

MAXIMUM TRACTION

The Newsletter of the Model Tramway Association of Victoria
P.O. Box 305 Camberwell 3124

Issue No: **2013.2** **March** **2013**

Meeting Room: Hawthorn Tram Depot, Wallen Rd., Hawthorn (Melway 45 B 12)
Meetings : **2nd Tuesday of each month** .
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Minutes of Members' Meeting: Tuesday 12th March 2013 at Hawthorn .

Meeting opened: 8.00pm

Present: Glen Mills, Kevin Taig, Graeme Inglis

Apologies: Steve Altham, Graeme Elliott, Jim Potts, Simon Steer

Minutes of previous meeting: Read. Moved received: Kevin Taig
Seconded: Graeme Inglis

Business arising: **Working Bee** - Tuesday 26th March - hoping to complete installing poles and point-rodding under the baseboard.
Meeting room key - returned and now working correctly.

Correspondence: In: P.O. Box renewal $99 (pay by 31st March).
Emails - regarding working bee 26/3 and whereabouts of MTAV layout parts.

Out: Emails - see above.

Treasurer's Report: $1,252.09

General Business: **Layout** - Check MTAV boxes for controllers, buildings, lights transformer, and Rathaus.
MTAV Letterhead - add email address to it.
'Tramfare' - Glen Mills moved: 'That we find out the details for TLRS membership and take out and pay for a new membership in Glen's name as soon as practicable.' Seconded: Graeme Inglis
'Trolley Talk' - Glen has sent an email seeking information, but has had no response, so we still don't know the status of our subscription.

Models for display: None

Meeting closed: 9.02pm

Glen's slides: Darmstadt & Mainz - 9th June 1973

Moorabool Street'

Jon Milne has sent some further photos of progress with his 'O'-gauge layout set in Geelong, but located in Chilliwack, Canada.

Jon comments:

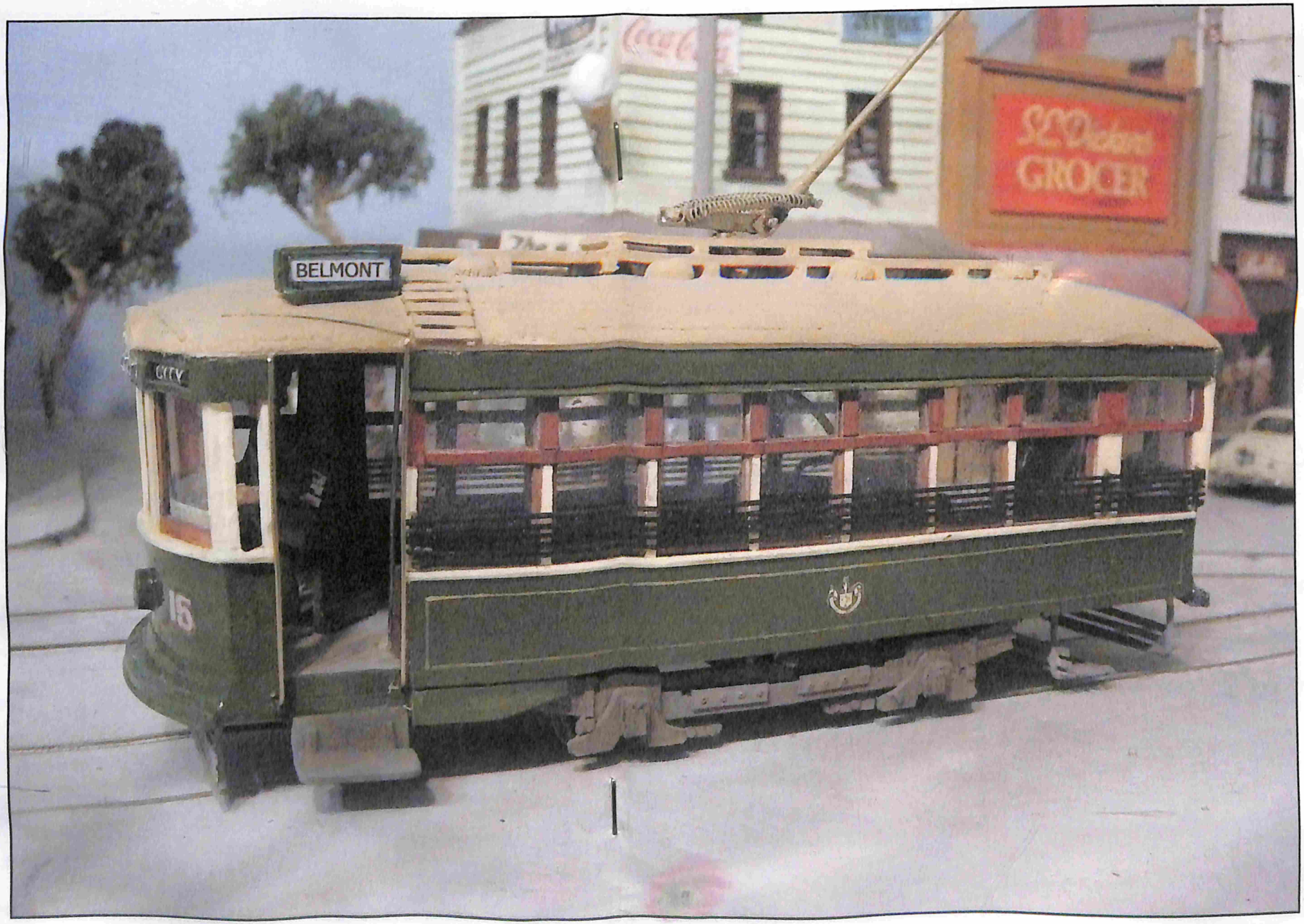
The 'Geelong' Birney No. 15 is completed and I also built a tower wagon... maybe a model tramway first. It is based on a photo in David O'Neil's book " History of the Geelong Electric Tramway 1912-1956".

