

FARES PLEASE!

July 2001

Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History



Museum Accreditation Program
Accredited Museum

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. (Association No. A0031819K) will be held at the Ballarat Tram Depot, South Gardens Reserve on Sunday 28 October 2001, 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. At the time of nomination, the nominee, proposer and seconder must be financial, for the nominee to be entitled to be a candidate for election in accordance with the 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 7 October 2001.

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 proposer 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 other position shall not apply.

Ballarat Tramways News

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Our 500,000th Passenger.

Len Millar

The Gods (and our illustrious Traffic Manager, Peter Winspur) ordained that some time on Sunday, June the 10th our tramway was to carry its 500,000th passenger. It was agreed that we should phone the local media (WIN-TV and “The Courier”) in case they were having a quiet news day, but the catch was – when would we carry the special person? We could hardly expect the media to stand at Depot Junction all day, now could we!

So “a little after three o’clock” was judged to be about THE time, and so it was! At 3.30pm, as the Motorman/Conductor (me) was changing ends on Gold Tram 45 at Carlton Street, a large group of people approached from the direction of the Olympic Rings monument. One of the advance party asked if I would mind holding the tram until the stragglers had arrived. “Not at all! In fact this trip is going to be pretty special! One of your group will be our 500,000th passenger!”

“Oh! Would you mind if it was the fellow with the red hair and beard, wearing the blue parka?” And so it came to pass! It took me nigh on 10 minutes to move through the tram, collecting all the fares, but eventually Mr. Lou Abbruzzi, coach and bus driver of the Kilsyth Cobras basketball team received his ticket and a presentation pack of some postcards, badges, etc from me – to the rousing cheers, applause and stirring of the 41 others in the group. The team had just won their match with Melton 50 to 33.



Len Millar congratulates Mr. Lou Abbruzzi as our 500,000th passenger on 10 June 2001. Photo John Phillips

Carolyn Dean and John Phillips took a break from their excellent renovation work on our Bungaree house, to motor down and capture the event on celluloid for our archives.

At 3.40pm , poor old Car 45 finally set off for St. Aidans Drive, groaning under the weight (my guess is that there were some 5 tonnes of passengers). The Kilsyth Cobras thoroughly enjoyed their ride, and Lou Abbruzzi passes into history as our half-millionth passenger!

Membership 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 2002 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 the depot e-mail.

Ballarat City Tramway

Warren Doubleday has recently attended meetings of the Steering Committee for Trams and Transportation Study group. As reported in the last issue of *Fares Please!*, tenders were called for the study. These have now been received and interviews arranged. The successful Tenderer should be appointed by the City of Ballarat during early August and the study commenced with the final report due early in 2002. The BTM is one of the identified stakeholders.

The Internet

Our web site has become one of our most valuable advertising tools and a vehicle for contacts, particularly from overseas. Gradually more and more sites are establishing links to the Museum. We also

have many short free listings. We have recently included our own page at www.museums.com, which is a global museum project from Germany. At our own site www.btm.org.au Andrew Cox also maintains many links to superb sites all around the world. Communication by e-mail has grown to the extent that the amount of mail received at the Post Box has declined significantly. If you wish to contact us, the Secretary clears and forwards correspondence at btm@netconnect.com.au on a daily basis.

Chance Contacts

Recently Mrs Ware of Sydney, a granddaughter of H. C. Collett a Superintendent in Electric Supply Company days, visited the Museum seeking a photo of Mr Collett. Alan Bradley, our historian was unable to find a photo, but did locate some information. When new member Geoff Collett applied for membership he advised us that he was a grandson of Mr Collett. E-mails followed resulting in the grandchildren sharing their information, a photo being located and the Museum archives being enhanced.

Bungaree

Good progress is being made on the internal upgrade of the Bungaree house by John Phillips, assisted by Carolyn Dean. The kitchen has been changed around and the painting of the bathroom and the toilet is well underway. A new fence between the house block and the sheds has been completed to restrain the sheep to a specific area and allow neighbouring cattle to graze the larger block.

