

# BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

A0006261D Preserving Australia's bus and coach heritage ABN 86 829 759 481



## 2015 Annual Report



### President's Report: Mick Kane

After getting off to a slow start this year, the Society has run a number of successful tours.

The Society continues on a steady course.

Most of the success is down to Paul Kennelly, an extremely hard working Secretary/Treasurer/Tours organiser, assisted by Craig Halsall, along with some suggestions from Jason Lipszyc.

I would also like to thank Caleb Ellis & Craig Coop for their work on the Committee.

Thanks also to all the operators that have generously let us use their buses on tours, which enables the Society to keep costs low.

Also thanks to other members who do a bit on the tour day whether it is driving a bus, helping move buses or helping with the BBQ.

Thanks also to Geoff Foster for doing the magazine & Hayden Ramsdale for proof reading.

And thanks to the members, for without you there is no Society, but times change and it's getting to the stage for that to happen in the Committee with some new blood.

### Secretary's Report: Paul Kennelly

#### Membership

Membership was 164 members for the year, equal to our highest ever.

It is with sadness that I report the death of two of our members during the year – Charles Craig and Ray Edser. Charles was one of the early members of the BCSV and president for 7 years from 1973. He was one of the early bus preservationists. His contribution to the Society was immeasurable and he will be greatly missed.

## **Tours**

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September ARHS/BCSV Tour to Alexandra**

The ARHS (Vic. Div.) invited the BCSV to join them on a bus trip to Alexandra on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The tour departed from Lilydale and travelled to Alexandra to view remnants of the old railway. Thanks to Hugh Waldron for the organisation and to Michael Presta for supplying the bus at late notice.

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Grand opening of Moonee Valley Coaches Heritage Museum**

Moonee Valley Coaches has constructed a special heritage museum to house their preserved buses, cars and other historic items. It had its grand opening on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November and Gary Driver provided two Heritage pick up vehicles to travel to the Moonee Valley Coaches depot in Tullamarine. Thanks to Gary Driver and the Higginson family for making the day so enjoyable for the 50 attendees.

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November- HCVC Historic Vehicle Display Yarra Glen**

The annual HCVC Historic Vehicle Display was, for the first time, held at Yarra glen racecourse. Gary Driver provided transport for BCSV to the event from Lilydale RS in his historic fleet for which we thank him.

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Pioneer Express 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour**

Up until 1955, because of prohibitive state government legislation aimed at protecting the income of their railways, express bus services were not permitted between capital cities. The Flixible Clipper Club organised a three day event to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Pioneer Express service from Melbourne to Sydney in 1955. It began with a display of Flixible Clippers at Essendon Fields then, in convoy, the Clippers set off for their first overnight stop at Wangaratta. BCSV members were invited by Gary Driver to join the trip in his preserved Flixible Clipper and Eagle. Once again, our thanks to Gary.

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – ARHS/BCSV Tour to Whitfield**

This tour was organised by the ARHS and travelled via Yea to Mansfield visiting the old stations. It was then on to Whitfield to inspect the remains of the 2ft 6in gauge Wangaratta – Whitfield Railway on route to Wangaratta. Thanks to Hugh Waldron for the organisation and to Andrew Fairhall for driving and transport organisation.

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 Farewell MAN Mk2 Tour**

The ex MET Ansair MAN Mark2 buses are nearing the end of their days. These were the first air-conditioned route service buses in Melbourne and date from 1988. Transdev gave us permission to hold a farewell tour and provided two vehicles. We had 62 attendees on the day, the highest number ever on a BCSV tour. Thanks to Transdev management, especially David Nott and Ray Gill, and to drivers Mick Kane and David Embury.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 Farewell Volvo B10M Tour**

The Volvo B10M has been one of the most popular chassis in Australia in the last thirty five years. Whilst there are still a number in Melbourne fleets, in the very near future they will be gone from our streets. This tour, with 51 attendees, used vehicles from a number of operators. The tour vehicles were provided by Andrew Cornwall at Ventura and Michael Presta. Sita Coaches, CDC, Driver and Bayside/Nuline, provided access to their depots and vehicles upon which to ride. Members had the opportunity to sample around ten different B10M buses on the day, as well as the new Volgren Volvo B9TL double decker at CDC Werribee. Amongst others, thanks to Andrew Cornwall, Andrew Fairhall, Michael Presta, Cos Sita, Nick Yap, Peter Ducevski, Jason Holmes, Poon Yu Sang, Gary Driver, Samuel Tantra, Rod Devereaux, Geoff Gunst, Ralf Boetker, Geoff Vickers, Jason Lipszyc and Hayden Ramsdale.

