

TROLLEY WIRE

R. I. Merchant
Trolley Wire Editor

Does Trolley Wire have an editorial policy?

Trolley Wire does not have a set editorial policy. The Editor will publish almost any contribution received. No contributed item to date has been rejected by the present editor.

What is the News deadline for Trolley Wire?

The deadline date for Museum News is the 7th of the month prior to the month of issue. News not received in time will be held for the next issue.

The deadline dates are:

7 January for the February issue,
7 April for the May issue,
7 July for the August issue and
7 October for the November issue.

What are Trolley Wire's photographic requirements?

We can use almost anything, and have done so in the past. Photocopies, newspaper clippings and so on have been used where original photographs have not been available. Prints from colour transparencies, colour prints, black-and-white prints, copy photos, have all been used — how successfully depends on the original being used. Good black-and-white prints from original negatives still cannot be beaten for reproduction in black-and-white, however.

As a guide to budding authors, and to prevent duplication of effort, what does the Editor have in the way of articles on hand for future use?

Articles already on disk ready for photo-typesetting include Ballarat in 1906, Adelaide in the 1940s, grip cars and trailers in Melbourne (to be spread over at least two issues), a San Francisco update and a small, 500 word "Out of the Past" item on Innsbruck. These are ready to go and, thankfully, only the San Francisco item is time sensitive. An article on Geelong and one on Melbourne's tramway signalling are on hand and two papers from the 1934 Tramway Commissioners' Conference are emergency stand-bys. An article on

Richard Youl's narrow gauge tramway has been submitted by a young contributor but will require some editing. The Editor does not want to discourage young contributors.... A major work on the Port Adelaide system has been promised. One article being worked on by the Editor, which is still in the planning stages, will cover the two Australian Hedley-Doyle stepless cars, Brisbane 301 and Perth 63, the only cars of their type to leave North American shores. Any assistance with information or photos, particularly with the 1920-40s doings of the Perth car, would be welcomed by the Editor.

Budding authors are encouraged to write on any Australian tramway subject, and short items of 1500 to 2500 words or so are needed to supplement the larger works. As examples, Walter Cumings' Adelaide horse car reminiscences was just under 3000 words, David Burke's Brisbane reminiscences in August 1991 was 2800 words, Dale Budd's 1950s reminiscences in our May 1992 issue ran to 2600 words, and the Athol Wharf diversion in November 1991 was just over 2000 words. The items on Adelaide's restaurant car and the reconstruction of 93U were between 750 and 1000 words. Small items such as these are also very welcome.

Can the Editor accept articles on computer disk?

Yes, the Editor will happily accept articles or news on disk if that is convenient to the contributor. The Editor uses Wordperfect which recognises some 42 different file formats (not all of which are used in the average office) and can accept Wordperfect 4.2 or higher, Wordstar 3.3 or earlier, MS Word 4.0 or higher, Multimate Advantage II, and any file in ASCII text format. Windows Notepad, for instance, saves in ASCII text. Final-form text and Revisable-form text (used by some mainframe computers) can also be accepted, as can DCA format used by IBM mainframes. It is suggested, and certainly in the first instance, that a printout of the disk's contents be provided with the disk. All disks will be returned to the sender.