I could not tell what make of vehicle it was so I free-lanced. It was constructed in my usual method of mostly card with some wood, tyres are card strips spun around rims cut to size from marker pen bodies inserted with brass tarpaulin eyelets. Truck driver and worker are, of course, wood putty over wire.

The Birney is also made of card/wood...roof is formed of wood putty over card strips. At this time it has a homemade truck with card side frames. I'm not totally happy as it has running problems that need attention but body wise it looks great alongside No. 5 and 22. I might go to Terry Russell for a Brill 79E 8' truck as I also want a Brill 21E 6'6" truck so I can build Meadowbank No. 25 (number not confirmed as yet)



Above: Jon Milne's Geelong tower truck in another atmospheric photo on 'Moorabool'.
Centre pages: Birney No.15 - scratchbuilding at its best with cheap, easily obtainable materials - paper, card, and wood filler.


BELMONT
GROCER
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American Historical Resources Recently some information has come to light from several Yahoo groups with historical material about US trolleys and streetcars. Apparently Google has digitised an enormous number of old US books and magazines covering many topics including railways and trolleys. Of course, in typical fashion, most of this stuff is only available in the US itself.

However, thanks to some enterprising (and historically compassionate) American contributors, some of this very interesting material is available to tram fans outside the US. One I have accessed and downloaded is the 'Electric Railway Dictionary 1911' which is a PDF, but a massive 49Megabytes in size. Downloading was no problem at all (except it took a long time!), but in trying to email it to some MTAV members for their own private research, I found that there appears to be a file size limit in Australia—at least with domestic internet subscriptions—of about 20Mb, something I was completely unaware of until now.

So I am prompted to publish how to access this stuff for those of you who would like to do your own private research and not contravene any copyright provisions. As far as I know, downloads of this kind for personal, private research are still unrestricted.

'Go to our web site ***http://www.transitgloriamundi.com/*** *.Click on [Site map], click on [Links], then scroll to the bottom, on the line just under the last link and description (Library of Congress, American Memory) there is an invisible link (text colour same as background colour). If you hover over it at the left side of the page, you will see your browser indicate you are over a link. (In mine, the arrow cursor turns into a pointy hand - yours may differ). If you have a PDF plug-in installed in your browser, you can just left-click on it; if not, right -click and choose Save link as... from the context menu and save it wherever you want. You can make the link visible if you want to by choosing (Select all) from the Edit menu.*

This link is to a copy of the PDF hosted on the TGM web site, not a link to Google Books, so there should be no country restrictions. My ISP's servers were a bit on the sluggish side just now when I tried it out, but as I am writing this it is high traffic time in my location. If it downloads slowly for you, try at some other time of day - eventually you should find a sweet spot of low traffic at both your location and mine, because it's a largish file - just under 50MB.'

Another interesting site (which is accessible unrestricted) concerns the St Louis Car Co. and PCCs. The link is: ***http://www.library.wustl.edu/units/spec/archives/guides/bysubject_stlouis/car-company.html***
The interesting downloads are at the foot of the page. Sorry, I've run out of space - more next month! (Ed.)