



Warren Doubleday &lt;wad8424@gmail.com&gt;

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**Today's Reciprocal Image - 13 November 2024**

1 message

**David Critchley** <filanddavid183@yahoo.com.au>

Wed, Nov 13, 2024 at 6:18 PM

Reply-To: David Critchley &lt;filanddavid183@yahoo.com.au&gt;

To: Robert Merchant &lt;robert.merchant@bigpond.com&gt;, Phil Bertram &lt;philbertramemail@gmail.com&gt;, David Wilson &lt;drtt@iinet.net&gt;, Richard Jones &lt;richardjones22@bigpond.com&gt;, Warren Doubleday &lt;warren.doubleday@btm.org.au&gt;

An original negative in my collection. Photographer unknown.

Ballarat, Botanic Gardens c1937. Ballarat four wheeler 26 stops to pick up passengers in the Botanic Gardens around April 1937. This tram was built for the Hawthorn Tramways Trust in 1916 by Duncan & Fraser of Adelaide. It was one of ten similar trams numbered 1-10 which entered service between April and July 1916. It was numbered No. 5 in the HTT fleet, but only carried this number for a few years. With the formation of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board in 1920, it was renumbered No. 111 in the M&MTB 'M' Class. It continued to operate in Melbourne until 1930-31 when it was sold, along with five of its sisters, to the Electric Supply Co. of Victoria Ltd. (ESCV) and transported to Ballarat. Here the tram was renumbered 26 in the Ballarat fleet, and it was converted to a one man car. It remained in use in Ballarat following the sale of the ESCV to the SECV in 1934. In 1936 a more substantial rebuilding saw No 26 converted to the 'Ballarat' style one man car as seen in the image. The tram continued to serve the people of Ballarat until the final abandonment of the Ballarat tramways in 1971. By that time the tram was around 55 years old and it had been in service in Ballarat for over 40 years.

However, its story doesn't end there! In 1971, No. 26 was donated to the Ballarat Tramway Museum. In 1978, the tram entered the Museum's workshops where, over a 9 year period it was reconverted back to its 1930 'California Combination' form to represent the late ESCV era when these trams were received from Melbourne and first operated in Ballarat.

***Please click on the image and download to view this photograph.***

David Critchley



**Ballarat c1937 Gardens No 26 exMEL.jpg**  
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