

# Trolley Flash

March 2008

Membership Newsletter of  
Australian Electric Transport Museum (SA) Inc  
Operators of Tramway Museum, St Kilda, SA  
ABN 29 440 648 854  
PO Box 213 Salisbury SA 5108  
Phone: 08 8280 8188 Fax: 08 8280 8528  
Web: [www.trammuseumadelaide.com.au](http://www.trammuseumadelaide.com.au)



## President's Report *from Colin Seymour*

### New Web Site

The Museum has a new web site:

[www.trammuseumadelaide.com.au](http://www.trammuseumadelaide.com.au)

The new web site has been built by Richard Browning of Synthetic Creative Services. Richard has also been developing our new museum displays which we have received History Trust Grants for. Richard has had a number of meetings with the History Trust to ascertain their requirements.

The new site is not just aimed at enthusiasts. The new web domain name will make it easier for non enthusiasts to find us when they type words like 'tram museum Adelaide' into their search engine.

The main sections of the site are:

- Things to See & Do
- How to Get Here
- Make a Day of it
- Schools & Groups
- Contact the Museum
- Enthusiasts Corner
- About the Museum Group
- Members Area

The *News* section of the *Enthusiast Corner* section will come from our *Trolley Wire* Notes. This information will appear on the site 6 – 8 weeks before publication in *Trolley Wire*.

The *Members Area* will include the latest *Trolley Flash* member newsletter plus recent issues.

Note that the site is still in development phase and changes almost daily.

The site is now being maintained by Karl Stimm, a friend of member Michael Green. Michael is attending to any emails sent to the site.

### 100 Years of Electric Trams

March 2009 marks 100 years of electric trams in Adelaide. Of course, No. 1 celebrates its centenary in November this year. It made a trial run along North Terrace on 30 November 1907.

It's early days yet, but the committee has begun to look at how the Museum will celebrate '100 Years of Electric Trams in Adelaide' in 2009.

### Reminder - New Museum Postal Address

The Museum has a new postal address:

PO Box 213  
SALISBURY SA 5108

### Want to receive *Flash* by email instead of post?

Send your email address to Colin Seymour:  
[cqseymour@bigpond.com](mailto:cqseymour@bigpond.com)

## Operations Report *from Mark Jordan*

Following the large number of charters in September - November 2007 operations have been generally quiet in December and January.

### New Member

It was pleasing to have new member Kevin Collins able to man the Gallery on Boxing Day, otherwise we would have been unable to open that day. Many thanks Kevin.

### Drivers

By now, the drivers requiring a Health Assessment have attended the Work Health Clinics. The ranks of drivers have increased with the re-admission of John Radcliffe to the operations roster.

### Conductors

All of the conductors on the operations roster are due for their Category 2 Health Assessment in March 2008. I will be posting out the necessary paperwork in February.

As a result of the recent Rail Safety Audit, I have picked up Conductor Training and will be in contact with prospective conductors once the written Conductor Assessment has been updated.

Any members seeking training as conductors may contact me.

### Publications

The committee has decided to explore options with the books and publications on sale in the Gallery in an effort to increase sales from this important area of our operations. Colin Seymour has agreed to take charge of this project.

### Roster Commitments

Staff are again reminded that it is their job to find a replacement if unable to fulfil a roster commitment. If you are unable to find a replacement to fulfil your role on the roster, please advise me at the earliest convenience (8251 3665) as it can be difficult to find a replacement at short notice.

Remember, that all operations staff should be on site by 12.30pm at the latest (earlier if possible) to ensure we are fully set up to serve the first customers from 1.00pm. Shunting of trams to be used for the day should be completed before 1.00pm.

### Rolling Stock Report *from Mike Bosworth*

#### E Type Tram No 118

Bruce Lock and Mike Crabb have continued to work on the air brakes for E 118. The motorman's brake valve has been refitted to the cab and the associated pipe-work reinstalment is progressing rapidly.



*This photo was taken on 25/01/08. It shows car 14 a few days before installation of its K35JJ controller.*

*Chris Summers*

The first consignment of replica wooden seat squabs and backs for the cross-bench seats in the open compartments of E 118, A 14 and A 15, have been delivered from Husnjak's joinery. Jack Pennack has already applied the first coat of varnish. This has

brought out the light and dark colours of the alternate slats of American Oak and Blackwood.



*Photo taken in December of Mirko Husnjak fabricating seat backs for A 14, A 15 & E 118 at his joinery*

*Mike Bosworth*

#### Bib and Bub Project

Jack Pennack has been busy refurbishing K35JJ controllers. One of these controllers has been mounted on the motorman's end of A 14 and holes drilled through the crown plank in readiness for cabling.

Victorian member, Andy Hall recently visited St Kilda and lent a hand repainting steel framing to be used in the restoration of A 14. The hand brake wheel and associated mechanism has also been installed.



*This photo was taken on 25/01/08 and shows car 118 with the GE B23 controller obtained from Victoria and installed 3 years ago, along with a brake valve installed in February 2008.*

*Chris Summers*

Mike Bosworth has continued rebuilding the side frames at the drop-ends. Most of the new timber side frames are bolted on and step supports are in place. Before the final side frame can be reattached a replacement angle iron side support will be required

as the original one shows distortion due to accident damage and is severely corroded.

### H Type Tram No 378 (Restaurant Tram)

Peter Letheby has responded to the call to help restore the Restaurant Tram. As mentioned in the previous newsletter the inner panes of the double-glazed windows needed to be removed to enable the inner glazed surfaces to be properly cleaned. On removing the inner panes, Pete found he had a job on his hands. Over the years the glue holding the frames together had failed, the result was that many of the frames literally fell apart in his hands as they were lifted out. Quick action prevented the glass falling out. Fortunately Peter has some experience in repairing carriage windows and has offered to carry out repairs in his home garage.

