

# FARES PLEASE!

September 2000

*Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History*



Museum Accreditation Program  
Accredited Museum

## Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the sixth Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. is to be held at the Robert Clark Centre, Wendouree Parade, on Sunday 8 October 2000, 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.

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 number of vacancies, an election will not be necessary.

| Position                        | Candidate   | Nominator   | Seconder   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| President                       | Richard Gilbert   | Warren Doubleday  | Stephen Butler   |
| Vice President<br>(2 Positions) | Stephen Butler<br>John Phillips   | Andrew Cox<br>Carolyn Dean  | Alan Bradley<br>Alan Bradley   |
| Treasurer                       | Carolyn Dean  | John Phillips   | Andrew Cox   |
| Secretary                       | Peter Winspur   | Clayton Giles   | Bruce Dixon  |
| Ordinary<br>Board<br>Members    | Andrew Cox<br>Warren Doubleday<br>Clayton Giles<br>Alastair Reither<br>Greg Rodgers | Stephen Butler<br>Alastair Reither<br>Bruce Dixon<br>Alan Snowball<br>Peter Winspur | John Phillips<br>Simon Green<br>Peter Winspur<br>Simon Green<br>Carolyn Dean |

# Ballarat Tramways News

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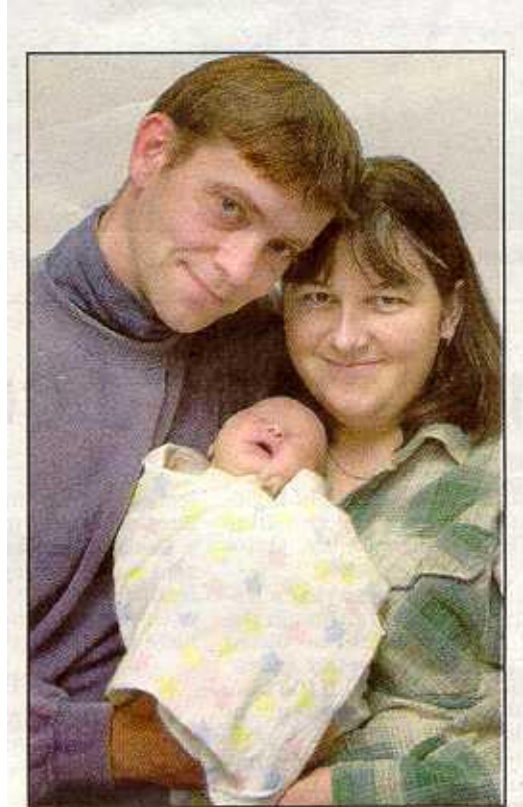
## Alan Bradley

This year Alan has decided to stand down from the Board of Management. Alan has been on the Board for 20 years and feels it is time to concentrate more on his domestic matters and not be as involved in the direct management issues. He will still be our archives researcher and a great contributor to the recording of our history as well as driving our trams. Alan has been working for a few years on writing a book on the history of the Ballarat Tramways, and this has now reached the stage of being presented to a possible publisher. Thanks Alan for a job well done on our Board and we still look forward to a close working relationship in the Archival and Traffic areas of our Museum.

## Personal Announcements

Anita (nee Bagley) and Darren Hutchesson announced that on Saturday 19 August, they had a daughter Kathryn. All are well. Anita and Darren, well known to BTM crews and depot staff, recently moving to Bendigo to work for the Bendigo Trust. The photograph opposite appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser on Thurs 24 August.

Another announcement affecting the depot staff and crews was that Paul Mong and Alastair Reither both recently turned 18 and immediately obtained their motor car driving licences. Watch out for red mini's in Ballarat driven by Al. Both have been with us for about 10 years and we have seen them progress from bikes to motor cars and next, in a couple of years time, to trams.



Kathryn Jane Hutchesson, born on August 19, is a daughter for Darren and Anita Hutchesson, of Bendigo.

## New Member

The Museum welcomes the following Junior Supporter to our membership:

No. 502 - Jeremy Honeyman of Cardigan Village.

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## Traffic

September school holidays traffic so far, have been good, with a lot of people seemingly escaping Sydney. As always, thanks to the crews who operate the trams over this extended period of school holidays.

The Christmas charter season is approaching, and we have a number of bookings already. Assistance in operating the tramway on these days would always be welcome.

