

# FARES PLEASE!

September 2001

*Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History*



Museum Accreditation Program  
Accredited Museum

## Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. is to be held on Sunday 28 October 2001, commencing at the Ballarat Tramway Depot 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 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	Peter Winspur	Clayton Giles
Vice President (2 Positions)	Stephen Butler John Phillips	Warren Doubleday Carolyn Dean	Clayton Giles Clayton Giles
Treasurer	Carolyn Dean	John Phillips	Greg Rodgers
Secretary	Peter Winspur	Greg Rodgers	Bruce Dixon
Ordinary Board Members	Andrew Cox Warren Doubleday Simon Green Alastair Reither Greg Rodgers	John Phillips John Phillips Alan Snowball Dave Macartney Alastair Reither	Carolyn Dean Stephen Butler Peter Winspur Gavin Young Richard Gilbert

# Ballarat Tramways News

# 2..Fares Please!

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## **TMS Tour to Australia**

On Wednesday 19 September, about 35 members of a touring party from the Tramway Museum Society of England visited the Museum during the mid afternoon. After leaving Melbourne in the morning, the party visited Bylands, Bendigo and then Ballarat.

The trip to four museums in one day, is not easy. The party arrived a bit late, and they were hurriedly loaded in W4 671, for an afternoon tea on the move. The tram had been set up to enable the time to be shortened. With 671 parked in Wendouree Parade, the urns were bubbling away using “shore power” until the bus arrived. It quickly moved off after some rushed photographs.

Following their return to Depot Junction, trams 26 and 33 were ready to roll along Wendouree Parade. After this, a visit to the depot and Sales Department was made. Sales were brisk. Following the visit to our Museum, the group then traveled out to Haddon. They later returned to Ballarat for an evening meal at the Grapes Hotel, arriving there finally about one and half hours late at 7pm. Many were still finishing their last drinks when the bus pulled out shortly before 9pm.

While at the hotel, a few of our members joined them for dinner, discussing tramway issues and other world events. On behalf of the group, Geoff Claydon, Secretary of the TMS thanked Craig Took as organiser of the day and the BTM for the visit. The

idea of afternoon tea of the move was most appreciated. The day of the visit was the actual 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closure of the tramway system.

## **Workshop Bogies**

The Department of Infrastructure recently advised COTMA of the availability of a number of surplus workshop bogies (dollies) available at Preston workshop. The BTM advised COTMA of our required equipment and was subsequently allocated a set of medium height trestles on which to rest a tramcar and a set of old W2, No. 1A trucks which also have been used to support trams in the past while in the workshops.

The medium height trestles will soon be used to support trams while on jacks rather than having them rest on the jacks themselves. The Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association will be co-ordinating transport of the dollies from Preston to Ballarat for us. Thanks to COTMA for the co-ordination work.

## **City Tramway**

A strategic team headed by Booz-Allen have been appointed to undertake a scoping and feasibility study for the possible Ballarat Trams and Tourism Transportation. A kick off meeting was held during early September in Ballarat. Len Millar attended the meeting on behalf of the Museum. A visit to the depot was included. Our Museum Board at its meeting of September 26, approved giving full assistance to the team in its study.

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## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

A very successful 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner was held on Saturday, Sept 22 to recall the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the closure of the Ballarat Tramway System and to celebrate 30 years of the BTM. About 60 people attended the dinner held at Lake Lodge.

The afternoon was quite warm for September, when tram 40 ran out of the depot at about 5.50pm with pre dinner drinks on board. Tram 33 followed out about 10 minutes later. After cruising Wendouree Parade, the function adjourned to Lake Lodge for an excellent meal and some short celebratory speeches.

One of the important functions was to award ten members, a special plaque to record their 30 years of volunteer service. The recipients were: Austin Brehaut, Carolyn Dean, Warren Doubleday, Campbell Duncan, Frank Hanrahan, Bill Kingsley, Dave Macartney, Richard Gilbert, Peter Winspur and Gavin Young.

Wording on the plaque states:

*This plaque is presented to acknowledge your time and dedication over the past 30 years. Thank you for having the foresight to retain this portion of Ballarat's Tramway System.*

The words were created by long time volunteer member, Stephen Butler.

Representatives from the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia, Sydney Tramway Museum, Tramway Museum Society of Victoria, Central Deborah Bendigo, Melbourne Tramcar Preservation

Association, Limestone Coast Railway and the Portland Cable Trams attended the dinner. Unfortunately two members of the Perth Electric Tramway could not make it, following the air line problems.

Also presented were some 40 "Certificate of Appreciation" to all our active volunteers. The certificates made available by the Victorian State Government, is part of the celebrations of the International Year of Volunteers.

Following supper, Richard Gilbert with the aid of slides from his collection and some from Paul Nicholson showed some of the early photographs of the Museum's activities when it was known as the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society. The less said about hair length, the better!

Following the completion of the slides, tram 33 returned to the depot for those who needed to return home while tram 40 made a number of trips along Wendouree Parade to finish off the evening. The event was finished up with 40 entering the depot, as it did just over 30 years ago, about midnight. A very successful evening. Thanks to Stephen Butler who arranged a very successful night.

## New Members

The Museum welcomes the following new members:

No. 737 Sam Boon of Ballarat – actually graduated from a Junior Member.

No. 738 Kim Smith of Bendigo

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# 4..Fares Please!

# Fares Please! ..5



Photos of the BTM's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner - 28 Sept. 2001  
All photos Warren Doubleday



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## At the Depot

Since our last report, work has been ongoing on a number of projects. The further installation of lights at the front of the depot that can be delayed switched or left on have made moving around the depot fan easier on those dark winter nights. They were very useful on the night of the dinner.

