July 12 2019 -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -- Rev. 10
Hi, gang!
We've had many new members join this list recently. Please find listed below a copy of the FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions). Please pay particular attention to the rules regarding pictures and files uploaded to the web site via messages and to the Files section. If you still have questions after reading this, please do not hesitate to Email me privately.
Peter Ehrlich (aka Milantram)
<milantram1859@gmail.com>
WELCOME TO TramsDownUnder!

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*ABOUT TramsDownUnder
This is a discussion group pertaining to trams, trolleys, light rail and urban transport in Australia and New Zealand. Included are such locations as Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat, Sydney, Christchurch, Auckland, Wellington and many more. Also included is discussion of Down Under trams in the United States and other countries. Discussion of tramways and electric traction in South Africa is acceptable, as that is a South of the Equator country. Discussion of tramways in other countries is a TAN or OT topic. Feel free to join in the discussion at any time. Some of the topics that I hope we will touch on include:

- The great tramway system in Melbourne
- Other systems in Australia and New Zealand
- Abandoned systems in Australia and New Zealand
- New systems in Australia, such as in Sydney
- Electric commuter rail
- Trolleybuses
- Government policy toward urban transport, and privatization
- Historical aspects
- Tramway museums
- Models of Australia and New Zealand trams
- Ex-Melbourne trams preserved and operating in the United States and elsewhere
- South African systems

This is a traction-only group! Discussion of diesel buses (except in context of replacement of traction vehicles with buses), or posting of diesel bus pictures (unless a tram is also in the picture), is not allowed. Nor are pictures such as

police vehicles, rubber-tired maintenance vehicles (exception, Overhead Line trucks when actually working on the wires or wrecker trucks actually responding to disabled trams) and agency automobiles, permitted on TramsDownUnder.
TramsDownUnder was officially born and in operation on Tuesday, August 21, 2001, and has had up to approximately 800 members, but has now settled back to under 200.
We average between 200 and 800 posts per month.
This list is owned and managed by Peter Ehrlich [aka Milantram]. You can contact the list owner by e-mailing him at anytime at <milantram1859@gmail.com> or <TramsDownUnderowner@yahoogroups.com>. The assistant moderator is Mal Rowe <mal.rowe@gmail.com>. He has all of the privileges of the listowner (Milantram) and will be running the group in the absence of the listowner. He's here to help you and answer questions.
*TramsDownUnder SUBSCRIPTION & POSTING INFO:
To (UN)subscribe: Send an e-mail to <TramsDownUnder-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com>
To CONTACT the listowner, go to https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!contactowner/tramsdownunder
Mail Delivery methods:
1. INDIVIDUAL E-MAILS. Each message posted goes into you email inbox.
2. DAILY DIGEST. This method compiles the day's posts and sends them in one convenient e-mail.
3. NO MAIL. This method means you get no e-mail messages.
4. SPECIAL NOTICES. Here, you receive only special notices--i.e., group policy changes, etc.
JPEG (.jpg) attachments are distributed ONLY to members set on "Individual E-Mails".
To change your mail delivery method:
1. Visit the web site (best and easiest method), OR
2. Ask Mal Rowe to change your settings
You will receive an e-mail confirmation on the changeover.
New members are moderated until their first pertinent post is received and approved, or after 2-3 weeks, after which the moderation will be removed.
Everyone on TramsDownUnder is welcome to post, respond or create their own messages to express their opinions about the region’s transit history. No member has special status or preferred treatment over others. If you are new to the group, please jump right into the conversation and get to know your fellow listmembers!
* COURTESIES & COMMON SENSE (aka "THE RULES")
* OFF-TOPIC POSTS: Yes, this mailing list is about Australia and New Zealand trams and urban electric public transport, but sometimes our conversations stray off topic. If you are talking about ANYTHING that isn't related, please indicate that in the subject line by typing "TAN" (short for tangent) or "OT" (off topic)in the subject line. That way, those who wish to skip the off-topic thread can do so easily.

