

## SPER NEWS

NO. 21 FEBRUARY, 1979

### SOCIAL MEETINGS

The following meeting dates have been arranged for the rest of the year. The meetings will be held at the Transport Institute and will commence at 7.00 p.m. as we have to vacate the room by 10.00 p.m.

FRIDAY 4TH MAY

FRIDAY 29TH JUNE (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)

FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST

FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER

A tentative date of Monday 10th September, has been set for the 'SALE BY TENDER'.

As last year's Childrens Christmas Party was a successful event, 1st December has been provisionally set aside for this years one.

### WORK DAYS

The following Saturdays have been reserved for Major Work Days

SATURDAY 21ST APRIL

SATURDAY 12TH MAY

SATURDAY 9TH JUNE

SATURDAY 14TH JULY

SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST

SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER

SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER

We would like as many Members as possible to attend these Work Days so that preparation of the Building Steelwork for the New Site can proceed as rapidly as possible. The Museum is almost always open every Saturday, so if you cannot attend on the Second Saturday there is plenty of work that has to be done.

### CENTREPOINT DISPLAY

The Society was invited to participate in a Railway Oriented Display at the Centrepont Shopping Complex, originally planned to coincide with the opening of the Eastern Suburbs Railway. The Display lost some of its impact when the opening of the E.S.R. was put back a couple of months.

Following a frantic last minute building programme, a mock-up Signal Box-come-Bookshop Kiosk was built in Bob Cowing's garage, in near century temperatures. Our display of photographs, models and other exhibits was set up on the Sunday immediately prior to the two week display period.

The overall display was a success and favourable comment was received from the Centrepont Publicity Officer, Mr. John Boyd, on the professionalism of our display.

Many thanks go to those who manned the display, such as: Jim O'Brien, Tony Buckland, Dick Hall, plus the others and to Bob Cowing, David Rawlings and Peter Hallen who worked to build the Signal Box. A special thanks to Bob's wife Kathy, who prepared all the display name tags and photograph captions, working to midnight on one occasion.

We now have a basic set up for other exhibitions, so if any member who is interested in participating in external displays would please contact David Rawlings.

### 'W2'IN SYDNEY

One of the "Pop Art" W2 Melbourne trams No. 234 arrived in Sydney on Sunday, 4th March. It was spotted passing through Casula by some friends of S.P.E.R. They stopped and asked the truck driver where the tram was bound for. The driver's reply was that it was to be displayed in Hyde Park as an advertisement for the Mooba Festival in Melbourne.

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'W2' in Sydney cont.

Monday morning saw the 'W2' arrive in Hyde Park at the northern end. A stage was erected for a Jazz Band to perform on. The tram itself was open for inspection and it housed all the give away pamphlets, etc., on Melbourne.

On Saturday 10th March, the 'W2' was on its way home bright and early.

### TOURS

On Saturday, 17th March, a group of members and friends partook in a bus tour of the Parramatta Tramway, Manly and some of the Eastern Suburbs lines. The tour started at Parramatta Station at 2.00 p.m. and returned there a little after 10.00 p.m. Although the weather was inclement, all who partook had an enjoyable time. A break was held in the city at 6.30 p.m. for dinner and most of us went to a Chinese Restaurant in Haymarket. The bus used was one of Cumberland Bus Company's Leyland Nationals. The tour raised some \$80.00 odd for the Museum.

Following a recent successful coach tour to the Zig Zag Railway, a repeat tour is being planned. Further information can be obtained about coach tours from Danny Urbas.

Thoughts have been given to a tour with a difference. Several years ago, a group of members camped (YES CAMPED) out at Newnes over a weekend and all those present had an enjoyable time.

This proposed weekend is hoped to be slightly more comfortable, however. In the mountains south of Oberon are some of the most famous Limestone Caves in the World, the Jenolan Caves.

It is proposed to arrive Saturday afternoon and go for a tour through some of the caves. Saturday night would be spent at the Caves House, an old world establishment in itself. It has not yet been decided whether to go by coach, rail/coach, or by private vehicles.

Tours cont.

Should you be interested in going or have any thoughts on such a weekend, please contact Peter Kahn on 4983820 by Easter so that the feasibility of Weekend Tours can be assessed.

If this proposed tour does occur, it may be possible to visit Newnes and Zig Zag on the same weekend. The weekend all-inclusive cost would be around \$60.00 per person.

#### A BAR-BE-QUE AT LOFTUS

A bar-be-que will be held at Loftus on Saturday, 14th April, to commemorate 10 years of the closure of Brisbane Tramways. So bring yourself, wife family and come along to aid us to remember the Brisbane Tramways. Please bring usual items like food, cutlery, plates, etc., and of course money. There will be movie films shown of the last ten years of the system.

#### RECYCLING

One of our continuingly successful fun raising activities is the collection and recycling of aluminium cans. To assist our small workforce PLEASE CRUSH all cans prior to delivery to Loftus as it saves valuable Tram Restoration time.