## At the Depot

Tram 33 was returned to service on Saturday 9 September, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of it entering service in Melbourne as MMTB No. 189. The tram suffered a blown motor about two years ago. After an extensive overhaul of the motors, rewinding of a number of the field coils, a total rewiring and renewing of the armature bearings, the motors were reunited with the tram during early August. After fully checking electric's and other components, the first notch on the controller was cut on Saturday August 26 and the tram moved off in the right direction without any problems.

After an extensive clean up of the interior, some minor repairs and a full service, it was ready for traffic once again. It took a while to get a couple of rattles out of the motor suspension bearing housings. Thanks to Alan Snowball, Alastair Reither, Sam Boon, Jim Parker, Dave Macartney and Warren Doubleday for getting the tram back into service quickly once the various components were received back from the Bendigo Trust and Miller Bros.

The next job of getting ex MMTB scrubber No. 8 back into operable condition, was commenced on Sunday 10 September. This involves checking the electric's of the tram, reinstalling one of the controllers, refitting lights etc. The first day of identifying all the wiring in No. 2 end, where the controller had been removed, took a while to work through. Eventually all the wires were duly labelled ready for the next step. When the tram was built in 1934, accessibility for motor maintenance did not appear to be high on the agenda. To get into No 2 end motor involved some investigative surgery, removing part of the wooden floor over the motor itself. This identified that when the tram was built or during an overhaul, one of the earthing wires was located in such a way that the wheel flange had cut neatly through the wire.

It was noted that parts of the wooden floor along with many areas of the cabins are suffering rot due to years of being parked in the open at South Melbourne depot. Both motors tested OK. The next step is to get the controllers wired in, checked, the air compressor circuits checked out and connect the main feed cable back to the trolley pole. The lighting circuits are another story.

Work on the floors of No. 28 is progressing with new plywood flooring being laid over the wooden floor at both ends. This is necessary to take out the uneven floor surface in the drop ends. The floor at No. 2 end has been completed and the malthoid laid into position.

Other work at the depot has been repainting the wooden handrails to the archives room and the commencement of a general tidying up of the building area prior to the COTMA Conference.

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## Photostory 5 Looking Back at the Ballarat Tramway System

### Sturt St. West

This section of the Ballarat system ran along the southern side of the Western Highway from Pleasant Street to Hamilton Avenue. The trams faced into the highway traffic when running back into the City. The two crossing loops at Morrison St and Parker St. involved one of trams moving almost into the middle of the road.

After the closure of the tramway, the road was rebuilt with a central median strip, kerbs and garden planting's.

The first photograph was taken by The Courier Ballarat in May 1960, when it was suggested by the Begonia Festival Association to rename the section of road *Royal Mile* to commemorate the visit of the Queen in 1954 and the Queen Mother in 1958. Tram 38 is heading for the Gardens and has stopped to let the Courier Photographer take the photo. The Motorman has the cabin door open and is waiting for the OK to proceed.

The second photograph taken by Warren Doubleday on 27 Dec. 1998 is at the same location. The third photograph, part of an Association of Railway Enthusiasts Film Strip produced following the closure of the Ballarat trams shows Tram No. 39 inbound along Sturt St. West near Russell St.



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## Bungaree Renovations

To make the Bungaree property a more attractive house, in which to stay, we are renovating. This involves the relocation of the toilet, bathroom and associated facilities. The work is progressing well. It is now at lock up stage. The bathroom window, which came from the Sandringham Tram depot a few years ago blends in with the other windows in the house. The plumbing is nearly complete. When testing the pipes there was quite a spray across the bathroom when it was realised that a nut on one of the pipes was loose.

The weather had been kind to the builder until the weekend of 9 and 10 September. It rained most of the time with the wind howling around the house. We all thought that we would all end up drenched and blown to Melbourne!

The shower recess is at the tiling stage. We hope to have it operational by the end of the month. Work inside the house is also going on with most of the wallpaper in the lounge room stripped off. It is hoped that the room will be painted in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks must be given to Carolyn Dean, Richard Gilbert, Glen Mills, John Phillips and Peter Winspur for providing materials enabling the work to be carried out.