Work on No. 27's truck and motors continues. One motor is in the process of being dismantled to determine the condition and the amount of cleaning needed. At least one armature will require bearings to be remetalled. The repainting of No. 28 is continuing with most of the insides of the drop ends of the tramcar now almost complete. Work on scrubber No. 8 recently has comprised the sealing of the roof around the destination boxes and other parts of the cabs.

With the possibility of the operation of the horse tram event, a full inspection was recently made. It was decided that some modifications to the brake system was necessary. These have since been completed.

Following some unexplained wheel spinning in No. 33, the tram was withdrawn from service for it to be fully checked over. After finding some wiring problems in the resistor grids, the tram electric's and motors were given a full check, including operating the tram in Wendouree Parade with voltmeters across the field coils to check that they were fully operational. No further problems were detected and it is now back in service.

## Tram No 45

The Gold tram continues to attract much attention and favorable comment. For a recent charter for a bus company Richard Gilbert pre recorded a commentary which points out the highlights of the trip and tells a little about the Museum and the history of trams in Ballarat. It was very successful and will form the basis for use with the sound systems which are about to be reinstalled in the W class trams.

## SEC Tramway Employees Function

Our Museum was represented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary function of the former SEC Tramway Employees held at the Queens Head Hotel on Saturday September 15. Richard Gilbert, Gavin Young, Craig Stephenson and Alan Marshall from our museum went along and had a good night catching up with some familiar faces and meeting others not too familiar.

Former tram driver Neil Robe organised the event and some great old yarns were swapped during the night. Did you hear the one about the "two bottle box"?

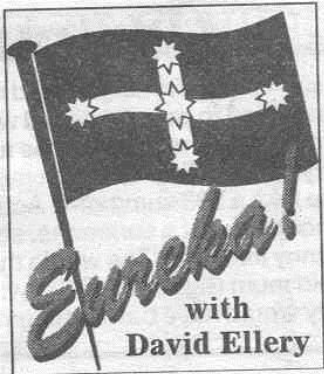
"The old Conductors outfit tins could hold two 'big bottles', so when working on the Sebastopol run you would have a couple of pots at the Royal Mail Hotel at Sebas then put two bottles in the tin to have at the cemetery terminus and elsewhere to generally get the crew through the night."

Our Museum supplied a number of card mounted photographs which drew great interest along with the Conductors tin which got us the old story above. The menu for the night was specially printed and the background on it had been downloaded from our Web site.

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## Cutting from Courier, 31/7/2001

The following newspaper cutting illustrates quite well a recent event on the tramway. We understand that Austin Brehaut submitted the story and it involved the Gold Tram.



**A** CONDUCTOR on Ballarat's Tourist Tramway was amused by our recent item on swans swanning themselves across Wendouree Pde, oblivious to the affect they were having on the passing traffic. Our informant advises that the cars are not the only vehicles affected by this lack of road sense. Leaving aside the question of why the swan crossed the road, he reports that last Saturday a perambulatory swan paused in the middle of the road to drink at a

small puddle between the two tram tracks. The reason for this choice was a mystery given that Ballarat's largest open body of water was only a few metres away. Unable to persuade the bird to move along, the crew of the tram was stuck fast until a passing schoolboy twigged to the crisis. He proceeded to offer the swan a share of his cream biscuit. This manoeuvre succeeded and the swan, and the tram, were soon underway.

## Traffic

### New drivers

Roger Salen & Alastair Reither both recently passed their driving tests. Roger describes himself as an antique tram driver whilst Alastair, at just 19, becomes our youngest driver ever.

### New conductor

Sam Boon had a busy day on Saturday 1 September. Having attained the age of fourteen, he trained as an assistant conductor during the day and then celebrated his birthday with his friends on tram No 14 that evening.

# 8. Fares Please!

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## CHHA Exhibition

On Sat. 27 to Sunday 28 October, the Central Highlands Historical Association are holding a Family and Local History Expo at the Australian Catholic University, 1200 Mair St. Ballarat, from 10am to 4pm on both days. A pamphlet for the event is enclosed within this mailout.

The Museum will be represented at this year's event. It is sponsored by Events Ballarat, The Public Records Office of Victoria and the Australian Catholic University.

## AGM & Changes to the Rules of Association

As noted in the last issue of Fares Please!, a motion to alter the Winding Up clause of the Rules of the Association will be moved at the AGM. A separate sheet of paper explaining the background of the changes and the proposal is enclosed with the mailout.

Also enclosed is a proxy form for the Annual General Meeting in the event that you are unable to attend. Proxy forms must be returned to the Secretary prior to the meeting, preferably by post.

## Depot Meeting – to discuss City Tramway

On Saturday November 17, commencing at 4pm, a informal meeting of all interested members will be held at the depot to consider the scope of the BTM involvement and current status. It also provides a chance to gather your thoughts on how we could be formally involved in the City Tramway Proposal. All members are welcome to attend.

## Membership cards

Enclosed in the mailout, are membership cards for those members who have sent in their renewal. The card has been especially printed to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Though the event depicted in the photo did not take place until 1974, it shows the closing of the first era of our Society in completing construction work to enable our trams to operate. It reflects the strong volunteer spirit of the day. (We won't comment on the hair styles. Ed.)

## Membership Renewals

A unprecedented number of renewals have been received already and members have been very generous with donations this year. Receipts for donations will be sent out by the treasurer nearer the end of the financial year. If you are one of the few who have yet to renew, the membership officer would be very happy to see that membership form as soon as possible.

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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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