

FARES PLEASE!

December 2010

News from the Ballarat Tramway Museum

Tram No 27 launched



Tram No 27 on its inaugural trip in the colour scheme of 1935

Photo: Bruce Dixon 7/11/2010

Seasons Greetings!

Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History

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Steven Butler presents Clayton Giles with a badge to mark 25 years of service *Photo: Warren Doubleday 7/11/10*



Alan Snowball starts work on reassembling No 38's motor. *Photo: Richard Gilbert*



Above: Richard Gilbert gives a few tips on driving a tram "CopsnKids" visit *Photo: Neil Lardner 22/11/10*

Below: The dish donated by Andrew Mitchell



Above: Our new sales counter *Photo: Austin Brehaut 20/11/10*

Below: Brian Wood affixing the SEC logo to No 27

Photo: BTM collection 22/10/11



Around the Museum

The list of jobs for the depot workshops staff never ends. With the completion of the external repaint of Tram No 27, many smaller jobs have been finalised in the past two months. These include the repainting of the floors on trams 13, 14, 18, 27, 28 and 33. The floor areas in the display area which are not covered by vinyl were also repainted.

Tram No 13 has been chosen as the Christmas tram this year and new decorations were purchased. Its first outing was on Saturday 4/12.

Tram No 38 has been lowered on to the bogies from the former No 35 while its own bogies are rebuilt. This is a much more satisfactory arrangement than the tram remaining on the jacks or blocks. A lack of rubbing plates means that the tram can not be moved unfortunately.

The wheels for No 38 have returned from the Australian Electric Transport Museum in St. Kilda, South Australia after re-profiling and they have been repainted. The AETM undertake wheel profiling as contract work for tramway museums on the former Adelaide Tramways lathe which they acquired many years ago. The axle boxes have also been prepared for painting. The overhauled armatures are also back after having been overhauled as have the motor cases and windings and Alan Snowball has commenced the job of putting the whole lot back together. As the tram has been out of service for so many years there is great enthusiasm to reassemble the maximum traction trucks now that all the components have returned to Ballarat.

The new wall cladding has been installed along three bays of the three road wall and along with the completion of the sealing of the floor this has greatly improved the appearance of the public area. The small door to the workshop has been relocated and enlarged to a full sized sliding door. It is proposed to complete the wall to the rear of the building in the not too distant future. The rear section will be on the nearer side of the pillars to allow more room for jacking trams and the last bay will be a gated fence. OH&S requirements require that non public areas be properly designated.

The new counters for the display area have arrived and have been fitted. They are of high quality timber finish and look superb. The counter includes a glass area for the secure display of sales items.

Until recent years access to the building when it was locked was by a small low door in one of the main front doors. The ban on parking in the park and the new car park at the rear has seen a new full sized entrance door at the rear. Although used less frequently, the front door was still required and after a driver's head came into contact with the upper frame it was enlarged recently. It will now also become a designated emergency exit.

Following the declaration of the Botanical Gardens as 'Heritage Listed' in September, members of Heritage Victoria visited the Gardens on Friday 15 October 2010 for the presentation of a plaque to commemorate the listing. The Museum provided a tram for the occasion and the members visited the Museum as part of the occasion.

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On Saturday 27 November Adrian Mnew and Alan Young from Transport Safety Victoria conducted an audit of the Museum's Safety Management System. This was the first since re-accreditation. Only two very minor "Opportunities for Improvement" were identified.

In August *Safety Action Pty Ltd* undertook a second safety review of the Museum. The first had been in 2007. *Safety Action* are specialists in workplace safety and were employed by the Department of Transport to assist the accredited operators to achieve re-accreditation under the new Rail Safety Act. The two safety reviews have been targeted at workplace and public safety at the Museum. The Report was received in November and the Safety Committee are working through the recommendations. Findings included that the Museum shows a genuine interest in assuring and improving safety.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Museum was held the Tram Depot on Sunday 7 November 2010. Thirty members attended. Andrew Mitchell was elected as Ordinary Board Member to fill a vacancy.

At the meeting the outgoing President, Stephen Butler, presented Clayton Giles with a badge to acknowledge twenty-five years of service to the Museum. Clayton was just fourteen when he joined.

The meeting was followed by the launch of Tram No 27 in its new 1935 colour scheme. The tram looked resplendent. The lining is more detailed than any other of the Museum's trams and took many hours of painstaking work, particularly by Dave

Macartney. The numbers on the ends of the tram are larger than in later schemes and the SEC logo on the sides are smaller due to the extra lining. The colour is considered far more accurate than that previously applied in 1985 due to it being matched with an original pre war "Pay As You Enter" sign which the late Wal Jack obtained many decades ago.

Property Maintenance

Maintaining the three acre property at Bungaree sees various tasks undertaken which are not just directly tramway activities. A sizeable section of one of the pine trees along our driveway collapsed on to the fence and adjoining property of the General Store.

A group of our volunteers worked quite strenuously to chain saw the fallen tree limbs, many quite large. The limbs and foliage were taken in a series of trips by Alan Snowball's and Richard Gilbert's 'Aussie' utes to an area where they have been stacked up to be burnt, along with a large amount of surplus timber and general burnable rubbish that had been collected over the property.

Illustrated Dish

Following the item in the last issue of "Fares Please!" Andrew Mitchell showed the Board members two dishes manufactured by Shelley of England for Tunbridges of Ballarat and which feature illustrations of Sturt Street. Andrew had found them in antique shops. He generously donated one to the Museum and it will be put on display when the new secure display cabinet is complete. Thank you Andrew.

Your New Board

After six years as President, Stephen Butler has decided to step down. Stephen felt that at present he is unable to give the position the commitment he believes it requires. Stephen first joined the Board in 1981 and has been Secretary and was later Vice President for nine years. He will remain on the Board.

