

BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC..A0006261D

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

2012 Annual Report

President's Report: Mick Kane

Hi all, another year has come & gone. I would once again like to pass on my thanks to the Committee for their efforts throughout the last year. There is always room on the Committee for a new face or two, especially if someone would like to help organising tours.

It was with sadness that several members attended the funeral of Bill Kingsley after he lost his fight against cancer.

The Society also wishes Ray Arneil best wishes in his retirement from Grenda/Ventura & for his love of the heritage fleet which he generously allowed the society to use.

The Society has been trialling Sunday meetings, which appears to be the way to go.

Just a few reminders when we are guests in depots. A safety vest is mandatory for all tours and no vest will mean you will be confined to the tour bus. We obey any instructions from management of any depot we visit. As much as possible, stay together as a group, don't go wandering off. Heed to any requests from tour organisers &/or Committee people. Remember, we are all here to enjoy our hobby. Above all, have respect for fellow enthusiasts.

Secretary's Report: Paul Kennelly

Membership

Membership achieved a new record high of 164 members. However, we need to ensure that more strategies are developed to attract new members.

Tours

Martyrs Bus Service and McKenzie's Tourist Services 6th November 2011.

Martyrs was sold to the Dineen group, effective from the beginning of November, 2011. A farewell tour was organised and our thanks and best wishes go to Wayne Mountjoy, to the Dineen Group and to member Grahame Poulter for facilitating the tour. Thirty five members were able to view and capture the Martyr fleet at the beginning of this new ownership. We visited both the Warburton and Lilydale Martyrs Depots.

We also took the opportunity for our first visit to McKenzie's in Healesville since it was also acquired by the Dineen Group in September 2006. Our thanks go to Brad Sanders for facilitating our visit. I would like to thank Bayside Coaches for, yet again, providing our tour vehicle and to Jason Lipszyc for providing his driving expertise.

Reservoir Bus Company 11th February 2012

Our first tour for 2012 was to the depot of Reservoir Bus Company which is also home to Midland Tours and East West Bus Company. Our host, Russell Ward, not only showed us around the depot, but provided a coach for the group to inspect the soon to be opened South Morang rail extension and associated works. Russell can be justly proud of the development of this company. Thanks to Michael Lancaster and Invicta (Grenda) for providing pick up transport.

The Dominic Sita Companies 12th February 2012

The second day of this tour weekend saw us start with a visit to the new depot of Kastoria Bus Lines/ Broadmeadows Bus Service at Westmeadows. After the depot tour, we took a coach to visit the original Kastoria depot sites and made a brief stop at Tullamarine Bus Lines on the way. Then we set off to Seymour Coaches, another Dom Sita Company. The 46 attendees on this tour, with a large interstate contingent, dropped in on one of the satellite depots on the way back to Melbourne. Big thanks to Dom for providing us with the opportunity to visit his companies. Pick up transport was provided by Mick Kane and Ventura and Michael Lancaster and Grenda Invicta. Thanks to all concerned. I should also thank those who helped with catering and cooking for our BBQs.

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. Special mention must be made of the assistance of Rod Atkins. It is nice to work with someone who is not only highly competent but also very welcoming.

The November 2011 meeting featured a photographic presentation of Melbourne operators in the eastern suburbs from the 60s. We are indeed fortunate to have the photographic collections of John Masterton and Bruce Tilley to call upon. The May 2012 Meeting featured a major presentation from Geoff Foster on the years of Grenda history. The announcement of the acquisition by Ventura was made on 18/11/2011 and the official transfer took place at 2pm on Monday 23 January 2012.

The July Meeting was held on a Sunday at 3pm and there were 38 in attendance. Craig Coop, Nuline Bus Service and BCSV Deputy President, took us through a history of transport in the Sandringham area. It featured VR trams and buses, Sandringham Bus Company, Sandringham-Mentone Bus Lines and finally, Blue and Silver Bus Lines. It was a magnificent presentation which not only brought back many memories, but also set the historical context for the transport that we see in the area today. A CD will be produced of the presentation.

The 2011 HCVC Sandown Display was most successful with over 40 vehicles, especially since it was the farewell presentation for the Grenda Heritage Fleet (under Grenda ownership). I can only echo the praise from Mick Kane for Ray Arneil. The fleet was not only in magnificent condition, but owes its very existence to Ken Grenda and Ray Arneil. It represents a large part of CAC history. Both have been true "bus men".

Geoff Foster provided the BCSV display at the BusVic BusExpo 2012 at Moonee Valley Racecourse on 2nd & 3rd July which was very well received. This remains an important aspect of BCSV activities and we thank BusVic for providing us with the opportunity to attend.

Archives and Heritage

The project to scan the photographic records of members, past and present, continues. A project has also begun to collect the stories of past operators and past members regarding their experiences with buses and bus operation.

Finances

The balance sheets show that Society continues to operate on a sound financial footing. Once again, Ross Baird has provided his services as auditor. However, Ross has indicated that he will be unable to continue his audit role due to other commitments. A big thank you to Ross for his voluntary work over the years.

Publications

Geoff Foster has produced another informative set of magazines for members (and others) during this past year. The Special contained histories of Briens Comfort Coaches and Victoria Dock Bus Company. The task of providing seven magazines to members each year is monumental and we thank Geoff for his work and also those who make contributions to Panorama.

A number of new CDs will be published in the coming year.

Restoration

Ray Higginson at Moonee Valley Coaches has restored an Elwood and it made its debut at Sandown in 2011. Work on his 1952 CAC Bedford continues. Dyson's Heritage Fleet now consists of a Comair Bedford, an Elwood and a Denning. Driver's Heritage Fleet continues to represent the highest quality of preservation. Ventura is constructing a special purpose facility at Monbulk to house its heritage buses.

Former member Stephen Oliver has returned to England and his fleet of preserved buses has (largely) been transferred to Gary Davey's property at Drouin. Both of these men have done all they can to preserve Victoria's bus heritage and we thank them for it.

Finally

Thanks to the Committee – Craig Coop, Craig Halsall, Geoff Foster and Ian Lawson, for their work for the members and to President Mick Kane 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.