

FARES PLEASE!

October 2005

News from the Ballarat Tramway Museum

Celebrating 100 years of Electric Tramways

After many years of preparation and planning the Museum's celebration of 100 years of electric tramways in Ballarat finally came together in the third week of September.

It had been hoped to launch *The Golden City and its Tramways* by Alan Bradley on the actual anniversary date of 18 August 2005 and operate several Electric Supply Company trams and the horse tram the following weekend, but various events transpired to make that timetable unattainable.

The decision to delay the event some five weeks saw the book available for its formal launch and signing by the author and saw Bendigo tram No 17 able to join in the celebrations. It was well worth the wait as those who attended the various events will attest.

The Museum's thanks are extended to those who made it all happen and particularly the people of the Bendigo Tramways who worked so hard to ensure that Tram No 17 was available.



Four Electric Supply Company trams in Wendouree Parade on Sunday 25 September 2005

Ballarat Trams are Ballarat History

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Left: After the launch, author Alan Bradley autographs his work for Anita Hutchesson.

Photo Warren Doubleday

Below: An unusual line up of trams at the Depot on Friday 23 September 2005. Tram No 12 still has a long way to go before it can share in the glory!

Photo: Austin Brehaut



Left: Tram No 1 always draws much attention whenever it operates. "D'Arcy" and "Princess" wait patiently for their next trip north. Bendigo No 17 has just departed south after connecting with the horse drawn service.

Photo: Peter Winspur

Cover photo:
Warren Doubleday

The Book Launch Wednesday afternoon

The first event was the long anticipated launch of *The Golden City and its Tramways*. Written by Alan Bradley and published by the Museum, this is a major achievement by the Museum. Alan has written a superb and very readable book. With the expert guidance of Frank Stamford as designer under the banner of Brunel Gooch Information Systems Pty Ltd, Alan and the Museum can be proud of the finished product. This is a book which is accessible to all and in the future should be found on the shelves of anyone interested in Ballarat and its history. Printing is by McPherson's Printing Group of Maryborough.

With the first copies finally received from the printers on Monday all was ready for the event. The launch took place on Wednesday 21 September 2005 in the Ballarat Town Hall, a building which features prominently throughout the book. About fifty people attended including Members of Parliament, Councillors and representatives from many local historical groups. Many members of Alan's family attended and some had even come from interstate.

Following an introduction by Museum President Stephen Butler, the formal launch was by Cr Stephen Jones, Deputy Mayor of the City of Ballarat. Alan Bradley then spoke about the book, his comprehensive research and writing over twenty years, the strong relationship of the Ballarat community with its tramways and of the tramways itself with the community.

Our thanks go to the City of Ballarat for providing the facility and for sponsoring the excellent afternoon tea. Whilst guests partook of afternoon tea Alan commenced signing the books of those who had purchased or collected them on the day.

Preparing for Sunday's Tram Running

As the Museum was celebrating the opening of the first electrification of the Ballarat tramway system by the Electric Supply Company the principal theme was the operation ESCo trams. While we have a horse tram and two later electric trams painted in ESCo colours we do not have an operational ESCo tram itself and unfortunately it will be many years until original ESCo tram No 12 is available to operate in Wendouree Parade.

Former President Richard Gilbert approached Kym Smith the Manager of the Bendigo Tramways and obtained his support for the proposal to utilise Bendigo Tram No 17 which is the only currently operational ESCo tram. No 17 was under restoration for return to operation in Bendigo and would be resplendent but without the planned Bendigo identification.

State Government sponsorship was sought for the transport of the tram to Ballarat. Unfortunately none was forthcoming, but a last minute and very generous donation from a small number of members enabled this to occur. Under the current rail safety regime a risk analysis was required by the Department of Infrastructure (Public Transport Safety) and approval to operate was obtained only days before.

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After much burning of the illuminating lights by Bendigo Tramways in finishing off the re-assembly and painting of No. 17, the tram was loaded for its journey to Ballarat on Friday 23 September. The tram was offloaded and tested along Wendouree Parade by the Bendigo and Ballarat team on Friday afternoon. So all was ready for Sunday.