#### TWO BLITZ TRUCKS SOLD

Our two Blitz Trucks have been sold after several years of non use. Thought had been given to making one good one out of the two, but as workers for such a project could not be spared, this idea was abandoned. The space made available was soon used by the arrival of Trolley Bus 19.

#### SCRUBBER CAR

After some three months in the limelight, Scrubber Car 134s now rests quietly at Loftus down the back of 2 road. The car returned on Saturday 30th December, after covering some 760 miles (1220 km) scrubbing the E.S.R.'s rails to obtain less wheel to track noise and better electrical contact.

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Scrubber car cont.

The co-operation between ourselves and the P.T.C. in this enterprise can only further the Volunteer Museum movement generally, as has the Adelaide and Melbourne Celebrations.

I would like to record my personal thanks to all those members who were associated with the E.S.R. job for keeping the Society's name in such high esteem.

David Rawlings,  
General Manager.

### ACQUISITIONS

Firstly, the Museum received a very interesting item for the Society's workshop. It is a Ransomes Rapier petrol electric crane. Historically we are led to believe it was used to help build the Sydney Harbour Bridge and when it had finished its work there it was used by Yellow Express being their Crane No. 1.

Secondly, an item we have been chasing for the last 10 or so years, it is R1 1971. It was bought by the Society with money promised and/or donated for the car. The car was removed from its resting place, for the last 18 years, at Hartley on the 9th March by 5 members being: Mal McAulay, Bob McKeever, Tony Buckland, Peter Hallen and Wayne Armitage. These 5 members travelled up the night before and stayed at the Blackheath Motor Inn, so as to get an early start in the morning to prepare the car for loading.

The car was loaded and out of the property on its way to Loftus by 10.30 a.m. It arrived at Loftus about 2.50 p.m. and was unloaded onto its bogies, then towed inside the fence by R1 1979, Home at Last.

Although the money promised and/or donated almost covers the cost of the purchase of the car, we still need money to pay for the transport of the car and its complete bogies. So please send in any amount over \$2.00 to the Museum Fund C/o our Treasurer a.s.a.p.

## RESTORATION OF OUR TRAMS

Work is now proceeding on L/P 154, F393, 24s and R1 1979.

### L/P154

The outside of the car is almost finished being colour coated for its repaint in Olive, Fawn and Grey. As well as the external repaint, the inside is having all the warnish work including the seats slats stripped for revarnishing and the ceilings repainted. Members mainly working on the car: Chris Jacobs, Vic Solomons and Tony Buckland.

### F393

The northern end of the car has almost been completely stripped so as to replace the damaged or rotten floor boards. The side frames were unbolted and the steel was cleaned of rust, etc., then painted and rebolted back into position. Bob Cowing, David Rawlings, Peter Hallen and George Urbas performed most of this work.

### 24s

This car is slowly being restored by members of the other projects while waiting on some skilled work to be done.

### R1 1979

The interior of the car as far as woodwork goes is almost finished. The north cab has been rebuilt and now both cabs are being prepared for painting. The outside is also being cleaned back for painting. Members working on the car are: Mike Giddey, Bill Parkinson and Wayne Armitage.

Also Bob McKeever has now taken home the two side frames for the F car's southern bogie. These side frames have to be straightened, axle box cheeks machined and bolt in wear plates made.

While on restoration, a machine which will aid us cleaning the steelwork for the building we have got for the new site plus, come in very handy cleaning down tramcar paintwork, bogie parts, motors, etc. This machine which is a high pressure water blaster with attachments for sand blasting, degreasing and general cleaning was demonstrated for us, with very pleasing results on Saturday, 10th March.

Restoration of our trams cont.

We would like to buy this machine to speed up the cleaning of the steelwork of the building for the new site plus helping us restore our trams. The cost of the unit is \$1,800.00 although we have the money to buy it now, this would deplete the money saved for the new site. So members, please dig deep into your pockets and help us keep the Museum's money for the new site intact. All donations over \$2.00 to the Museum Fund are a tax deductible item.

#### A REMINDER TO TRAFFIC AND BOOKSHOP STAFF

from the Traffic Manager.

Please make sure when you are rostered and if unable to attend, change with someone rostered on another day or else advise Bryan Smith, the roster clerk. It has happened a number of times lately that staff have not attended when rostered thus making it difficult to operate the tram services and bookshop efficiently. Your co-operation is earnestly requested.

#### ARCHIVES

As members are no doubt aware, an important aspect of the Society's activities is the research into Sydney's street transport network. Our archives form an integral part of these research activities and will fulfil an important role in recording the history of Sydney's street transport system.

No doubt there are some members who may from time to time, visit secondhand bookshops or other such places where perhaps some historically important item may be available for purchase e.g. maps, books, etc., which would be pertinent to the history of Sydney's street transport services. I would appreciate it if I could be informed of the material, its cost and location and I will endeavour to inspect the item to decide if it is of value to our archives. I can be reached on 337-4197.

