

The Ballarat Tramway Museum

The BTM is a working museum which preserves the heritage street tramway and trams of Ballarat. Formed in 1971, at the closure of the Ballarat tramway system, the Museum operates on a section of the original 1887 tram line. It is managed and operated by a large, committed group of volunteers.

The volunteers, with help from the City of Ballarat, have built and extended the depot which houses the trams and display area, laid and maintained the track, overhead wiring and trams. The Museum has an extensive archive and photo collection that can be viewed at the depot by prior arrangement.

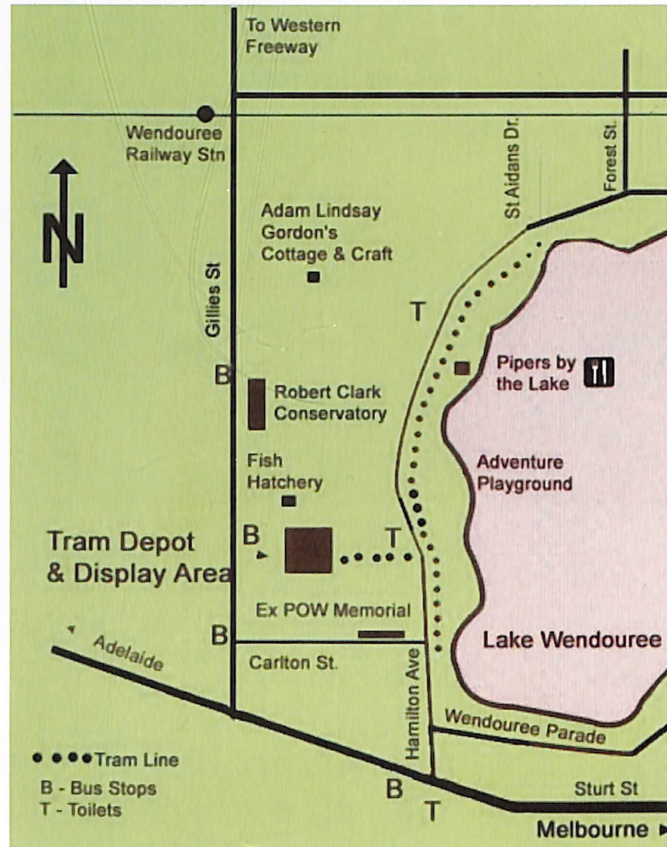
The BTM's tram collection includes the horse drawn tram (1887), 14 Ballarat electric trams, an original Geelong tram, and several newer Melbourne trams, including our special function tram, *Cuthberts 939*.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in trams and Ballarat history. Enquires can be made through the tram crew, by mail, or on our website. New volunteers are always welcome.

Visit the Depot

While in the Botanical Gardens, visit our tram depot and display area. A large range of souvenirs, books, and DVDs are available.

Donations are always welcome and are tax deductible for any amount over \$2.00.



Operating Times

Trams run Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays. Extra services run during Victorian school holidays. See our website, or Facebook, for operating times and further information.

Visits by schools and coach parties are welcome at any time and special trams can be arranged for weddings, birthdays, and other functions.

