

# BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

A0006261D Preserving Australia's bus and coach heritage ABN 86 829 759 48



## Annual Report 2022

### **President's Report – Geoff Foster**

2021-22 was a very different year to the previous two with the gradual emergence from covid induced lockdowns, the availability of further vaccinations and the gradual return of both domestic and international travel.

The charter section of the bus industry has seen a return to something near normal in 2022 but the inbound tourism market is still only just beginning to re-emerge. In Melbourne we saw the transition from Transdev to Kinetic and in Sydney the final three STA operated regions passing to private contractors. Kinetic have also made strong inroads into the Queensland market acquiring several major operators.

BCSV has been able to again conduct member events with our visit to MOVE Museum at Shepparton for the AGM in January and finally, in July, to return our social meetings to the Hawthorn tram depot. Our thanks go to Gary Driver who hosted several social meetings at his depot/ museum when Hawthorn was unavailable.

A notable event occurred right at the end of the year under review when we were finally able to return to the Ryan Bros depot after an absence of over two decades, viewing both current and preserved vehicles. The same day saw yet another visit to our good friends at Moonee Valley Bus Lines and this day also set a new attendance record.

More events are currently being planned for later this year and into 2023 and won't it be great to see the return of both the National Bus and Coach Show in Sydney in early October and the HCVC Rally at Yarra Glen in November.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their efforts and inputs during the year. Vice President Steve Bayer is growing into the role. Secretary Paul Kennelly continues to perform his many duties with both enthusiasm and effectiveness while David Kemp keeps our books and finances in order. Gary Driver has provided valuable input, particularly in relation to the Shepparton Museum and Jason Lee has also participated when his health allows. Special mention also to Craig

Halsall for his efforts with both the website and the Facebook page. My sincere thanks to them all.

From a personal perspective, it has been refreshing to be able to get out and about once again. During the 2021-22 year I was able to visit several parts of regional Victoria plus visits to Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland – avoiding floods and dodging potholes!

I wish all members well and look forward to a fruitful and rewarding 2022-23.

### **Secretary's Report – Paul Kennelly**

Membership edged up to 211, another very pleasing record.

Much of my work this year has been with Gary Driver in consolidating and improving the display at MOVE in Shepparton. The Society funds two out of a total of seven buses on show in the main pavilion. Proposals are being investigated with the MOVE Board of Management to expand the museum which could include a significant increase in the number of buses on display.

In line with the 2021 AGM decision, **the Committee's recommendation is that the BCSV continue to fund two positions for at least the next twelve months.**

When the MOVE expansion plans are finalised and made available, the Committee will explore, in consultation with the membership, funding arrangements which would allow for an increase in the total number of buses on display.

Further discussions were held with VicTrack personnel during the year regarding the future of the former MET Heritage Fleet. The bob-tailed Comeng AEC Mark III (347) was returned to Newport following the death of the custodian who received it in 1995. It was decided to continue discussions with VicTrack once the expansion possibilities at MOVE were clarified.

Since the last AGM, the following members have passed away: Ian Monteath and Doug Lever. We passed on our condolences to their families and friends.

Geoff Foster produced another outstanding set of Panorama magazines, his 37<sup>th</sup> year as editor.

Our website continues to grow with many hundreds of “hits” being registered. More company histories are being uploaded although it is a time-consuming exercise. Our decision to make the website publicly available when constructed has meant that it has reached many people with a past connection to the bus industry or who just want to know about the buses that took them to school or to the local shops. Many of those have provided information to us. Thanks to Craig Halsall for adding material to the site (as well as to Facebook and Bus Australia) and to our Webmaster Matt Fleay-Daly for keeping it all going.

I would like to express my thanks to the Committee – Geoff Foster, Gary Driver, Steve Bayer, Jason Lee and to David Kemp for keeping the finances in order. Thanks to those members who helped our tours run so well, be it driving, cooking or cleaning up.

### **Treasurer’s Report - David Kemp**

The Financial Statements (on the reverse) are provided for the benefit of members which show a surplus for the 2021/22 financial year of \$4,260.88 – a very good result.



Photos by the late Ken Magor taken in 1963 at the Flemington depot of Doug Barnes on the eastern side of Epsom Road just before the tram goes under the rail bridge for trains to the Showgrounds and Racecourse.