

FARES PLEASE!

October 2017

News from the Ballarat Tramway Museum

Local History Grant

The Museum has been successful in obtaining a grant through the Local History Grants Program. The program is funded through the Public Records Office of Victoria.

The project is *Interpretation of Ballarat's Heritage Trams and Their Role in the Community*. In recent years, Council has provided along the tramline a number of new shelters modelled on the original at the Gardens Loop stop. For many years this shelter has featured a display panel depicting Ballarat's tramway history.

The grant of \$8,000 will enable the Museum to design and install similar panels on four of the additional shelters.

In his letter of advice to the Museum, Gavin Jennings MLC, Special Minister of State noted that *"Creating stories about local communities for present and future generations is something that enriches all of us. These stories, and the work that goes into creating and recording them, are a significant contribution to Victoria's social cohesion."* He wished the Museum *"every success with this important project and recognise your valuable contribution to preserve the history and heritage of our great state."*

On Tuesday 10th October Sharon Knight MLA, Member for Wendouree, visited the Museum to present a Certificate to mark the grant.



Sharon Knight MLA with our volunteers.

Photo: Heidi Flower

Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History

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Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Tram Depot on Sunday 12th November 2017, commencing at **1.30pm**. The traditional tram ride for members and friends and afternoon tea will follow the conclusion of the meeting. The earlier start is due to a commitment at 4:00pm to run *Cuthberts* 939.

The Notice is enclosed with your Annual Report. For the first time in many years there are seven applications for the six positions of Ordinary Board Member which will necessitate an election. Financial members are encouraged to vote by proxy or at the meeting.

The Lake Wendouree Masterplan

The final draft of the Lake Wendouree Masterplan was released in September. The Masterplan is very comprehensive. There is little changed from the previous draft in relation to the Tramway Museum. There is support for an expansion to the south of the building and for car parking improvements on the Gillies Street side of the Museum.

The perceived cost of maintaining the track is mentioned and it is recommended that Council consider “the ongoing cost, benefit and priority of maintaining the Tramline assets and infrastructure in a safe and functional manner.” We believe we can argue there is a strong case to retain an operating tramway in Wendouree Parade.

The Track in Wendouree Parade

On Thursday 12th October, President Greg Rodgers, Paul Mong and Peter Winspur had a constructive meeting with Terry Demeo, Director Infrastructure and Environment, City of Ballarat about the track and roadway in Wendouree Parade.

As many would be aware, some of the rails are over one hundred years old and their replacement is due along with the sleepers and road surface.

Around the Museum

The “Big Burger Biannual”

A few weeks ago the Museum learned of a planned “Hamburger Festival” to be held for four days over the last weekend of the school holidays. If you love exotic and expensive burgers it was the place to visit.

According to their Facebook page it was to be held at the tramway museum! See: <https://www.facebook.com/events/159082204671730/> In fact it was actually held in the South Gardens Reserve south of our access track. Unfortunately for the museum the closest the event got to the depot was a collection of huge waste bins which were placed immediately alongside our building. The smell was unbearable. Appropriate complaints have been made to Council.

Our crews did report increased patronage from the extra visitors attracted to the Gardens by the event.

Operations

The school holidays proved to be quite busy even though the weather was not exceptional. On the middle Sunday 165 people decided to ride the tram. This is quite unusual and the Operations Manager is struggling to remember the last time so many people turned up to ride on this day. One of our problems is the complete unpredictability of our patronage.

Visit by the Puffing Billy Social Club

The ability of the Museum to offer a variety of experiences was shown on Sunday 22nd October when the Puffing Billy Social Club visited. A ride in No 40 to Saint Aidans Drive led to a walk guided by Peter Waugh through the Gardens. This idea was successfully trialled last year during the Heritage Festival.

Whilst away, Pam Waugh was setting up a tasty barbecue with the assistance of Aaron, one of our current ‘Work for the Dole’ participants, who acted as chef.

Lunch was followed by a talk and guided tours of the Museum, time to study the display panels or a little shopping and the visit was rounded off by a trip in No 26, our only open California Combination Car.

