

# FARES PLEASE!

January 2002

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*Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History*

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Museum Accreditation Program  
Accredited Museum

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## Moomba 2002

The Museum has been invited to participate in the 2002 Moomba Trams on Parade event "Roads to Melbourne". The event will see a selection of unique historic and eccentric trams from around Australia parade up St Kilda Road and Swanston Street. The Milan tram is scheduled to appear as well.

The first half of the Parade, *Tram History Trundle* will be led by Ballarat Tramway Company Horse Tram Number 1. There will be twelve different trams from the horse tram to the latest Citadis tram. This will be followed by a combination of themed trams in true Moomba style and other eccentric and colourful forms of transport.

A street party will follow between Bourke and Flinders Streets where the parade trams will be parked. As part of the street party City Square will be transformed into *Tramland*. Tramland will be the focus of a celebration of tram culture. City Square

will be filled with eccentric tram memorabilia and entertainment. The Museums will be mounting exhibitions in marquees in the Square.

The Parade commences at 11:00am on Labour Day, Monday 11 March. The street party will be from 12noon to 3:00pm.

Labour Day is the last day of the Begonia Festival and traditionally the busiest day in Ballarat for the Museum and all available traffic staff are required there. We are consequently looking for other Museum members to assist in Melbourne, particularly in staffing the marquee. If anyone can assist could they contact Warren Doubleday on 9376 6882.

## Gold Tram Postcard

Our Sales Department has produced a colour postcard of the Gold Tram. The photography is by Austin Brehaut. It is on sale at the depot and on tramcars for 60cents each.

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# Ballarat Tramways News

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## Traffic

Patronage for the six months from July 2001 to the end of December 2001 showed an increase of almost 25% compared with the same period in the year 2000. The increase was spread across the whole period and was very heartening. Unfortunately we do not expect the magnitude of the increase to be maintained during the next six months.

Trams ran every day from Christmas Day to the Australia Day holiday. Patronage

reflected the weather and was rather variable. Our thanks to the usual small band of volunteers. A very big thank you to Sam Boon who conducted on fifteen days during the period! Also to Dave O'Neil who ran the tramway to on Christmas Day thanks too.

Carolyn Dean recently claimed a BTM record in selling 179 tickets singularly on one Conductor's shift on 28 December 2001.

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## At the Depot

December and January is a busy time for the depot staff in maintaining the trams ready for running. There is a lot of cleaning, tram preparation and servicing to be done. Trying to fit in other work can be difficult at times. A number of charters during December and wedding charters during January made things just that much busier. Two further track joint repairs were carried out in Wendouree Parade just before Christmas.

Some further work has been done on Horse Tram No. 1 to prepare it for its trip to Melbourne.

Work on No. 27's truck is progressing. The wheels have been received back from Adelaide. Alan Snowball is busy working on the truck frames, rebuilding the area around the axle boxes. The motors have been disassembled and checked over and are being cleaned up, prior to the armatures being baked and dipped and having the bearings overhauled.

The repaint of No. 28 is continuing, though the Christmas period has slowed things down a bit. The interior is almost finished. Work has commenced on the cream colour work on the exterior.

No. 45 required some further minor work to keep it running. This tram managed to have a very spectacular short circuit in one of the head lights in early December.

The line breaker again suffered the same fault it has had a couple of times already with a screw working out – despite the use *Loctite*. This time, a locking nut and spring washer has been added.

Scrubber tram No 8 has received a sprinkler bar on No. 1 end, courtesy of Alan Snowball. Directly connected to the pump, the bar is located just behind the lifeguard. This bar enables the roadway to be sprayed to try and keep down the dust in particular during the summer and the Begonia Festival. It has been tested out in the Parade and is quite successful, though a couple of extra holes needed to be added on the ends of the bar.

An opportunity was taken during mid January to strip out the Archives Room, clean the walls and ceiling, aqua vac the carpet and install further shelving prior to resetting it back up again.

## Rail Safety

The annual visit of the Auditors from the Rail Safety branch of the Department of Infrastructure took place on Saturday January 19, 2002. After a very extensive review of the Museum's safety system, some areas where improvements could be made were noted. Extensive discussion took place on the medical aspects of tram crews and also the forthcoming new Legislation within the Transport Act regarding prescription drugs.

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It was a few days before Christmas and I had been working very hard at my North Pole workshop and dispatch centre and had everything ready for my big delivery run on Christmas Eve. It is pretty cold up north at this time of year, so I contacted my travel agent and asked where I could go for some warm sunny weather, and he suggested Ballarat. He also said that driving a vintage tram was a good way to meet friendly people, so I contacted the BTM to arrange the trip.

When I arrived at Wendouree Parade on Sunday 23rd the weather was as bright and sunny as Ballarat is renown for. I found that my good friend Sam (Rudolf) Boon had prepared a lovely GOLD tram for me to drive and had decorated it with lots of glittery tinsel and other trinkets.

