

BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC..A0006261D

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

2013 Annual Report

Secretary's Report: Paul Kennelly

Membership

Membership remained strong at 158 members. We need to ensure that more strategies are developed to attract new members. Reduction in printing costs has allowed a drop in membership subscription fees for the 2013/14 year.

Tours

Dyson's 13th October 2012

Dyson's celebrated their 60th Anniversary and as part of that we used their preserved Elwood to trace their original 1952 route. The Heritage Elwood took us from Regent, through to the sites of the former Mont Park Mental Asylum, the Gresswell Sanatorium and the Janefield Sanatorium, all occupied by either Latrobe University or commercial and/or housing developments. We then went to Dyson's depot for a tour, including the beautifully restored Denning, and then up to the recently opened South Morang Station. Many thanks to Shane Dyson and to Michael Fedor who did all the driving duties plus the tour of the depot.

Tullamarine Bus Lines/ Skybus/Melbourne Bus Link 14th October 2012

The morning program began with a tour of Tullamarine Bus Lines. Owner Chris Sikavitsas was on hand to show us around and to answer all of our questions. We then travelled to SkyBus at Tullamarine, where (then) Operations Manager, Lucas Mayr, and the team provided a magnificent program, including a line up shot at the end of the runway. After a BBQ lunch, we visited Melbourne Bus Link at Footscray for a depot tour then travelled to the Sandringham sub depot, largely following the MBL routes. We thank Russell Ward for allowing this tour. Throughout the day, transport was also provided by John Phillips' preserved AEC Mark III half cab and Craig Coop's Scania. We thank them for their generosity.

Sita Bus lines 9th February 2013

The afternoon began with a tour of the Sita depot, and then we set off over some current Sita routes in a brand new Volvo. We then travelled down to Hampton to trace the routes of Hampton Green, George Sita's first solo company purchase in 1968. As a bonus, we were treated to a ride on Australian Pacific Tours' preserved Federal, owned by Geoff McGeary, for which we thank him. Thanks to George and Cos Sita for making the tour possible.

Latrobe Valley Bus Lines 10th February 2013

Using transport provided by Geoff Vickers at Bayside/Nuline (a Nuline Charter Volvo) and driven by member Jason Lipszyc, we travelled to the Moe depot of Latrobe Valley Bus Lines to meet our host for the day, Bruce Hill, who provided magnificent service throughout the day. We subsequently travelled to the Traralgon and Morwell depots of LVBL. Thanks to LVBL owner Rhonda Renwick for making the day possible. On the return journey, we dropped into Gary Davey's place at Drouin for a brief look at his preserved buses. The next bonus was provided by Geoff Vickers when he joined us with his preserved Landseer before travelling to Simcocks at Pakenham for the final bonus depot visit.

Farewell Driver Bros Route Services 30th June 2013

The last day of Driver Bros ownership before transfer to CDC was marked with a tour over all of the routes using the very latest Denning and some of the Driver heritage fleet. The final leg from Camberwell to Glen Iris saw the 1936 Federal join the tour. We thank Gary and his team, not only for their support of the Society on this day, but over the years as well. We wish them well into the future.

Ray Higginson

In March, we saw the passing of long time member, Ray Higginson, owner of Moonee Valley Bus Lines.

Born in 1928, Ray first became involved with buses as a driver for Reid's on what is now the 508 in 1949. He ventured into his own bus business in 1954 on the Moreland-Thornbury- Croxton route (96A) but this soon came under financial pressure. He returned to work for Reid's before becoming manager at Neeson's (route 504) in 1960. In 1965, Ray became one of the multiple operators on the Dawson Street route (506). Eventually, the other operators were bought out and Ray and Joe Bellofiori were the last two left and inherited the name Moonee Valley Bus Lines. In the south of the city, Nuline was purchased by their company in 1972 and in later years, Cunningham's Bus Lines 503 service in 1987. Ray sold his share of the ex Nuline routes in 1987, and became the sole owner of Moonee Valley Bus Lines. His tour and charter business had also grown during this period, mainly through his Expo Travel Services business.

The Bus and Coach Society of Victoria owes a lot to Ray. He supported the Society in so many ways over the years. His knowledge of the industry over the last 60 years was unsurpassed. We offered our condolences to Ray's wife Lyn, his children Garry, Craig, Julie and Pam, as well as their spouses and his grandchildren.

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.

The November 2012 meeting featured a photographic presentation by Geoff Foster on "Buses in Singapore".

The May 2013 Meeting featured the second in the series of buses around certain geographical locations, this time "Transport Around Moorabbin" presented by Craig Coop and Paul Kennelly.

The July Meeting featured "Buses in Switzerland and Italy" from Geoff Foster following his very recent European trip.

The 2012 HCVC Sandown Display was most successful with over 30 vehicles, even without the Grenda Heritage Fleet which was in a transition from Grenda ownership to Ventura ownership.

Geoff Foster provided the BCSV display at the BusVic BusExpo 2013 at Moonee Valley Racecourse on 1st & 2nd 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. We thank VicRoads for supplying a number of photographs from their archives.

Finances

The balance sheets show that Society continues to operate on a sound financial footing with a profit in of \$4044.

Publications

A major change in the production of the magazine occurred this year. We went to a full digital print and along with it, full colour. This has produced a much higher quality print and now does justice to the work of editor Geoff Foster and associated contributors.

A number of new CDs were published during the year and more are planned for the future.

Restoration

Geoff Vickers presented his restored Landseer at the Sandown display.

Finally

Thanks to the Committee – Mick Kane, Craig Halsall, Geoff Foster and Ian Lawson, for their work for the members and especially to Vice President Craig Coop for providing encouragement when needed. And lastly, thank you to all the