

BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC..A0006261D

Preserving Australia's bus and coach heritage ABN 86 829 759 481

2009 Annual Report

President's Report: Mick Kane

Well another year has passed & elections are upon us again. I would like to thank all members of the committee for their efforts over the last year. Paul, our Secretary/Treasurer/Tour Organiser/Archives Officer has worked extremely hard to keep things moving and has indicated that he is going to cut back on his commitments for the next year, so the society will need some members to step forward to fill the breach.

So now is the time for some new blood to help out, even if it is only for one year, if no help is forthcoming events will be a lot harder to organise

Longstanding member **Bill Barrett** passed away on the 10th September and many members of the Society attended his funeral. The BCSV will be making a donation to the Palliative Care Unit at Peninsula Hospital in line with the wishes of Bill's family.

The Society has been offered Bruce Tilley's entire slide collection, which dates back to the early sixties. The only cost to the Society will be in relocation costs as Bruce lives in Western Australia

Secretary's Report: Paul Kennelly

Membership

Membership increased to 156 members following invitations to join sent to Victorian Operators. The Society needs to continue to look for opportunities to increase membership over the coming years.

Tours

Farewell Ansair MAN Mark I Tour 2nd November 2008

The Tour was organised by Mick Kane, Brad Creek and Paul Kennelly. It was an extremely successful tour over routes operated by these vehicles when in the hands of the MMTB (MET), Melbourne Bus Link and National (Ventura).

Peninsula Tour – 8th February 2009

This was our "January Meeting" and took in visits to four depots on the Mornington Peninsula – Peninsula Bus Lines, Seaford, the Hastings depots of Coolart Bus & Coach and Old Tyabb Coaches and the Rosebud depot of Portsea Passenger Service. Once again, Ray Arneil from Moorabbin Transit provided a Heritage Vehicle and arranged for a brand new low floor to accompany it.

Crown Coaches – 26th April 2009

This was a half day tour to Crown Coaches to specifically view and test drive the new BCI Hybrid. Vic Haoust from Crown was our host and provided a tour of his depot as well as giving a history of his company.

Cole's Coaches and McHarry's Buslines – 13th June 2009

A swift V/Line service delivered the group to Marshall Station where Gavin Lugg had provided a Cole's Coaches vehicle to tour the Grovesdale depot and then onto Colac. After lunch we returned to Geelong where John Van Lith provided a tour of the McHarry's depot at Breakwater.

Driver Bus Lines Heritage Tour – 20th September 2009

Fifty two participants made this tour probably the best attended in the history of the BCSV. More than a dozen visitors came from interstate. All 9 Driver Heritage Fleet vehicles were made available, as well as two brand new route buses. The Driver Group provided a magnificent BBQ lunch. Whilst all of the tours were most enjoyable, this tour was undoubtedly the highlight of the past year. Geoff Vickers from Bayside Coaches has offered to sponsor a special colour publication to celebrate this tour, in particular, and the commitment by the Driver Group to preservation, in general. All members will receive one of these when published.

Meetings and other Events

Our meetings continued to be held at the premises of Ventura Bus Lines South Oakleigh and we remain grateful to this company for their continued support of the BCSV. Over the past year, we have had various photographic presentations including, Buses at Moonee Ponds, Buses from NSW and More from the John Masterton Collection. The Society ran a Trivia Night early in 2009 and experimented with an early evening Saturday Meeting. The Society will continue to occasionally try different approaches to meetings in order to find a mix that caters for all members, young and old.

The November 2008 Sandown Display was great success with over thirty vehicles in attendance, including the preserved fleets of Driver, Grenda, and Invicta.

Geoff Foster provided a BCSV display at the BusVic BusExpo 2009 at Moonee Valley Racecourse on 29th & 30th June which was very well received. This is an important aspect of BCSV activities.

Archives and Heritage

The project to scan the Victorian records of the John Masterton Collection was completed. The Tasmanian and South Australian records have also been scanned.

Hayden Ramsdale has scanned the second volume of the Andrew Potts collection, for which we thank him.

CDs of the above will be made available to members throughout the next year.

The photographic collections of members Charles Craig, Don Wallington, Ken Flood and Geoff Sawyer have also been scanned for the Society's archives.

Finances

The balance sheets show that Society continues to operate on a sound financial footing. Once again, we thank Ross Baird for providing his services as auditor.

Publications

Geoff Foster has producing another engrossing set of magazines for members (and others) during this past year. In particular, the Ansair Special provided a comprehensive history of that organisation.

Restoration

The BCSV has been offered a chance to view the former MET Heritage Fleet at Newport. The Society might also be offered custodianship of the fleet, although, however desirable this might sound, there are many issues which would need to be considered.

Finally

Thanks to the Committee for their work for the members and to Mick Kane in particular for providing encouragement when needed.

And lastly, thank you to all the operators, who so generously allow BCSV members to access their facilities in the interests of their hobby.