

CANBERRA TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Newsletter – Volume 1 / Issue 2

VALE JOHN WARD

The Canberra Transport Museum would like to pass on our condolences to the family of the late John Ward.

John was a well-known figure in the Sydney transport enthusiast scene and has been involved with the Sydney Bus Museum for many years. Rest in peace John.



John at Telstra Tower in 2013



Photo of John taken in 2014 by Edison Haviland

JOHN 'BUCK' RODGERS THE BUS DRIVER

Story contributed by Jess Rodgers

John Rodgers was my grandfather. I called him Pop, but he was known as Buck by his ACTION Bus colleagues. Buck became a bus driver in 1966 after a short stint as a chauffeur for the federal public service.

Bus driving suited his personality of not being able to stay still for long and loving to chat, but also thriving in routine. The early morning starts were no problem for Buck who was a morning person and had also worked as a cook at Hotel Kurrajong, including the breakfast shift.

The picture on the below is dated 1989. That was Buck's bus and route for quite some time. The old 333. He would bring it home on lunch breaks. I have memories of turning into the street and seeing the bus there and being filled with such excitement. It was so novel. He trained a number of the newer drivers how to drive those tricky articulated buses.

Buck was an active union member often sharing stories of speaking at rallies and strikes. He was also a member of the ACT Transport Employees Institute, a social and support employee organisation. On his retirement, they gifted him a plaque for 27 years' service.

Buck retired in 1994, but he never sat still.



Epilogue

Buck passed away March 2022. I posted the picture (on previous page) on Facebook shortly after. Turns out one of my online friends had purchased that bus! That exact bus! (717) The bus is now in the hands of the Canberra Transport Museum. It fills me with joy to have a part of Pop remembered in this way.

EVENT UPDATES

We are still hoping to be able to hold two events later this year, a Renault Farewell Tour as well as a Rail Tour which we hope will include a depot tour of the CMET Light Rail Depot.



We will post any details of these events on our social media and website so stay tuned.

FLEET UPDATES

We are currently in the process of relocating three vehicles as their current storage space is being built on so sadly, we need to find a new home which is taking up all our spare time now, as such there are no updates regarding restoration works as our main focus is finding a home.

If you have any space, you wish to offer us to park any vehicles please get in touch and let us know.

FLEET FLASHBACK

As Transport Canberra starts receiving new bus deliveries, we thought we'd look back at the last time these fleet numbers were used.

Below is the old Bus 724, a PR180.2. The new Bus 724 is a BusTech bodied Scania K320UB.



MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Thanks for your patience, all financial members should now have received their hard plastic membership cards, if you haven't received yours let us know.

Please keep these cards as they are your permanent membership cards, and any replacement cards will cost \$10 due to the high cost of printing these cards.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

We are on the lookout for member contributions. Whether that be tour suggestions, articles or photos for the newsletter or members area of our website, we'd like to hear from you.

Please get in touch via our Website, social media or email info@ctm.org.au