

BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC..A0006261D

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

2011 Annual Report

President's Report: Mick Kane

Hi all, another year has passed us by as we go about our daily activities. I would like to thank all members of the committee for their efforts over the past 12 months. It is with some reluctance that Bill Kingsley is retiring from the committee, we wish Bill well in his other endeavours.

I would also like to thank those who are not on the committee for their help: Hayden Ramsdale who proof reads the magazine, Jason Lipszyc who looks after meat and bread supplies for the BBQs, David Rae for tour organising, Jason Holmes for supplying a bus from CDC in the West, Brad Creek for being liaison officer for Cerberus (if you can help on Sunday October 25th let Brad know), Jason Taylor and anyone else who I have forgotten.

Just remember the more people that pitch in the more tours we can get up and running. Even if it is just organizing one tour it all helps.

I would also like to thank all the operators that we have visited and or let have the use of a bus, without their co-operation there would be no tours.

Special thanks goes to Ray Arneil at the Grenda Group for his ongoing support.

So, in conclusion thanks to the members for being part of our year.

If everyone could just remember that without Paul Kennelly our Secretary/Treasurer & Geoff Foster who does the magazine, this Society would probably cease to function.

Look forward to seeing as many as possible at our functions.

Just a reminder to everyone a safety vest is a requirement of all our tours now, otherwise you may not be allowed off the bus, due to OH&S rules at most companies these days.

Secretary's Report: Paul Kennelly

Membership

Membership achieved a new record high of 160 members. However, we need to ensure that more strategies are developed to attract new members.

Tours

Victorian Touring Coaches/Bayside Coaches-Nuline Charter/Panorama Coaches – 24th October 2010

Twenty eight participants made this tour one of the first to visit three significant metro operators in one day. Bill Armstrong at Victorian Touring Coaches got the day off to a flyer with a bacon and egg breakfast laid on for all participants. The history of Victorian Touring Coaches goes all the way back to 1949 when S W (Bill) Armstrong began driving a picnic van for Syd Horne.

Syd Horne's first full sized bus came along in 1951; a forward control Federal with Symons & Fowler body and was registered to Beauty Tourist Company as UP 465. In 1952, Bill Armstrong purchased the licence, bus and company name. In July 1965, Bill Armstrong purchased the charter licences of Green Bus Lines, along with two Comair Bedfords. In the early 1970s, he became one of the local sub-contractors for Centralian, operating as Centralian Staff or Camping Tours of Australia. This arrangement lasted until the end of the 70s. Today, Bill is in partnership with Glenn McIvor and VTC operates more than 30 vehicles out of the depot that once housed the Southland Group of companies.

It was then on to Bayside Coaches – Nuline Charter, to visit what one participant, Gary Driver, described as the benchmark charter company in Victoria. Sixteen years ago, on September 23 1995, Andrew Czarnecki and Geoff Vickers acquired two vehicles from Craig Coop of Nuline Bus Lines. Andrew and Geoff had formed a company with the legal lettering of Czarvic Pty Ltd and used the trading name of Bayside Coaches. On February 9, 1998, a further 21 vehicles and a number of school runs were acquired from Craig Coop and a new operating name of Nuline Charter was added to that of Bayside Coaches.

Finally, it was off to the other side of town to visit the Dineen Group's Panorama Coaches. In the early 60s, Bill Dineen operated a school bus run near Trafalgar, along with a farming business. His first acquisition was Workmen's Comfort Coaches of Trafalgar in 1968. This was followed by the purchase of Warragul Bus Lines soon after. Subsequent purchases (not in order) have been Berwick Bus Lines, Heyfield Bus Service, Sandringham & Brighton Coaches, Westernport Road Lines, McKenzie's Tourist Services, Hurstbridge Bus Service and Panorama Coaches. The many and varied fleet types made for much photography and we then traced the track routes operated by Panorama. The tour was organised by Ian Lawson, Jason Lipszyc, Hayden Ramsdale and Jason Taylor with the President and the Secretary.

Ventura Triple Depot: – 6th February 2011

There were 55 participants on this first group visit to the Ivanhoe BC depot following its acquisition by Ventura. We then travelled to the former Mt Dandy Bus depot at Croydon before finishing at the former US Buslines Monbulk depot. The tour was organised by the President, the Secretary, Andrew Fairhall and Michael Lancaster. The difficulties in catering for such a large group prompted a change for future tours so that, where possible, an advance cooking party will travel ahead of the main group.

Drivers Bros CAC Bedford Mini tour – 21st March 2011

Our March Meeting was a mini tour at twilight to take advantage of the last of daylight saving. Gary Driver generously provided two of their Bedfords, the CAC/OB and the CAC/SB, for the tour, which saw a round trip from Chadstone to Camberwell via Glen Iris. This followed their original run, which they have been operating since 1931, and is part of the current 612 service between Chadstone and Box Hill. A meal was had at Chadstone upon return. We thank Gary Driver and Ralf Boetker for providing the buses and for the driving.

MAN Tour to the Mornington Peninsula – 28th August 2011

The most recent tour attracted thirty three attendees and featured a number of MAN vehicles in the Grenda Fleet. They were joined by a CDC MAN, driven by Jason Holmes. David Rae organised the tour and Bill Richardson (Rosebud) and Kevin Fasham (Hastings) were our hosts. Ray Arneil ensured that the travelling vehicles were prepared and in place and Greg Raynor at Grenda Management proved the authorisations necessary. Numerous other members helped organise an excellent day.

Meetings and other Events

Our meetings continued to be held at the premises of Hawthorn Tramway Museum and we are grateful for this opportunity and for their continued support of the BCSV. The venue has excellent facilities and has proved popular with members. The November 2010 meeting featured Ron Brien, formally of Brien's Comfort Coaches and BusVic. His story was most interesting tracing the history of Brien's Comfort Coaches as well as providing a perspective on the general development of the Victorian bus industry in the last 60 years. The July 2011 meeting followed up on this theme of former operators and featured Bill And John Trenfield, formally of Victoria Dock BC, now at JayTee Coaches and Bruce Jones, currently at Diamond Coaches but with former associations with Adam's, Invicta and Panorama. Once again, these gentlemen were most entertaining and informative in their recollections from the mid 60s to the present.

The 2010 HCVC Sandown display was most successful with over 40 vehicles, especially since, for the first time in a few years, it didn't rain.

Geoff Foster provided the BCSV display at the BusVic BusExpo 2011 at Moonee Valley Racecourse on 4th & 5th July which was very well received. This is an important aspect of BCSV activities.

Archives and Heritage

The project to scan the Victorian records of members, past and present, continues. The entire transport slide collection of Bruce Tilley was donated to the Society and much of it has been scanned.

Finances

The balance sheets show that Society continues to operate on a sound financial footing with a surplus for the year of more than \$1,000. Once again, we thank Ross Baird for providing his services as auditor.

Publications

Geoff Foster has producing another informative set of magazines for members (and others) during this past year. The Special contained a history of bus transport in Toowoomba (Qld) and throughout the year, the history of the CAC bus was traced through seven parts. I echo the sentiments of the President in thanking Geoff for his work.

Restoration

Michael Menzies is restoring a 1966 ex Department of Supply, ex Harris Bus Service of Gawler (SA) Freighter Bedford SB3.

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.