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## ELECTRIC TRAM NO.13



27380 Electric Tram No 13



H2147 Electric tram no 13 2

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### Location

HAWTHORN TRAM DEPOT, 8 WALLEN ROAD HAWTHORN, BOROONDARA CITY

### Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2147

### VHR Registration

February 14, 2008

### Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 15, 2007

What is significant?

Electric Tram No. 13 is a four wheel, cross bench car constructed by the J. G. Brill Company in Philadelphia, USA and assembled in Melbourne in 1906 by Duncan & Fraser, an Adelaide based carriage building firm. It was one of the fleet of trams operated by The North Melbourne Electric Tramways and Lighting Company, a London company formed in 1905, which operated its lines through the City of Essendon and the Borough of Flemington and Kensington. The tramway part of the undertaking was taken over by the fledgling Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB) in 1922. Cross bench cars, also known as "toastracks" were efficient at quickly loading and transporting a large group of passengers, but because of their openness they proved unpopular in Melbourne's climate.

Electric Tram No. 13 entered service on 11 October 1906. When the MMTB took over the operation of the tramways, No. 13 was renumbered No. 214 (V-class). It has undergone a number of conversions and modifications throughout its almost continuous working life. It carried passengers until 1925 when it was used as a "locomotive" to tow ballast trailers during the construction of new electric lines. In 1927 it was converted to a freight car (No. 2A, later No. 17) for transporting stores and equipment between Preston Tram Workshops and various MMTB depots. In 1959 the body was enclosed with a box-like structure to display advertising and the "advertising car" continued its freight carrying role until it was retired in 1977. In 1978 the tram was rebuilt to again carry passengers, the first Melbourne tram to be restored to an earlier appearance and operated as an historic tourist vehicle. Although restored to its nearly original form, later mechanical modifications and improvements such as windscreens were retained. It ceased to run regularly as a tourist tram in 1998 and has been retained by VicTrack as part of Melbourne's heritage fleet and used for special occasions.

How is it significant?

Electric Tram No. 13 is of historical, technical, aesthetic and social significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Electric Tram No. 13 is of historical significance as the only surviving example of an open-sided, cross-bench electric tram from the early period of electric tram operation in Melbourne. Along with its contemporary, Saloon Car No 4, it is the oldest surviving Melbourne electric tram. The tram is associated with the early stage of Melbourne's electric tramways when electric lines were built beyond the scope of the cable tram system which dominated the central city.

Electric Tram No. 13 is of technical significance as a rare example of the first type of cross-bench electric tram to be operated in Melbourne, and while an imported design, it shows the origins of many of the standard elements which became part of the design of later trams built by municipal tramways and later the MMTB.

Electric Tram No. 13 is of aesthetic significance as an attractive and distinctive tram design which demonstrates the original qualities of the 1906 design and the skills of the traditional car builders, and also the skills of the tradesmen involved in the restoration at Preston Workshops in 1978-79.

Electric Tram No. 13 is of social significance as a part of Melbourne's tram culture which is highly valued by the community and contributes to the social life of the city. It is a significant vehicle used during various celebrations and is an important tourist drawcard. It is also an object which is highly regarded by tramway historians in Melbourne and around the world.

## **Permit Exemptions**

### **General Exemptions:**

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the object may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the object, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Relocation, movement, or external loan within Victoria where the action is performed in accordance with the accepted standards, policies and procedures of VicTrack. The Conservation Management Plan sets out options for display and activation in Section 5.8.

Maintenance or repair where replacement of any wearing components is undertaken on a 'like for like basis' or where it is consistent with options identified in the Conservation Management Plan. This would include replacement of bearings, bushes, brushes, seals, wiring, brake shoes, window glass and the like.

Maintenance involving wheel grinding and replacement lubricants.

Construction dates 1906, 1927, 1978,

Heritage Act Categories Registered object,

Other Names NORTH MELBOURNE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS & LIGHTING COMPANY TRAM, NMETL TRAM NO. 13, TOASTRACK TRAM,

Hermes Number 27380

Property Number

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## **Plaque Citation**

This is one of the oldest surviving electric trams, dating back to 1906 when electric tramways were first introduced to inner Melbourne. Together with five similar cars it operated on the local Essendon lines.

## **Extent of Registration**

The object known as Electric Tram No. 13 located at Hawthorn Tram Depot.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*