

# Trolley Flash

March 2010

Membership Newsletter of  
Australian Electric Transport Museum (SA) Inc  
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Photo by Kevin Collins

## General News *from Colin Seymour*

### Annual General Meeting

The 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Australian Electric Transport Museum (S.A.) Incorporated will be held at the Tramway Museum site, St Kilda, on Saturday 22 May 2010 at 4.00pm. The usual after meeting drinks, barbecue and film entertainment will be supplied.

### Official Launch of E 118

The official launch of Bogie Open Combination tram E 118 will take place at 2.00pm on Sunday 23 May 2010 (our AGM weekend). This is a designated History Week event. The Museum will be opening at 10.00am. Mark this important weekend in your diary. Note that we will need lots of member help on this day – see Operations Report.

Negotiations are under way for a well known state MP to launch 118 in conjunction with History SA.

We will be having a sausage sizzle and the traditional second hand books table will be open for business. Anyone who would like to donate some good quality second hand tram or rail books, please contact Roger Wheaton on 83319043.

Please do not miss this wonderful day seeing many years of hard work by our prestige restoration team come to fruition. Also, many thanks to the Museum's benefactors who contributed the funds to see this project through, along with a considerable grant made available by the History Trust.

### Training Day

A Training Day will be held on Saturday 17 July. The purpose of the day is for a refresher on all aspects of Operations.

In particular, we need to ensure that the majority of staff (including drivers) are familiar with our fiscal requirements and how to perform EFTPOS transactions. There have been a few times recently, where due to sudden staff changes, rostered staff have not known how to set up the cash register or to

perform EFTPOS transactions. The more multi-skilled we are, the smoother our operations will be.

## From the Secretary *from Andrew Hall*

### Displays Refurbishment

The new horse tram displays have now been set up in the Southern Depot shed near the horse trams.

Work has been proceeding steadily on the refurbishment of the Gallery. The primary focus of attention is on the completion of the new displays.

A large amount of time has focused on the selection of the photos for the new displays. This work has primarily been undertaken by John Radcliffe and Ron White under the stewardship of Dave Williams.

It has been determined by the sub-committee formed to control the gallery refurbishment that a second window will be installed. Jack Pennack is sourcing the contractor who will install these windows.



Michael Crabb and Michael Bosworth installing a white backing board for a new Horse Tram display.

*Chris Summers*

The EFTPOS terminal is now up and running with little trouble in its operation being incurred by our gallery staff. A minor software adjustment took effect from Sunday March 28. Would all gallery staff please read the new instructions to familiarize themselves with the new procedures.

### History SA Accreditation

The Museum has recently been advised that we have been successful in our application for full re-accreditation with History SA. This accreditation is vital when applying for grants with Government or philanthropic organizations.

The Museum is grateful for the work undertaken by the Museum archivists, Marie Treloar, John Morphett, Mike Bosworth and Chris Summers in starting to get the archives catalogued to the required standard.

Finally, to Dave Williams who co-ordinated the whole task for re-accreditation, may we say a big thank you!



*Staff from Port Signs fitting a new horse tram display to the white backing board in the Southern Depot shed on 26 February 2010.*

*Chris Summers*

### Trolley Bus Pavilion Upgrade

During the preparation of the Conservation Study on the Museum exhibits, funded by the federal government, Marie Treloar our archivist, identified that the Trolley Bus Pavilion is in need of refurbishment.

Members will recall that no serious work on the pavilion or exhibits has been undertaken since the work undertaken earlier last decade by the late Neville Smith. Neville had the buses thoroughly cleaned, displays upgraded and Sunbeam Trolley Bus 526 repainted.

A sub-committee consisting of Jack Pennack, Christopher Steele and Andrew Hall has commenced planning and fund raising for this project. A number of members have been contacted to contribute donations of \$500 each to the project. So far, we have raised \$5,000. Members are encouraged to contribute to this worthwhile project.

Those who have pledged their support are Christopher Steele, Roger Wheaton, John Radcliffe, John Porter, Mark Jordan, John Morphett, David Williams and Andrew Hall.

The scope of the project will include removal of a number of trees located around the pavilion, new spouting and cladding (where required) to weather proof the building in order to be able to get the buses out of the building, and have the doors functioning as they should.

