



The Bellcord

Journal of the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot

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Latest Hawthorn News

Since our last newsletter, a number of small works have been carried out around Hawthorn Depot, the largest of which is the repainting of the concrete floors in a number of the rooms, together with some minor touch up work in other areas.

Most of the floors attended to were repainted in the same dark grey colour. However, the Driving Training Room floor was repainted in an attractive tan chosen to represent the original brown linoleum used in that room for many years. Most people will be familiar with the colour, as the linoleum formerly used in the training room seemed to be standard State Government issue in schools, hospitals and offices. The new colour certainly gives the room a completely different feel.

Other things that have been happening:

- A new brochure rack has been purchased to hold brochures in the front room next to the sales desk.
- VicTrack have supplied us with a personal computer and printer with connectivity to the VicTrack offices. The acquisition of an A3 flatbed scanner is currently in the works for connection to this equipment, which will enable the digital scanning of drawings and photographs to be undertaken at the depot.
- To assist in the continuing battle against the local pigeon population, additional cleaning equipment has been purchased. Included in this

acquisition is a high pressure spray unit for cleaning trams.

- Heritage Victoria has supplied two of the familiar blue oval enamel plaques used for mounting on historic buildings placed on the Victorian Heritage Register. One of these was for the Hawthorn Depot building itself, and has been mounted near the museum's front entrance. However, the plaque for NMETL 13 has proven a little more problematic, as we have yet to decide where to fit it. For the moment, it is on display in the inter-connecting passage-way between the entry foyer and the depot itself.



A close-up of the Heritage Plaque for the Hawthorn Tram Depot building – Photo Warren Doubleday.

- Planning work on the driver training chassis is proceeding, with the objective of returning it to operable condition. A detailed review of the electrical work has been undertaken, with the objective of bringing the tram up to the current electrical safety rules. This study has identified a number of deficiencies which will be made good in the near future. Additionally, the hand rails around the tram have been refitted.



The freshly repainted floor of the driver training room reproducing the familiar tan of State Government linoleum, with the driver training car in the background – Photo Warren Doubleday.

- Condition reports on some of the trams have been prepared, in order to plan works to keep them in tip-top condition. The trams examined so far are numbers 431, NMETL 13, 106, 469, 613 and 774.

Planning Our Future

VicTrack, on whose behalf we manage the Hawthorn Tram Museum, has initiated a planning review for the depot and its exhibits. A meeting was held in late February between the FOHTD Committee and representatives from VicTrack to discuss the future direction of the museum and methods to market it more effectively.

It was agreed at the meeting that the focus of the museum should be on the social history of Melbourne's iconic trams, highlighting the place they hold in developing and serving our city. Special emphasis will be placed on the stories of people connected with our tramway system, including

employees, passengers and key individuals associated with their development and operation.

One of the outcomes was to review the visitor survey form. The revised form asks a number of carefully selected questions, with the objective of finding out more about our visitors and why they have come to the museum. The answers they give will enable us to better target our marketing efforts. The new visitor survey form has been in use since the March Open Day.

Some of the actions coming out of the meeting were to:

- Examine the branding strategy of the Hawthorn Tramway Museum.
- Explore what signage could be used to improve the visibility of the museum, possibly through the use of a banner on open days.
- Improve facilities for displaying tramway heritage items in the museum.



One recent group to visit the depot on a weekday was the Sunbury Probus Group, on 14 April 2009, pictured here on MTOC cable dummy number 28.

Arrangements to visit the depot on days other than Open Days can be made by contacting us via our email address:

info@hawthorntramdepot.org.au

Photo – Warren Doubleday

- Improve the cleaning and presentation of the trams.
- Commission a consultant to review the direction for developing the museum, especially for the displaying of formal exhibitions on Melbourne's tramway history.
- Increase the number of open days to two per month.
- Broadening the availability of tram-related merchandise from our sales desk.
- Improve the main room so that it can be used as both a meeting room and as a display area.
- Examine potential sources of funding that can be used to develop the museum.