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015 Diamond Coaches/ Jay Tee Coaches/McKenzie's Tourist Services Tour**

This tour, with 35 attendees, visited Kevin Bryant's Bundoora based Diamond Tours. It was on to Jay Tee Coaches in Park Orchards. Finally, we travelled to Healesville to visit McKenzie's Tourist Services and their new depot. Peter Davine from Australiner will provide our tour coach for the day. Thanks to Kevin Bryant and his staff, John Trenfield, Brad Sanders, Peter Davine and James – our driver. Most agreed that the tour was one of

## **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 2014 meeting featured Geoff Foster's photos from his recent trip to Britain. They included the latest from London Transport and photos from Showbus, the largest display of heritage bus vehicles held anywhere in the world with hundreds of buses in attendance. The March 2015 meeting featured Geoff Foster's presentation on Buses around France. A special presentation was made to Geoff at the meeting to celebrate his 30<sup>th</sup> year as editor of Australian Bus Panorama.

The May 2015 meeting featured the next installment in the "Buses Around" series, this time "Buses around Footscray" presented by Paul Kennelly. Our July 2015 meeting featured Ray Arneil remembering Eastern Suburbs Omnibus Service, an especially enjoyable afternoon. A special presentation was made to Ray, in celebration and thanks for all the work he has put into bus preservation, especially while working for Grenda's, and the way in which he facilitated so many tours for the BCSV which used vehicles from the Grenda Heritage Fleet. It is pleasing to see that such meetings are once again attracting large numbers of members.

Geoff Foster once again provided the BCSV display at the BusVic 2015 Expo and Maintenance Conference this year held at The Melbourne Exhibition Centre for the first time. Thanks to Geoff. Also, for the first time, BusVic allowed BCSV members free access to the display on the second afternoon. We thank them sincerely.

## **Archives and Heritage**

Work has begun on the Society website and Virtual Museum. The site will provide information about the Society, its coming meetings, tours and events and its history. In addition, it will provide a Virtual Museum that will contain (over time) the histories of companies, route services, body builders and other historical information.

## **Finances**

The balance sheets show that the Society continues to operate on a sound financial footing with a surplus for the year of around \$3,800. More details in the accompanying financial statements.

## **Publications**

Geoff Foster has produced another high class and informative set of magazines for members (and others) during this past year. As mentioned above, the Society celebrated Geoff's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as our editor, a magnificent effort. The quality of the production has improved immeasurably due to the new digital printing process with full colour production. The Society decided to publish an additional Special to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ventura Bus Lines. This updated the 2004 Special and contained many colour photographs. The Society made a special presentation to Andrew Cornwall at Ventura of 50 copies in recognition of the outstanding support provided to the BCSV by Ventura over the years.

The Society acted as agent for the sale of the first in series of historical photographic bus books published by Tony Finneran in NSW. The Society was proud to support Tony and his work for the National Stroke Foundation.

## **Restoration**

Michael Presta had acquired and restored a 1986 Volvo B10M with Volgren body. It has participated in a number of tours, both in Victoria and interstate. Andrew Fairhall is also acquiring buses for preservation and a number of other individual members are investigating the possibility. Graeme Sandlant, Gary Driver, Garry Higginson, Stephen Simcocks, Robert Wright and Shane Dyson are all undertaking restoration projects at their companies. Well done!

## **Finally**

Thank you to the Committee for their work for, and on behalf of, the members. Mick Kane, Craig Coop, Craig Halsall and Caleb Ellis have provided me the support needed to meet the needs of the members and the Society more generally. It has been a most satisfying and productive year for the BCSV.