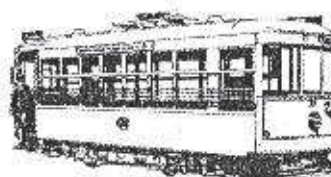


PROCEEDINGS OF
THE TWELFTH CONFERENCE
OF
AUSTRALASIAN
TRAMWAY MUSEUMS

BENDIGO, VICTORIA

2 - 6 December, 1994



Editor: K. S. Kings

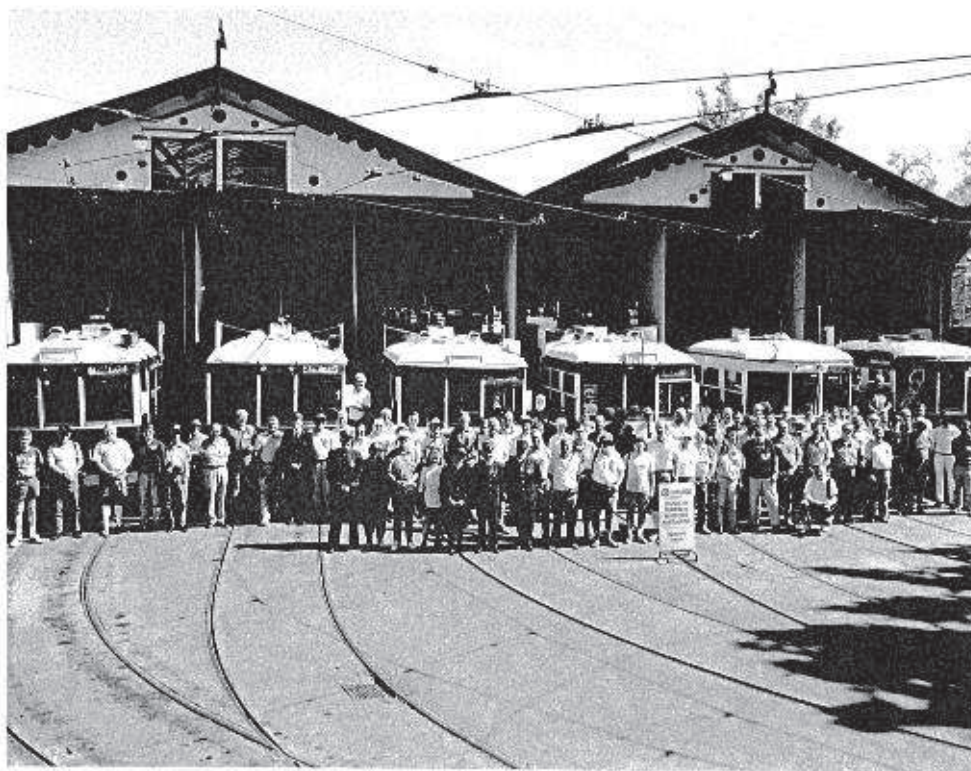
PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWELFTH CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALASIAN TRAMWAY MUSEUMS

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Photograph: Robert A. Aulsebrook.

Conference delegates assembled in front of six Birney trams at Bendigo's 1903 electric tram depot, on Sunday, 4 December, 1994.

The trams are Bendigo nos. 11, 15, 28, 30, Melbourne no. 217 (The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria Inc.), Bendigo no. 29 restored as Adelaide no. 302.

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FOREWORD
COUNCIL OF TRAMWAY MUSEUMS OF AUSTRALASIA
CONFERENCE BENDIGO 1994

Dennis R. O'Hoy.
Chair, COTMA Conference Bendigo, 1994.

It only seems like yesterday when The Bendigo Trust delegates at the COTMA Conference in Wellington 1990 proposed that Bendigo could host the 1994 Conference. Following ratification at the COMTA Conference in Perth 1992 that Bendigo was to be the next venue, a committee was formed to undertake the planning, organisation and eventual implementation of the Conference. The committee at the outset established that the Conference had to be stimulating, enjoyable, full of varied activities and to utilise the distinctive features of Bendigo's historic assets. Furthermore, the Committee felt that the Conference activities should embrace all the other excellent Victorian tramway museums and groups, and to give all the delegates - particularly those from interstate and overseas a chance to visit them. (A factor which was appreciated by all concerned).