One other matter. On occasions, visitors to the Museum may offer items of historical value to the Society (such as old tickets, photographs, etc.) which have been in the family possession. I would ask that any member of the traffic staff who is offered such material, to let me know, I am usually at the Museum on Sundays, however, in my absence, please accept the material and then either leave it in the traffic office for me or alternatively obtain the donor's name,

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address and telephone number so that I can arrange collection. Thanks,

Vic Solomons,  
Archives Officer.

#### ANNUAL SALE BY TENDER

About 60 people attended the annual sale by tender last September less than half being Society members. Although the total amount raised was less than the previous sale, being just short of \$750, the average amount each item realised was the highest ever.

The organiser of the sale, Bob Gibson, advised that over 3/4 of the items were donated by 2 members, there being 123 lots compared with 180 last time.

Thanks are due to Steve Halgren, Graham Haywood, Hayden Holmes, Ray Parr and Peter Kahn who acted as stewards, Dick Jones who sold the raffle tickets and Danny Urbas who sold over \$40 worth of books.

Bob Gibson believes that in the wake of falling attendances and the apparent reluctance of members to donate items for sale, a great deal of thought should be given to the viability of running a "Sale" this year.

The Directors believe it is a worthwhile event however, and although Mondays are not always popular, the room is made available free of charge by the Transport Club and enables the Society to raise additional funds. This year, for instance, the money was spent almost immediately on the manufacture of the rectifier set for the D car in conjunction with the E.S.R. job.

To the Directors of the Transport Club we extend our thanks for the use of club facilities. Special thanks once again to Bob Gibson a long time supporter of Society fund raising activities, who arranged and conducted last year's sale by tender.



FOR S.P.E.R. NEWS

Back Issues of Trolley Wire

1970 December .30c

1971 April, June, August, October, December all .30c

1972 Feb 40c, April, August, October, December all .35c except Feb.

1973 Feb .35c, April .50c, June, Aug, October, Dec, all .50c except Feb.

1974 Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec, all .65c

1975 Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec, all \$1.00

1976 Feb, Apr, Aug, Oct, Dec, all \$1.00

1977 Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec, all \$1.00

1978 Feb, Apr, June, Aug all \$1.25

Adelaide on the Move - Public Transport in a Changing Scene \$4.50

William A Bayley Books \$1.25

Railway Centenary in Tasmania, Pichi Richi Railway

The Children's Illawarra, Port Arthur Railway Across Tasman Peninsula

Lapstone Zig Zag Railway, Picton - Mittagong Loop-Line Railway

Tunnels on Australian Railways

Steel Wheels on Railway to Whyalla

Address orders to S.P.E.R. Sales, P.O. Box 103,  
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Please add \$1extra for postage and packing.

FROM THE BOOKSHOP

Boxed Train Sets, two only

Overland and Indian Pacific \$50 each.

Price includes - Locomotive, sleeper, first class car and club car, battery controller and track.

BACK ISSUES OF FLEET LINE

1973 July, October and November - \$0.80

1979 February and March - \$1.00

Early Sydney Postcards - Books 1,2 and 3 only - \$4.95 each.

Gradient Diagrams - Sydney and Metropolitan area Tram Lines \$4.50

SPECIALS

New Mexico's Railroads H/C was \$7.95 now \$5.00

Locomotives of Australia was \$12.95 now \$10.00

The South Park Line - Colorado Rail Annual No. 12 was \$14.75 now \$11.00

Florence Cripple Creek R.R. Colorado Rail Annual No. 13 was \$14.75 now \$11.00

Flashlights on steam - Australia was \$8 now \$6.

SPEER NEWS

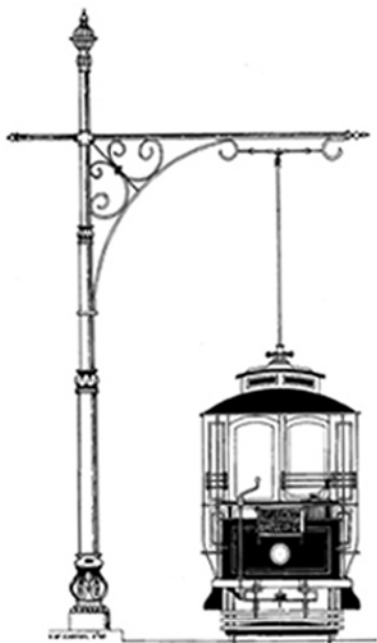
A new sheet of the local news about the happenings of the Sydney Tramway Museum, was compiled by Wayne Armitage with assistance from David Rawlings, and Peter Kahn.

Any items for Speer News should be forwarded to P.O. Box 103, Sutherland.

STOP PRESS

SCRUBBER RETURNS TO EASTERN SUBURBS RAILWAY

At the request of the Public Transport Commission the Sydney D Class Scrubber Car No. 134\$ returned to the E.S.R. on Saturday, 24th March, 1979. It was lifted on at the Kings Cross Tunnell Portal. This time it is powered by a Rolls Royce Diesel Alternator of 100 kva capacity. Some scrubbing of the track was carried out on Monday, 26th March. It is expected that the work will take about three weeks.



SUPPLEMENT TO "TROLLEY WIRE"

NO. 180 FEBRUARY, 1979