Greg Rodgers was elected as the Museum's new President. Greg has been on the Board as an Ordinary Board member since 1988, longer than anyone else. He has been working in operations for the Melbourne tramways for over thirty-five years including many years as Senior Trainer. He is currently a Line Officer with Yarra Trams. His contribution to the Museum in the areas of training and safety management have been invaluable.

Involvement with voluntary organisations often leads to a massive drain on one's time and, unfortunately, our members often find their family and other commitments need to take precedence or feel that they cannot do justice to their roles. After many years on the Board, Clayton Giles has found himself in this position since becoming a father and so after fifteen years he decided to retire. Gavan Dorian, a more recent member has also found it difficult to contribute as much as he would like to and has also stood down. Gavan fully intends to continue to work in traffic. Thank you to you both for your contribution.

Andrew Mitchell returns to the Board after an absence of eighteen years. In that time sons Benjamin and Christopher have come along. They are two of our most enthusiastic Junior Supporters and love to assist dad when he is rostered on.

Neil Lardner has also decided to come aboard. Neil, now twenty-one, joined when he was only eleven and has become a valuable asset in the day to day operation of the Museum.

Although much of the day to day management is undertaken by persons of considerable age (and as retired persons have more time to attend to the routine paperwork), the age range of the Board Members is wide and a heartening feature of recent years is that a much younger generation is stepping up and taking responsibility for the operation and development of the Museum.

One of the first tasks of a new Board is to appoint the Managers as detailed in the Museum's Management System. This year they are:

Technical Services Manager: Alastair Reither

Assistant Technical Services Manager:

Warren Doubleday

Operations Manager: Peter Winspur

Marketing Manager: Richard Gilbert

Museum Services Manager: Warren Doubleday

Training Manager: Greg Rodgers

Depot Services Manager: Dave Macartney

Chair, Safety & Incident Management Committee: Greg Rodgers

New Members

The Museum welcomes the following new members.

817 Mr Terry Lee of Sunshine

818 Mr Bryce Hubbard of Alfredton

819 Ms Hazen Cleary of Ballarat

Bryce and Hazen have already joined our weekday worker team.

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Operations

In spite of the continuing wet weather, patronage this year has remained significantly higher than last year. A large number of special trams over the last two months has contributed to the increase. Groups to visit have varied from seniors to school groups, wedding parties and participation in the performance "Illuminated by Fire".

The Museum contributed again to the annual four day "Copsnkids" camp for children with cancer by providing free tram rides. Our contribution started in 2001 and until this year Dave O'Neil and Austin Brehaut have always given their time. With their retirements, the baton has been handed over to Richard Gilbert and Neil Lardner. Austin also came along to ensure a smooth transition.

The annual "Springfest" market was held on Sunday 31 October. It is at present our busiest "normal" operating day as normal fares are charged and there are many single journeys which assist our conductors to practise their mental arithmetic. As has been the case over the last several months periodic rain dampened the event and patronage was lower than in 2009.

Senior driver Bill Kingsley finally took the plunge last month and allowed the surgeons to replace both his knees. He has amazed even himself with the speed of his recovery and the strength of the new ones. Bill fully expects to be back driving by late January. Our next most senior driver, Roger Salen, in late October managed to put himself in the position where it was required that his left wrist be put in plaster. Covering driving shifts has been quite difficult in

his absence. Roger is expected to have returned to duty before Christmas.

Recently joined member, Greg Fitzgerald has trained as a conductor and hopes to start driver training in the new year. He is a former Melbourne tramway inspector and is a most welcome addition to the traffic staff.

COTMA News

Originally scheduled for Sydney, the Sydney Tramway Museum asked if the 2012 Conference be deferred to 2014 to give time for further expansion both at Loftus and tramways in the city. They suggested that the St Kilda Tramway Museum might take 2012 on instead of 2014. Subsequently, the AETM Board have agreed to run the 2012 Conference in Adelaide. The dates have yet to be determined.

John Smatlak of the Orange Empire Railway Museum in California, recently sent COTMA a copy of an article from the Electric Railway Journal of 1918 about the Sydney Tramway system.

The web site, www.archive.org holds a great number of items about electric tramways. The Australian version is www.archive.org.au.

Pandora, Australia's Web Archive operated by the National Library of Australia is also another web site well worth visiting. It is at www.pandora.nla.gov.au.

Sydney Tramway Museum will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the closure of the original Sydney tramway system on the last weekend of February 2011. It is also the anniversary of 150 years of tramways in Sydney.

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Left: No 27 at Gardens Loop in the 1950's
Note the location of the number. Was this photo taken before or after the one below?
BTM collection
(Photographer unknown)

Tram No 27 in Earlier Times

Right: Leaving the SEC Depot in January 1954
Photo: Ben Parle
(BTM Collection)



Left: A very tired looking No 27 in the last SEC colour scheme at Gardens Loop in about 1969.
Photo: John Murray
(BTM collection)

8. FARES PLEASE!



Tram No 13 plies its trade on another wet day *Photo: Peter Winspur 12/12/10*

40th Anniversary

On 30th May 2011 it will be forty years since the formation of the Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society.

It is intended to celebrate the event on Sunday 29th May. The exact details of the celebrations are yet to be finalised but all members should keep the day free so that they can join us in commemorating the anniversary.

Lake Wendouree

On Friday 3rd December 2011 boating was again permitted on Lake Wendouree which was by then 88% full. Dredging works for the rowing course are well underway and are expected to be finished by next June. This will allow for the lake to host rowing events at a National level. It is hoped that once an ecological assessment has been completed Lake Weed harvesting can commence early in 2011.



Fares Please! is published by the Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. (A0031819K) six times a year in alternate months commencing in February. It is distributed to members and friends.

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