From the beginning to the end, all the planning and organisation went well, with the majority of delegates being met at their arrival points by a fleet of buses and conveyed to their first port of call at Bylands, before arriving at Bendigo and the LaTrobe University Bendigo Campus, Phoenix Conference Centre.

After renewing many friendships I was able to give a brief history of the Bendigo Tramways and the work of The Bendigo Trust.

On the Saturday, tours were arranged to The Bendigo Railway Workshops, Vintage 'Talking' Trams and lunch underground in the Gillies Crib Room at the Central Deborah Gold Mine. The afternoons activity was one of the highlights of the Conference with a cavalcade of 24 tramcars moving along the city centre. The evening meal was held at the historic Shamrock Hotel with Geoffrey Claydon giving the first of his informative talks followed by the first group of Museum Reports.

Sunday saw the official welcome and the commencement of the sessions and workshops, all of which were capably administered by Keith Kings. At the conclusion of the afternoon sessions, there was the visit to the Gasworks Museum and secondary Tramways Depot. Dinner was held at the Tramway Museum Depot, followed by an impromptu bus tour to Eaglehawk, and the second group of museum reports and a late evening tram ride on a Birney car.

Monday was a day of excellent multiple sessions and workshops, followed by the entertaining debate: "Buses are a more efficient form of passenger transport than trams". The advocates for trams winning the debate (I wonder why?). Dinner was held al fresco at the Central Deborah Gold Mine with the Honourable Minister for Public Transport Alan Brown M.L.A., The Honourable Max Turner M.L.A., Commissioners for the City of Greater Bendigo and the Chief Executive Officer in attendance. Delegates were treated to an excellent talk by Geoffrey Claydon on the wonders of National Tramway Museum at Crich U.K.

Tuesday saw the biennial COTMA Conference meeting and at this point I would like to acknowledge the past commitments of the outgoing Chariman, Dr John Radcliffe, and Executive Officer Bill Kingsley, and congratulate the incoming office bearers Lindsay Richardson and Richard Gilbert. The afternoon activities afforded all the delegates the opportunity to drive some of the Trust's tramcars and gain experience with derailments.

The final COTMA Conference Dinner at the Phoenix Centre marked the end of the Bendigo activities. The LaTrobe University Phoenix Conference Centre served the Conference well with its generous space, excellent facilities and affordable on site accommodation.

Wednesday saw the beginning of the Post Conference activities with visits to the Castlemaine and Maldon Railway, B.T.P.S. system Ballarat, and M.T.P.A. Haddon. Delegates will recall how cool the weather was in Ballarat - it even rained! A most welcomed contrast to the freak heat-wave that encompassed the continent - the only fault over which the Organising Committee had no control.

Further extensive Post Conference activities took place in and around Melbourne all of which was capably organised by Bill Kingsley (a real stalwart who carried a dozen or so tasks).

Acknowledgments

The success of the COTMA Conference Bendigo 1994 and the associated Pre and Post Conference activities were due to the valued efforts and contributions of many individual and organisations. From the onset many gave freely of their time and it is fitting that all should be gratefully acknowledged. I would therefore like to thank all those individuals and groups who:

- * gave access to documentation for previous COTMA Conferences;
- * assisted with the preparation of schedules and subsequent distribution and publicity;
- * provided the transport and driving of buses;
- * presented the papers, workshops and provided the related secretarial services and overall administration;
- * drove trams and undertook guided tours;
- * tended the bar and provisions of refreshments through-out the duration of the Conference;
- * gave access to museums, facilities, buildings, plant and equipment.

Individuals

Geoffrey Claydon (keynote speaker), Phil A'Vard, Greg Dower, Russell Nathan, Les Jean, Eric Keys, Jim McCrum, Lou DiGregorio, Graham Jones, Dr John Radcliffe, Carolyn Dean, Richard Gilbert, Robert Merchant, Andrew Hall, John Phillips, Graeme Bennett, Timothy Borchers, Len Millar, Craig Tooke, Lindsay Richardson, John Shaw, Jim and Alyson Willcox, Ken Stringer, John Beckett, Robert and Dianne Aulsebrook, Daryl McClure, and Leo Trainor.

Organisations

- * La Trobe University: Secretarial support: Susan Shearer, Madge Pinge, Suzanne Harvey.
Media Services: Chris Muerer, Ivan Burge, Brendan Fletcher.
Conference and Facilities: Zoe Hawley and staff.
- * Bendigo Railway Workshops.
- * The Public Transport Corporation
- * The City of Greater Bendigo, Commissioners and staff.
- * A Goninan and Co.