New Sales Items

The number of items in our sales stock continues to increase. Help the development of our tramway museum and increase your personal collections of tramway material by purchasing from our shop.

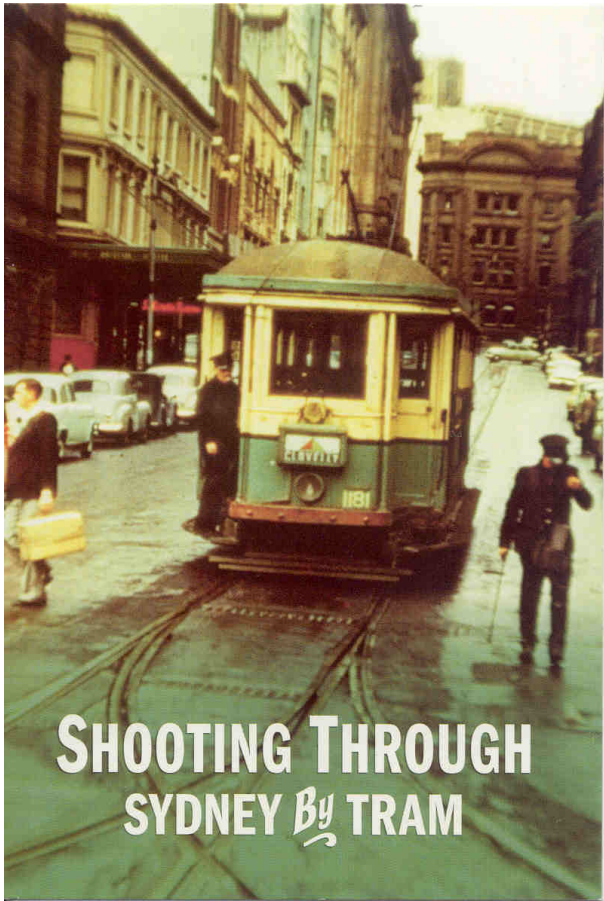
The shop now has taken delivery of motorised Coee Collectible W class trams in OO scale, for only \$189. Add to your model tramway layout with these wonderful diecast scale models.

Recently stocked is the new book *Tram Images* by Hugh Ballment – \$39.95. This is a nostalgic photographic journey on the tramways of Australia and New Zealand in the 1950s and 1960s.

Also in now in stock are:

- *Trams and Streetscapes – Metropolitan Melbourne 1950s-1960s* – a photographic profile by Emile D. Badawy and John Sargent – \$40.00
- *More Trams and Streetscapes – Metropolitan Melbourne 1950s-1960s* – a photographic profile by Lindsay Crow, Colin Pike and John Sargent – \$40.00
- These Two books contain high quality large format colour photographs of Melbourne's trams in the 1950s and 1960s.
- *Melbourne's Colourful Trams – Illuminated advertising trams in the streetscapes of Melbourne* by David Clark and John Sargent – \$40.00. A collection of high quality photos of Melbourne's trams displaying illuminated advertising schemes used during the 1970s.
- *Feeding and Filling* by Graeme Breydon – \$4.20 - A short but informative booklet on the history of the Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust.

These and other books can be purchased either from the depot on Open Days or from the form downloadable from our web site. We are currently investing in Credit Card facilities which will enable your purchase.



Shooting Through Sydney By Tram

The Historic Houses Trust of NSW, in association with the Sydney Tramway Museum is holding an exhibition titled "Shooting Through Sydney By Tram" from April 4 to October 18, 2009 at the Museum of Sydney, Cnr of Bridge and Phillip Streets Sydney. Postcards advertising this exhibition are enclosed with the mailout.

