

BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

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



2018 Annual Report



Line-up of Bender's Busways tram replacement CAC Bedford SBs Ray Davis with a 1945 Symons & Fowler bodied International K5

President's Report: Mick Kane

After 12 years as President of the BCSV, time has come for someone else to take up the mantle, new people with new fresh ideas in this challenging environment. I would like to thank all those that have served on the committee in this time.

The Society would have fallen apart years ago without the dedication of Paul Kennelly who has done most of the organizing of meetings, events and tours which, whilst perhaps not always to everyone's liking, at least provided visits to go on. Sometimes depot visits can be very hard to organize, things don't always automatically slot into place. With Paul's desire to wind down, now is the chance for others to show what they can achieve, you need a good Secretary to bring it all together.

Special thanks to Craig Halsall for keeping members advised on activities and stepping in to help.

Thanks to Craig Coop, Caleb Ellis, Ben Knight, Jason Blackman and David Kemp for their contributions over the year.

Many thanks to all who have participated in our tours and meetings. Many thanks to all who help cook the BBQ's

Extreme thanks to all the operators that let us visit their depots and supply buses for our trips and to the employees of those companies who give up their time to drive and to move buses about.

Finally, I look forward to future tours and meetings of the Society.

Secretary's Report: Paul Kennelly

Membership

Membership was 184 members for the year, a new record.

Tours

This last year has seen our tours program packed with opportunities for members to participate in tours. Unfortunately, the organisation of tours once again fell back to the Secretary, something that in the long run is

unsustainable. However, other Committee and ordinary members, assisted in the planning, organisation and implementation of our tours program.

As usual, our tours program would be much the poorer without the support of operators like Driver's, Bayside, Ventura, Moonee Valley Coaches, Whitmore's, Crown Coaches, Australiner and Nuline Bus Service (Craig Coop) in providing tour vehicles. We were also able to support individual Society members, like John Phillips, in using their heritage buses on tours where possible. 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 25th November: 40th anniversary of TeleBus services in Lilydale

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of TeleBus pioneered by John Usher, we drove over TeleBus Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 using representative vehicles currently operating on the TeleBus service. We also visited Lilydale depot, our first visit since February 2010, with some short rides of other buses in the fleet. It was the site of our tour BBQ. Then we had an extensive visit to Croydon depot with many rides. Ventura and Driver provided the tour pick up buses. A presentation was made to John Usher.

Sunday 26th November: Visit to Crown Coaches and Mee's

In the morning, we had our first visit in many years to Mee's. Craig Mee was the perfect host, with opportunities for rides and posed photos and a lovely morning tea. In the afternoon we visited to the operations of Crown Coaches as part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations. Vic Haoust provided our tour coach and accompanied us throughout the day.

Sunday 12th November- HCVC Historic Vehicle Display Yarra Glen

The HCVC Display of historic trucks and buses was held on Sunday 12th 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 11th November and invited BCSV members to ride along in the convoy of Driver Heritage vehicles.

Sunday 25th February 2018 –Ford's of Shepparton, Dyson's and Balfour's

Bayside Coaches provided our tour for the first BCSV visit to Ford's of Shepparton. Our hosts, Keith Ford and his daughter Lynda, provided an extremely enjoyable 3 hour visit including our tour BBQ. After lunch we paid a visit to Dyson's at Shepparton where Roy Dyson met us and provided a depot tour and rides. Finally there was a brief visit to Balfour's where afternoon was provided.

Saturday 4th August 2018 – Castlemaine Bus Lines, bonus Sunshine Tours

On Saturday 4th August, we rode the preserved Austral from Moonee Valley Coaches to visit Castlemaine Bus Lines. Jamie and Hazel Whitmore were pleased to display their latest acquisition. Caleb Ellis led the tour which also travelled to the Maldon sub depot. Our tour 'bonus' was a visit to Pino Gattellaro's Sunshine Tours where he was most welcoming and proud to show off his fleet.

Sunday 5th August 2018- CDC Wyndham and an historic re-enactment of the first tour

On Sunday 5th August, we visited the new CDC Wyndham depot. Jason Holmes and Poon Yu Sang conducted the depot tour and provided numerous rides of vehicles of interest. After lunch at the Werribee outlets, the tour moved to Caulfield for a reenactment of the very first organised bus enthusiast's tour some 50 years ago. The preserved vehicles from John Usher, Ventura and John Phillips provided a fitting convoy for the historic occasion. Driver provided a low floor pick up as well. Special guests and attendees at that first tour, Geoff Mann and Paul Nicholson were welcomed by the tour group.

Meetings and other Events

The HCVCA display at Yarra Glen attracted around 30 preserved buses, including the Driver Heritage Fleet, Moonee Valley Coaches, Dyson's, John Usher, Craig Coop and other private individuals. It was the first public display of the completed restoration of the ex Pioneer PD4106. Once again, Gary Driver provided a riding opportunity for members on the set up day, for which we were grateful.

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 2017 meeting featured Geoff Foster's slides on Victorian School Buses – part 3.

The March 2018 meeting featured Paul Kennelly and Geoff Foster presenting Government bus operators 1920 to the present day – Perth, Rottnest Island and Kalgoorlie. We were fortunate to have WA based member Colin Davison to provide "expert comments" on the presentation. The May 2018 meeting featured the second part of the Government bus operators series with Geoff and Paul presenting Brisbane and Rockhampton buses.

Our July 2018 meeting featured a special guest speaker – Jeroen Weimar, CEO of the PTV, who presented, "Current PTV programs to improve bus services in Victoria and possibilities for the future." He then fielded numerous questions from members in this very well attended and informative meeting.

