

# FARES PLEASE!

**November 2001**

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*Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History*

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Museum Accreditation Program  
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## **AGM Meeting**

This year the Annual General Meeting was held in new surroundings, namely on Tram 45 at St Aidans Drive. Business was conducted at almost record speed. It appeared that most members must have been eager to transfer to Tram 671 to enjoy afternoon tea as the tram trundled through the Gardens after the meeting. Our thanks to Alan Snowball who provided the “shore” power for the urns while Tram 671 waited for the meeting to end.

Our photo story on pages 4 and 5 brings you pictures of the day – which was warm and sunny at the time.

## **Correction**

In the last issue of *Fares Please!* on page 2, the Editor mixed up the Tramway Historical Society (Christchurch NZ) and the Tramway Museum Society (Crich UK), who visited us on the 19 September 2001. The Editor offers his apologies.

## **Wedding Charters**

The Museum has recently operated a couple of chartered trams for wedding groups. The one on Saturday 17 November 2001 was a particularly important occasion for Ballarat Tramway Museum members Jacqui Edwards and Tony Smith. Jacqui has worked for the museum for almost two decades. Tony, a well-known tram enthusiast is also a Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association stalwart. They were married in the Gardens. Fortunately the rain held off long enough for their guests to join them for a few tram rides along Wendouree Parade in tram numbers 671 and 26. Our congratulations to you both.

## **Best Wishes**

Member Michael Ronaldson, formerly the Member for Ballarat in the House of Representatives, decided to retire from politics at the recent Federal election. We wish him well in his retirement and thank him for his support over the years.

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# **Ballarat Tramways News**

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# 2..Fares Please!



High technology at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Peter and Sam are apprehensive, Warren knows what it is, Richard is fascinated and Stephen isn't interested.  
Photo Austin Brehaut.

Jacqui Edwards and Tony Smith aboard 671 on the day of their wedding – 17/11/2001.  
Photo Warren Doubleday

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## Horse Tram No. 1 Rolls Again

On a nice Ballarat day (sunshine/rain/hail/bitterly cold winds) a unsuspecting Clydesdale horse by the name of Bear threaded his way down through the points and access track – towing this funny thing.

The “funny thing” seemed to take a bit of “grunt” to get moving, but then the damned thing seemed to catch up with Bear. Only a tonne and half of 1885 horse tram! Only restored painstakingly by the Museum! Only a fairly rare beast in itself.

A certain Reg Smith of Lethbridge let our new Driver Roger Salen talk him into agreeing to provide a horse. After a few phone calls to arrange a mutually satisfactory date, the day dawned – complete with a miserable weather forecast. But we Ballarat trammies are made of stout stuff. And draught horses named Bear can put up with Ballarat’s best weather too.

After rostered (electric) tram driver Dave O’Neil was worded up (Please do not approach the horse hissing your air brakes!), Bear (followed by No. 1) ventured out onto Wendouree Parade and set off at a sedate draught horse-type walk for the Gardens Loop. It was agreed that the electric tram could have the track south from the Loop to Carlton Street, while the horse tram would have un-fettered occupancy of the track round to St. Aidans Drive.

Your correspondent was in charge of the hand brakes and Reg Smith had the reins. Bear soon got the hang of it all and I got the hang of slamming on the brakes just in time to stop the tram’s swingle tree belting Bear at the back of the fetlocks! Experience from an earlier era (Bylands/Kilmore) came flooding back to me. The tram rolls beautifully, but needs judicious use of the brakes to stop clipping the horse when he least expects it.

Reg actually got the horse up into ‘parallel’ notch (er ... a sedate trot!) once or twice, but Bear ‘cut off’ (so to speak) when he’d had enough! One can tell how a horse is enjoying its work (or otherwise) by the position of its ears! If the ears are laid back – well look out! A stop or a shy off the track will soon follow! If the ears are pricked up and forward, then the horse is happy enough, looking forward (literally!) and all is well. Bear was most expressive with ears. And it only took him a few goes to understand what a horse had to do at facing points. It was the driver, I had to concentrate on; “You take the left track into the loop. Reg!”

We carried a few die-hard (or should they be “die hardy”) members on the top deck. Sam Boon issued the appropriate Check Tickets and seemed to quite enjoy another form of conducting.

All too soon, the trial was over and it was time to ‘run in’. So we waited for a clear gap in the traffic and then turned right at Depot Junction and headed for the Museum. Horse and reinsman seemed to enjoy the day and the event.

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## 4..Fares Please!



Left: The President drives 45 towards St. Aidans Drive while the Secretary prepares the papers.

Right: The AGM of the BTM is now opened.

Photos: Warren Doubleday.

## Fares Please! ..5



Left: Trams 33, 45 and 671 line up at the St Aidans Drive terminus during the AGM tour on Sunday 28 October 2001. Photo Earl Ewers.



Right:  
Enjoying afternoon tea on 671

Stephen Butler presents to Frank Hanrahan, his 30-year foundation member plaque.

Photos Warren Doubleday.



# 6. Fares Please!

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The new Conductor couldn't stop smiling, the brakeman was glad he didn't annoy the horse with a heavy tram in the back legs and we will do it again in January!

And the really good news is that the horse tram, all going well, will feature in the 2002 Moomba Parade down Swanston Street. Stay tuned for further news. [Len Millar]

## Kids Day

On Monday November 19, the Museum provided two trams for "kids for cancer". Dave O'Neil arranged the day and in association with members of the Victoria Police, some 65 passengers were provided with a very enjoyable day. Trams 40 and 45 were operated. Thanks to Dave O'Neil, Alastair Reither and Austin Brehaut who crewed the trams. A very successful time.