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Carl & Neville. Photo: Peter Waugh 3/10/17



Nicole & Peter on their wedding day. Photo: Roger Gosney 21/10/17



Above: Peter Waugh tells our story to members of the Puffing Billy Social Club.

Photo: Peter Winspur 22/10/17



Left: Leigh is an enthusiastic Work for the Dole participant.

Photo: Peter Waugh 2/8/17



Hamburgers arriving and the uneaten ones departing. Photos: Peter Waugh 5/10/17



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Wedding Trams

On Saturday 21st October there was another very successful *Pipers by the Lake* wedding using Tram No 671. The bridal party for these is about eight or ten and they enjoy drinks and nibbles on the tram for about half an hour or so. Many photos are usually taken. There are about twenty further bookings up until late next year.

Cuthberts 939

Cuthberts continues to be a great success with twelve booking for functions from mid-September until late December. Peter Waugh has now assembled three crews to spread the workload. There were nine functions between July and September .

Tramcars

The rebuild of Tram No. 18's truck continues at a slow pace. New springs have been obtained as it was felt that the old ones would have to be replaced before too long. Reassembly should now be fairly straightforward.

Tram No. 27 is out of service while the side panels in one corner are being replaced, following collision damage in Wendouree Parade when a motorist ran into the side of the tram when she ignored the stop sign at Windmill Drive.

It was discovered when the cover strips were removed that a small portion of the original paint scheme was revealed. Instead of the cream with dark brown lining we expected, it was found that the 1935 paint scheme was yellow panels with red lining. Unfortunately, colour matching from the days before colour photography became common is often based on descriptive evidence and guesswork.

The panel appears to have been taken off on multiple occasions judging by the large number of screw holes exposed after its removal.

Following the development of several considerable leaks, Tram No. 671 has had its roof resealed and repainted following some leaking issues. The roof is now in a mid-grey colour rather than the black of the last nine years. Other touching up includes the gold grab rails.

Historical Photographs

Well known Sydney Tramway Museum identity, David Critchley is an avid collector of early postcards and photographs of all types of transport. Recently he acquired a very old (c1906-07) album of Australian tramway photographs. Given the age and the condition of the album they are in a deteriorated condition, but well worth while reproducing for the information they provide.

Two of the photographs in the album were of Ballarat Trams. The first is of Electric Supply Company of Victoria (ESCo) No. 3 eastbound in Sturt St with the Town Hall in the background. This tram is in original appearance as rebuilt by Duncan and Fraser for ESCo, except for the provision of a destination box over the driver. At the time of the opening in 1905, destination boards hanging over the driver's dash panel were provided. The tram body originally entered its working life as a Sydney C class tram of 1899, (14, 15 or 16 of the Sydney fleet). It was modified by Duncan and Fraser to provide a longer tram for Ballarat.

An interesting thing in the photograph is the truck or bogie used in the tram. It is a Peckham Metropolitan type rather than the Brill 21E type that all our four wheeled trams run on today. This is the first time that a photograph of this tram in its original condition has been seen by us. *Destination Eaglehawk*, (Kings, Richardson – 1965) notes that this tram ran for some time on its original ex Sydney truck or wheelset.

The second photo is of ESCo crossbench or Toastrack tram No. 20 outside Snows (later Myers) store on the corner of Armstrong and Sturt St. The Town Hall is on the left. Taken on a sunny day, the truck of this tram is visible. It is using another type of Peckham truck. *Destination Eaglehawk* notes that they were fitted with Brill 21E type trucks during 1929-1930, but proved unsuccessful and were scrapped shortly after. This is the only type of tram that ran in Ballarat of which the Museum does not have an example.

The Museum is very grateful to David for allowing us to share these photographs with our readers.

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Our Fares and Charges

Following extensive discussion, the Board has agreed on some changes to the Museum's fares and charges. They take effect from 1st December. The adult fare will be \$5. In addition to being able to buy tickets at the Museum by Eftpos, All Day Tickets will be available there too. For the first time we will sell Child/Concession All Day Tickets. (Adult \$8, Child/concession \$4). Combined with a new brochure the aim is to encourage exploration of the Gardens utilising the trams by "hopping on and off".