If you notice there are 5+ TANS or OT messages on the list for a particular thread, please take it from the list and email the person privately. Occasionally, either me or one of my moderators will order OT or TAN threads to be moved off list immediately, or stop.
* KEEP YOUR POSTS CLEAN, SHORT AND SUCCINCT: When replying to a message, keep the part of the message you're responding to, and delete the unnecessary material. Keep them short and succinct! It is especially annoying to see a one-line response and 3-5 quoted messages trailing this one-liner! Long, unedited messages also waste bandwidth and time. (Mostly, this affects listmembers who get their messages as "Individual E-Mails", where the trend is to just add one's own message to what was before without deleting any of the copied messages, footers, etc.) So please be careful--think Netiquette!
Another Netiquette rule to use when responding to another message is to keep all or a portion of the previous response in the message, snipping the rest, and then responding. That way, one doesn’t have to guess the subject, if the subject line has no bearing on the message.
* WATCH THE SUBJECT LINE: When you post and the subject line no longer has any relevance in regard to your topic, please change it to reflect whatever you are talking about. For example, if the subject line reads "Sth Melbourne Depot" and the discussion has wandered off to something like "New Plymouth, NZ Birneys", I'm going to scratch my head and go "Huh?". So please change the subject line if it's different from what you're talking about! (Also acceptable: You can change the subject line to read "New Plymouth, NZ Birneys--was: Re: Sth Melbourne Depot".)
* DAILY DIGEST RESPONSES: When responding to a message included as part of a Daily Digest, you must respond only to one message in the Digest at a time, and snip the rest. The Digests contain up to 25 messages each, and to have all the messages included in a response takes up way too much bandwidth in a single post. Also, please copy the subject tag (or write your own) and insert it into the subject line before sending. People who don't get "Daily Digest" have no idea what "Re: [TramsDownUnder] Digest number 50" means.
REMOVE OTHER RECIPIENTS: When forwarding or responding message which contains other recipients, remove all "To:" recipients from the message. This is because some recipients don’t particularly wish to receive extraneous messages, and to guard against misuse or SPAM. If you MUST send to lots of other people, make all the recipients “BCC” so as no one, especially not SPAMMERS, know who else is receiving the message. (Revised July 1, 2011.)
* PROHIBITED MESSAGES: Chain letters, urban legends and virus warnings. Keep these limited to your private mailouts only! Also prohibited: Messages with bias against race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, color or sexual orientation.
* PRIVACY: This is a private list. The only persons with access to the full list of email addresses are the listowner and the assistant moderators.

* FLAMING AND MUD SLINGING: Flaming, mud slinging and bashing or personally attacking other listmembers is not allowed on TramsDownUnder. Please allow everyone to speak their mind in a friendly way, and respect the fact that we can't all agree all of the time. If we all had the same opinion on every topic all of the time, this list would get extremely boring very fast. If flaming or personal attacks continue, I will send a warning to those involved to desist. If the persons I have warned persist, I will place them on moderated status immediately, which means that I have to approve their posts. A listmember will then be barred if I see that his/her moderated posts continue their vitriol. I (or my moderator) may choose instead to moderate the involved individuals immediately.
If a member needs to be addressed for any reason, that will be done by the listowner only (Peter/Milantram), or one of his moderators in his absence. If you receive any other email, privately or publicly, which you consider offensive or inappropriate, please bring it to the attention of the listowner immediately to be dealt with accordingly.
* RULE VIOLATIONS:
1. For violating general posting rules (not snipping trailers, not snipping Digests, failure to change subject lines to match topics), posting Virus warnings:
   A. An ALL PLEASE READ reminder to the group, and/or a Gentle Reminder to the person involved.
   B. A stern warning to the person involved for the second occurrence.
   C. Placing the person involved on "Moderated Status" for the third occurrence.
2. For ignoring a warning to stop a message thread:
   A. A stern warning to the person involved.
   B. Placing the person involved on "Moderated Status" for the second occurrence.
3. For flaming/mud slinging/personal attacks against other listmembers:
   A. Warnings to listmembers involved.
   B. Placing the persons involved on "Moderated Status" for the second occurrence. At the discretion of the listowner, Step A may be passed over and the persons involved may be moderated immediately.
   C. Banning from the group for any subsequent occurrence.
4. For Posting of SPAM messages (or uploading SPAM to the Files or Links sections):
   A. Immediate banishment without possibility of reinstatement.
5. For rule violations regarding advertising of web sites and sales of items within messages:
   A. A stern warning to the person involved.
   B. Placing the person involved on "Moderated Status" for the second occurrence.
   C. Banishment.
* ATTACHMENT POLICY AND LIST FEATURES:

* ATTACHMENTS:
* PERMITTED MESSAGE ATTACHMENTS: JPEG (.jpg)-format images only! Convert images in other formats (i.e., .tif, .bmp, application/octet-stream) to JPEG (.jpg) before uploading. Please keep the file size per image below 800K, if possible. No more than two attachments per message, please!
PDF (.pdf) files (Adobe Portable Document File) or DOC (.doc) (Microsoft Word) may be uploaded to the Files section, or as message attachments.
* TEXT FILES AS ATTACHMENTS; Prohibited. (See below on the method to send a Text File to the group.)
* ATTACHMENT DISTRIBUTION: Attachments to messages are distributed only to listmembers subscribing via "Individual E-Mails". Googlegroups keeps attachments in the Message Archives and all messages and attachements are kept in te group archive at <http:tdu.to>.
PDF attachments are now allowable. Please,no Microsoft Word attachments (.doc)! Make any MS/Word or iWork (Pages) document a PDF!
* QUESTIONS: If you have questions as to whether a picture is a true JPEG (.jpg), please contact the listowner at <milantram1859@gmail.com> or <mal.rowe@gmail.com>.
Here are the rules regarding file uploads:
PICTURES: JPEG (.jpg) only, limit 3 per message. Please limit file size to under 800K, if possible.
TEXT FILES: PDFs are OK. Microsoft Word documents (.doc) and iWork documents (Pages) should be avoided at all cost. Or copy the text from your MS/Word or other text application, open the Files menu, click "Create Text File", name and describe the file, paste and upload.
Members are permitted to upload a pertinent link to the group.
* ACCESS TO GROUP FEATURES: In order for a listmember to access the Files, Photos and Database pages, he/she must have a valid TDU on Googlegrp=oups membership. However, all messages can be read on the TDU archive at http:tdu.to For questions on how to obtain a Google Groups membership, go the Google Groups Help pages or the Accounts Info page and follow the prompts, or contact Mal Rowe at mal.rowe@gmail.com to be sent an invitation
* UPLOADING OF SPAM: Any listmember who uploads a file or link which has nothing to do with TramsDownUnder subjects (SPAM, pornography, etc.) will be immediately banned from the group with no possibility of reinstatement!
Please note the next paragraph:
WARNING! Recently, there has been an uptick of messages with a blank subject line and a strange URL link. If you receive such a message,DO NOT click on the link!!! What has happened is that the sender’s e-mail address book has been hacked into and compromised, and you don’t want that to happen to yourself! As this is considered an UNINTENTIONAL message, the person involved will be immediately placed on “Moderated” status and warned by the listowner or assistant moderator that he/she needs to take action to correct the situation.
PERSONAL WEB SITES AND SELLING OF TRANSIT-RELATED ITEMS:
* GENERAL RULES: A TAN or OT MUST be placed in the subject line of your message so that persons who aren't interested in

the may skip over and/or delete it.
* PICTURE WEB SITE UPDATES: Listmembers who have picture web sites may announce updates, but no more frequently than ONCE A WEEK. The listmember's site URL MUST be stated in the message. Listmembers may show the URL of their picture or informational web site as part of their personal signature at all times, as long as no updates are included in the signature.
* ITEMS FOR SALE: Listmembers who regularly have traction or transit-related items to sell, or who are representing companies or organizations which produce or sell traction or transitrelated items, may make announcements for same, ONCE A MONTH.
No prices for any items are to be stated anywhere in the message. The message must contain one of the three methods for contact:

a. Contact OFF-LIST (private), along with the poster's email address, or Name, address or e-mail address or URL of the person or company selling the wares, or URL of the item offered (on eBay, for example).
b. One-time sales are an exception to this rule. If in doubt,contact me first at <milantram1859@gmail.com>.

* RESPONDING TO AN ITEM FOR SALE: Members interested in purchasing something offered privately must contact the seller privately, not on the group.
* QUESTIONS: If a listmember has any question regarding this policy and how it might affect information contained in a post, he/she MUST contact the listowners (Peter Ehrlich/Milantram) at <milantram1859@gmail.com> or mal.rowe@gmail.com first before posting the message.
* VIOLATIONS: Listmembers who ignore these rules will be given a warning the first time, placed on moderated status the second time, and barred from the group the third time.
* MONTHLY ANNOUNCEMENTS:
On a somewhat irregular basis, announcements will be sent to the list by the listowner) entitled "ALL PLEASE READ" in the subject line, and will contain information such as changes to the list, new features, introducing new members, etc.
Please take a moment to quickly read it, it's provided for your benefit...and if no one reads it, I'm going to have to change the title. :-).
*SPECIAL THANKS TO:
...each and every member of TramsDownUnder, for helping to make this a fun, interesting and entertaining list. Without you, all of the hard work that is put into this list would be useless.
If you have any questions, suggestions, corrections, or comments regarding this FAQ or TramsDownUnder in general, please e-mail Peter Ehrlich directly at <milantram1859@gmail.com> or Mal Rowe at mal.rowe@gmail.com
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