The buses themselves, are to be thoroughly cleaned and tyres to be inflated to the correct pressure. It is also envisaged that some of the vehicles will be placed on blocks in an effort to deal with deterioration of the tyres.

The displays are already to be overhauled as a part of the Museum's plan of overhauling all of our displays. We thank John Radcliffe with the work he has undertaken on this.

Saturday work days are planned to commence shortly. Please contact museum secretary Andrew Hall for more details.



*Completed new colourful horse tram displays in the Southern Depot shed.*

*Chris Summers*

### Museum Publications

Member Steve McNicol of Railmac fame has been working with John Radcliffe and Christopher Steele in producing a new informative book on Adelaide trolley buses. The text is by Christopher Steele and edited by John Radcliffe. Steve McNicol is looking after the layout and proofing and the selection of the photos with John Radcliffe. The book will be available later in the year.

Members will recall the Museum had an excellent quality guidebook produced in the early 1980s. The Museum committee has decided to produce a similar book suitably updated to bring it up to the present. Steve McNicol has provided some costings, and the new book will be similar in size and content as the recent *Adelaide Trams Today* publication by Railmac. John Radcliffe, Chris Andrews and Ron White are being enlisted to assist Steve with this new look publication.

### Grants Facilitator

The Museum committee has decided to seek an external grants facilitator to procure funding from government and philanthropic organizations to assist in further developing the Museum's aims.

Museum secretary Andrew Hall, along with his predecessor Dave Williams called for expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons. We had an excellent response from Heather Millar who does the same work for the Cancer Council S.A.

Andrew and David met with Heather recently at the Museum and Heather is currently working on a number of avenues for funding as this newsletter goes to print. Something that has already arisen is the need for our Honorary Archivist, Marie Treloar to work closely with Heather.

It has been identified in seeking federal funding for the Museum by Heather that once Marie completes the conservation study, she will then need to complete a preservation study. Heather is currently working on obtaining funding for Marie to perform the preservation study.

Heather will primarily report to David Williams as does Marie Treloar and Secretary Andrew Hall is ultimately responsible for Heather at the committee level.



*John Morphett and Marie Treloar with the new Archives computer on 12 February 2010.*

*Chris Summers*

### New Volunteers

The Museum has been fortunate to pick up two new members through the Museum website. Firstly, we extend a warm welcome to Brad Langshaw who is very interested in Rail Safety accreditation and willing to contribute extensively to this part of the Museum activities.

Secondly, we give another warm welcome to Charles Rodgers who has over 40 years experience in wood machining and finishing. Charles has already settled in working with Bruce Lock and Mike Crabb and has fitted in very well with the Friday gang.

### Rail Safety Accreditation

The Museum has been advised that it passed its annual safety check with the regulator. It has been identified though that the Museum's Safety Management System manual requires an upgrade. To achieve this, a subcommittee has been set up to deal with the critical tasks. The committee will be chaired by President Ian Seymour and consists of Chris Andrews, Kym Smith and Brad Langshaw. Colin Seymour will act as a consultant to this committee where required.

### Trolley Flash by Email

Are you receiving your Trolley Flash by email? Many members are – and they receive it much sooner. If you would like to receive Trolley Flash by email, just email your details to Colin Seymour: [cqseymour@bigpond.com](mailto:cqseymour@bigpond.com)

### Operations Report *from Mark Jordan*

#### Operations Staff

John Porter has successfully completed the written assessment for Conductor Training, so he now only requires practical training on operation days.

All the members requiring a category 1 or 2 medical have successfully passed with no restrictions.

#### History Week

During History Week in May we will be opening an extra 2 days - Friday 21 May and Friday 28 May. Fortunately, the Friday Gang will fill this void, but we will need extra members on 23 May for the official launch of E 118 into traffic. New member Damian Hill and John Porter will man the gallery, but as our operating hours will be 10.00am to 5.00pm on this day and we will be running convoys, extra drivers and conductors are required. Please contact me if you are able to help out on this day. Contact details: phone (h) 8251 3665, fax (w) 8365 3493 e-mail [mark.jordan2@bigpond.com](mailto:mark.jordan2@bigpond.com)

#### Charters

The Museum is fortunate to be again hosting a large number of charters, but generally Ron White and Roger Wheaton are the only members availing themselves for this important part of our operations. Recently (week ending 21 February this accounted for \$1,000 in revenue), so I wish to thank Ron and Roger for their contribution, but surely there are other (retired) members that could also assist with this duty. A list of upcoming charters is in the Member's Lounge.



