



The Bellcord

No. 3 April 2008

Newsletter of the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot Inc. A00481672

Premises: 8 Wallen Road Hawthorn Postal: PO Box 178 Hawthorn Vic. 3122

Cable Tram Set in Federation Square

The cable tram set on display at the depot set (on loan from The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria) journeyed into Federation Square on Tuesday 19 Feb. 2008 as part of the formal launch of the celebrations to mark 100 years of the Victorian women's right to vote. Parliamentarians and guests travelled by decorated tram SW6 957 that had been painted in the suffrage colours of purple, green and white and features two of the women who were leaders in the campaign for women's suffrage -- Vida Goldstein and Annette Bear-Crawford. The cable tram set featured as a back drop to the event and was transported to and from Hawthorn depot on the day.



Cable car set positioned in Federation Square – 19/2/2008, Photo Mike Ryan.

Those Birds!

Getting rid of the pigeons that have found their way into the depot has become a task greater than initially expected. Following the installation of brush strips on the top of the doors, the pigeons found another way into the depot – a hole in the roof above a water tank. The hole was only visible if you stood in the right position at the right time of the day. This has since been covered up and the pest controller firm who specialises in removing pigeons will hopefully have this problem under control soon.

NMETL 13

The North Melbourne Electric Tramways and Lighting Co. Ltd tram No. 13, alias MMTB No. V214 has been formally added to the Victorian Heritage Register. This is the first vehicle to be formally added to the Register. VR locomotive H220 "Heavy Harry", is currently being considered for registration. In an announcement and launch at Preston Works on Wednesday 12 March 2008, the Planning Minister Justin Madden, said the "We are fortunate to have such a vital piece of our tram history intact and this protection will ensure it continues to receive the care it deserves." Mr Madden congratulated VicTrack for nominating the tram for the Victorian Heritage Register. "It's important to recognise the work of custodians like VicTrack, which has actively worked to restore and protect this heritage vehicle," he said. The tram currently at Preston Workshops is pending a transfer to Hawthorn when other vehicles will be exchanged.



At the occasion to mark NMETL 13 (MMTB V214) addition to the Victorian Heritage Register is Planning Minister Justin Madden is Graham Jones and Robin Scott, Member for Preston, Legislative assembly. Graham Jones supervised the rebuilding of V214. Photo Mike Ryan.

The Pacific

Two of Melbourne's W class trams help to turn back the clock to Flinders St, to February 1943 on Saturday 2 February 2008. The filming of the ten hour HBO mini series, *the Pacific*, had by been by early Feb. being undertaken for five months, starting in northern Queensland and then moving to Melbourne, using the Dockland studios from November 2007. Some filming had also been undertaken at Newport Workshops during January. To enable the use of the Flinders St. station as the backdrop, Flinders St was closed between Russell and Queen Streets for some 35 hours. The film is scheduled to screen on Channel 7 during 2009.



Waiting for some "Action" – 667 and 510.
(left) Photo Russell Jones

510 basks in the glory of being a "film star" alongside Flinders St. Station. (below) Photo Rod Atkins.



Planning the next scene? (left)
Photo Russell Jones

The Pacific cont.

The trams provided for the day's filming were W3 667 (TMSV) and W2 510 (Hawthorn). These two trams are not fitted with marker lights and were painted in the appropriate colour schemes for the era. The W2 was transported from Hawthorn to Southbank for servicing before the filming. Yarra Trams provided the crews and the tramcars returned to Camberwell depot for storage early on Sunday morning. The filming involved many takes of the trams moving up and down a short distance in Flinders St during the day and then well into the evening. The producers have undertaken extensive research to try and make the series as correct as possible. Both trams were fitted with appropriate internal advertising. W2 510 has since returned to Hawthorn.

Restaurant Tram 442

Melbourne's first Restaurant tram, W2 442 retired from active service during 2006 has been formally transferred to VicTrack's ownership. It will be considered as part of the Heritage fleet and when possible moved to Hawthorn. The tram originally entered service during 1927, was the last W2 to receive a major overhaul during 1980 and ran from Kew Depot. Converted during 1982, it entered service as the Restaurant tram on 2 November 1982 and operated by the Colonial Tramcar Company*. The tram remains basically complete.



W2 442 as the Restaurant tram – Victoria Parade
Photo Geoff Warburton



Inside of the Restaurant tram as stored – 12 March 2008
Photo Mike Ryan

* Destination City and Time-Line History of Melbourne's Government Trams and Buses.

Diary Dates

The Depot is open Every 2nd Saturday of the Month from 1pm to 5pm.
The Annual General Meeting – 1030am 13 September 2008