

FARES PLEASE!

July 2004

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 Victorian Railways Institute (VRI) Hall in Lydiard Street North on Sunday 3rd October 2004, commencing at 1.00pm. The VRI Hall is located just a short three minute walk north of the railway station. Parking is available at the railway station.

Nominations are called for the following positions, which 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 Association.

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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 five hundred 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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Traffic

Patronage

June proved to be a very quiet month. Ballarat has been experiencing the coldest and wettest winter for many years and this has been reflected in our patronage for the month. With improving weather during July, the second week of the school holidays saw good loadings.

Begonia Festival

Stephen Butler and Peter Winspur recently met the Director of the Begonia Festival, Barbara Chalkley, for a debrief in relation to the 2004 Festival. Barbara was very happy with the Museum's contribution to the Festival and is keen to continue with the concept of free transport next year.

New Members & Membership Renewals

The Museum would like to welcome the following:

New Junior Supporter: Alexander Cross of Camberwell (No 5033)

Membership renewal notices for the 2004-2005 year have been posted. Rates have been held at the same level as last year. Our thanks to all those members whose renewals have already been forwarded and extra thanks to those who have made a donation to our funds. If you have not received your membership renewal, please let our Secretary know.

In the Workshop

Progress continues in the workshop at a slow but steady pace and a few tasks are approaching completion while others remain in hibernation awaiting the return of the summer sunshine.

The reported return of the components for No. 40's motor from the contractors in Melbourne in the last edition of *Fares Please* was a little premature as it turns out. Some small but vital pieces such as the retaining nut for the motor pinion had been misplaced and it took several weeks to track them down and ensure that once again we have all of the required parts for reassembly. This time we are sure that all components are now on hand and the motor will be assembled and tested shortly.

Our tower truck fell victim to a flat battery some weeks ago and while arrangements were made to acquire a replacement (battery that is) the truck sat idle in the shed. It was to our great surprise that when the replacement battery was fitted the engine would not turn over at all. Closer investigation revealed the cylinders were filled with water which pointed to a much more serious problem. Alan has undertaken the job of removing the cylinder head and taking it for machining and testing by a local automotive company who had some difficulty in obtaining the required gaskets for such an old vehicle. At the time of writing the cylinder head along with new gaskets are on site and Alan will complete the task in the next couple of weeks.

In The Workshop *continued*

This incident has prompted some to suggest we should purchase an electric blanket to keep the engine warm at night but perhaps we should just convert to an all electric truck instead!

Progress on scrubber No. 8 has slowed due to the lack of suitable weather for drying paint but the team has moved on to the task of stripping the body and components of No. 40 which will be repainted following the current mechanical works.

Vale

Jessie Scott

Former Ballarat (as it was spelt then) Councillor and Mayor Jessie Scott MBE passed away on Sunday, 3rd July, aged 95. Being a Councillor between 1970 and 1981, in 1976 she was elected Mayor of Ballarat, the first woman to achieve that position. Cr. Scott presided over the Council at the time the B.T.P.S. applied to have the Depot extensions built, the submissions being forwarded to Council in 1976/77. There were some objections to the plans, and the Council had to be briefed to the extension's impact on that area of the Gardens. The Council weighed up the proposal and the views, and granted permission for the extension. The Depot extension reached lock-up stage in 1979. At the opening of the extension in 1981 Cr. Scott praised the Society's efforts and said that in recognizing our commitments and project aims the Council supported us in the extension project. She was very pleased to declare the extension opened.

Norm Lorensini

Former tram driver throughout the 1950's and 60's, Norm Lorensini recently passed away.

Returning from the Second World War, Norm was offered a job at the iron mine at Lal Lal. He didn't want that sort of work and a farmer at Scotsburn said he knew the Manager at the SEC in Ballarat and would see if he could arrange a job there. Norm was sent to the interview and offered a job on the trams. He stayed throughout the 50' and 60's and in our Museum video tape of the Ballarat Tramways Norm said 'it was the best job he ever had'. With his passing the ranks of those who worked on the trams in their public operation thins out that little bit more. He was a friendly face on the trams and as we often say about the men who worked on Ballarat trams – he was a good bloke.

Bruce Gamble

Bruce Gamble former General Manager for Western Springs Tramway, Director of MOTAT and until recently the New Zealand Museums Representative on the COTMA Executive passed away on Saturday July 3 in Auckland. Bruce played a vital part in the survival that has lead to the revitalisation of MOTAT. At the Ballarat Conference in 2000, he spoke of the passing by the NZ Government of the MOTAT Act, which provides a funding base to the Museum of which the Western Springs Tramway is a vital part. His enthusiasm for the tasks he undertook and the skills he applied is shown in the tramcar rebuilding and restoration work that WST have produced.

4.. Fares Please!



A very important job during autumn for the BTM is cleaning the ever-present leaves off the tracks and out of the points to ensure proper earth return. Garry Wood and Alastair Reither take a break while Bill Kingsley plods through onboard No.18. Scrubber No.8 has proved to be an invaluable asset to our collection and is seen here crossing No. 18 at Gardens Loop. Saturday 15th May 2004. **BOTH PHOTOS AUSTIN BREHAUT**



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Right: No. 40 looks a little out of place after having the front aprons removed. The tram is currently undergoing an extensive structural and mechanical overhaul.

