

Trolley Flash

September 2008

Membership Newsletter of
Australian Electric Transport Museum (SA) Inc
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President's Report *from Colin Seymour*

Training Day – Saturday 25 October 2008

All Operations staff are encouraged to attend a special training day on Saturday 25 October 2008 between 1pm and 5pm followed by a barbeque.

The day will focus on updating staff on all facets of operations – Driving, conducting, despatching, kiosk and gallery and fiscal duties.

If there is a particular area you would like to know more about, here is your opportunity.

Track Work Days

Track work days have been scheduled for Saturday 30 August 2008 and Saturday 20 September starting at 9.30am and will involve work at the loop. All members are encouraged to attend these work parties. Members with web access can check work party dates in the Member's section of our web site.

No. 1's 100th birthday

As previously indicated, a special event day is scheduled for Sunday 30 November 2008 to celebrate No. 1's 100th birthday. No. 1 ran its first trial run along North Terrace on 30 November 1908.

Plans are now well underway and a special alert button has been added to the front page of the Museum web site to draw attention to it.

Details are being finalised, but we can say that we will open in the morning and run into the evening. Various veteran vehicles will be attending.

It will be an all Adelaide tram day. Events include a re-creation of No. 1's trial run, a line up of our 4 'A' type cars and public runs with the restaurant tram (including nibbles). There will be a barbeque & drinks for members after public operations.

Members with web access can check the latest details for the event by clicking on the special alert button on the front page of the Museum web site.

A commemorative mug with the test pic of No. 1 on it in North Terrace will be for sale to members at \$16.00 each (general public \$16.50). Each mug is individually numbered 1 to 43. It is suggested that members with membership numbers in that range should get in and purchase their mug! Email Andy Hall on pa.hall@bigpond.com or phone 0430 545 574.

If members with Membership Nos. above No. 43, wish to purchase a mug with their membership number on it, orders will be taken. Note that this is a once only offer as the mug will be on limited sale.



Some mugs with 891 ABC Adelaide will be given away on ABC radio for museum promotions of the event.

We are also producing a different mug with a colour picture of number 1 taken at the museum to celebrate the centenary of the system next March.

It's sure to be a great day so mark it in your diary now.

100 Years of Electric Trams

As previously indicated we are seeking information from the state government as to what they may be planning so that we can avoid any competing function.

Life Memberships

It has been some years since the Museum has bestowed Life Membership on an individual.

At the Executive Committee Meeting on 19 August 2008, the Committee elected the following members to be Life Members:

Roger Wheaton
Paul Shillabeer

Roger and Paul have given the Museum 51 years of continuous service.

In addition, the committee elected Pascal Labhart (formerly of TransAdelaide Glengowrie Depot) to be a Life Member. This is consistent with our long standing policy of rewarding MTT/STA/TransAdelaide employees who have provided invaluable help to the Museum with Life Membership.

Pascal provided considerable help to all museums who acquired 'H' cars from TransAdelaide. Along with us, our interstate colleagues were very appreciative of Pascal's efforts in co-ordinating the movement of 'H' cars to their respective museums.

Congratulations to Roger and Paul and Pascal.

What is Life Membership? Rule 13 of our Constitution states that Honorary Members shall enjoy all the benefits of ordinary membership, but shall not be liable for the annual subscription.

Change of Opening time to 12 noon

As advised in the last *Flash*, a change to our opening to 12 noon (instead of 1.00pm) commenced from the first Sunday in June.

The committee agrees that we could have handled the change better and given operations staff one roster (3 months) notice, enabling them to better plan their commitments.

However, in light of recent information from SA Tourism and the History Trust, the committee agreed that we must continue with the revised time. The Museum is under increasing pressure from those bodies that grant us funding (SA Tourism, History Trust and Salisbury Council) to be more responsive to customer needs. In fact, at a recent seminar conducted by SA Tourism for the heritage rail sector titled 'Surviving Into the 21 Century', we were provided with statistics which show that we have the lowest opening hours of any rail heritage museum in Australia.

I am pleased to report that overall we are settling down well to the revised time. We are certainly receiving visitors between 12 noon and 1pm.

New Office Chairs

Members attending the Museum will notice that after all these years we finally have a respectable set of 10 Museum Lounge office chairs. The costs were shared between a small grant and Museum funds. Special thanks to Andy Hall, Chris Summers and David Williams for making this happen.

Glenelg Tram 361

The City of Holdfast Bay has agreed to car 361 being stored at the Museum for a further 12 months. The monthly storage rental is being paid in the form of a 12 month sponsorship agreement with the Museum.

History Conference Delegates visit

A number of delegates attending the History Trust's State History Conference visited the Museum on Saturday 2 August 2008. The focus of the visit was on museum management. The feedback we have since received has been very positive.

Camper Vans visit

On the same weekend as the above conference, about 20 (fully self contained) campervans spent the weekend at the museum. The visit/stay was well organised by member Kevin Collins.