*A scout group visited the Museum on 28 February 2010.*

*John Radcliffe*

### **Rolling Stock** from Mike Bosworth

#### **E Type Tram No 118**

Jack Pennack is applying the second coat of paint to this tram with assistance from Peter Letheby. Laminated safety glass has been cut to shape and is now fitted in the bulkhead. Side destination boxes with destination rolls, refurbished by John Radcliffe, have been refitted to the roof. Lamp holders for the saloon and cross-bench sections are slowly being installed, after receiving a much needed polishing.



*Michael Crabb & Bruce Lock working on the air brake assembly on 'Bib & Bub' tram 14 on Friday 26 February 2010.*

*Chris Summers*

#### **Bib & Bub**

Bruce Lock and Michael Crabb have made much progress fabricating and fitting connecting arms and rods for the brakes in car No. 15.

#### **Big Wheel Turning**

The Wheel Lathe is operational again. An open circuited resistor deep within the control box was the cause of the problem. It's quite a sight to see Ian at the controls with shards of metal peeling off the tram

tyres accompanied by the noise of gears meshing.

Work will now commence on motor suspension bearings for Ballarat's tram 38 machining them to match their axles and paying a visit to Ballarat to measure their motors. This work involves using the vertical borer, lathe milling machine and shaper in the Museums workshop.



*Andrew Gilbertson, Mike Crabb and Ian Seymour have just rolled the last wheel to be turned for Ballarat's tram 38 from the lathe shed to the workshop on 26 February 2010. The channel behind Ian is used as a rail track for the trolley to run in between both sheds.*

*Chris Summers*



*The wheel set is then removed from the trolley and lowered. The channel railway is then removed and doors shut.*

*Chris Summers*

## Track and Overhead *from Andrew Gilbertson*

After the summer hiatus, the track and overhead team has made an early start on 2010. On Saturday, 23 January, Mike Bosworth, Mark Jordan, Jack Pennack, Ian Seymour and I were at the museum to fabricate and install a temporary 'pull off' at the end of the concreted track located at the St Kilda playground.

This was in preparation for Salisbury Council to remove the overhead beyond this location, and subsequently to remove the track. All infrastructure beyond the end of the concreted section is in very poor repair, and our current operations no longer require running down to the former beach terminus. This was accomplished on the day, with Jack acting as our overhead power supply operator.



*Mark Jordan, Mike Bosworth and Ian Seymour with works tram W2 354 under our newly constructed pull off at the St Kilda playground terminus on Saturday 23 January 2010.*

*Andrew Gilbertson*

On Friday 19 February, a Salisbury Council team worked at St Kilda in order to cut down the overhead above the unused track to the old terminus. Mike Bosworth, Jack Pennack and I were there to witness it's removal, and also to prepare a more permanent termination to the trolley wire. The permanent fixtures for the end of the span wire were assembled in the workshop at the Museum by Mike Bosworth, William Adams and I on that day and the following Sunday (21 Feb), and they were installed on Friday 26 February by Mike Bosworth and I.

On Saturday 22 March, in spite of the need to vote in the state election, I was joined by Mike Bosworth, Graham Jordan, Mark Jordan, Jack Pennack, Ian Seymour and Kym Smith out at the Museum for a day of track work. We proceeded down the line to the vicinity of the Samphire Road level crossing where we replaced the remaining 5 sleepers that I marked in September last year with new hardwood sleepers. We had the old ones out, trenches

widened, replacement sleepers positioned, drilled and spiked in, AND had two sleepers fully packed *before lunchtime!* See what more bodies let us accomplish?



*The work crew cuts the last span wire to bring down the overhead on the unconcreted section of track to the old terminus at St Kilda. Mike Bosworth watches on from the side. Friday 19 February 2010.*

*Andrew Gilbertson*

Jack Pennack and Mike Bosworth went to work on 118 after lunch, and the rest of us made short work of the remaining packing before heading down the line to have a bit of a look. We found that one of the sections where the 'single truckers' kick around a bit was significantly over gauge, but we were able to bring in and re-spike the northern rail to bring it back to 'spec'. After completing this work we went back to the Museum, before Graham Jordan and I grabbed some paint, a sledgehammer and the track gauge off the works car and walked the line marking sleepers for replacement, and noting which joints and sections of rail require attention.