## COTMA Conference 2002

The year 2002 Conference of the Tramway Museums of Australasia will be held in both Rockhampton and Brisbane from Friday 26 July to Sunday 31 July 2002. Ballarat Tramway Museum President, Richard Gilbert visited the Brisbane Tramway Museum during October to see operations there and involve himself with some Conference planning details, after experience gained from the last Conference, which was hosted at Ballarat.

Preliminary details of the Conference are now available. Booking forms and costs should be available early in the new year.

## At the Depot

Despite a seeming ever increasing shortage of time in the week, work continues on a number of jobs, though some are delayed due to numerous charters, AGM's and other events. Some of the jobs undertaken have been or are:

- Work continues on 27's motors
- AETM (St. Kilda) have completed the turning of the wheels of 27
- 28's repaint is starting to be visible from the outside
- 8's lighting circuit commissioning commenced
- Repairs to 45's lighting circuit after a short circuit in the wiring.
- Work on 671 to install battery circuits and other wiring for the PA system and external lighting
- Replacement of the overhead wiring pan on the 2 to 3 road points at the depot.

## Editor in NZ

Fares Please! Editor, Warren Doubleday, recently made a two-week trip to the North Island of New Zealand. Visits were made to fellow COTMA museums, MOTAT in Auckland and the Wellington Tramway Museum at Paekakariki. He was made most welcome at both museums and undertook some driving of trams, learning to handle for the first time, trams with electromagnetic brakes – you don't put the controller handle back to the off position with a single quick move like we do in Ballarat, otherwise the brakes are activated!

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## Traffic

Patronage for the first four months of this financial year has been considerably higher than for the same period last year. The increase has been approximately 1150. This was despite a very disappointing August. The increase has been across the board and includes the school holidays and charters.

“Springfest” on 3 November when 771 people rode, almost equaled the record set in 1998. With market stalls all around the Lake, the tramway operated as a public transport service as weary visitors made use of the trams to travel the 1.3 Km from one end of the line to the other as they proceeded around the Lake.

Santa will be visiting the tramway on Sunday 23 December courtesy of a genuine look alike in Roger Salen. We believe the kiddies who ride that day will receive gifts; and appropriate sound effects will issue from Tram 45.

Paul Mong has commenced his driver training.

## City Tramway

The consultants Booz.Allen & Hamilton in association with Boyce Pizzey ran an open forum titled Ballarat Heritage Trams and Tourism Transportation stakeholders Meeting on 10 October 2001. Views on the pros and cons of a Ballarat City tramway between Sovereign Hill and the City, with a possible extension to Lake Wendouree were discussed. About forty

people including many Councilors and Officers from the City of Ballarat attended the meeting. Included in the forum were facilitated discussions – “What can the tram do for me?”, “What can the tram do to me?”, “Are there any service or route issues?”, and “Hypothetically how would you use \$12 Million?”. A lot of very useful thoughts and views were brought out by the meeting.

The consultant’s preliminary report is due in mid December.

## The *Tilikum*

We recently received an e-mail via the CHHA from a Canadian researcher for a book and a documentary film on the 1901-1905 circumnavigation of the world by Captain J.C. Voss aboard the converted Indian dugout canoe *Tilikum*.

Voss sailed from Victoria, B.C. in May of 1901 and arrived in Sydney, on November 20th. of the same year. Voss stayed in Australia until January 4th., 1903. While in Australia the *Tilikum* was put on display at various locations around the country including Ballarat. In November of 1902 the *Tilikum* was transported overland to Ballarat where Voss sailed her on Regatta Day on Lake Wendouree in front of a crowd of thousands. The vessel was then transported to Geelong and relaunched.

Anyone knowing of any information about the event, please could they advise the Museum so we can forward the information on to the researcher.

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## CHHA exhibition

A successful exhibition by the Museum was held at the Central Highlands Historical Association History Fair day over the weekend 27 and 28 October. The exhibition prepared by the Museum titled *Gold, Gold, Gold and Trams!* can be seen in our Display area at the depot until late January 2002.

## Insurance

The BTM Board recently considered its Public Liability Insurance, Volunteer and Property (contents, tramcars etc.) Insurance. One of the decisions was to raise our Public Liability Insurance to \$10m from \$5m. The additional cost is relatively small. This now brings us in to line with that of general industry.

## Begonia Festival

For the 2002 Begonia Festival, planning is well underway. The next festival will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> festival. The feature event, Gardening 2002 will be staged in the Botanical Gardens along with Begonias in The Conservatory, a Nocturnal Garden in the Fernery, the floral carpet and for the young children, a special feature pavilion titled *Spellbound for Kids*. The Festival is to run from March 1 to March 11. The trams will operate every day during the Festival.

## Membership Renewals

Renewals have been excellent this year and only eight members remain unfinancial. Members' donations made with their renewals have also been very good and are nearly \$700 more than last year. With so many jobs to be done to keep our fleet up to scratch, every dollar is most appreciated. Receipts will be sent out by our Treasurer closer to tax time.

## Vale J.L. Southern

The Museum regrets to record the passing of Mr. John Southern of Keiraville NSW. John was a long standing member.

## Visitors from Overseas

The Museum has received a number of overseas visitors recently. These included a group of six German tourists from Berlin, a number from the UK and two from the US. The Berlin group contacted us by e-mail beforehand and we were able to advise them of the best way to visit us from Melbourne and how to spend the day in Ballarat and include a visit to Haddon.

## Seasons Greetings

The Board of the Ballarat Tramway Museum wishes all members and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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**Fares Please!** is published six times a year in alternate months commencing in January and is distributed to members and friends of the Ballarat Tramways. For further information regarding the Museum activities and publications, please contact: The Secretary, Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. (A0031819K), P.O. Box 632, Ballarat Vic. 3353. Phone / Fax (03) 5334 1580.

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