

BUS AND COACH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

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



Annual Report 2023

President's Report – Geoff Foster

2022-23 has turned out to be another successful year for the Society. Post Covid we have been able to return to a full program of meetings and events during the year.

Highlights have been the delayed HCVC Rally at Yarra Glen, our own much delayed tour to the museums at Deniliquin and Shepparton as well as the Nuline 25th Anniversary visit.

As always, such events would not be possible if not for the wonderful assistance, we receive from the Victorian bus industry and its individual operators.

I thank all those operators and their staff who have contributed vehicles and allowed us access to your depots.

I also thank those on and off the Committee who have contributed to the running of the club over the year.

Secretary Paul Kennelly continues to perform his many duties to perfection and keeps our engine ticking over nicely, ably assisted by Treasurer David Kemp who monitors the farebox.

Craig Halsall, Jason Lee and Paul look after the publicity machine through the website and Facebook pages with technical support from Matt Fleay-Daly.

Gary Driver brings his enthusiasm for restoration and an important industry perspective to our deliberations.

Steve Bayer has grown into the role of Vice President and has been active in tour organisation as well.

Secretary's Report – Paul Kennelly

Membership was 210, just one down on last year's record.

Our Meetings program featured three past operators who were able to provide expert commentary of the show of photographs of their fleet from our archives. John Usher started the ball rolling in November, followed by Cos Sita in May and then Peter Cooper from Reservoir BC in July. The high level of attendance at these meetings was testimony to the respect these men have amongst our membership and we thanked them for their support of the Society over many years. The photos used in the presentation taken by John Masterton, Bruce Tilley, Geoff Mann, Geoff Foster and others were added by a couple of collections received this year which contained past photos in Truck & Bus Transportation and from Peter Anderson.

Our tours program featured an overnight weekend tour in late March which not only visited the motor museums in Deniliquin and Shepparton but also the operations of Newtons in Echuca and Matt Joyce's Wangaratta BL in Nathalia. Moonee Valley Coaches and Driver BL provided the tour coaches for the 46 attendees and a highlight were rides on two CAC Bedfords from the Purtill Heritage Fleet in Deniliquin.

The tour to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Nuline Charter had 47 attendees and we visited the various Bayside/Nuline depots around Melbourne, expertly organised by Jason Lipszyc from Bayside. The Society produced a special CD for the tour, featuring most, if not all the vehicles operated by Nuline over the years. Bayside/Nuline owners Geoff Vickers and Andrew Czarnecki were presented with an anniversary cake and enough CDs for all staff.

Finally, our recent Farewell Ventura Northcoast bodied buses ride-on-day-tour drew many new, and young, enthusiasts. As tour organiser Craig Halsall noted, it was the first "farewell" tour in a long time when the average age of the attendees was less than the average age of the buses. A pleasing sign for the future.

Since the last AGM, the following members have passed away: Pete Kane and Stefan Indyka. We passed on our condolences to their families and friends.

Geoff Foster produced another outstanding set of Panorama magazines, his 38th year as editor. The Committee worked together most cohesively, and I thank them all for their support during the year.

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 \$398.74, down on previous years due to rising printing and postage costs, and one of the reasons that the Committee is recommending an increase in membership fees to \$60 (\$45 concession) dating from July 2024.



Some of the photos received into our archives during the year showing Ansair bodied buses on delivery in the 40s and 50s.