

This is the second edition of the Camberwell Depot Newsletter. It is our aim to put the newsletter out at least once a month at this moment in time. The printing of the newsletter is in the hands of the Depot Committee and it is our intention to make space available to anyone who wants to contribute something. If anyone does feel the urge to put pen to paper write what you want to say and hand it to one of the following people: Greg Rodgers Chris Jacobson, Ross King, Lindsay Rickard. It will then be put in the newsletter, as long as it is not defamatory.

Primarily, we see the newsletter as a means of informing depot members what is happening and also to make newer members aware of some of the rules which apply in the depot. It will also contain details of any Depot Committee meetings. Remember the Depot Committee is not a closed club; anyone can attend meetings. A notice will be put on the door of the Mess Room, stating when a meeting will be held.

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At the Depot Committee meeting held on the 5th of April were: J. Russell, T. Habel, G. Rodgers, R. King, A. Lewin-Poole and L. Rickard. Our delegate, Jack Russell reported on a number of issues.

\* Lifeguard on the Z coars

As most people at the depot would know there are a number of Z cars which have been built without the conventional lifeguard apparatus which appears on those cars 1 to 100. Instead, a Bar has been fitted to take the place of the lifeguard. Questions were raised about the safety of the Bar. Preston has banned trams with the Bar. North Fitzroy has agreed to run them and is doing so. At a depot meeting held here a resolution was passed calling on the Board to fit both devices to the trams. This resolution IS NOT A BAN If these trams come to Camberwell we are bound to drive them.

Jack reported that he went to a safety demonstration at Preston last week and the results were quite decisive. The Bar proved to be far superior to the Lifeguard as it is on the Z's. A sand filled dummy was used and the Bar pushed the dummy along whereas the lifeguard was not tripped and the dummy went under the wheels of the tram. It must be remembered that it is extremely unlikely for an adult to go under the front of a tram so we are looking at protecting children and it seems the Lifeguard is useless at this.

cont.

So it would seem we are left with 100 trams with a device which is little help to anyone unfortunate enough to go under the front of one of them.

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TRAINING OF STAFF WHEN CAMBERWELL IS AN ALL Z DEPOT

When this depot does go all Z's, and that doesn't seem to be too close at present, there will be a different training method for staff at this depot. We put the first proposals made by the Board in the last Newsletter. These were not acceptable in the case of drivers as there was inadequate time for training on the Z's, The proposals to be put now are as follows :

Conductors: no change. They will learn on the W's then do the two days on the Z's they do now

Drivers: The Board still wants a driver to drive a green tram before going on the Z's so the following will be put to the Board: A minimum of 60 hours training on the Z's With as much on th W'S as THE Board wants (probably 40 hours) What is important is that we get an adequate traing period on the Z's. We will report what happens on this.

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Many members seemed to be confused as to the effect depot resolutions have on the union as a whole.

When a depot passes a resolution at a depot meeting it is binding on that depot until it is rescinded. The resolution is sent in to the executive meeting. At that meeting the executive can either endorse the resolution whereby it becomes the policy of the union, or it can receive the resolution which means it is not the policy of the whole union but is still policy at that depot.

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For the information of newer members and older ones who don't know, ALL people on standby are responsible for cleaning the mess room, not just the official standbys. Also do not sweep the floor while people are eating their meals.

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SURVIVAL

Accidents

Members are reminded that in the event of an accident with a motor vehicle you are required to give your name and number only ; don't give anyone, police or public,

your address.

Where police are involved DON'T give them a statement. If requested to do so, politely tell them to contact the Claims Dept. the next day

Your Accident Report is your statement and should be in the next day where possible.

If you are in a bad accident don't get conned into giving explanations to anyone - police, public or media persons.... keep it for your report. If the police want to interview you it should be at the depot.

Running Times

As many of you may be aware, the Superintendent of Rosters lives in Burwood and has no hesitation in putting in drivers who are early at Warrigal Road on East Burwoods be they on the UP or DOWN.

The Board is itching to cut the running times so try not to be early. We have got a good lay-up at Middleborough Rd (12 minutes) so lets keep it that way.

For the information of those drivers who are just breaking in on the Z's and are not familiar with the running times on East Burwoods they are as follows:-

DOWN		UP	
EX SPENCER STREET		EX EAST BURWOOD	
SWANSTON ST .....	9 mins	WARRIGAL RD .....	9 mins
HAWTHORN .....	27mins	DEPOT .....	23 mins
DEPOT .....	35 mins	HAWTHORN .....	31 mins
WARRIGAL RD .....	49 mins	CLARENDON ST .....	45 mins

Sheets of running times are available from the Depot Masters Office. These are the day time running times.

