



The Bellcord

Journal of the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot

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Open Days – 2010

24 October 2010
14 November 2010
28 November 2010
12 December 2010

Hawthorn Depot is open the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. Opening hours are 11am-5 pm

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Hawthorn News

We have made a small change to relocate the desk in the entry area to see if there are better positions rather than having it at the back of the room. This change seems to be working; and a further trial took place to find the best position and the relevant doorway. The new location using the door nearest to Wallen Rod seems to have worked and makes the entrance to visitors much more welcoming

A further four cabinets have been ordered, all are located in the entrance room. One is for sales items and the rest have been placed in the room to display items, which will change from time to time.



David Frost manning the new set up.

A further boon is the movement of the telephone and EFPOS machines to the other side of the room to allow them to be placed on the top of the desk. A new power point has accompanied the work.

Elsewhere in the meeting room a new screen, a projector and sound system has been installed and this allows connection to a small PC. Further

equipment is to be installed by Victrack to allow the room to be used by them as a back up centre.

In the main room, VicTrack has also installed two large reverse air-conditioning units and this has made a huge difference to the warmth and cooling of the room.



Further painting has continued on the training tram and it is looking much smarter than it used to look. Some further work is to be done prior to relocating items back into the room.

In the kitchen area some additional power points have been installed. In addition, more power points have been placed in the archive room to overcome the use of power boards.

Opening Hours

At the March 2010, Committee Meeting it was determined that the depot would now open during winter at 11am rather than 1pm on every second Saturday. We will continue with the additional 4th Saturday of the month during the Daylight Saving Period except for December

Website News

We are receiving over 1,000 unique visitors per month.

Those members who have supplied us with their e-mail addresses may note that they receive a mysterious notification on a monthly basis that they are on a mailing list called members@hawthorntramdepot.org.au.

There is no need to worry. This mailing list consists of all the FOHTD members of which we have record. It may be used if you wish to send a short text e-mail to our members (no attachments, please). Another mailing list exists for FOHTD board members - board@hawthorntramdepot.org.au - so if you wish to communicate with any or all of the board members, just send an e-mail to the mailing list.

Additionally, individual e-mail addresses of board members are available in the member's area of the website. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please send an e-mail to: webmaster@hawthorntramdepot.org.au

Articles on our Website

We have had no new articles for some time. If you have a suitable tramway article please contact Russell Jones, Bellcord article editor at: webmaster@hawthorntramdepot.org.au

Visitors

Among the groups that have visited in recent months are groups from the Honda Ccr Club on the 18th of July and that of the Latrobe Probus on the 19th July.

Its great having large groups visit the museum, not only does it spread the word that Melbourne has an excellent tram museum but it provides many contacts to like minded historical bodies in the community



Frank McCulloch showing the Latrobe Probus Club the trams on 19 July 2010

Another large group to visit the Depot was a tour party of tram enthusiasts from Berlin, Germany in September. This was the Intra Express Group including members from Germany, Austria and the UK. They spent two full days travelling on the various tram routes around Melbourne and enjoyed their visit to the depot. We were able to arrange for a friend of the depot, David Alexander, to attend on the day, as David is fluent in speaking German. To our surprise, most of the men in the party were fluent in English but the women in the party were pleased to converse in their own language. Thank you David. The group particularly asked that we pass on their thanks to the curators who opened the depot to them. They were very impressed by the collection and found the commentaries very informative.

Group tours are always welcome and we charge \$2.00 a head with a minimum of \$50.00 A new booking form has been introduced to manage these visits.

Photo Shots



Latrobe Probus Club

Opening of the Museum to Visitors

It is only through the help of so many of our members that we are able to open the Museum to visitors on the Saturdays and particularly when we have special groups come to visit us.

Thank you all so much, we really appreciate your help in this.

Our Shop

Recent items received into the shop are more tea towels, (the Kew Depot ones are selling very well), biscuits tins and further tramway books. We are investigating making our own fridge magnets and some biscuit tins featuring some of the depot's trams. Sales through the web site are building to average two to three a month. As new tramway books and DVD's are produced we will stock them as they are released. Planned books to our knowledge are the history of the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust and the history of Perth Tramways.