I was delighted to find that this tram had a sound system so we could play some jolly Yuletide music. The first couple of trips were very quiet, but a few rousing "Ho-Ho's" from the open door as we passed picnic groups soon encouraged families to come and ride with us.



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Everyone seemed to have a great time with "Rudolph" Boon selling tickets, and the children were delighted to each be given a BTM button badge, naturally the pink ones went to the girls. On one memorable trip a group of very vocal children opened all the windows on the lakeside of the tram and yelled "Merry Christmas" to all the picnickers while I played "Jingle Bells" on the gong (or as close to it as I could manage). On another trip the passengers started to sing along with the music, so while Rudolf conducted the tram, I conducted the singing.

We finished the day tired but very happy, and look forward to doing it again sometime. I should like to thank Len Miller for taking over the driving while we had lunch and for being OIC for the day, and Dave and his staff for providing a clean reliable tram (as I am told they always do!)

All the best for the New Year to all at the BTM.



Above: Sam (Rudolph) Boon and Santa  
Photo Len Millar.

Below: Tram 45 near St. Aidans Drive.  
Photo: Santa Claus



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## Oops

In the last issue of *Fares Please!*, the last word of the item about the Editor in New Zealand, got lost in the printing on the laser printer. It was in the text, but outside the Microsoft Word text box – dang computers. The word was “activated”. That is, if you bring the controller back too quickly, you go past the off point and into the braking notches.

## A Bouncing Kangaroo

A ride on our trams can bring about unexpected sights. John Phillips was driving along Wendouree Parade with a happy load of travelers on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> December when a bounding wallaby (for our overseas readers - a smaller breed of kangaroo) came bounding across from the park and over our tramline in the vicinity of the Gardens Loop. It then paced the tram to the playground where it surprised a gentleman having lunch at a picnic table by bouncing up onto the table on off again on its journey. In all, a great deal of excitement was had by all, but possibly most of all by the gentleman almost having his lunch jumped on.

## Heritage Tram Meeting

The Department of Infrastructure has initiated a Heritage Tram Access and Accreditation consultative group. The first meeting was held at their office on January 23. Attending for the Museum was Peter Winspur and Warren Doubleday. Items

discussed were the forthcoming Transport Heritage report, accreditation issues for trams being operated in Melbourne and other issues affecting the various Victorian Museums and tramway operators.

## Ballarat City Tramway

The consultants appointed by the City of Ballarat’s Tourism Advisory Board with funding assistance from the Commonwealth Government, Booz Allen Hamilton is progressing well. A draft report is planned to be presented to the Tourism Advisory Board during February 2002. Following this meeting the report will be finalised and presented to the City of Ballarat. Warren Doubleday is representing the Museum on the Steering Committee.

## From the Archives

Readers may remember that in the May 2001 issue of *Fares Please!* we reported that we received a sizeable parcel of about 100 items from the daughter of the Mr. Les Denmead, the Tramway Superintendent of Ballarat and Bendigo. Formal cataloguing of the donation is almost completed. One interesting item within the collection was an Electric Supply Co. of Victoria “gold” pass issued to a City of Ballarat Councilor, D. Hughes for the year 1906. The pass was made by Stokes and Sons of Melbourne. It is about 21mm in diameter.

The illustrations on page 7 opposite show the front and the back of the pass. They have been produced using a scanner.

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## **Bungaree Happenings**

A lot of work has been taking place on the museum property at Bungaree. John Phillips hired a brush cutter to make way through the long grass that had well overtaken the capacity of the sheep in our block, next to the tram storage sheds. Jim Parker worked for a few days to mow the grass on the road approach to the house and both then shared the task of mowing a firebreak around the house block. John Phillips painted the north west corner of our house, built from concrete blocks, with a water sealing paint to prevent the prevailing rains from penetrating the walls. In winter the driving rain has to be seen to be believed, and the resulting moisture has found its way through the concrete block wall. The toilet floor was also painted and a new bench is currently being installed in the kitchen.

Should members and their families/partners wish to stay at Bungaree they are most welcome. This house is well located in the Ballarat/Daylesford tourist region. The house has had extensive renovations and is quite comfortably appointed with television and other facilities. It is located on a four-acre rural block and the main Ballarat railway passes the front of the property. A nominal overnight fee is charged. The house can be

booked for use solely by those making the booking. Contact Richard Gilbert at the Museum address.

## **An Important Wedding**

We just had the pleasant event of the wedding of Tony Smith and Jacqui Edwards and then along comes one that almost escaped our particular attention. Tram No.40 was booked for a wedding on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January and the museum was pleased to be involved. The bride to be booked the event in her maiden name so little was known. Then as the guests arrived we saw familiar faces and we soon discovered the wedding was for the family of former Member and well know railway enthusiast Brian Brooke. His son was the Groom and the wedding became quite chummy, as we knew some of those attending. All had a great time and tram No.40 was decorated and used as the backdrop for the ceremony..

## **Begonia Festival**

Don't forget that the tramway will be operational every day during the Begonia Festival. The Festival runs from 1 March to 11 March 2002. Hope to see you there.

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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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