In the meantime, the specially printed tickets featuring the ESCo opening day souvenir ticket were picked up and final operating preparations made. When the ESCo opened the electric tramway 100 years ago souvenir tickets were printed in the form of a postcard. This was a very popular communication method at the time and it enabled participants to send a memento of the event to their friends. Today you would send a picture of the event on your mobile phone! Thankfully, the traditional book has yet to be replaced by the Internet or other new technologies although inroads have already begun. Will authors be signing CD Roms in the near future?

Dinner

Saturday evening

Such an important celebration should never be without a dinner and so an informal event was arranged by Vice President Richard Gilbert for the Saturday evening. The venue was the Sebastopol Bowling Club which is very near to the point where trams once crossed Albert St from the east to the west side of the road reservation.

Over fifty members and friends attended the evening. Many were in party mood

as a certain ex Melbourne football team had just won the Grand Final after 72 years. A superb and very filling meal was provided by the club who even prepared a specially printed place mat for the evening.

A presentation "Ballarat Past and Present" originally prepared for the COTMA Conference in 2000 was shown along with other archival photographs including some photos of over 100 years ago. The change in the Ballarat streetscape in the last five years since the presentation was developed was noticeable in many locations. More books were signed by the author during the evening.

Sunday

Horse and Electric trams

All were hoping for a fine day. The morning was overcast as tram 28 ran out early to commence the celebration. Just before 11:30am No 17 ventured into Wendouree Parade with a good load of passengers. It was staffed for the day by members who were qualified to drive the tram in Bendigo. They all were resplendent in their Bendigo uniforms which were very appropriate on the day.

The horses had arrived, provided by Lyle Drayton from near Lara. After the horse tram was pushed into Wendouree Parade, they were hitched up and the day was under way. "*Princess*" and "*D'Arcy*", Lyle's two Clydesdale horses, were used to road traffic, working on occasions in the streets of Geelong, attending fairs and events as working farm horses and they were soon at home pulling our tram.

As it was such a special day and there was

a significant cost to hire the horses a special fare was charged for the day. For the first time a Family Ticket of \$25 was available, Adult tickets were \$10, with \$6 for children. The ticket was available all day on the electric trams and there were three of them to chose from during the day.

The sun broke through the clouds in the late morning and the photographers were out. The horse tram worked from the loop around to St Aidans Drive while the electric trams shuttled between the loop and Carlton St, with a tram always at the loop itself.

By lunch time, the horse tram had done four return trips and a break was needed. The horses returned the tram to the depot taking passengers. The electric trams retook the whole line. Meanwhile no event is without a sausage sizzle and at the Museum Simon Green was hard at work cooking sausages, burgers and onions on the barbecue. Hungry crews and members stood around munching and talking. Earl Ewers handed out chocolates for dessert.

By mid afternoon, the sky had clouded over but the trams were carrying good loads. The upper deck of the horse tram supervised by Upstairs Conductor Lardner was as popular as ever. Another five round trips were run by the horses before they started to reach the end of their legs. Meanwhile, tram 26 also joined the days running with 17 and 28. Two electric trams shuttled back and forth between the loop and Carlton St while the third laid over at the loop. All four trams would meet up at the loop.

By the end of the day many members and

friends who we had not seen in Ballarat for some years had passed through. Some were still at the depot chatting about past times and modern day events. The trams all regathered at the depot soon after 5:00pm and it was then down to packing up, calculating the figures and balancing the cash. Overall the day was very enjoyable and well patronised. Meanwhile in the depot, the book sales continued at a brisk pace and so did Alan's pen.

Finally – Thanks

The Museum extends its thanks to all those members, friends and supporters who provided the back office input, financial support, event planning, support at the book launch, arranging the transport and offloading of No. 17, tram crews, loop staff, depot staff, meals, etc. If we tried to name you all, we would forget someone. Thanks also to Bendigo Tramways and their Management for lending No. 17 without charge. The work they did in getting the tram ready and getting it across to us was superb. Also thanks to Alan Bradley, the author, and his pen/s.



