.swanhillsc.vic.edu.au/home/trams/>

## At the Depot

Tram 28 has 'moved under its own power' around the shed. Work to complete the tram to a condition where it could be moved around the shed and along the depot access track was completed soon after Easter. Prior to being tested on Wendouree Parade, some further work is needed such as the installation of lifeguards and reinstalling the sand boxes. This is hopefully to be undertaken sometime during June in order for the tram to get a trip in, this financial year. Work on the internal fittings are progressing as well.

Tram 33's armatures have been received back from Bendigo and are currently at West Coast Railway's Ballarat Workshop for remetalting and refitting the bearings. As planned tram 33 was lifted after Easter and the top halves of the motors removed. The motor frames were cleaned by Alstom at their Ballarat Railway Workshops for a small fee, making work a lot easier. In the meantime, all the components have been almost completed to enable the reassembling of the motors themselves. This includes reinsulating two of the field coils and six commutating coils. All goes well, we hope to have the motors in the truck by about the time of the next issue of *Fares Please!*

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

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