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## ST KILDA (Museum Notes and News – May 2009)

**Australian Electric Transport Museum (SA) Inc.**

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### Centenary of First Electric Tram Line

The Centenary of Adelaide's first electric tram line down the Parade to Kensington on 9 March 1909 was celebrated at the Museum on Sunday 8 March 2009.

The electric tramway system was officially opened at 2.30pm on 9 March 1909, when Mrs. Thomas Price, wife of the Premier of South Australia, drove car No. 1 to Gurr's Road, Kensington under the guidance of Tramways General Manager, Mr. Goodman. The Premier, Mr Thomas Price was ill and unable to attend. Thirteen other cars followed, and the procession travelled from Hackney Depot via North Terrace, Pulteney Street and Grenfell Street to Kensington, and then returned to King William Street where the cars then reversed direction to return to Hackney Depot for afternoon tea. Six hundred guests rode in the cars.

Gates opened at 10.00am. In a departure from recent Special Event days trams were run in convoys, instead of single units passing at the loop. The morning and early afternoon convoys were 111-192, 186-360 and 264-282. This proved very popular with the public, especially the two droppies. Car 186 was withdrawn from traffic at 12.30pm to keep Road 2 free for the later appearance of cars 1 and 42. The Adelaide Model Rail Operators again set up an excellent model tram layout in the Northern Depot.

Just before 2.00pm, our special guests arrived:

- Hon. Patrick Conlon MP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Energy
- Michael Harbison, The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor, Adelaide City Council
- Robert Bria, Mayor, Norwood Payneham & St Peters Council
- Hon. Mark Butler MP, Federal Member for Port Adelaide
- Tony Zappia MP, Federal Member for Makin
- Hon. Duncan McFetridge, Shadow Minister for Transport

The 'H' type tram front display and controls proved a perfect platform for the speeches from the President, Transport Minister, Lord Mayor and Mayor of Norwood Payneham & St Peters.

At 2.30 the crowd moved to the front of Road 2 where the doors had been opened to reveal a decorated car 1.

Hon. Patrick Conlon MP, Minister for Transport, was handed the original handles used to drive No. 1 by Mrs Price.

Car 1 then drove out of the shed followed by car 42 (representing the toastrack trams which also took part in the original opening). Cars 192 and 282 then joined the official convoy to the Playground.

Upon return, guests joined the President for afternoon tea in the Museum kiosk where a commemorative birthday cake was cut.

Cars 1 & 42 continued to run in convoy during the afternoon.

ABC television news filmed the event. Our good friend, Brenton Ragless, Channel 9 weekday weather presenter was also there.

Treasurer, Barry Fox, was once again very pleased with the takings.

## **E Type Tram No 118**

Over the last few months a considerable effort by Ian Seymour, Bruce Lock and Mike Crabb, has gone into making the E22 trucks for car 118 operational. Motors have been checked, new pinion gears fitted, then the motors were remounted in the trucks.

Following a number of trial dead tows of the refurbished trucks, complete with their motors, up and down the track behind the works car, no faults were found and the trucks were then run under the body of 118 raised high on the body jacks. The body was united with the trucks and the motors soon connected to the controllers by Jack Pennack.

On Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 118 was towed from the bodyshop on its own trucks out into the open for the first time. Trolley poles were soon fitted and Peter Letheby had the privilege of cutting first notch. There was a clunk and a hum, but the car refused to move. The motors were in opposition. A quick exchange of motor leads fixed that! Peter again cut first notch and the car moved under its own power for the first time since disposal by the MTT.

Since then a number of runs under its own power have been made to ascertain any potential problems, both with the tram and how it negotiates switches and curves in the tracks. This revealed a tendency for one of the pony wheels to derail. Work is now in hand to adjust spring pressure in an attempt to rectify this problem. Meanwhile, interior fit out and painting is continuing.

## **Workshop Activities**

A new pinion was obtained for car 118 from Bendigo Tramways and bored out due to the armature shaft on the second motor we bought having been turned down at some stage, no doubt due to damage in its previous SEC life. Otherwise the only pinion we had was a very loose fit.

To fit the pinions, a large spanner was built for the nut on the shaft plus a spanner was built to lock into the pinion teeth to stop the armature from turning when the nut was tightened. The pinions were boiled in water to expand them so they grip when they cool down.

The bronze motor suspension bearings are complete and have been tailor made to fit each motor and shaft due to wear.

The white metal axle bearings will be monitored and scraped where required to ensure they "bed in" to avoid overheating.

One journal box was seeping oil due to some old cracks opening up from welding repairs, so steel DEVCON was used to seal these along with some extra bronze welding.

Before the trucks were placed under the body Bruce Lock's heavily patched gear cases were installed

## **Track and Overhead**

Kym Smith with assistance from Jack Pennack has been upgrading the overhead in accordance with the overhead report he prepared during 2008. This will involve the replacement of some overhead poles in the St Kilda township as well.

	<p><i>From left to right, Colin Seymour, Michael Harbison, Tony Zappia, Patrick Conlon (with original handles), Mark Butler, Duncan McFetridge, Robert Bria and Michael Bosworth.</i></p> <p><i>Kevin Collins 01 AETM May</i></p>
	<p><i>Transport Minister, Patrick Conlon takes the controls of No. 1.</i></p> <p><i>Paul Shillabeer 02 AETM May</i></p>
	<p><i>From left to right, Robert Bria, Michael Harbison, Colin Seymour and Duncan McFetridge on the speech dais.</i></p> <p><i>Paul Shillabeer 03 AETM May</i></p>



Visitors viewing the speeches from inside 'H' 362.

John Radcliffe  
04 AETM May



Lord Mayor, Michael Harbison in the cab of car 42 at the Playground.

Paul Shillabeer  
05 AETM May



Car 118 is finally on the move again as seen on 6 March 2009.

Chris Summers  
06 AETM May



*The birthday cake was almost too good to eat.  
Paul Shillabeer  
07 AETM May*



*TransAdelaide decorated Flexity tram 109 to promote the centenary of the opening of Adelaide's first electric tram line. Four panels on each side of the tram depicted tram No. 1, a dropcentre, an 'H' type and a Flexity.  
Bill Holmes  
08 AETM May*