Our Contact Details

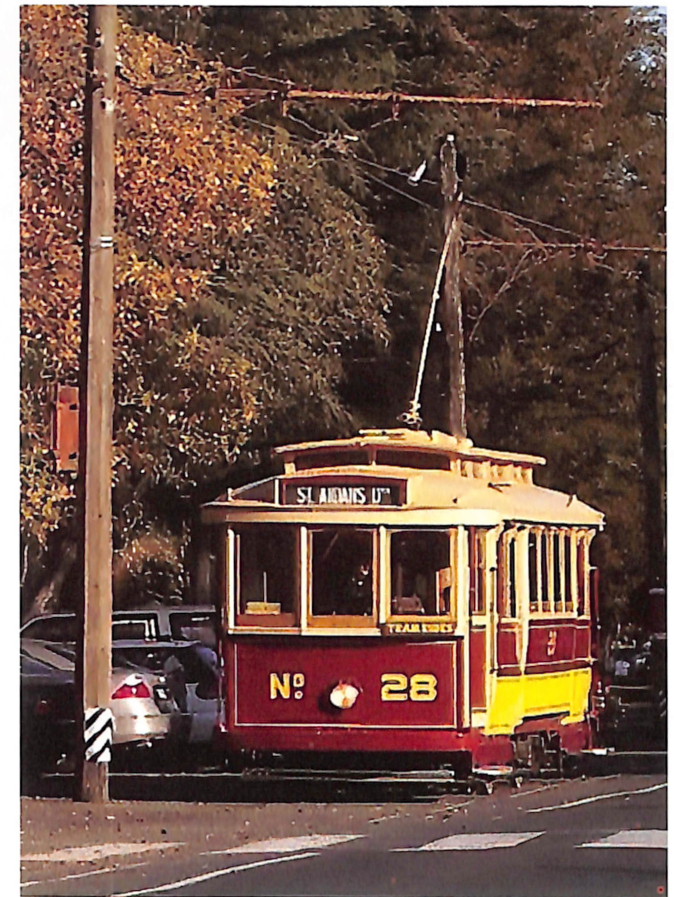
P.O. Box 632 Ballarat, Victoria, 3353

Phone: (03) 5334 1580

www.btm.org.au info@btm.org.au



Welcome Aboard



Enjoy your vintage tram ride and visit to the Ballarat Tramway Museum

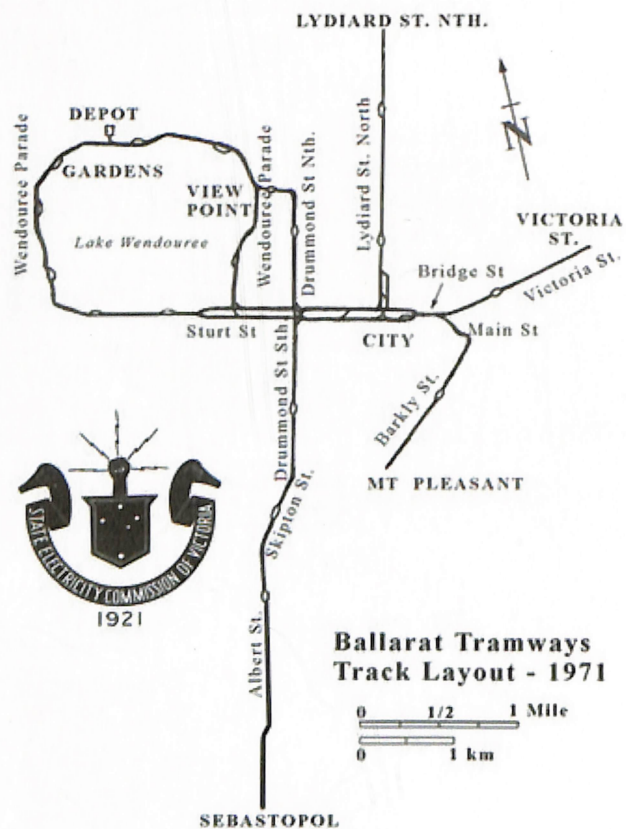
Operated by volunteers since 1971, the BTM is Australia's first solar powered tramway



Ballarat's Tramways

The Ballarat Tramway Co. opened an extensive horse tramway in December 1887. Between 1905 and 1913 the horses were replaced by electric trams operated by the Electric Supply Co. of Victoria, which also provided Ballarat's power. This company was taken over by the State Electricity Commission in the 1930s. The SEC also took over tramways in Geelong and Bendigo.

The tramway was busiest during World War 2, with petrol rationing, and 8,000 US soldiers camped in Victoria Park. About six million journeys were made in 1942-3. Passenger numbers slowly declined during the 1960's and the trams were replaced by private buses in September 1971. The Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society was formed in 1971.



The Trams

The first trams in 1887 were double-decked horse trams. These were replaced in 1905 by converting old cable tram trailers from Sydney into electric trams. Examples of both trams are on display at the Depot. Our No. 1 Horse Tram is the oldest operating tramcar in Australia.



These early trams were replaced in the 1930s with used trams from Melbourne and Adelaide. Our fleet of four-wheel trams are painted in the various colour schemes used between 1930 and 1971. From 1945 some larger eight-wheel trams from Melbourne were purchased for use during busier periods.

The small trams could be operated with just a Motorman, but the large trams needed a Conductor. The tramway was a male dominated operation, although women were employed as Conductresses during and just after World War 2.



Your Trip

Our 1.3km tram line is all that remains of the 24km Ballarat tramway system which closed in 1971. A single track of steel rails runs along the side of Wendouree Parade. Trams operating on the side of the road, rather than the middle, was a unique feature of Ballarat. Trams can pass each other at an original "crossing loop" near the Fernery and Pipers by the Lake.

Tram stops are painted with red and white stripes on poles that support the overhead wiring. Our volunteer crews wear traditional uniforms, pick up and set down passengers at stops along the line and issue paper tickets. The Conductor gives bell signals to the Motorman and "swings the trolley pole" to change the tram's direction at each end of the line.

Our trams operate on Direct Current power at 600 volts, supplemented by 72 solar panels on the Depot roof.



Your tickets are copies of the SECV tickets issued in the early 1960's, with pre-decimal currency prices shown. The Adult ticket is shown as 1/-, one shilling (10 cents). The Child ticket is 6d, six pence (5 cents).

More information about the Tramway is on display at the Depot and on several of the tram stop shelters.