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Gold Tram Launch – Richard Gilbert

Our Museum chose Thursday, 14th June, 2001 to have the ceremony to launch the Gold Tram. As readers will know we have leased maximum traction tram No.18 from Bendigo for 2 years and renumbered it 45, mainly because we already have a tram numbered 18.

The reason the tram is painted in its gold scheme is to replicate the similar presentation the SEC did on tram 23 in 1951 to celebrate 100 years of the discovery of gold in Victoria.

Our launch event was well attended by invited guests and our members. It was pleasing to see quite a few members turning up on a weekday and in particular Lewis Nyman who had motored across from Wangaratta and Ian Stanley from Beaufort. Some had also motored from Melbourne and we thank them for the effort they made in attending

The Mayor of the City of Ballarat, Councillor David Vendy officiated along with Museum President, Richard Gilbert, and City Councillor Elizabeth Sheedy joined them on the Motorman's Platform to participate in Tram 45 being driven through the banner. This of course happened after glowing speeches from both Richard and Councillor Vendy where praise was directed at the museum for its efforts in developing the idea of the Gold Tram and in bringing it to a successful stage.

In talking about the 30th year of the museum Richard spoke of the formation of the museum and its early days. Councillor Vendy spoke with great affection of the SEC days of operation that he remembered so well.

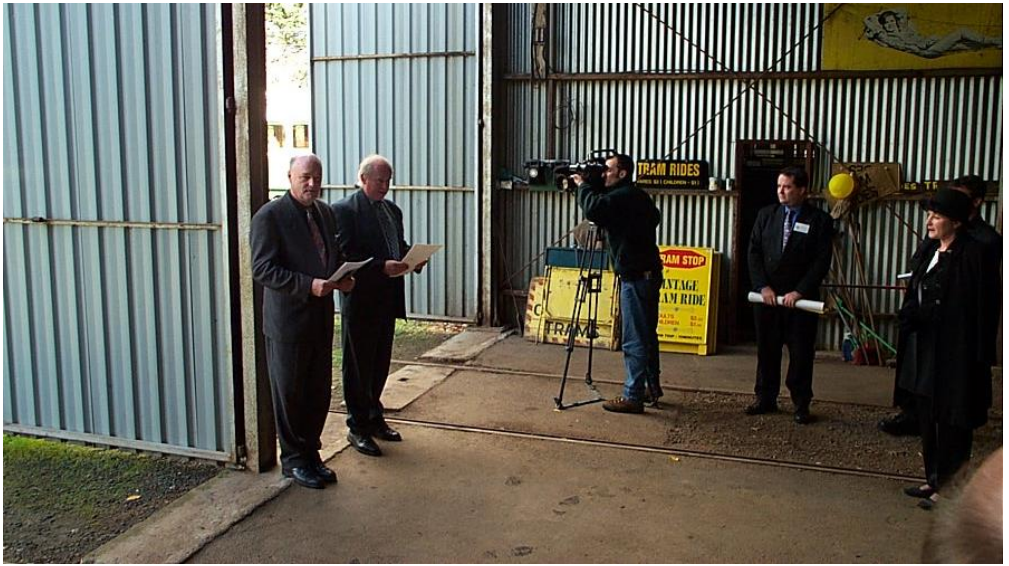
After the drive through the banner, all those assembled joined the tram for a run on the line and a good quality afternoon tea was served on 45 using the modular furniture from our function tram, 671.

So well received, was our on board catering that a number of guests spoke of using our function tram for other groups they belonged to. Councillor Vendy stayed well after the other guests had departed to talk on issues of importance to our future and we struck up a good rapport with him.

The media turned up for this event and we enjoyed good publicity that night on the television and next day in the Courier newspaper. We were even treated to a full page spread in the social pages a few days later, where photos were shown of where 'those who are social lights enjoyed their time during the week.

The weather during the launch was; a heavy shower during the speeches – held inside the depot building and bright sunshine for the breaking the banner and the trip along Wendouree Parade.

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The Mayor of the City of Ballarat, David Vendy and Museum President, Richard Gilbert deliver their speeches at the Launch of the Gold Tram, Thursday 14 June 2001.

