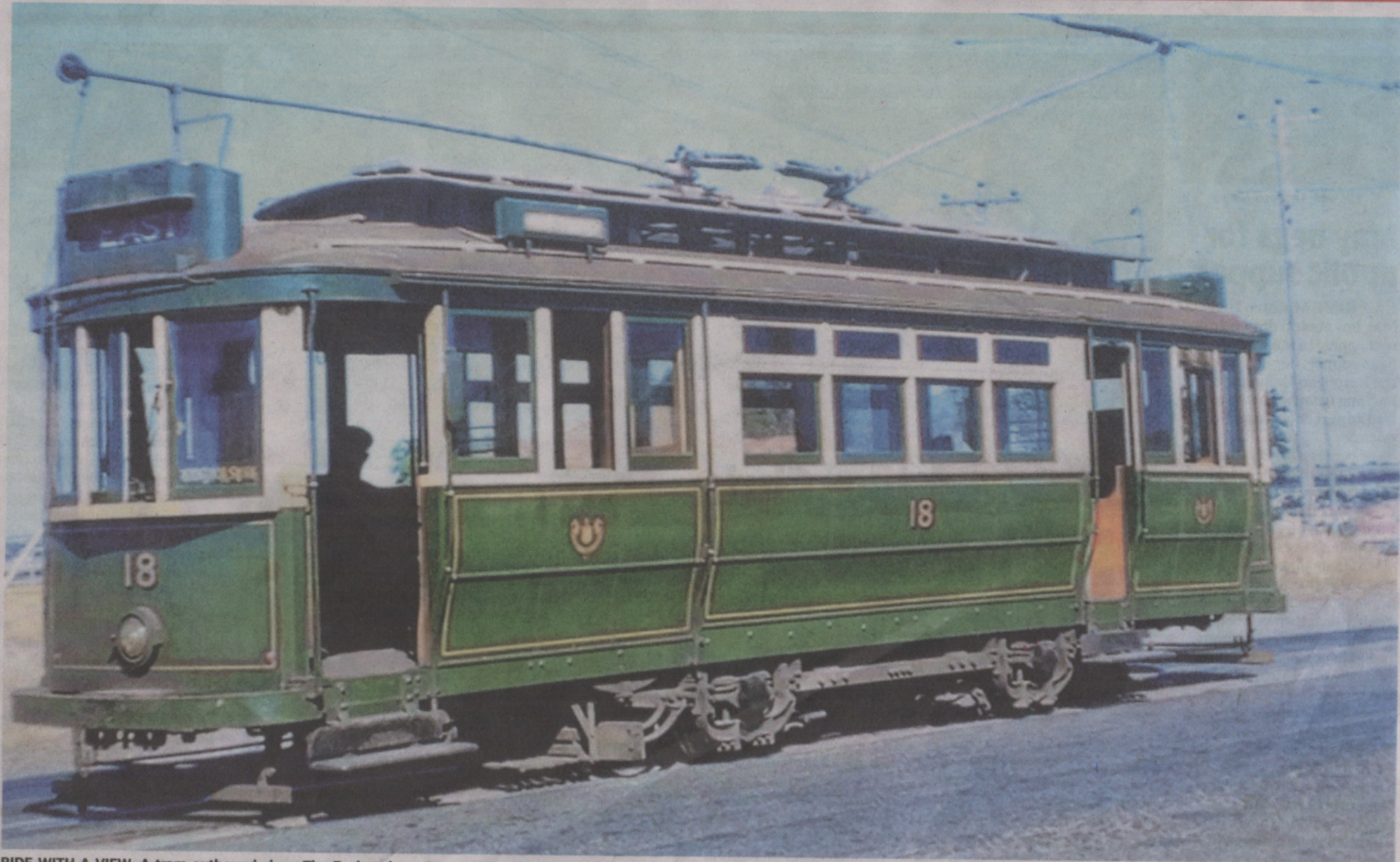


# PICTURE THE PAST WITH PETER BEGG

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RIDE WITH A VIEW: A tram outbound along The Esplanade on Western Beach on its way to the northern terminus on Melbourne Rd.

# When trams ruled roads

IT is refreshing to see colour photos of Geelong's trams in action for a change. Geelong's tram service ran from 1912 to 1956 and is remembered fondly by older residents.

Initially the trams served Geelong, Geelong West and Newtown in that first year.

In 1913 the service was extended to South Geelong, with a line running along Moorabool St to Fyans St.

At the time, Moorabool St had an old iron bridge that was too narrow to take trams over the river to Belmont.

A wider bridge was built in 1926, and the first trams crossed the river in 1927, terminating near the corner of High St and Roslyn Rd.

Today's main photo shows a tram outbound on the North



A Geelong tram on the Eastern Gardens route.

Geelong line on The Esplanade, at Western Beach, with Corio Bay in the background.

The tram service was extended to North Geelong in

1929, terminating short of Separation St.

The tram service had by then already been extended to East Geelong (1923) and Chilwell (1927), with the



A tram in the city passes the now condemned Belchers Building on the corner of Moorabool and Ryrie streets.

Chilwell line terminating at the corner of Pakington and West Fyans streets.

In 1930 the service was extended along Ryrie St as far as Eastern Park, past Geelong

High School, to cater for football fans attending matches at what was then the Geelong Football Club's home ground at Corio Oval.

The final extension to the

tram service was in 1940, when a line was built to Eastern Beach, terminating at Bellerine St, a year after the new attractions at Eastern Beach, including the shark-proof swimming enclosure, had been opened.

Throughout this time the trams had been housed at a depot on Brougham St next to the State Electricity Commission's power station. The SEC had eventually taken over the Geelong tram service and continued to operate it until 1956.

Some former Geelong trams are still in service at Ballarat, while some earlier Geelong trams are housed at a tramways museum at Bylands, north of Melbourne.

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