Meanwhile Maureen and Stephen Parker have spent another day at the museum cleaning out the grime that had accumulated within the double-glaze cavity.

John Pennack and Mike Bosworth are currently conducting tests with an inverter in an effort to maintain interior lighting even if the motor-alternator trips off, such as during notching-up when starting the tram and when the trolley wheel passes through a section insulator. It is planned to use the 24 volt control circuit battery already under the tram to supply power to the inverter where it is converted it to 240 volts alternating current required by the saloon lights. High efficiency, low wattage compact fluorescent lights are being trialled in an effort to reduce the current drain on both the battery and the inverter.

Maureen and Stephen Parker responded to the request for assistance in preparing the restaurant tram for operation. They have done a great job cleaning the inside and outside of the windows. **They really need some help to gain access to the interior of the double glazing. It is not a difficult task. There must be some members who can help them. Contact Mike Bosworth on 04 2902 8984 for further information.** Meanwhile the "restaurant tables" with damaged inlays have been sent for Husnjak Joinery Pty Ltd for repair.

### ***Ian Seymour reports:***

The trucks for 118 are approaching completion as far as the rebuilding of the truck frames and all axle boxes.

White metal bearings will need to be re-poured and machined for the main driving wheel boxes, then the casting and machining of bronze motor suspension bearings to hang the two traction motors off of the axles will need to be started.

1013's 16 motor suspension bearings sets will need to be purchased, cast and machined as they cannot

be supplied from Yarra Trams spares stock. 5 are shattered from the trams days in Melbourne for unknown reasons, possibly a derailment. The rest will be replaced for confidence sake.

### **Further Displays Grant** *from David Williams*

One of the benefits of being a museum accredited under the History Trust of SA's increasingly stringent accreditation program is that it gives accredited museums access to grant funding not otherwise available.

As previously mentioned in *Trolley Flash*, grants towards improved outdoor presentation and internal interpretive displays (in themselves work which has to be done as condition for re-accreditation in 2009) were obtained in 2005/06 (\$4,000 for a concept plan to give us a program and outline to work from) and 2006/07 (\$9,000 for outdoor signage and a good start on the Northern Depot.)

We have just been advised of a further grant for 2007/08 of \$17,590 to complete the work in hand for the Northern Depot, new display in the entrance gallery and to refresh the horse tram and trolley bus interpretive displays. This will enable the entire project to be completed in time for the 2009 centenary of the commencement of the Adelaide electric system.

The Grants program is always heavily oversubscribed and we think we have done very well, as this was the largest grant made to museums in the 2007/08 program and exactly what we costed out for the application.

### **Publications** *from Roger Wheaton*

Peninsula Memories, a new book on Eyre Peninsula Railways is now on sale at \$27.

Members are asked to keep an eye out for new publications which may be suitable for sale in the Gallery. If you see a new publication which may be of interest to members, please advise details (including price and publisher) to either Roger Wheaton (phone 8331 9043) or Colin Seymour (phone 8251 4512), or email Roger at [rogertw@txc.net.au](mailto:rogertw@txc.net.au) or Colin at [cgseymour@bigpond.com](mailto:cgseymour@bigpond.com)

## From the Past March, April, May 2008

### 100 years ago

21 May 1908 - First sod turned for erection of Hackney Depot

### 90 years ago

3 April 1918 – First C type tram to enter service was 172.

31 May 1918 – First 10 of the C type trams had been delivered by Duncan & Fraser to MTT.

### 70 years ago

3 April 1938 - Trolley buses extended from Tusmore through the City to Semaphore and Largs.

### 50 years ago

5 March 1958 – Last of the 'E1' cars - 104, 106, & 108 used in service for last time.

30 March 1958 - Buses replaced trams on Sundays only on Cheltenham and St Peters routes.

April 1958 - Car 42 (incomplete) was towed to Morphettville sidings by dropcentre 239.

April 1958 - The St Kilda site was found by Salisbury Council with help from Councillor Dan Mc Clusky and Mac Alexander.

### 40 years ago

22 May 1968 – H car 354 re-numbered 366 & car 353 re-numbered 377 following scrapping of original numbered H cars 366 & 377.

26 May 1968 – Glen Osmond – Novar Gardens bus service converted to one-man operation – Adelaide's first post tramway one man bus conversion. 16 Leyland Worldmasters converted for this service by sealing off rear exit

### 30 years ago

February 1978 - refurbishment of Birney 303 was well under way.

16 February 1978 - W2 class 354 was delivered from Melbourne for conversion to a works car.

March 1978 - repainting of car 381 completed.

March 1978 - Depot Roads 1 - 6 renumbered in reverse order to allow for ultimate expansion.

May 1978 - Cars 1, 282, 303 and 381 transferred to Glenelg line in preparation for Street Public Transport Centenary in June.

21 May 1978 - 500 people watched A & S horsecar 18 trials in King William Street.

### 20 years ago

February 1988 - Horse tram 18 relocated to Seppeltsfield for a Horsedrawn Vehicles Museum.

March 1988 - construction of Display Gallery and Bodyshop buildings almost complete.

### 10 years ago

15 March 1998 – A Special Event Day was held as part of Salisbury Council's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Trees were planted to commemorate old schools in the district (Museum site previously being St Kilda school which closed in 1949 – see photo by F R Kelly).

### Photos of new web site