Museum Groups

Perth Electric Tramway Society.
Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society.
Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia.
The National Tramway Museum (CRICH).
Castlemaine and Maldon Railway Preservation Society.

Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Society.
Tramway Museum Society of Victoria.
Trolley Wire.
Puffing Billy Railway.

Parliamentarians

The Honourable Minister for Public Transport, Alan Brown, M.L.A., The Honourable Max Turner, M.L.A., and The Honourable Bruce Reid M.H.R.

The Bendigo Trust

Catering: Leo Trainor.
Central Deborah Gold Mine: Simon Desborough.
Gasworks: Edgar Harrison, Peter Worthington.
Tramways: Dennis Bell.
And all The Bendigo Trust staff and volunteers

The COTMA Conference Organisation Committee.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to a great team who deserve much of the credit:

Deborah Blake, Myra Potter, Keith Kings, Bill Kingsley, Dennis Bell, Jill Moorhead, Christine Nicholls and Michael Lowther. (Keith has worked continuously since the end of the Conference in order to organise the completion of these Proceedings).

Finally, I must thank all the delegates (a record number) who attended and whose participation was essential for success of the Conference. If I have omitted any names, it is unintentional and I beg forgiveness for my oversight.

I wish COTMA Conference Hobart 1996 well!

Dennis O'Hoy
Dennis O'Hoy

Editor's Notes:-

I feel I must tender my thanks to a number of people for their help in facilitating the production of this volume:

most presenters for lodging their Papers before the Conference and the remainder for doing so at or shortly afterwards;

Session Chairs and Secretaries for agreeing to perform these tasks and for the notes the latter provided;

Bill Kingsley and Dennis O'Hoy for helping with proof-reading the draft;

Bendigo Trust staff Myra Potter and Mandy Singleton for a tremendous effort in typing, correcting, modifying and finally assembling and producing this volume.

My apologies for any errors and omissions that have not been detected.

Keith Kings, March, 1996.

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE BENDIGO TRUST

Chair	Dennis O'Hoy
Conference Secretary	Myra Potter
Assistant Secretary	Deborah Blake
Conference Programme & Liason	Keith Kings (Bill Kingsley, COTMA assisting)
Conference Activities Officer	Dennis Bell
Post-Conference Activities	Bill Kingsley
Activities for Partners & Guests	Jill Moorhead
Accommodation Officer	Myra Potter
Finance, Treasurer	Christine Nicholls
Publicity & Promotions Officer	Jill Moorhead
Facilities & Equipment Officer	Michael Lowther
COTMA Liaison Officer	Bill Kingsley

PARTICIPATING SOCIETIES/ORGANISATIONS - ABBREVIATIONS

Australian Electric Transport Museum	AETM
Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society	BTPS
The Bendigo Trust	TBT
Brisbane Tramway Museum Society	BTMS
Christchurch Tramway	CT
Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia	COTMA
Melbourne Tramcar Preservation Association	MTPA
National Federation of Rail Societies (N.Z.)	NFRS

Newcastle Tramway Museum	NTM
Perth Electric Tramway Society	PETS
Public Transport Corporation - Met Bus	Met Bus
Public Transport Corporation - Met Tram	Met Tram
Public Transport Corporation - Rail Vehicle Maintenance	PTC(RVM)
Public Transport Union	PTU
Puffing Billy Preservation Society	PBPS
Rockhampton City Council	RCC
South Pacific Electric Railway Cooperative Society (Sydney Tramway Museum)	SPER(STM)
Tasmanian Transport Museum Society	TTMS
Tramway Historical Society, Christchurch	THS
Tramway Museum Society (Crich) (National Tramway Museum)	NTM(Crich)
The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria	TMSV
Wellington Tramway Museum	WTM