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Vale Peter Walker

Museum members were saddened to hear the day after our centenary celebrations of the death on Saturday 24 September 2005 of member, former Board Member and driver/conductor Peter Walker. Peter was very active with the Museum during the late 1980s and early 1990s and was a Board member from January 1988 to October 1993. In recent years he had been very active at Puffing Billy.

Peter's input to the Museum was very valuable, providing support in the early days of the introduction of the use of computers into the Museum's day to day operations. He had also been a volunteer with the CFA and with the Castlemaine and Maldon Railway. His volunteer work with Puffing Billy in their safeworking area of signalling and training staff was very valuable. Peter will be missed by many in the heritage rail sector.



Driver Walker & Conductor Puls
Photo from BTM archives

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Tramway Museum Inc. will be held at the Tram Depot on Sunday 23 October 2005 at 2:00pm. Included with this edition of "Fares Please" is a reminder notice which includes a list of candidates who have been nominated for the positions on the Museum Board. It includes a proxy form for members who are unable to attend the meeting. Proxies must be lodged with the Secretary by 5:00pm Friday 21 October 2005. As the number of nominations does not exceed the number of positions an election will not be necessary.

After the formalities of the meeting members will have the opportunity to ride on Bendigo Tram No 17 before partaking of afternoon tea. This will be your only other opportunity to ride this tram in Ballarat before it returns to Bendigo.

New Members

The Board and members of the Museum welcome the following new members. We hope your stay will be long and fruitful.

763 Heidi Walsh of Ballarat

New Junior Supporters:

5035 Jack Barthel of Alfredton

5036 Josh Jones of Ballarat

5037 Fergus McLaren of Ballarat

5038 Edward Corbett-Smith of Ballarat

Membership Cards

Membership cards are enclosed with this copy of "Fares Please". If you can not find yours make sure you check the envelope or the floor! If you have yet to renew a reminder letter is enclosed.

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Right: A well loaded tram No17 about to depart from Depot Junction.

Photo: Warren Doubleday



Below: In 1887 everyone would have been in their Sunday best!

Photo: Peter Winspur



Right: Bendigo Tram No 17 waiting at the loop for No 26 to return before heading to Carlton Street.

Photo: Peter Winspur



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Book Sales

Book sales of *The Golden City and its Tramways* have been going well. By the end of September we have sold just over 600 copies. About half of the pre-publication orders were sent out on the day of the launch and the rest by the end of the week. Copies have been sent to reviewers and to the State and National libraries. Carolyn Dean has spent many hours handling the hundreds of orders. Our thanks to Carolyn and those who have helped her in the delivery and handling of the books.

Members can obtain a discounted copy at the depot for \$35.00 each. Postage and handling is \$9.95 per copy in addition if you wish to have it posted to you.

Orders can be lodged by mail, by the depot phone, by fax (both (03) 5334 1580) or by email at secretary@btm.org.au. The Museum accepts Bankcard, Visa or Mastercard or you may wish to write a cheque. The recommended retail price is \$43.95.

Some Recent additions to the Museum's collection

Some recent additions to the Museum's growing collection of Ballarat Tramway history have been:

- A note book and other items of driver Jack Prisk dating from the introduction of one-man trams in 1913 – donated by Lesley Dawson of Ballarat
- Photographs of Ballarat trams in the 1950's – Ron Scholten of Melbourne
- One of the banners that adorned tram No 27 when the SEC celebrated 1,000,000 miles of running in Ballarat on 29 June 1968 and other photos of the event by a NSW based enthusiast.

Later research by Dave Macartney discovered that the SEC had incorrectly calculated the distance run by tram No 27 and that by his calculations No 27 finally achieved this milestone on 27 December 1983 with Gavin Young at the controls.



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.

For further information regarding the Museum, its activities and publications please contact: The Secretary, P.O. Box 632, Ballarat, Vic, 3353. Phone / Fax 61 3 5334 1580.

E-mail: info@btm.org.au

Our web page: <http://www.btm.org.au>
