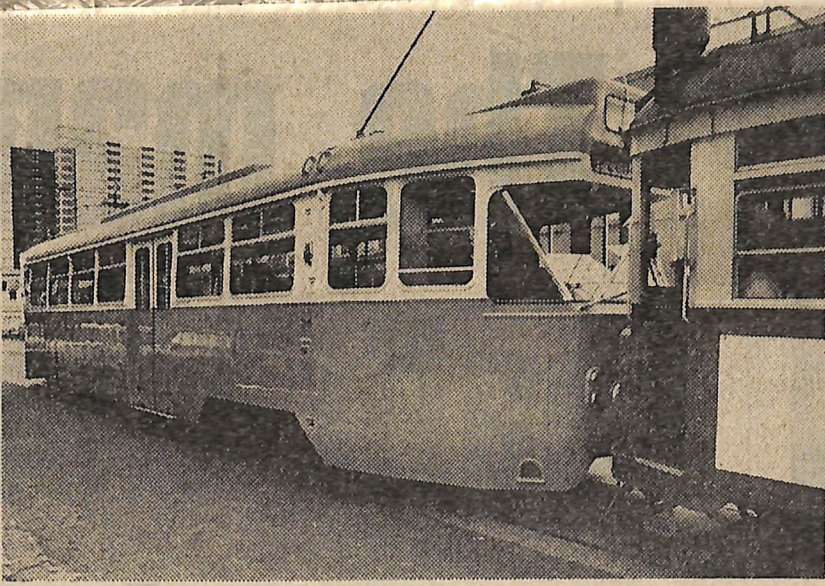


HERALD 19/4/73



THE new tram is pushed along Gertrude St. after breaking down.

THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO HAMER



THE Premier, Mr Hamer, and Transport Minister, Mr Wilcox, stride back to their offices in Spring St.

By IAN HAMILTON

Mr Kirby

Tramways Chairman Kirby was appalled.

Transport Minister Wilcox was stunned. Premier Hamer was not amused.

There they were, standing on the corner of Gertrude and Nicholson Sts., Fitzroy, at 9.57 a.m. — surrounded by 30 reporters and radio and TV men.

Waiting for the first VIP test ride on Melbourne's prototype \$120,000 tram.

A tramways officer rushed up to Mr Kirby saying: "The bloody electronics have blown up. It's stuck in Smith St."

Consternation. Mr Kirby: "I'm sorry, it's all off for the day." Yes, there would be a test run.

But well after Easter. Mr Hamer declined an offer to go and have a look at the broken-down tram.

He strode off at a brisk clip down Nicholson St., heading for his Spring St. office.

Mr Kirby called out: "Do you want a car?"

Mr Hamer kept walking.

Meantime down the bottom of the Gertrude St. hill the bright orange, cream and

green tram in disgrace, No. 1041, was being pushed up the hill by old green tram No. 1035.

At the top of the hill, 1041 was going under its own power.

By 10.12 it was at the rendezvous point.

Alas, all the VIPs had gone.

No. 1041 shunted at Nicholson St. and headed back smoothly — and almost silently — to the Preston workshops.

● Pictures by LESTER HOWARD