In addition to this work, Simon Green has been busy painting the lounge room. He has previously painted the kitchen and has been working at the unenviable task of washing

down the ceiling and walls after Carolyn Dean has arduously removed the wallpaper. As the weather improves it is intended to paint the external walls of the house extension and bungalow in time for the COTMA Conference.

## Other Bungaree News

The Victorian Government recently announced a major project to upgrade the rail lines to Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Traralgon to enable higher running speeds. One of the options to cut about 8 minutes off the trip to Ballarat is to do a major deviation to by-pass Bungaree altogether. It would literally go from the site of the old Millbrook station between Gordon and Wallace to the site of Dunnstown station between Bungaree and Warrenheip, the junction point for the lines from Ballarat to Geelong and Melbourne. This would eliminate two major level crossings as well. This deviation has long been proposed, but never eventuated. Closure of this section of the line may allow us to increase our land holdings, not that we celebrate the withdrawal of trains passing our door, but travel times will certainly also be reduced.

The time has come for the first shearing of our sheep and arrangements are to be made with a local shearer to trim the fleece.

By the time you read this, all going well, we will have picked up from Steamrail Newport a number of lengths of old 60lb/yard rail sufficient to lay the track in the two sheds at Bungaree. This is the next major step to enable trams to be moved from the Ballarat depot.

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No. 14 at night – taken by Peter Winspur during the Ballarat Winter Festival, *Trams at Night* On Friday 21 July 2000 at depot junction with Len Millar driving.

## **Express Service**

On a recent Friday Dave Macartney received a phone call at the depot from a Sydney tour company bus driver who was on the Western Ring Road enquiring whether it would be possible to visit and ride a tram next morning at 9.30am. Never wishing to turn business away, Dave arranged a crew and called the driver back almost before he had made it to the Western Highway. Next morning Frank and Sharon Puls welcomed a party of 52. After their tram ride and inspection of the depot, Sharon counted the sales revenue to find the visitors had spent some \$93 more than the \$80 bus charter. A great job well done!

## **Ballarat City Tramway**

Warren Doubleday recently has been attending meetings of the Ballarat Tourist Trams Work Group facilitated by the City of Ballarat and Ballarat Tourism. The meetings have been attended by a number of people including Council Officers, Tourism Victoria, Ballarat Tourist Association and other interested people.

After three meetings the group have placed a recommendation to the Ballarat Tourism Board regarding the future prospects of a City Tramway. They determined what a brief for a final feasibility study should contain and what study outcomes are expected.

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## **COTMA Conference update:**

Bookings are coming in and we expect to reach our estimate of 70 delegates from tramway museums around Australia and New Zealand. More of the detail has been finalised and some outings to kindred groups may interest our members who wish to come along. This Conference is for the enjoyment and sharing by our members as much as it is a great gathering point for the visiting delegates. If any of our members has an enquiry on being involved and participating in any part of the Conference, please contact our COTMA address below.

On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November the delegates will travel by a special train from Spencer Street to Ballarat and this journey is open to bookings from any of our members. It is possible to travel from Ballarat to Melbourne by the ordinary service to join the special, or should you reside in the Melbourne area, it is possible to return to Melbourne on the ordinary service. The cost for travel on the special is \$25.

We encourage our members to come along on the 'official welcome' train to Ballarat and meet our guests and join in the celebration.

An evening outing on the Central Highlands Railway at Daylesford on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November will see a bus

take us from Ballarat to connect with our special Rail Motor train (280 HP Diesel Rail Car) to Bullarto followed by an evening meal and film show at the Bullarto Hall and late night return to Daylesford and bus back to Ballarat. The Bullarto Hall is a splendidly preserved country hall and along with the ride on the Walker Rail Motor through the forest at night it will be a night to come along and be part of. The cost for this outing from Ballarat and including the meal is \$25. Refreshment drinks will be on sale at the hall.

On Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, a post conference bus tour will take the delegates to Bendigo. Along the way a ride will be taken on the Victorian Goldfields Railway from Muckleford to Maldon on a steam hauled 'mixed' train. Our members can book on this bus and train, and if transport is needed back to Ballarat from the railway some arrangement can be made when you make the booking. The cost of this outing, including lunch to be supplied by the railway at Maldon is \$25.

Our COTMA address is:  
8 Northwood Street  
Ringwood East, 3135  
Telephone (03) 9879 3241.

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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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