A hardcover pictorial book, RRP \$24.95, 128pp, 170 x 127mm prepared by Caroline Butler-Bowdon, Annie Campbell and Howard Clark complements the exhibition. Other souvenir items are also available. Further information from: http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/exhibitions/exhibitions/sydney_by_tram

Website News

Our web site: www.hawthorntramdepot.org.au continues to have good visitor numbers and feedback. We are always looking for more articles, especially on the social aspect of operating Melbourne's tram, from the crews, workshops and passenger's perspectives. One of the most popular pages is Carolyn Cleak's story; *In the Blood, driving trams in the 1980's and 90's*.

Content development for the Members' area is underway and some new material should be shortly available. Watch this space for further developments.

Open Days – 2009

9 May 2009
13 June 2009
11 July 2009
8 August 2009
12 September 2009
10 October 2009
14 November 2009
12 December 2009

Hawthorn Depot is open the second Saturday of every month. Opening hours are 1pm-5 pm (Apr-Sep) or 11am-5pm (Oct-Mar)

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For those members who have not accessed our website, there are a wide range of articles on Melbourne's tramway history.

Articles on the role of trams in our social history:

- In the blood: driving trams in the 1980s and 90s
- James Henry Harvey: a motorman's Gallipoli journey
- Melbourne tramways: union vs management
- A sporting past (alias a fishy story)
- Victoria's tramway heritage
- Wattle Park: a tramway tradition
- Women in the tramways

Brief histories of key Melbourne tramway identities:

- Alex Cameron: father of Melbourne's electric trams
- Bent by name, bent by nature
- Clarrie O'Shea – hero or villain?
- Francis Boardman Clapp: transport entrepreneur
- George Smith Duncan: tramway engineer
- Hector Hercules Bell – ringing in the new
- The Sir Robert Risson era: an enduring legacy

Essays on Victorian tramways:

- A brief history of the North Melbourne Electric Tramway & Lighting Company
- Australia's first electric tram: the Box Hill to Doncaster tramway
- Fares please! An economic history of the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board
- Footscray: genesis of a local tramway
- Hooves and iron: Melbourne's horse trams
- Northcote: the on-again, off-again cable tramway

- Penny fare to Pentridge: the Melbourne, Brunswick & Coburg Tramways Trust
- Steady as she goes: the Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust
- Steam, sand and surf: the Sorrento Tramway Company
- VR electric street railways

Vignettes on trams & tramway technology:

- 1934 – Big issues in Australian tramways
- Art deco influence on Australian tramcar design
- Cable trams: how they work
- Electric trams: how they work
- Here comes the rain again: Melbourne tram shelters
- Keeping time: Bundy clocks in the M&MTB
- Lost the groove: tramway rail manufacture in Australia
- 'Mind the curve!'
- Power collection for Melbourne tramcars
- St Kilda Junction signal box operation
- Tramway level crossings in Victoria

We recommend that you make use of this valuable resource to increase your knowledge of our trams, and take time to surf our site.

Unexpected Visitor

Hawthorn Depot received an unexpected visitor on the evening of Friday 24 April. A driver lost control of his car in Wallen Road and crashed into the depot building, damaging some of the fencing and the skylight into the main room.

Police attended the accident and took statements.

The damage has been secured and temporary weatherproofing applied. Mike Ryan of VicTrack met with the Body Corporate on site the following morning to examine the full extent damage in the light of day.



A view of the external damage done by an errant motor vehicle to the Wallen Road side of the Hawthorn Depot Building on the evening of 24 April 2009 – Photo Mike Ryan

From the photos, it seems the driver had a lucky escape from a plunge into the main room through the skylight.

VicTrack is dealing with the insurers and members are reassured that the necessary works to fix the

damage will soon be in hand.

While Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot wishes to encourage more visitors to drop in to the museum, this wasn't what we quite had in mind!



The main room of the museum, after the accident of the 24 April 2009, showing the debris that fell through the skylight.

Members can see that the driver had a lucky escape.

Fortunately, no-one was in the room at the time of the accident.

Photo – Mike Ryan