Paul Kennelly provided the photographic display for the BusVic 2018 Conference, with the booth manned by Geoff Foster and Jason Blackman. This featured photographic histories looked at four operators of the past, including Brien's, Calderwood's, Parlorcars, McKenzie's and All Weather Scenic Coaches.

Archives and Heritage

Work has continued on the Society website and Virtual Museum which went 'live' on 1st July 2017. Thanks to Webmaster Matt Fleay-Daly and Craig Halsall.

Research has been undertaken about past operators or people involved in the industry, including Newton's of Whitfield, McGill's of Benalla, Wedge Motors of Cobden, Jeeves Brothers of Olinda, Ringwood Bus Service, Calderwood's, Brien's, Granger's and Sandlant's. Thanks to Brian Weedon for his assistance in some of this research work.

Contact was made with the State Library of Victoria in order to access Keith Kings' photographic collection. As a first step, over 1000 slides have been scanned and made available to the Society, some of which will feature in this year's Special Panorama to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Society.

Finances

The balance sheets show that the Society continues to operate on a sound financial footing with a surplus for the year of around \$3,500. More details in the accompanying financial statements.

Restoration

Member Grant Sauberg has acquired the ex Willis 1962 two-door Comair Bedford SB5 and is undertaking a new restoration. Simcock's are doing a restoration of the ex McGeary's, ex USBL, 1962 Comair Bedford SB3. Both of these buses were acquired, and restored, by BCSV members in the past, and it is only their prior work that has enabled them to still be available for these latest restorations. Moonee Valley Coaches have acquired an underfloor engined Tourmaster which is their next restoration project. Gary Driver has acquired an ex Pioneer Ansair Scenicruiser – his next restoration project.

Finally

Thank you to Geoff Foster and his team for another outstanding volume of Panorama. The quality and content just seems to get better and better.

Thank you to the Committee for their work for, and on behalf of, the members. Mick Kane, Craig Coop, David Kemp Ben Knight, Jason Blackman and Caleb Ellis have provided me with the support needed to meet the needs of the members and to keep the Society strong. Thanks also to Craig Halsall for all the social media work. It has been another very productive year for the BCSV.

Publications Report: Geoff Foster

The usual seven issues of Australian Bus Panorama appeared with the six bi monthly issues and the Christmas Special. Major news stories covered in Volume 33 included new route networks for Warragul, Toowoomba and Newcastle; the privatisation of Newcastle and Sydney region 6, the 2017 Bus and Coach Show from Queensland and the Transdev crisis along with all the other news from Victoria and interstate.

We celebrated 50 years of Crown Coaches, 60 years of Port Stephens Buses and 65 years of Dyson's. Operator histories covered Korumburra, Fords of Shepparton, Mt Gambier town service operators, Bangalow (NSW), Tallangatta, Admiral Roadlines (Adelaide), Coolamon (NSW) Wildlife Tours and Moonee Ponds-Clifton Hill Bus Co. The 2017 Special featured two major operator histories – that of Withers/ Parlorcars by Paul Kennelly and the Pulitano family history in buses by Geoff Foster. A new “looking back at” photo section was also debuted.

The Editor's thanks go to all contributors with particular mention to Paul Kennelly, Stephen Haby, Neil Robins, Craig Halsall and Alan Ofak for article contributions, to Hayden Ramsdale for an article and the proof reading and to all those who contribute news and fleet notes sightings directly or via the range of forums from which information is now sourced. Long gone are the days when most stuff arrived in the post box! Your Editor has been at this for 34 years now – will he make 40? Never written an article – why not try your hand? New contributors are always welcome. Talk to Geoff.

Social Media Report: Craig Halsall

Facebook continues to be a successful medium to reach members, operators and the wider enthusiast community, supplementing our regular members' emails, the news thread on the Australian Transport Discussion Board and the event calendar on our website. Regular posts have provided details of upcoming tours & social meetings, membership reminders, advised of book releases (especially the upcoming "Gone But Not Forgotten" volume focusing on Melbourne) as well as on occasion sharing announcements from operators or other transport groups. Cover photo updates are popular, sometimes attracting over 50 likes and 'reactions'!

While "likes" to our Facebook page increased by 16% to 676 over the past year, Facebook algorithms do not appear to be in our favour, with several posts reaching fewer than 300 Facebook users. The reality of Facebook is that our posts must compete for space and attention in news feeds with sponsored posts from other pages along with personal posts and of course photos & news shared in numerous groups.

There is some increasing concern by the outgoing committee that RSVPs to Facebook event pages are no longer proving to be accurate for planning purposes. Our recent visit to CDC Wyndham received 45 "going" and 57 "interested" responses via the Facebook event page (many from interstate when the event was first announced), yet less than 60 people actually showed up on the day. A few attendees also failed to indicate their attendance via either the event page or email. It may be time to implement online bookings, especially for events where we have a desire to cap numbers, such as the upcoming visit to Volgren. Our webmaster, MP Productions, has successfully managed online bookings for tram tours and would be well placed to assist.

Unfortunately, the secondary "BCSV website updates" Facebook page has become dormant, with little content or new features added to the BCSV website since the launch last mid-year. The new committee will need to encourage the wider membership to become more involved with the direction of the website going forward.

Selected photos uploaded to Facebook by members have been used across our website and Facebook page over the past year. Thanks to those who share their collections, especially those including detailed captions. It is hoped that in the coming months our website gallery feature will go live, encouraging more photos from the past to be shared among the enthusiast community, easily catalogued for future reference.