

# Comeback call for the old trams . . .

MELBOURNE'S trams are going the wrong way, says a city councillor.

Instead of getting new trams wrapped in orange paint, the tramways should be taking the older models out of museums and putting them back on the tracks, he says.

Tram buff Cr Rob McAlpine said yesterday the old trams could be put on a special tourist route around the city.

"They would be a valuable tourist attraction by taking visitors around the city on the existing tramways network," he said.

"Melbourne's network is as great a tourist attraction as the Opera House in Sydney—and it doesn't lose as much money."

He said the Tramways Museum Society, of

which he was a member, was willing to supply three trams built between 1924 and 1946 for the tourist route.

Tramways union officials had approved the idea, he said.

The trams could run along the loop formed by LaTrobe, Spencer, Collins, Macarthur, Gisborne and Victoria streets.

Cr McAlpine said two events had proved the tourist potential of the trams:

- Seattle's purchase of two old Melbourne trams as a tourist attraction.

- The public response to Monday's Cavalcade of Transport, which includ-

ed old trams running in Spencer St.

Cr McAlpine said it would cost \$20,000 a year to operate three old trams.

The Melbourne Tourism Authority might be willing to subsidise the service, he said.

One of Bendigo's old trams could operate in Melbourne as a permanent promotion for the northern city.

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