

BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

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



2017 Annual Report



Grummet bodied Ford V8 for Rennie's new in October 1954



Symons & Fowler 1946 International for Martyr's

President's Report: Mick Kane

Another successful year has come to a close and I would like to thank the Committee members for their grand efforts throughout the year, without them we would have no tours or visits.

I would also like to thank all the operators for allowing us visit their depots & the very generous support they give the Society.

Would also like to thank anyone who has helped with driving or BBQ's or in any other small way, it all goes to help.

I would also like to thank Geoff as magazine Editor, with help from Craig H & Hayden for proof reading.

Some new blood on the Committee would be nice, so have a think about it.

Secretary's Report: Paul Kennelly

Membership

Membership was 183 members for the year, another new record.

It is with sadness that I report the death of a long time member Greg Brooks from Sydney.

Tours

This last year has seen our tours program packed with opportunities for members to participate in tours. Many thanks to the Tours Committee, led by Craig Halsall and Ben Knight, which has provided many of the ideas, assisted in the planning and helped with the organisation. Special mention also to Caleb Ellis for juggling his VCE studies to assist with two popular tours in his hometown of Bendigo.

As usual, our tour program would be much the poorer without the support of operators like Driver's, Bayside, Ventura, Moonee Valley Coaches, Whitmore's, Australiner and Nuline Bus Service (Craig Coop) in providing tour vehicles. We were also able to support individual Society members, David Rae and Michael Presta, in using their heritage buses on tours as well. Of course, the cooperation and welcome from companies that we visited (as described below) remained the essential ingredient to the success of the tours. Along with this, there are the numerous drivers of the tour buses as well as those who assisted in the preparation of tour BBQs – fortunately, too many people to mention individually.

Saturday 24th September: Whitmore's MAN 10.180 farewell

We were able to secure an afternoon farewell tour of Whitmore's MAN 10.180, with Ansair Tasmania body, originally new to Metro Tasmania in 1992 as #512. This bus had been recently withdrawn from PTV duties and replaced with a Mercedes Benz O405 purchased from Ryan's. The tour also visited Whitmore's small depot in Golden Square. A presentation was made to Hazel Whitmore in appreciation.

Sunday 25th September: Visit to Cranbourne Transit and Latrobe Valley Bus Lines

On Sunday we visited Cranbourne Transit in the morning, before time for lunch at Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre. After lunch, we then visited Latrobe Valley Bus Lines to ride the Volvo Hybrid Bus that was on trial, with the proposed visit to Kingstons Tours postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. Our heritage tour buses were provided by Michael Presta and David Rae.

Saturday 15th October: ARHS & BCSV Day Tour to Port Welshpool & Port Albert

The ARHS & BCSV took a day trip to East Gippsland onboard a chartered coach from Ventura. At Korumburra we called into two local bus depots (Harley's and Winterhalter's) and also stopped at the old Hurst depot, now the home of BCSV member David Hurst. There was an opportunity to inspect the museum at the Korumburra station, previously home of the South Gippsland Railway.

Sunday 13th November- HCVC Historic Vehicle Display Yarra Glen

The HCVC Display of historic trucks and buses was held on Sunday 13th November. Bus operators Driver's, Dyson's, Moonee Valley Coaches, John Usher and others displayed their restored buses and coaches. Gary Driver set up on Saturday 12th November and invited BCSV members to ride along in the convoy of Driver Heritage vehicles.

Saturday 25th/Sunday 26th February 2017 Bendigo overnight

Our February overnight tour to Bendigo travelled by coach which was generously provided by Bayside Coaches. We visited Bendigo Coachlines, Whitmore's, Christian's and Flood's. We visited the private museum of Society member George Dawson, where we also had a BBQ lunch. A presentation was made to George in recognition of his services to the industry and the Society. We also rode the historic Bendigo Talking Tram along with an inspection of their facilities.

Sunday 19th February Caulfield Station: Re-enactment of route 617 Caulfield to Middle Brighton to Southland

BCSV Deputy President Craig Coop invited members to join him for an afternoon outing on Sunday 19th February onboard his preserved Transit bodied Hino as he retraced Route 617 Caulfield - Middle Brighton - Southland, which he operated from 1986 to 1991 as Nuline Bus Service.

Sunday 12th March: Re-enactment Hampton bus routes

This mini-tour retraced the routes of Hampton Green Bus Lines, Hampton Red Bus Service and Arrow Motors (later Nuline) from Hampton to North Brighton. Once again, Craig Coop provided the tour bus.

Sunday 28th May 2017: New VTC depot and Ventura Dandenong depot

We visited the new Victorian Touring Coaches depot in Springvale where we also had our BBQ lunch. A presentation was made to Bill Armstrong. We then visited the Ventura depot in Dandenong, the first time we had been there since it was built, just before Grenda's sold to Ventura. Our tour buses were provided by Driver's and Ventura.