LIST OF DELEGATES AND GUESTS

Phil A'Vard	PBPS	Chris Andrews	AETM
Rod Atkins	TMSV	Dennis Bell	TBT
Graeme Bennett	TMSV	John Beckett	TBT
Ray Blackmore	PETS	Deborah Blake	TBT
Tim Borchers	TBT	Ted Bowles	TBT
Henry Brittain	WTM	Alan Brown MLA	The Honourable, Minister for Public Transport
Marlene Burling	WTM		
Trevor Burling	WTM	Julie Cain	TBT
Don Campbell	SPER(STM)	Brendon Carter	THS
Wayne Chaseling	BTMS	Howard Clark	SPER(STM)
Geoffrey Claydon	NTM(Crich)	Tony Cody	SPER(STM)
Bill Cox	THS	Dave Critchley	SPER(STM)
Les Crofts	Commissioner, City of Greater Bendigo	Norm Cross	PTC(RVM)
		Bruce Dale	THS
Carolyn Dean	BTPS/COTMA	Trevor Dennhardt	PETS
Lou DiGregorio	PTU	Frank Doherty	THS
Greg Dower	Met Bus	Jack Evans	TBT
Earl Ewers	TBT	Dean Filgate	MTPA
David Frost	TMSV	Richard Gilbert	BTPS
Martin Grant	PETS	Richard Gray	WTM
Andy Hall	TMSV	Greg Harris	THS/Southpower
Michael Hearn	TBT	Dave Hinman	THS/Chch City C
Chas Huggard	TMSV	Darren Hutchesson	BTPS
Peter Hyde	BTMS	Chris Jacobs	SPER(STM)
Les Jean	PTC(RVM)	Graham Jones	A. Goninan & Co.
Russell Jones	TMSV	Peter Kahn	SPER(STM)
Stuart Keenan	SPER(STM)	Russell Kent	THS
Eric Keys	Met Tram	Helen Killick	WTM
Barrie King	PETS	Keith Kings	TMSV/TBT
Bill Kingsley	TBT/COTMA	James Lerk	TBT
Don Lange	TTMS	Peter (Pal) Letheby	AETM
Michael Lowther	TBT	Norm Maddock	TMSV
Harold McCarthy	TBT	Daryl McClure	TBT
Jim McCrum	PTU	Bob Merchant	SPER(STM)
Len Millar	BTPS/TBT	Morris Moller	WTM
Jill Moorhead	TBT	Kim Moorhead	TBT
David Neish	RCC	Christine Nicholls	TBT
Jack Nyman	NTM	Lewis Nyman	NTM
Dennis O'Hoy	TBT	Chris Olsen	SPER(STM)

Geoff Olsen	SPER(STM)	Glen Paull	AETM
Bob Pearce	PETS	Bryce Pender	WTM
Jack Pennack	AETM	John Phillips	BTPS
Roger Pierce	CT	Myra Potter	TBT
John Radcliffe	AETM/COTMA	Bruce Reid	The Hon., MHR.
Lindsay Richardson	PETS	Alan Robb	THS
Lloyd Rogers	MTPA	Peter Ross-Edwards	Chief Commissioner, City of Greater Bendigo
Murray Sanders	THS	Peter Seamer	C.E.O., City of Greater Bendigo
Bill Scott	BTPS	Hadley Sides	Manager, Economic Development, City of Greater Bendigo
Colin Seymour	AETM		
John Shanks	THS		
Maurie Sharkey	Commissioner, City of Greater Bendigo		
John Shaw	PETS	Christopher Steele	AETM
Les Stewart	NFRS/WTM	Jeff Stocco	TMSV
Ken Stockdale	SPER(STM)	Keith Stodden	TMSV
Mike Stukely	PETS	Craig Tooke	MTPA
Max Turner, MLA		Terry Verney	PETS
David Verrier	TTMS	Ray Webster	PETS
Ron White	AETM	David White	TMSV
Jim Willcox	TBT	Alyson Willcox	TBT
John Withers	MTPA	Les Withington	TTMS
Bruce Worthington	PETS	David Wright	City of Greater Bendigo, seconded as Administrator of the Bendigo Trust

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Friday
2nd Dec, 1994.

PRE CONFERENCE

- Pick up Melbourne Airport and Spencer Street Railway Station
Early arrivals to visit Bylands TMSV for lunch, inspection and rides
5.30 p.m. REGISTRATION Phoenix Conference Centre (La Trobe University Bendigo
- Osborne Street Campus)
7.00 p.m. Dinner - Burnett Lounge (Phoenix Conference Centre)
8.30 p.m. Orientation and welcome to Bendigo. Slides, videos - Dennis O'Hoy

Saturday
3rd Dec, 1994.