The increase in the weekday availability of volunteers has seen an increase in the number of small (mainly local) groups visiting the Museum. Our rates for group visits were developed around larger groups and the need to specially open up and often bring someone from outside Ballarat to look after them. The new rates recognise this greater diversity. There will be a \$40 'flag fall' and then \$4 per adult or \$2 per child. Functions on *Cuthberts* 939 are \$280. Other functions would be by negotiation.

New Sales Items

Two sales items that may interest our members and friends are a Ballarat Tramway Museum beanie (yes for next winter) and a pure wool sewn tramcar. The woollen tram, No. 14, is made from Bendigo wool. The beanies retail at \$15, but are \$10 for members and the woollen tram is \$25. Both of these and other great gifts and souvenirs will be available from our shop on the day of the Annual General Meeting. Over the past year there have been a number of changes in the items available for sale. These include some great new postcards and customised badges.

Membership News

For those members whose renewals were received by Sunday 22nd October, your new membership card is enclosed in the Annual Report mailout. For members who have yet to renew, a reminder will be found. We hope you all can find your way to remain members.

Future Interior Design of the Depot

Following the release of the draft masterplan for the Lake Precinct in which the concept of the Museum joining with the RSL was not supported, the Board has had two constructive meetings to discuss the future layout of the interior of the building. An extension is supported in the Masterplan and so when and if funding is made available it is essential that long term plans for the display, operational and maintenance areas are already in place.

We Were First!

The following report appeared in the *Herald Sun* on Wednesday 23rd August:

Victorian Government to build two solar plants to fuel Melbourne's tram network

THE ANDREWS government will build two new solar plants to power Melbourne's tram network.

Bannerton Solar Park, near Robinvale, won a tender to provide 100 megawatts of solar energy for Melbourne's trams.

The Numurkah Solar farm will generate another 38 megawatts for the network.

Premier Daniel Andrews also announced the biggest renewable energy auction in Australia—where providers will bid to provide enough electricity to power 389,000 new homes.

The lowest bidder wins the reverse auction.

Mr Andrews said the auction will bring \$1.3 billion in investment and 1250 construction jobs.

Legislation, introduced to Parliament today, will mandate Victoria's renewable energy targets to 25 per cent at 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025.

The government says the renewable energy target will mean a cut to energy prices by \$30 per average household.

But the state government has so far refused to release the modelling its figures are based on.

Utilising a bequest from the late Keith Atkinson, the Museum switched on its solar panels way back in January 2015. The savings to the Museum's power bill have been substantial and on many days we are feeding power into the Ballarat power grid.

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Left & above: Juliana has offered to manage “the shop” and is keen to promote the Museum’s new sales range.

Photos: Peter Waugh

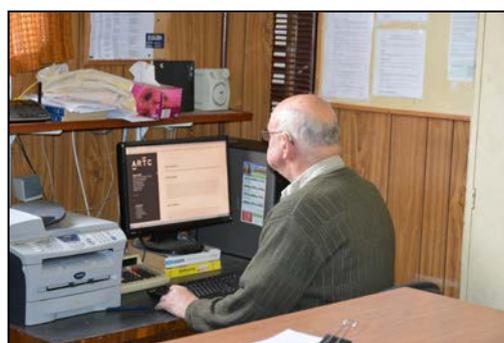
Below & right:
The side panel removed from No 27 revealed an unexpected colour.

*Photos: Peter Winspur
22/10/17*



Above: New side panel for No 27.

*Photo: Warren Doubleday
13/10/17*



Above: Gavin manning the office.

*Photo: Peter Waugh
24/9/17*

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Valiant & No 28

Photo: Peter Bruce 2/9/2017

Electric Supply Company Colours



Our visitors from Puffing Billy enjoy a trip in No 26 on Sunday 22nd October.

The paint work has seen a touch up and is looking resplendent.

Photo: Peter Winspur

Fares Please! is published by the Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. (A0031819K) six times a year in alternate months commencing in February. It is distributed to members and friends.

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