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DEPOT RESOLUTIONS: Two were passed at Mondays meeting. The first was a resolution endorsing the actions of the Executive in relation to our joint pay campaign with the two railways unions. The second dealt with transfers to other depots, when Camberwell goes all 'Z' and asks the Board to investigate ways to minimize the disruption.

STOP PRESS: Late advice on the item on page 2. At the scene of an accident you are obliged to, if asked by a policeman, give your address and name only and refer them to Head Office

2/ North Fitzroy Depot have resolved to give swapping cross shifts a three month trial period. If at the end of this time abuses are apparent (eg. 10 hours) the matter will be reviewed.

\*\*\* COLOUR SUPPLEMENT \*\*\*

Ours is a job that has many unique characteristics and features. Even within the tramway system itself each depot has its own peculiar qualities which set it apart from the others.

As any person who works on the trams knows there is a whole new language to learn when you start on the job; the industry has its own way of talking.

To the layman listening to a conversation dealing with "job" matters, most of it would appear to be unintelligible...but to us, terms such as "broken", "yellow" "short shunt", "bang road", "supp", "pull the key back", "trip in" and many others are the language of our chosen occupation; to a conductor the simple words "slaughtered on two round cambers" convey a depth of meaning lost on the outsider.

The point of the preceding waffle is to introduce to the 'culture' section of the Depot newsletter the works of one of our members; for reasons best known to himself he wishes to remain anonymous.

So without further ado the Colour Supplement presents the ups and downs, the agony and the ecstasy of tramway life expressed in verse as alternative lyrics to popular songs of our recent past :

1) MESS ROOM

Sung (or whatever) to the tune of "Downtown"

When you are tired and are due to be taken  
You can always go -- Mess room  
When you conductors need to make up your outfit  
There's a place I know -- Mess room

Just listen to the rattle  
Of the spoons in the hot tea  
Listen to the whinging  
About inspectors in the city

How can you lose  
The air is more smokey there  
You can forget all your troubles  
Forget all your cares, and go

Mess room--where the card players are  
Mess room--broken shift stayers are  
Mess room--mess room

If you're a driver and you've had a crash  
Fill your reports out -- Mess room  
When you have finished but there's no-one at home  
You can always stay -- Mess room

Try and get canteen feed  
To stay inside your belly  
Try to get a picture  
On the bloody colour telly

Could you refuse  
The P.A. is louder there  
It upsets the standbys  
It upsets the spares, in the

Mess room--your home away from home  
Mess room--you'll never be alone  
Mess room--everything's waiting for you  
Mess room--mess room  
Mess room--mess room.

SIX DAYS ON A BROKEN

(tune: Six Days on the Road)

I drive a big green tram  
And I'm on the road all day  
I'm a-ringin' the gong  
So the cars'll all get out of the way  
I'm waitin' for the connie's bell  
When he rings it I'll go like hell  
Six days on a broken and I've got a D.O.C. tonight.

I'm makin' up time  
Keep an eye out for D.I.'s  
I could ring for a shunt  
But I'm not like some other guys  
I could ask the Braid at the lights  
But I could never make believe it's alright  
Six days on a broken and I've got a D.O.C. tonight.

I'm drinkin' coffee from a little white cup  
And my eyes are open wide  
I'm a-runnin' so late  
The passengers'll cop a rough ride  
I passed an orange bus last night  
I've been passing everything in sight  
Six days on a broken and.....(etc)

It's last trip now  
And in my green and yellow steed  
I'm a depot car  
Movin' at incredible speed  
The depot's comin' in sight  
If you think I'm happy you're right  
Six days on a broken and I've got a D.O.C. tonight.

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THE WATTLE PARK BLUES

An Ode to Times Past.

Back in the wattled thirties  
Before the world went dark  
They built this noble chalet  
On the crest of Wattle Park

The trammies on their days off  
Came for Devonshire Teas  
And outside the kids see-sawed  
With mercurochromy knees

A graveyard for old cable trams  
Lay below us in the valley  
Where we played till creamy-soda  
And dixies in the chalet

How we envied the conductor  
On the tram on which we'd come  
With his cubes of coloured tickets  
Nippled rubber on his thumb

Loved his uniform of navy serge  
Scarlet piping on lapel  
Wished we could say "move down  
the car"  
And tug that that leather bell

Above us in the giant gums  
Were bird houses built on high  
Little chalets for the magpies  
Tudor suburbs in the sky

We grew older, came less often  
To watch the wattles burst  
Though Bill, Jeanette and Allison  
All had their twenty-firsts

But we'd outgrown creamy-sodas  
We were spottier - thirstier  
We drank Pimms and puffed on  
Garricks  
Hugged gardenia'd girlfriends hard  
As we parked our mother's cars  
by night  
Along the Boulevard

And Wattle Park was quite forgotten  
Like the taste of Violet Crumble  
Deaf to the call of childhood  
And the tram's Metallic rumble.

-- B. Humphries 1974