CONFERENCE

- 7.15 a.m. Breakfast
8.00 a.m. REGISTRATION
8.45 a.m. Buses depart Phoenix Centre
9.00 a.m. Tour of Bendigo Railway Workshops
10.15 a.m. Depart
10.30 a.m. Morning Tea - Gold Link Cafe
11.00 a.m. Vintage "Talking" Tram Tour
12.00 noon Start of tour of Central Deborah Gold Mine
12.30 p.m. Lunch - Gillies Crib Room
1.15 p.m. Complete tours of Central Deborah Gold Mine
2.30 p.m. Back on tram to Tramways Avenue
2.45 p.m. Grand Cavalcade Bendigo Tramways
Panorama Photographs
* Tower Truck - High Street
* Shamrock Hotel Balcony
* L.C.C. TAFE Balcony (Corner McCrae & Mundy Streets)
6.00 p.m. Buses Depart from Depot for Phoenix Centre
6.15 pm LATE REGISTRATION
6.45 p.m. Buses depart Phoenix Centre
7.00 p.m. Dinner - Historic Shamrock Hotel
8.30 p.m. Museum Report
10.30 p.m. Buses return to the Phoenix Centre

Sunday 4th Dec, 1994.	<u>CONFERENCE</u>	8.00 a.m. Breakfast 8.30 a.m. REGISTRATION 9.00 a.m. Official Welcome (Conference Hall) President, The Bendigo Trust, Mr D H R McClure Commissioner, City of Greater Bendigo Key Note Speaker - Mr Geoffrey Claydon - The National Tramway Museum (Crich) and long time Secretary, THS, UK 10.30 a.m. Morning Tea 11.00 a.m. 1st Session Papers/Workshops 12.30 p.m. Lunch - Burnett Lounge 1.30 p.m. 2nd Session Papers/Workshops 3.30 p.m. Afternoon Tea 4.00 p.m. Buses depart Phoenix Centre for the Tramways Museum/Depot 4.15 p.m. COTMA Group Photograph Tours of Museum/Depot & Gasworks Depot (Weeroona Avenue) 6.30 p.m. Dinner - Tramway Museum/Depot - Spit Roast Night rides and refreshment on trams Museum Reports 10.30 p.m. Depart for Phoenix Centre
Monday 5th Dec, 1994.	<u>CONFERENCE</u>	8.00 a.m. Breakfast 8.30 a.m. REGISTRATION 9.00 a.m. 3rd Session Papers/Workshops 10.30 a.m. Morning Tea 11.00 a.m. 4th Session Papers/Workshops 12 noon Lunch - Burnett Lounge 1.00 p.m. 5th Session Papers/Workshops 2.45 p.m. Afternoon Tea/Museum Sales and Promotions 3.15 p.m. 6th and Final Session Papers/Workshops 4.00 p.m. Sales and Promotions (Continued) 4.30 p.m. Debate "Buses are a more efficient form of passenger transport than trams". 6.15 p.m. Buses depart for the Central Deborah Gold Mine 6.30 p.m. Dinner at the Central Deborah Gold Mine - Guest Speaker, The Hon. Alan Brown MP, State Minister for Public Transport 8.00 p.m. Museum Report - The National Tramway Museum (Crich) 10.30 p.m. Buses return to Phoenix Centre
Tuesday 6th Dec, 1994.	<u>CONFERENCE</u>	7.30 a.m. Breakfast 8.00 a.m. REGISTRATION 8.30 a.m. COTMA Conference General Meeting 10.00 a.m. Morning Tea 10.30 a.m. Continuation of Conference General Meeting 12 noon Barbecue Lunch - Phoenix Centre 1.15 p.m. Buses depart for Tram Depot 1.30 p.m. Tram Rides and Driving (a) Lower Bridge Street (b) Caledonia and Thunder Streets (c) Visit (by foot) to John Beckett's Miniature Tramways 5.30 p.m. Buses depart from the Tramways Depot/Museum 7.00 p.m. COTMA Conference Dinner - Burnett Lounge * Guest Speaker - Geoffrey Claydon Museum Reports
Wednesday 7th Dec, 1994.	<u>CONFERENCE</u>	7.30 a.m. Breakfast 8.45 a.m. OPTION 1. Transport to Melbourne available on request <u>END OF CONFERENCE</u>

OPTION 2 POST CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

8.30 a.m.	Buses depart for Post Conference Activities	
	* Wednesday 7th December	} Refer to separate report
	* Thursday 8th December	} at rear of this volume
	* Friday 9th December	} for a summary of
	* Saturday 10th December	} activities on these days
	* Sunday 11th December	}