Saturday 2nd September: Moonee Valley Coaches & Dyson's Heritage Running Day

The Higginson family invited us for a morning of rides aboard the Moonee Valley Coaches heritage fleet. After a BBQ lunch at MVC, we travelled to Dyson's to celebrate their 65th anniversary by sampling their growing heritage fleet and to have a look at some new arrivals. Additional heritage buses on display at MVC were provided by Gary Driver, Craig Coop and the TBCS. Our tour buses were provided by Australiner and John Usher.

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 2016 meeting featured Geoff Foster's slides on Victorian School Buses – part 2. The March 2017 meeting featured Bill Slattery reflecting on 40 years of buying and selling buses. For medical reasons, this took the form of a video which had been recorded by David Kemp and Paul Kennelly at Bill's Macedon home in the previous week.

The May meeting featured the next in the "Transport Around" series from Paul Kennelly, with a detailed look back at tram and bus transport across Bendigo from 1920 to 1990. In July, Geoffrey Foster provided us with another installment of photos from his latest adventures around Europe which included France and Switzerland.

Paul Kennelly provided the BCSV display at the BusVic 2017 Conference. This featured photographic histories of Crown Coaches, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and Dyson's, which is celebrating its 65th Anniversary.

Archives and Heritage

Work has continued on the Society website and Virtual Museum which went 'live' on 1st July 2017 (see website report). A number of interviews with past operators or people involved in the industry were undertaken, including Ray and John Allnutt (Sandringham Bus Company), Jack and Kevin Beardsley (Progress Bus Lines) and Bill Christie (Mee's).

Internet research into a number of companies also progressed, including Curren's, Geelong Road BS, Croydon-Mt Dandenong BS, Murrumbeena Bus Service and Rennie's. Thanks to Brian Weedon for his assistance in much of this research work.

Finances

The balance sheets show that the Society continues to operate on a sound financial footing with a surplus for the year of around \$1,900. More details in the accompanying financial statements.

Publications

Geoff Foster and his team of contributors have produced another high class and informative set of magazines for members (and others) during this past year. Extra copies of the July/August edition were ordered as giveaways for the BusVic Conference.

The Society was given a number of copies by Vic Haoust of the updated history of Crown Coaches for sale to members. The Society continued to promote the GBNF series published by Tony Finneran in NSW, with proceeds going to the National Stroke Foundation.

Restoration

Member companies Dyson's, Driver's, Australiner, Moonee Valley Coaches and Sandlant's have acquired new vehicles for restoration. Sandlant's have completed the restoration of the Dodge which was originally purchased for preservation by the late Ian Johnson back in 1970. The work of Graeme Sandlant and his son (also Graeme) is magnificent. There are a number of restoration projects being undertaken by individual members and there is every indication that they will be very successful.

Finally

Thank you to the Committee for their work for, and on behalf of, the members. Mick Kane, Craig Coop, Craig Halsall, Ben Knight, Jason Blackman, Michael Presta and Caleb Ellis have provided me with the support needed to meet the needs of the members and the Society more generally. It has been another very productive year for the BCSV.

Website Report: Craig Halsall

Two years of hard work by our Webmaster Matt Fleay-Daly, Secretary and Archives Officer Paul Kennelly and Assistant Secretary Craig Halsall came to fruition on 1 July 2017 with the Bus and Coach Society of Victoria website going live.

The launch date was timed to promote the website to operator management at the annual BusVic Maintenance Conference. Several favourable comments have been received since the site was launched.

The highlight of the website is our Virtual Museum, full of interesting content covering the history and development of bus services across Victoria and Australia. It will continue to grow over time and members are encouraged to write and submit content for us to upload, which can be emailed to vm@bcsv.org.au

The website also includes extensive information about the society; membership details and forms; tours calendar and blog; a large list of links to other transport societies and an interactive contact form.

A number of additional features are still to come include an extensive photo database; members' portal; and online store.

The development of the website was assisted earlier in the year with beta testing by interested members and the introduction of a CRM (Client Relationship Manager) to better manage webmaster requests and invoicing. The "MattMail" interface was also rolled out for committee members accessing BCSV emails via web browsers.

Most recently, Matt has developed an Android tracking app for our tours, which will assist organisers and allow attendees to follow vehicles online. The app is currently in a testing phase.

Matt is proving himself to be a talented webmaster, with MP Productions also launching websites for Melbourne Tram Tours, Marysville Crystal Gardens, Steve Dalton and Brenden Schonfelder in the past year. Links can be found at mattsphotos.com.au