

Electrical Storage Shed

Metal roofing was installed in November 2015 on the brick-walled former Western Power transformer compound by a patio-building firm, with excellent results. This area is being used to store overhead and other electrical equipment.

New Car barn

23 December 2015 the WA Planning Commission issued its Approval to Commence Development and three weeks later the City of Swan issued a Building Licence to North West Sheds.

A site meeting was held with the shed company's construction supervisor and our contact Jason Rapana and Lindsay Richardson and Bryan Adcock.

Some areas needed further clearing for materials storage and access, and a bobcat and operator spent 4 hours on site with an excellent result.

The site of the required works to permit access to the new car barn, which is to the right. The Lindsay Richardson Car barn, with covered offline trams stored in front of it, is in the distance. The access track to the Lindsay Richardson Car barn joins the mainline in the foreground, just where the access tracks to the new car barn will need to go. The junction shown will be moved east 20 metres, ie towards [and past] the camera position, and the existing tracks and fence line shown on the left of the picture will be moved to accommodate this

Ballarat tram 31

Work has commenced on the refurbishment of Ballarat 31, after its body was lifted from the Brill 21E truck several years ago. In October, the two motors were removed from the truck for overhaul; the truck frame was lifted and the wheel-sets rolled out and cleaned in preparation for their reprofiling by an engineering firm. This work was carried out by Lakmal Wijesuriya, assisted by Noel Blackmore, John Azzaro and Bryan Liversidge.

Ballarat 31's wheels ready for transport for sandblasting and wheel spoke welding. [2 December 2015]

W7 1017 Truck Replacement

In April 2015, ex-Melbourne tram 1017 was withdrawn from regular traffic duties with wheels on one truck requiring attention. To get it back on track, it was decided to exchange the truck with one from sister tram 1018 (which had been stripped for us by Bendigo Tramways); the replacement truck had no problems with wheels but still needed extensive work — just how much only became apparent when the job was under way.

Inspection and preparation work on the no. 15 truck from 1018 commenced on 31 August 2016. Tram 1017 was returned to service on 31 December 2016, following satisfactory completion of full recommissioning track tests.

The project was a brilliant team effort by many members over many months, even when faced with continuing problems. Noel Blackmore provided input and organisation for the electrical and mechanical work undertaken by: Colin Spooner, Gareth Watts, Len Pearce, Roy Daley, Ian Kelly, Nic Tsiaglis.

Work carried out on the overhaul of the truck from tram 1018:

- Remove and service motor brush gear; • Clean and undercut commutators; • Revarnish accessible areas of armatures; Megger test armatures and fields, etc, complete with motor test run. • Clean and replace worn out axle box brasses [4]; • Adjust axle end float collars; • Inspect brake rigging, clean and replace worn-out assemblies, and adjust. • Clean and reset bolster coil springs and side bearing clearances; • Inspect gear sets (2); • Clean and repaint truck to original colour scheme.

Further work carried out on tram 1017:

- Inspect brake rigging, clean and replace worn-out assemblies, and adjust • Repair and service: • Controllers; • Line breaker ontactors, etc.; • Trolley poles and bases; • Air compressor.

After many months out of service the body of 1017 required repairs, some repainting and a general clean-up, undertaken by: Brian Hossack, Ian Sidebottom, Bill Allnutt, Les Hunt, Ric Cheeseman, Magdalena Klimek.

No 1 truck to workshop for major overhaul

Gareth Watts, Colin Spooner, Len Pearce, Noel Blackmore (in cab of H 371) and Trevor Dennhardt. 21 September 2016.

David Secker Award 2016 - A late presentation

The David Secker Memorial Award has normally been presented at the Annual General Meeting, to a Society member who has shown meritorious service above and beyond the normal contribution made by the membership. The recent Easter Members' Barbecue was the first chance we have had to present the 2016 award, to Hayden Holmes. Hayden is based in Sydney. He has for many years headed over to Perth nearly every year to work on our traffic crew during the intensive Easter traffic period. While here he also helps out with other Society activities, such as making sure that the track is greased. He also fills the role of motorman/conductor instructor while he is here, with other crew who are visiting at the same time. Hayden's dedication, and his reliable service to the Society over an extended period, make him a deserving recipient of this award.