Operations Report *from Mark Jordan*

No. 1's 100th birthday

We envisage that there will be three shifts on this day due to an earlier starting time and a later finish. A roster will be sent out closer to this event. We would like as many members as possible to be at St.Kilda on this day as we would expect a large number of the public to attend.

New Opening Time

I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to those rostered since June to be able to start 1 hour earlier in spite of the inconvenience this may have caused. Other kindred Museums have conveyed their support of the extended opening time.

Training Day

As mentioned in the President's Report, a training day will be held on Saturday 25 October 2008 between 1pm and 5pm.

The driver & conductor training will include familiarisation of the operation of the refurbished H cars.

A note to Drivers – When stabling car 1971, the east end pole is to be left in the toughing when stabled to prevent the rope from fraying.

Track & Overhead *from Andy Hall*

Pole 10 has recently been replaced. Three more poles are planned to be replaced.

Members are encouraged to attend our track work parties to ensure the line is in good order for upcoming events – refer President's report for dates.

Rolling Stock *from Mike Bosworth*



Ian Seymour working on a motor bearing bush for No. 118. Photo is taken from a video made for COTMA 2008. Mike Bosworth

E Type Tram No 118

The body of No. 118 has been raised on body jacks, approximately one metre, so that under-floor components can be more easily installed.

The previously varnished replica cross-bench seats for the open section are being reassembled in preparation for installation in the tram. Ian Seymour is turning new motor bearing bushes to their correct size. Negotiations regarding the possibilities of obtaining a complete motor are continuing.

Bib and Bub Project

No. 14 has successfully completed more than 60 km of trial runs, to the loop and back, under its own power. Initially a couple of axle end-float clips were a bit tight and caused overheating. Mike Crabb and Ian Seymour soon rectified this and there were no more problems.

Following the trial runs, No. 14 has returned to the body-shop for further fit-out of its interior and exterior. Jack Pennack is currently reassembling the double leafed saloon doors while Mike continues rebuilding the drop-end side frames.



14 & 15 meet in June 2008. Chris Summers



14 & 15 showing the ends which will eventually be coupled. June 2008. Chris Summers

Membership *from Barry Fox*

Member Subs for the 2008-9 year are now well over due. If you have not paid your subs yet, please do so immediately.

Model Railway Show

The Museum has been invited to consider exhibiting at the 2009 Adelaide Model Railway Show on 6 – June 2009. If any member is interesting in organising a museum exhibit (remember we now have a portable display), contact Colin Seymour on 8251 4512 or cgseymour@bigpond.com

Publications from Roger Wheaton

2009 calendars have been ordered, so keep an eye out for them in the Bookshop.

Displays from David Williams

A new display panel – 'Horse to Electric' is with Port Display for mounting and will soon be added to the other new displays in the Northern Depot.

The new panel has already been added to the History Displays section of the Museum web site – see photo below.



From the Past September, October, November 2008

100 years ago

29 September 1908 – Mr (later Sir) William Goodman was made Chief Engineer and General Manager of the MTT.

30 November 1908 – Car No. 1 was the first electric tram used in Adelaide when it made a trial run along North Terrace.

90 years ago

18 September 1918 - Keswick line opened from West Terrace to Keswick Bridge.

80 years ago

7 November 1928 - An Act was assented to granting the MTT the exclusive right to control and operate motor buses.

50 years ago

13 November 1958 - The last tram left Hackney for City Depot.

22 November 1958 - F1 269 commenced the last run to Cheltenham to close Adelaide's last conventional street tram route.

40 years ago

September 1968 - MTT tower wagon arrived at St Kilda. An area was cleared to the north of the depot to enable the workshop to be constructed.

30 years ago

2 September 1978 - Following ratification at a Special General Meeting to reconstruct A2 42 to a B type toastrack, the saloon was dismantled.

20 years ago

November 1988 - Reconstruction of C 186 was nearing the final stages.

10 years ago

4 September 1998 – The overhauled motor for tram No. 1 (costing \$12,000) was delivered to St Kilda. A few test runs took place 2 days later.

12 September 1998 – The St Kilda Progressive Assoc. had soup at the Museum as part of their progressive dinner.

6 October 1998 – Delegates attending the International Conference of Transport & Communications Museums in Adelaide visited St Kilda. Four trips to the Beach were run with convoys of two trams on each occasion.

18 October 1998 – A Special Event Day was held to commemorate the Port Adelaide trams and trolleybuses. The Museum book 'Trams & Trolleybuses In and Around Port Adelaide' was released on the day.

13 December 1998 – D 192 returned to traffic after a repaint and minor overhaul – bringing the number of cars repainted or refurbished since 1994 to 7.

December 1998 – A 1/10 size model of a dropcentre tram arrived from TransAdelaide for display at St Kilda.

December 1998 – Refurbishment of H 360 commenced.



Members at the AGM on Saturday 24 May enjoyed a ride on Restaurant tram 378. John Radcliffe