Photo Warren Doubleday



The Gold Tram is driven through the official launch banner. Photo Warren Doubleday

G. Fares Please!

At the Depot

No. 27's truck has been almost fully dismantled and the wheels transported to Adelaide for turning. Now begins the long task of repairing the truck and reassembling it. The motors will also be overhauled.

Other tasks have been:

- Training Scrubber Operators in the use of No. 8
- Carrying out further work on no. 8 – windscreen wipers and sealing the roof of the tram
- Repainting No. 28
- Roof repairs to No. 12
- Repairing a wiring fault in No. 26
- Servicing trams
- Completing dog spiking and then packing the track
- Repairing broken joints in the depot area

Wheels to Adelaide

On the first full weekend of July, Warren Doubleday in company with Alastair Reither and Sam Boon took 27's wheels across to the AETM Museum at St. Kilda South Australia. Using a locally hired trailer and a 4WD Land Cruiser, the trip went well though slowly at times with over two tonnes behind the towbar. Our friends at the AETM rolled out the welcome mat as usual. The visit to Adelaide was a first for Alastair and Sam and they saw the AETM first hand and caught up with ex Ballarat trams 21 and 34. As well, several trips on the Glenelg line were made, including riding a coupled set on the Saturday and a depot visit late on Friday night.

Rail from Skipton St.

While the Gold Tram was being launched, the contractor for new roadworks at the intersection of Drummond St. South and Skipton St. was busy cutting 80lb rail with a bolt-on-flange or check into short lengths, that had been excavated the previous day. The track was once part of the Sebastopol line. A quick consultation with the contractor found out the rail was headed for the scrap bin and that we could have it.

Numerous phone calls were made to *The Courier's* Office that day about the rail being found in Skipton St and the item made it into the following days news. The following weekend, a work party and a hired trailer removed the rail in two loads to Bungaree for storage. Thanks to all those who assisted on the day. Though only in short lengths, it will be useful in the future.

More rail remains.

Archives

Cleaning out or tidying up your tramway collection? The Museum is always interested in tramway related material. Though parts of it may not be directly related to the SEC operated tramways, we can advise who it should be passed onto to ensure its survival into the future. The Museum has now formally collected some 1800 items, with a large photo and newspaper cutting collection.

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Old tram rail has been excavated for a Traffic Island and is being cut to length for removal - 14 June 2001. Photo Warren Doubleday



One of the piles of rails at Bungaree after removal from Skipton St. Photo Carolyn Dean.

8. Fares Please!

30th Anniversary Dinner

Enclosed in this issue of *Fares Please!* is the invitation for the BTM's 30th Anniversary Dinner to be held at Lake Lodge on Saturday evening 22 September. The cost is \$30. Your early bookings would be appreciated by our event organisers. The evening celebrates the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society that later became the BTM and the 30th anniversary of the closure of the SEC Ballarat Tramway system. We hope to see you there.

Notice of Motion

At the AGM of the Museum, a motion will be moved by Warren Doubleday to amend the winding up clause of the Rules of the Association. The purpose of the alteration is to strengthen the winding up clause in order to protect the Museum's collection from being broken up and sold off, but that it be held in perpetuity for the public.

Further details will be given in the next issue of *Fares Please!* along with the proposed changes to the rules and the background.

Traffic

Tram No 45 has continued to prove popular with the passengers and crews especially during the cooler weather. Contrary to reports in other publications, it has been leased from the Bendigo Tramways and not loaned or given to the Museum.

Roger Salen and Alastair Reither have completed their driver training and are awaiting their final test. Paul Mong has commenced his driver training. Alastair will be our first 18-year-old driver after it was agreed that the minimum age should be brought into line with that in Melbourne.

Another very successful pre wedding breakfast charter was held on 7 July; and on 21 July a bride was conveyed to her wedding at Lake Pavilion in Tram No 26.

Thanks to all the crews who worked over the June/July school holiday period and to those who looked after the trams in our maintenance area.

14,981 passengers were carried for the financial year, an increase of 430 on the previous year.

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>