DETAILS OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS

1st Session	11.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Sunday 4th December	
	11.00 a.m.	Phil A'Vard (Puffing Billy) <i>Boards of Enquiry - "What to do until the Coroner comes"</i>
	11.45 p.m.	Richard Gilbert (BTPS) for C. Britts <i>"Electric Motors - Good Housekeeping"</i>
		Dennis Bell (TBT), Mrs Judy Mott, Ms Heather Newnham <i>Driver Medicals</i>
2nd Session	1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	
	1.30 p.m.	Eric Keys (Manager, Marketing & Planning - Met Tram) <i>"Tramways in Melbourne and expectations for the future from a managerial viewpoint"</i>
	2.15 p.m.	Graham Jones (A. Goninan & Co) <i>Tramcar Restoration</i>
		John Radcliffe (COTMA Chairman) <i>"Professional staff in community museums"</i>
	2.45 p.m.	Dave Hinman/Murray Sanders (THS) <i>"The Christchurch Tramway comes to town"</i>
		Richard Gilbert (BTPS/COTMA) <i>COTMA Driver Training Committee</i>
3rd Session	9.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Monday 5th December	
	9.00 a.m.	<i>Street and site scaping (D)</i>
		Bruce Dale (THS) <i>"The use of vintage buses to supplement tram museum income"</i>
	9.30 a.m.	Craig Tooke (MTPA) <i>"Turning your dreams into reality"</i>
		<i>Bus and coach museums as COTMA members (D)</i>
	10.00 a.m.	John Shanks (THS) <i>"Volunteers and the promotion of a new city tramway"</i>
		<i>Developing social activities (D)</i>
4th Session	11.00 a.m. - 12 noon	
	11.00 a.m.	Colin Seymour (AETM) <i>"Tell us your history"</i>
		John Beckett (TBT) <i>Tramway overhead</i>
	11.30 a.m.	Don Campbell (SPER) <i>Tramway video productions</i>
		Bob Pearce (PETS) <i>"Axle box brasses - wear - causes and remedies"</i>
5th Session	1.00 p.m. - 2.45 p.m.	
	1.00 p.m.	<i>Fire Prevention (D)</i>
		Richard Gilbert (BTPS) <i>"Are we talking to the right ministries"</i>
		Bill Scott (BTPS) <i>"Societal imaging - leaflets, postcards & guidebooks"</i>
	1.30 p.m.	Les Stewart (NFRS/WTM) <i>"Rail safety legislation in New Zealand - impact on volunteer heritage rail operators"</i>

5th 2.15 p.m. Trevor Burling (NFRS) *"Skills development in the museum environment - an
Session Cont'd overview of the effect of legislative changes in NZ"*

6th 3.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Session 3.15 p.m. Don Campbell (SPER) *"Rail Safety legislation in New South Wales"*

 4.00 p.m. Sales and Promotions

Debate 4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.
"That Buses are a more efficient form of passenger transport than trams"

(D) = Discussion Sessions

Note: In some cases above, titles have been shortened in order to fit the tabular presentation

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Daryl McClure, President, The Bendigo Trust.
Session Chair: John Radcliffe

Session Secretary: Bill Kingsley

Daryl introduced himself as one whose Bendigo upbringing was spent in frustration by living beyond the tramlines in White Hills.

Daryl then pondered the problem of opening something that was already open. He reminisced on his childhood days when openings took place after things had nearly closed, and about one particular gentleman who was always expected to open The Show by buying everything that was left in the stalls.

Trams are great icons with a great relationship to people. They have personalities. The Birneys are cosy and cute. The Toast-Rack is the school type - sit up and face the front. The Truckers are just happy to be on the rails.

The rails are a significant means of holding the town together and providing a sense of permanency. By comparison, the White Hills bus was required by law to use a devious route to avoid the tramlines.

As a youngster, Daryl could never work out how trams could travel such long distances without the motor going.

On one occasion while still a youngster, Daryl's interest was awakened by the legendary Basil Miller. "Do you think you could drive it?", to which an eager reply of "Yes" was made, but Daryl's sister commented "But I couldn't steer it!".

It then gave Daryl "Pleasure and Pride" to declare the Conference officially open, in the knowledge that it would be of great benefit to Bendigo, all the Museums, and their Delegates.