SIMON GREEN

Below: Further to the report on Jessie Scott, we turn the clock back to 1977 when the first sods were turned on the project to extend the depot. Here we show excavation of the pit on No. 4 road taking place.

BTM ARCHIVES



G. Fares Please!

AGM

Following the AGM, a workshop on the Museum's Collection Policy will be held. The purpose of the workshop is to gather member's thoughts prior to a review of the Collection Policy by the Board.

The Policy was originally written in May 1992. Although it has been revised since, the revisions have been of a minor nature. It is now due for a review. The policy determines what the Museum collects and what it does not collect or what is the scope of the collection. It takes into account the space available to hold collections in, duplication with other museums, appropriateness and the worth of the objects or material being collected.

Having a policy is one of those "must haves" for a museum. It is an important part of our documentation and guides the Board in its decisions, particularly in relation to tramcars. This need was identified during the recent Strategic Planning Workshop. The input of members in this important review of this policy is invited.

We would encourage those members who plan to attend the workshop to review the policy prior to the day. It can be downloaded off the Museum's website, or a copy can be obtained from our Museum Services Manager, Warren Doubleday. For convenience a copy has also been placed on the depot meal room table.

ATR Seminar and Outcomes

Our Museum Services Manager and Chairman of the Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia, Warren Doubleday attended a Seminar organised by the Victorian based Association of Tourist Railways, the umbrella group of the heritage and tourist rail organisations in Victoria, of which the Museum is an active member. Warren presented a paper titled "Heritage Trams – Sustainable into the Future?", along with papers and workshops from the Australasian Railway Association, the National Transport Commission, (Chris Le Marshall) of Linqage International, the Emerald Tourist Railway Board, Department of Infrastructure and the Victorian Rail Safety Regulator,.

Attending the Seminar was a number of our fellow Tramway Museums, including Portland, Bendigo, Adelaide and Perth.

Warren's paper, pointed out the need for a national rail heritage organisation. While the tramway museums together can only do so much, a strong national body for all heritage/tourist rail organisations is important. This was made very apparent by the work of the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand (FRONZ) at the recent joint FRONZ / COTMA conference in Auckland in June 2004.

The recent work of the ATR and the other states umbrella organisations towards the formation of a national organisation is to be congratulated.

During late June at a meeting hosted by the Australia Electric Traction Museum, St Kilda SA., such a national organisation was formed – Association of Tourist and Rail Heritage of Australia (ATHRA). The only disappointing outcome was the reluctance of the NSW umbrella group, to join at this time.

Strategic Planning Workshop

The May 2004 issue reported on the April 2004 workshop that reviewed the Museum's Strategic Planning for future. The Board held a special meeting in late May 2004 that reviewed a draft outcomes document and adopted the following principal strategies. A final document is yet to be approved by the Board.

Our Goal

Ensure the sustainability of the Museum so as to care for and showcase our collection for the community benefit.

Key Directional Strategies

1. *Motivate ongoing community interest and commitment.*

- Staffing – engage with the community to actively seek more volunteers
- Income stream/sources – increase through improving community awareness, commitment and existing facilities.

2. *Care for and showcase our collection.*

- Our Tramcars – strengthen appreciation of the fleet and its long term conservation.
- The Depot – enhance its capability to securely house and present our collection within its precinct and encourage visitors.
- Wendouree Parade Track – partner with the community to extend the tram line and to enhance visitor experiences.

3. *Be Professional in all we do.*

- Organisational – build our reputation as a well managed and professional museum in particular with the local community.
- Marketing – broaden the mix of our visitors through improved community awareness.

Bungaree Clean-up Day

A very successful clean-up working bee was held at the Bungaree property on Saturday 17th July. Despite adverse weather conditions that included icy cold temperatures, hailstorms and heavy rainfall the brave volunteers managed to fill an industrial-sized rubbish skip with assorted surplus and worn-out items that were no longer required by the B.T.M. A barbeque meal and slide show followed the clean-up. A merry night was enjoyed by those who attended. Another clean-up day will be planned during the warmer months. This will be announced in a future edition of *Fares Please!* Thanks to all those who worked so hard during trying conditions.

8. Fares Please!



Left: The BTM team proudly display the COTMA achievement award for our carriage of large numbers of passengers during the 2004 Begonia Festival. From left: Bruce Worthington, John Phillips, Carolyn Dean, John Shaw and Simon Green. June 2004. SIMON GREEN COLLECTION

COTMA

The Museum was represented at the Conference held in Auckland during June by Richard Gilbert, Carolyn Dean, Simon Green, John Phillips, Warren Doubleday John Shaw and Bruce Worthington.

The Conference agenda covered a number of workshop sessions where guest speakers presented papers on subjects of our mutual interest. Field trips to locations were quite interesting and informative. The social functions, dinners and slide presentations gathered us together in great harmonious spirit and all agreed this had been a most

progressive and interactive conference. The Post Conference Tour to Wellington and the south island had a full itinerary. We were able to take part in the 100th year celebrations of electric traction in Wellington and have a great time with our friends at the Tramway Historical Society in Christchurch. The tour to Dunedin and associated visits to railway museums along the way was most enjoyable. The great bond of friendship we have with our New Zealand counterparts was further cemented during this Conference.

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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Our web page: <http://www.btm.org.au>