
ST KILDA (Museum Notes and News – November 2009)

Australian Electric Transport Museum (SA) Inc.

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E Type Tram 118

New member Robert Hayes has joined the Friday work team, his first task restoring the headlights of car 118 and Adelaide's A Type car 15. Meanwhile, after a bit of experimentation on an ideal spread of resistances for smooth acceleration, the bank of resistors have been removed from their temporary location in the saloon and bolted up in their permanent position under the car. The life-guards, after some modification to clear the 22E trucks, have been fitted, together with the handrails and the 'dog-guard' fencing under the side-frames of the car.

Restaurant Tram 378

A troublesome fuse-holder on the low voltage circuit which had caused intermittent problems with the saloon lights has been replaced with a circuit breaker. While the batteries were out of the battery box, the opportunity was taken to wire in a connection for an external battery charger. This avoids the need to have the noisy, temperamental motor-alternator set running to recharge the batteries.

E Type Tram 111

Just lately, the controller at the No. 1 end of car 111 has tended to seize at notch 2/3. Andrew Gilbertson discovered the adjusting screw for this contact-finger had worked loose allowing the finger to close sufficiently for an arc to form. Some filing away the metal dags together with resetting of the finger, soon had the controller working smoothly. Several other locknuts on the contact-finger adjusting screws were found to be loose, so in the end Andrew carried out a full maintenance check of both controllers - smoothing splats, tightening locknuts and re-lubricating the rubbing surfaces.

Tram Maintenance

Mike Crabb has taken over car maintenance while Ian Seymour is busy reprofiling wheels on the wheel lathe. Robert Hayes and William Adams have been assisting Mike with the servicing.

Track Work

A track work day was held on Saturday 1 August attended by Jack Pennack, Ian Seymour, and Andrew Gilbertson. We were joined by Steve Gordon and Greg Mayman from the National Railway Museum, Port Adelaide, who lent their considerable trackwork experience to our efforts. Together we managed to repair the loop, which is now back in service, and also to replace six sleepers on Road 7 to the southern shed.

A further track work day was held at St Kilda on Saturday 12 September 2009. Mike Bosworth, Jack Pennack, Ian Seymour and Andrew Gilbertson, along with visitor Rob Hayes, have finished repairs to the recently recommissioned loop and inserted four new sleepers on the main line around pole 25. An inspection was then undertaken which saw a further 40 odd sleepers marked for replacement.

Display Gallery Refurbishment

Work has been proceeding steadily on the refurbishment of the Visitor Entrance / Display Gallery. Painting has now been completed and has brightened the Gallery up to no end. New carpet has been laid throughout and a new split air conditioning system has been installed. A fairly new commercial drinks fridge has been purchased and new post card racks have been supplied by Steve McNicol.

Completion of this refurbishment involves the installation of a window on the eastern side of the building, and of the new display material which is presently being prepared. Our hard working gallery staff have passed comment on how inviting the new upgraded facilities appear and how pleasant they are to work in. Many thanks must go to Jack Pennack who has led the way on this timely revitalization of the 'front door' of the Museum and the people who have assisted him -- Maureen Parker, Chris Summers, Mike Bosworth and Peter Letherby.

Displays, Archives and Website Upgrade

Work on upgrading the Museum's displays is at present centred on the horse tram era. A large amount of research has been undertaken by David Williams, Ron White and John Radcliffe, ensuring that details are correct and the best pictures available are used. We are at present awaiting the proofs from Port Signs of the layout for final checking prior to manufacturing of the displays.

John Radcliffe and Christopher Steele have been working on recording the Museum's archives. This task is a huge undertaking and needs to be completed to ensure the Museum receives its History Trust re-accreditation.

The Museum's website is also about to undergo a further upgrade. Priority is being given in installing an online commercial arm which was overlooked at the initial construction of the new website. The new horse tram displays will also be uploaded onto the site once they are signed off. It is envisaged that an expanded and upgraded section on Adelaide Trolley Buses will also be uploaded. The Museum is most appreciative of the work Colin Seymour and Karl Stimm have undertaken on this major communication tool for the museum.




Training




It is pleasing to note that our traffic staff is about to gain some extra faces. On the driving side Mike Crabb has completed his 'not-in-service' training and now has only three 'in-service' days to complete to become a fully fledged driver of the Museum. Andrew Gilbertson and Andrew Hall have had their qualifications with other kindred museums recognized and only have to complete the three 'in-service' days as well to be drivers at the Museum. New member William Adams is also at present completing his conductor and fiscal training.

We welcome these people and congratulate them on completing these courses and giving even greater commitment to the Museum. Even more pleasing, is the fact that both Andrew Gilbertson and William Adams are under twenty-five.

Motor Homes Visit

The CMCA Adelaide Wanderers motor homes club spent a weekend at the Museum from 16th to 19th July 2009. 17 motor-homes were in attendance and members had open access to the Museum. On the Friday, the tram ride down and back to the Mangrove Board-walk was very welcome and the wander through the mangrove forest quite interesting. The ride in the Restaurant car on the Saturday was a highlight when they were transported from the Museum to the St. Kilda Beach Hotel for lunch. The event was well organised by Kevin and Marilyn Collins.

	<p><i>Carpet being laid in the Display Gallery/Bookshop on 31 July 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Chris Summers</i> 01 AETM Nov 09</p>
	<p><i>Carpet being laid in the Members Lounge and Museum Office on Friday 31 July 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Chris Summers</i> 02 AETM Nov 09</p>
	<p><i>Greg Mayman, Ian Seymour, Jack Pennack and Steve Gordon repairing the loop track on 1 August 2009. W2 354 is in the right of the frame.</i></p> <p><i>Andrew Gilbertson</i> 03 AETM Nov 09</p>

	<p><i>Ian Seymour, Mike Bosworth, Jack Pennack and visitor Rob Hayes hard at work backfilling around the repairs to Mangrove Loop. 12 September 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Andrew Gilbertson 04 AETM Nov 09</i></p>
	<p><i>Loop repairs complete! Soon it will be back onto works tram 354 and off to the next job at St Kilda on Saturday 12 September 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Andrew Gilbertson 05 AETM Nov 09</i></p>
	<p><i>Members of the CMCA Adelaide Wanderers caravan club around the camp fire at St Kilda in July 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Kevin & Marilyn Collins 06 AETM Nov 09</i></p>