A new DVD received is "Back in Business" the story of the establishment of the Wellington Tramway Museum, New Zealand. In addition, a further DVD that we have for sale celebrates the Centenary of the Malvern Tram Depot

New glass sales display counters have been purchased and together with the new layout make our display and entry area more inviting. The counters are a large vertical and a horizontal one.

Meetings

This year we have had two meetings, the first meeting was the an Extraordinary Meeting to amend the Constitution and allow our shop to trade in a legal basis as the original Constitution did not mention or give power to the Association to provide such facilities. This amendment was agreed to unanimously and has been submitted to and accepted by the Department of Justice. Whew! Our next meeting was the Annual General Meeting held on 11 September 2010 and the new committee for 2010/11 consists of,

Chairman: Rod Atkins, Deputy Chairman: Kevin Taig Secretary and Publicity Officer: Warren Doubleday Treasurer: Carolyn Cleak. Victrack Representative Mike Ryan, and Web Master Russell Jones.

Mike Ryan in his report mentioned how well the sales both in the shop and by the way of the internet are going.

He also mentioned that Victrack had approved a new business name for the museum, this being "Melbourne Tram Museum@ Hawthorn Depot". This name has now been registered.

Mike also advised that during the year the Friends applied for VicTrack Partnership funding for a selection of purchases including display cases, mannequins, brochure holders, and for electrical design and works to light up the trams on display. This application was successful and has allowed us to purchase the display cases and work has started on the design to allow the trams to be illuminated.



AGM September 2010

Visit by some Committee Members to New Zealand.

Many of the Committee recently took part in the very enjoyable COTMA conference in Wellington during mid September. The Conference was spread over five days, including visits to the Wellington Tramway Museum tramway at Paekakariki, a Trolley bus tour of the Wellington Trolley bus system and a visit to the National Museum Te Papa.

Many of the party enjoyed visiting New Zealand's only operating electric urban system, which is currently being refurbished pending the commissioning of new electric units - the Matangi trains.

A pre-conference tour was a visit to Christchurch, a week after the major earthquake. This saw the city tramway back in operation and saw the extension works. Ferrymead only suffered very minor damage and there was no damage to the tramway.

We also saw progress of the reconstruction of the Birney tram, starting to look like a Birney tram and the construction of the truck. We also visited the Wellington Tramway Museum, the Wanganui Tramway group and finally to Auckland where we saw the Western Springs tramway at MOTAT. Friends Secretary, as the Chairman of COTMA, formally launched the most recent restoration of WST, Wellington double decker, No. 47.



Birney tram body under construction at Christchurch 13 Sep 2010



Birney tram truck under construction Christchurch 14 Sep 2010

Melbourne Tramways Band

For many years the Depot at Hawthorn was the home of the Tramways Band. The band this year celebrates playing for the public for 70 years at the former M&MTB Wattle Park, which is now run by Parks Victoria. The history of the band is very much intertwined with that of the M&MTB, the MTA, the PTC, and upon the privatization of Public Transport with Metlink and with the franchise tram operator. While the band is now based elsewhere it is still linked to the tram network and several band members even now were employees of the M&MTB. Today the musicians are been recruited from music lovers throughout the Melbourne area. Nevertheless, the link remains with our trams.

The programme for the 2010/11 season is as follows

7 Nov 2010 70th Anniversary Celebration

12 Dec 2010 Christmas Carols

13 Feb 2011 Musical Contrasts

20 Mar 2011 Show Selections

17 Apr 2011 Anzac Reflections

The band is well balanced and is most professional and plays at Wattle Park starting at 2.30pm. The band's website is www.melbtramband.org.au

Has anyone got a history of the Band and its link with Hawthorn? If so, can you provide the editor with the information for an article in Bellcord and even better on the Website?

New Cabinets



Just Delivered



Our new display cabinets in the conference room

Melbourne Trams Interstate



Z 111 at Royal National Park Sydney 2010



W2 249 at Loftus Tram Museum



W2 393 at Perth Tramway Museum