*Andrew Gilbertson with W2 354 and the newly installed pull off at St Kilda on 26 February 2010.*

*Michael Bosworth*

The track work calendar for 2010 has also been decided upon. Track work will be held on the following Saturdays throughout the year: 17 April, 12 June, 10 July, 7 August, 4 September, 9 October and 20 November. I invite all interested members and friends of the Museum to attend. The maintenance

of our tramway is crucial to our ongoing operations, and many hands will make light work, so mark them in you diaries! Further details are on the Museum website in the Members' area.

## 2010 COTMA Conference

### COTMA CONFERENCE 2010 – Wellington 16 to 22 September

**Location:** The conference location is The Comfort/Quality Hotel in Cuba St Te Aro, <http://www.hotelwellington.co.nz/>

**Bookings:** Bookings are due to open around the end of March 2010 and to run till about a month before the conference, an online registration page will be added to Wellington Tramway Museum and the COTMA websites along with a downloadable PDF registration form. As only the conference costs will be charged at time of registration we are establishing an online payment system, all accommodation costs will need to be settled upon departure. **(please note further changes are being considered to this in an attempt to keep costs down and we will keep you informed).**

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**Pre Conference Trip:** Warren Doubleday is planning a visit to Christchurch for a few days including visits to Ferrymead, Christchurch City Tramway and other places of interest finishing with a trip on the Coastal Pacific Train from Christchurch to Picton and a trip across Cook Strait on Wednesday 15th arriving in the evening, accommodation will be at the same hotel as for the conference and Thursday day would be open for wandering around Wellington. Contact Warren on [tramwad@alphalink.com.au](mailto:tramwad@alphalink.com.au) for further booking info.

**Post Conference Tours:** A post conference tour is under planning with the assistance of Richard Gilbert (Ballarat Tramways) who recently visited Wellington on a planning trip, the initial plan is for a three day trip starting on Wed 23rd Sept finishing Friday night 25th in Auckland, Richard is also planning a visit to MOTAT and other places of interest over the weekend of 26 and 27 Sept.

Please register you interest in attending with Bryce via email at [cotma2010@paradise.net.nz](mailto:cotma2010@paradise.net.nz) or ring me on +64 (0) 21 220 2009 to be added to the update lists and again if there is any queries.

*Bryce Pender*

Convenor Cotma Conference 2010 Wellington New Zealand.

## From the Past March, April, May 2010

### 130 years ago

25 May 1880 – North Terrace railway line to Glenelg opened (closed 1929).

### 100 years ago

9 March 1910 - Hindmarsh via Parker Street and Henley to City lines and Adelaide Railway Station Loop opened.

28 May 1910 - Unley siding opened.

### 90 years ago

27 March 1920 – MTT announced plans to erect an imposing eight storey office block above the proposed City Depot.

### 80 years ago

20 May 1930 - MTT horse transport service commenced to Morphettville Racecourse with Phar Lap as first passenger - Horse boxes A & B were towed by dropcentre cars 274 & 275.

### 40 years ago

1 March 1970 - Semaphore fuel bus service reverted to Hart Street route following opening of new Jervois Bridge.

March 1970 - Erection of roofing timbers on the new workshop commenced. Engineering & Water Supply Dept. placed tree guards around Museum trees after

they were taken to by a flock of sheep.

### 30 years ago

May 1980 - Museum received a Recreation & Sport grant of \$1726 for the purchase of a lathe.

### 20 years ago

March 1990 - The Welding Shed which had previously been dismantled to make room for the Bodyshop was re-erected on northern side of Rd 2 between Workshop and Bodyshop.

### 10 years ago

19 March 2000 – A 'Celebrate St Kilda Day' was held in conjunction with the Salisbury Council and was attended by The Governor of SA, Sir Eric Neale.

## Donations for Projects

As indicated in the Secretary's Report, there are a number of projects which can be advanced by donating to. Christopher Steele has suggested that we attach a Donation Form to future issues of *Trolley Flash*. We might take him up on the idea! In the meantime, you'll shortly receive a Pledge form with your AGM Notice.